

6th Meeting of the Montreux Collaborative on Fiscal Space, Public Financial Management and Health Financing

Adjusting PFM for better health:
evidence to shape next-generation reforms

**13-17 NOVEMBER 2023
MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND**

OVERVIEW

Since 2014, WHO has convened biennial meetings of the Montreux Collaborative, bringing together experts and partners to discuss the critical relationship between fiscal space, public financial management (PFM), and health financing in advancing universal health coverage (UHC). The aim is to raise the profile of public finance's role in achieving UHC, to generate and exchange ideas and lessons to support the implementation of tailored reforms in the health sector, and to consolidate and broaden the network of experts and partners interested in public finance issues for health.

The 6th meeting of the Montreux Collaborative will take place from 13-17 November 2023, with the theme *Adjusting Public Financial Management (PFM) for better health: new evidence to shape next-generation reforms*.

As with prior meetings, this year's event is organized in close collaboration with partners involved in this area of work, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), International Budget Partnership (IBP), Results for Development (R4D), and ThinkWell.

OBJECTIVES

- Take stock of lessons from COVID-19 for PFM and health financing reform, and identify PFM features conducive to resilient systems;
- Deepen the understanding of PFM requirements for effective financing of primary care;
- Unpack health budget execution challenges and discuss joint solutions between finance and health.

More broadly,

- Identify gaps and needs to accelerate countries' implementation of PFM reforms ;
- Enhance coordination among key partners involved in this area of work;
- Gather strategic inputs to inform the PFM-for-health agenda of the future.

PROGRAMME

The meeting consists of three main parts.

- Day 1 is a pre-event workshop on direct financing of health facilities. The workshop is an invitation-only event organized by WHO, in collaboration with the World Bank Group, the Global Fund, and Gavi, involving contributors to a WHO “How-To” manual on this topic.
- Day 2-4 is the main event. It is structured around core technical sessions (available both in-person and on-line), with optional seminars over breakfast and lunchtime (in-person only).
- Day 5 is a post-event half-day session focused on the transition from external aid and its implications for domestic budgets, jointly organized by WHO, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, and UHC2030. It is by invitation only.

LOGISTICS

The 2023 Montreux Collaborative meeting will be hybrid, held both in-person and online. The meeting venue is the [Eden Hotel](#) in Montreux, Switzerland.

Given the limited capacity for in-person attendees, preference for in-person participation will be extended to presenters and to participants officially appointed by their respective governments. Unless notified directly by WHO, all other interested parties are invited and welcome to attend the meeting online, with the agenda providing many opportunities for interaction for both in-person and online participants.

Connection details for online participants will be provided via the Montreux Collaborative distribution list and can be shared with other interested parties. Online participants do not need to register in advance.

Governments will officially nominate representatives for in-person participation via the relevant WHO country office. WHO will provide logistical and financial support for travel and accommodation for these participants. Hotel rooms have been pre-booked for all sponsored participants.

Logistics notes will be shared with in-person participants in June 2023.

PORTAL

An online Montreux Collaborative Hub (portal) will be made available two months before the meeting. This platform will include a detailed agenda and other technical resources for the meeting. It will also provide links to a broad range of resources on PFM-for-health topics, for learning purposes.

KEY CONTACTS

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PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day 1 – 13 November 2023 – Pre-event workshop on financing facilities directly

This invitation-only workshop will contribute to finalization of the WHO “How-To Manual on financing facilities directly” through discussion of draft chapters. This will aid in identifying gaps or areas in need of refinement. The workshop will involve 20-25 participants from the World Health Organization, the World Bank Group, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Abt Associates, and Results for Development.

Day 2 – 14 November 2023 – Lessons from COVID-19 for making public finance systems more sustainable and agile to prepare for and respond to health emergencies

8:00 – 9:00	Registration and coffee
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome and setting the stage (WHO)
9:30 – 10:30	Keynote – Lessons and challenges from COVID-19 for future health financing policies
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:15	Health emergency funding – how COVID-19 has changed global and domestic funding for pandemic preparedness and response
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:45	Lunchtime seminars (in-person only): Health taxes and earmarking – looking at the PFM bottlenecks Corruption – standing in the way of effective PFM for health?
14:00 – 15:30	The mechanics of health emergency response – how COVID-19 has showed the importance of PFM and triggered change
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Cross-sectoral budgeting for emergency preparedness and response, and beyond – how to enable joint budgeting and spending for health outputs

Day 3 – 15 November 2023 – Public financing and primary care: key requirements for getting funds to the front lines within PFM systems

8:00 – 8:45	Breakfast seminar (in-person only): How to assess PFM for health: Introduction to the mapping of PFM tools by WHO, World Bank & UNICEF
9:00 – 10:00	Financing for primary care services – a framing introduction
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 12:00	Primary care in budgets – how to leverage the benefits of programme-based budgeting (PBB) for financing primary care services
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:45	Lunchtime seminars (in-person only): Political economy of PFM reforms in health – the example of PBB Performance monitoring and accountability – how to use PBB to streamline financial and non-financial information
2:00 – 3:30	Financial autonomy for facilities providing primary care services – how to ensure PFM and strategic purchasing go hand-in-hand
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee break
4:00 – 5:00	Fireside chat What roles for subnational authorities in primary care financing?

Day 4 – 16 November 2023 – Addressing chronic challenges for budget execution in health

8:00 – 8:45	Breakfast seminar (in-person only): Key issues and trends arising from meta-analysis of PFM-related questions in WHO Health Financing Progress Matrix country assessments
9:00 – 11:00	Health budget execution – how to develop a common understanding of bottlenecks and to identify solutions Technical introduction followed by discussion of country posters in breakout groups
11:00 – 12:15	How to work together on health budget execution challenges – health and finance perspectives Plenary discussion followed by closing remarks by high-level representatives from health and finance country authorities
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:45	Lunchtime seminars (in-person only): Information, voice, and oversight: translating key criteria and principles of fair processes to PFM for better health Regional focus – key PFM challenges and solutions in health in South-East Asia: findings from a WHO regional review
14:00 – 16:00	Conclusions and ways forward Key takeaways from the participants and partners roundtable Inputs to define Montreux Collaborative 2.0

Day 5 – 17 November 2023 – Transitioning from external aid: implications for domestic budgets

This invitation-only, half-day session will bring together country representatives and development partners to delve into the issue transitioning from external aid for health and the implications of these transition processes for domestic budgets. Concrete country experiences will be shared based on the WHO Health Financing, Alliance for Health Systems and Policy Research, and UHC2030 programme of work on “Transition from external assistance.” The session will also broaden to consider how to align external assistance for health with domestic budgeting processes, priorities and best practices. The objective of the half-day session is to identify actions that can be taken at country level that promote sustainable coverage of externally supported interventions and services.