University of York
Centre for Health Economics and Department of Politics/Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre

PhD Opportunities: TLOPHD2019

**Topic 3: Determinants of health and inter-sectoral allocation**

Registered through the Department of Economics & Related Studies

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This project will explore cross sector economic evaluation of policies/interventions; i.e. those that are funded through other sectors but have health impacts and/or those funded through the health sector with relevant outcomes beyond health improvement alone. Examples include social protection or cash transfer programmes, educational policies or interventions to reduce the avoidable mortality and morbidity from road traffic injuries (RTIs).

The thesis will include case studies in Malawi and/or Uganda. Both countries are undertaking ambitious health reforms related to the financing, purchasing and provision of health care. However, some of the potentially best investments to improve population health are not funded through the health sector. Policies to reduce RTIs, for instance, are typically delivered outside of the health sector and as such are not included in the lists of interventions prioritized for health funding. This is despite RTIs being one of the leading causes of death and morbidity. There is limited evidence for cost-effective policies to reduce RTIs, and available studies have typically adopted a naïve perspective in which costs are compared to DALYs averted without appropriate consideration of opportunity cost and non-health outcomes such as productivity. To be useful to policy makers in Malawi or Uganda, economic evaluations of interventions to reduce RTIs should compare feasible interventions within the country setting, and reflect local resource constraints and the opportunity costs of any resources used to implement the intervention. Policy objectives behind reduction of RTIs may go beyond health to include equity concerns for the protection of vulnerable groups and productivity impacts, and impact on these outcomes should inform prioritisation between interventions. Further evidence on the cost-effectiveness of strategies to prevent RTIs can inform broader considerations about the relative importance of funding in the Transport sector compared to the Health sector for achievement of public health goals.

This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic individual to contribute to a programme of work on the allocation of health care resources to improve population health and reduce health inequalities in eastern and southern Africa. Candidates will require experience in economic evaluation. As part of this studentship, the successful candidate will review the existing evidence on the cost effectiveness and cross sector impacts of selected interventions with costs that could draw upon multiple sources and with effects falling across sectors. The successful candidate will consult with local experts and policy makers in developing and demonstrating a methodological framework to inform prioritisation in Malawi and/or Uganda. While working on his/her PhD the student will
have the opportunity to work with colleagues within the Thanzi la Onse programme in Malawi and Uganda.

References

Lilongwe trend https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405857217300530#bib11

Uganda trend https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5279989/


Equity dimensions RTIs https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1076/icsp.10.1.13.14116?needAccess=true

CEA Uganda https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/14/4/223.short