There are a lot of policy debates that have occupied the space in the recent past at global, regional, national as well as sub-national levels. At the global level, the current discourse is centered on how countries can successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specifically the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This has equally been a preoccupation of many countries including Uganda. There are a number of reform discussions happening, including in the area of health financing, health service delivery, and other health system building blocks. Surprisingly, the extent to which health economics, as a critical science, informs the discourse may still be limited, yet very critical to inform rational policy and decision choices. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore even more challenging questions of how public health and economics can work closely. For example, Health Economics will be instrumental in answering questions about identifying priority populations for initial phase of Covid-19 vaccine, how to strike a balance between public health and the economy within the context of COVID-19 prevention, the impact of additional funding for public health and service delivery indicators and outcomes, what health service packages are feasible under constrained resource environments, etc.

The Uganda Ministry of Health has recently recognized the place of health economics in the policy and decision processes. To this effect, a Health Economics Unit (HEU) has been established within the Planning Department of the Ministry of Health. It is anticipated that the HEU will establish and bring to bear their capacity to support MOH particularly in areas where health economics expertise and skills are necessary.

To support the operations of the HEU at MOH, the Makerere University School of Public Health, The University of York—Center for Health Economics (York-CHE) and MOH, have through a collaboration, committed to strengthening and promoting the use of health economics in policy and decision-making in Uganda and the region. The partnership specifically aims to:

1. To foster collaboration between the institutions on undertaking cutting-edge and policy-informative research particularly in the area of priority setting and resource allocation.
2. To support the Health Economics capacity building agenda for the MakSPH and Uganda in general, the success of which can represent a flagship centre of high-quality health economics research and training in the wider region.
3. To work together as a partnership in the area of research, capability building and policy engagement.

Objectives of the HEPP Launch

The tripartite MOU officially came into effect in July 2020 and the program will be implemented for the next two years. This public seminar marks an official launch of the HEPP programme in Uganda. It provides a) a platform to bring together key stakeholders and provide information about the existence, activities, and operational framework of the HEPP programme; b) allow stakeholders appreciate the rationale for health economics capacity building in Uganda; and c) generate ideas from stakeholders on how best the HEPP programme can support different policy and decision-making efforts currently happening in the country and the region through research.

Chair

Dr. Tom Aliti,
Commissioner, Department of Health Sector Partners & Multi-sectoral Collaboration
Ministry of Health, Uganda

Speakers

Dr. Sarah Byakika
Commissioner Health Services Planning, Financing and Policy
Integrating Health Economics in Policy and Decision analysis in the Ministry of Health, Uganda: Does it or has it really mattered?

Prof. Paul Revill
Center for Health Economics, University of York, UK
Applying Health Economics tools to guide resource allocation for population health improvement: Insights from designing the health benefits package in Malawi and Uganda

Prof. Freddie Ssengooba
Professor of health systems management and policy, School of Public Health, Makerere University
The HEPP implementation framework: Scope of work, current status, and how to work with us

Register in advance for this meeting:
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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.