



SIDE EVENT

Financing health care in Africa – the role of the private sector

Background

There has been notable progress made by African countries on key health outcomes, however, ensuring universal access to high-quality health care remains a big challenge. In particular, the provision of efficient and equitable health care in Africa is constrained by scarce public resources and volatile donor funding. As a result, out-of-pocket spending is the single largest component of total health expenditure that pushes many people into poverty. Overall, health spending in Africa remains inadequate to meet the growing health-care needs of an increasing population. The financing gap is estimated at about \$66 billion per year. It is clear that governments cannot meet all health costs alone. The private sector has an important role to play in helping countries bridge the financing gap. There is considerable scope to leverage the capacity of the for-profit private sector to complement government financing and increase health-care investments. Innovative sources of finance, nevertheless, need to be harnessed to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

Objectives

The main objective is to share the key findings of the report, *Health Care and Economic Growth in Africa*, a joint publication by ECA, GBC Health and the Aliko Dangote Foundation. It is anticipated that discussions of the report will address the following issues:

What are the main challenges of health financing on the continent and what can be done to enhance investments in the health sector in Africa?

- How can governments increase resources for health spending at the national level and improve the efficiency of delivery of health care in the African context?
- What strategic direction can public-private partnerships take to enhance health outcomes in line with the global goals and national priorities?

Expected outcomes

This side event is expected to help develop an informed understanding of the nature and extent of the challenges of health financing in Africa and explore effective and innovative health financing options for countries in order to reduce the dependence on regressive out-of-pocket payments and unpredictable external development assistance for health.

Target audience

Participants and delegates will include Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economy, line ministry representatives and senior experts from African member States, United Nations organizations, regional economic communities, pan-African financial institutions, African academic and research institutions, the private sector and civil society.

Venue, date and time

- Orangerie Room, Le Palais des Congrès de la Palmeraie de Marrakech
- From 3:30 p.m to 5:30 p.m., 24 March 2019

For further information, please contact:

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