

Public Lecture and High-Level Roundtable Dialogue on Health Financing in Uganda

Synopsis

Uganda is prioritizing human capital development as a foundation for economic transformation under Vision 2040 and the Ten-Fold Growth Strategy. At the same time, the health financing landscape is evolving, with increasing pressure on domestic resources and growing uncertainty around external financing. This public lecture and high-level roundtable will provide a platform for national reflection on these challenges and identify practical pathways for strengthening sustainable health financing in Uganda.

1. Theme

Investing in Health for Uganda's Future: Delivering Vision 2040 through Smart and Sustainable Health Financing

Date: 9 April 2026

Venue: School of Public Health Auditorium, Makerere University Main Campus

Convened by

Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH)

In collaboration with

Ministry of Health (MoH)

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED)

2. Background and Context

Uganda has made important progress in strengthening its health system over the past decade. Government investments have expanded health infrastructure, strengthened diagnostic capacity, and improved primary care as well as specialized services. These investments have also supported improvements in the health workforce and service delivery across the country.

Reforms in public financial management have strengthened the management of health sector resources. The introduction of programme-based budgeting and results-based financing approaches has helped improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the use of public funds.

Health remains central to Uganda's long-term development agenda. Vision 2040, the National Development Plan IV, and the Ten-Fold Growth Strategy place human capital development at the

centre of economic transformation. A healthy population is essential for productivity, innovation, and sustained economic growth. The Human Capital Development Programme, within which health is a major component, represents one of the largest allocations within the national budget.

At the same time, Uganda's health financing landscape is evolving. Rapid population growth, the rising burden of non-communicable diseases, and increasing demand for quality health services are placing greater pressure on the health system. Global financing trends are also shifting. Development assistance is becoming less predictable, while expectations for domestic resource mobilisation and efficiency in public spending are increasing.

In response to these challenges, Uganda has convened several national dialogues on health financing in recent years including the **2025 National Dialogue on Health Financing Dynamics** and the **Annual National Health Financing Conference**. These discussions are also aligned with broader continental and global commitments. At the 2019 **African Leadership Meeting on Investing in Health (ALM)**, African Heads of State committed to strengthening domestic investment in health, improving efficiency in health spending, and advancing sustainable pathways toward **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**. At the global level, the 2023 **Lusaka Agenda** has further emphasized the need for stronger country leadership, improved alignment of external financing with national priorities, and more sustainable health financing systems.

As Uganda advances toward Vision 2040, there is growing recognition that investing in health is not only a social priority. It is also a strategic economic investment that supports labour productivity, human capital development, and long-term national competitiveness. As Uganda pursues these development aspirations, there is also growing emphasis on catalyzing and leveraging private sector investment and contributions.

Against this backdrop, MakSPH, in collaboration with the MoH and the MoFPED, is convening a public lecture and high-level roundtable dialogue. The event will provide a platform for national reflection on Uganda's evolving health financing landscape and identify practical actions for strengthening sustainable investments in health.

3. Objectives of the Dialogue

Overall Objective

To elevate national dialogue on sustainable health financing and catalyse practical policy directions that strengthen domestic investment, efficiency, and partnerships for resilient health systems aligned with Uganda's long-term development goals.

Specific Objectives

1. Strengthen engagement between the health and finance sectors on sustainable health financing priorities.
2. Identify practical policy options that support increased domestic investment in health while improving efficiency and value for money.
3. Position health as a strategic economic investment aligned with Vision 2040 and Uganda's development priorities.
4. Strengthen engagement across public and private sector actors on sustainable health financing priorities.

4. Approach to the Dialogue

The dialogue will build on ongoing efforts to bring together government, civil society, academia, the private sector, and development partners to strengthen aligned and complementary approaches to health financing. The event will consist of two main components.

Public Lecture

The keynote lecture will be delivered by the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury from the MoFPED. The lecture will explore the relationship between health investments, human capital development, and Uganda's economic transformation.

High-Level Roundtable Discussion

The lecture will be followed by a high-level roundtable discussion. Leaders from government, academia, development partners, the private sector, and civil society will participate. The discussion will explore practical pathways for strengthening domestic financing, improving efficiency in health spending and increasing investment in health.

5. Expected Outcomes

1. Strengthened dialogue between leaders in the health and finance sectors.
2. Improved shared understanding of Uganda's evolving health financing landscape and the value of investing in health as a strategic economic investment.
3. Identification of practical policy directions to enhance sustainable domestic financing.
4. Strengthened alignment on how public and private sector contributions can collectively support sustainable health financing.

6. Participants

Participants will include representatives from: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, National Planning Authority, Parliamentary Committees on Health and HIV/AIDS, Development partners and multilateral organisations, Private sector institutions (including financial institutions, commercial banks, telecom companies, insurers, digital health financing platforms and selected health service providers), Civil society organisations, Makerere University leadership and academia and Media representatives

Annex 1. Programme

| Time | Activity | Speaker / Responsible Person |
|---------------|---|---|
| 8:00 – 9:00 | Site Visit to MakSPH New Building | MakSPH Leadership |
| 9:00 – 9:20 | Opening Session | |
| | Welcome Remarks | Dean, Makerere University School of Public Health |
| | Remarks | Vice Chancellor, Makerere University |
| | Official Opening | Deputy Head of Public Service (Service Delivery) |
| 9:20 – 9:50 | Public Lecture: Investing in Health for Uganda’s Future | Dr Ramathan Ggoobi, Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury(PSST) |
| 9:50 – 10:05 | Health Sector Reflections | Dr Diana Atwiine, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health |
| 10:05 – 10:45 | High-Level Roundtable Discussion | Moderator: Prof Elizabeth Ekirapa Panelists 1. Dr Ramathan Ggoobi, PSST 2. Dr Diana Atwiine, PS MoH 3. Prof Freddie Ssengooba, MakSPH 4. Mr Stephen Omojong National Social Security Fund 5. Dr Ian Clarke, Private Sector Representative |
| 10:45 – 10:55 | Closing Reflections | Dr Chrispus Kiyonga, Chancellor, Makerere University |
| 10:55-11:00 | Photo | Communication’s Office, MakSPH |
| 11:00 | Departure | All Participants |