

Health Financing Systems: Anticipating Challenges, Building Resilience

**Panel Discussion at 15th Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing
Bucaramanga, Colombia, October 4-7, 2023**

**Panelists:- Dr Ricky Braithwaite, Dr Victor Castillo, Ms Jeanine Kook,
Dr Lex de Jong, Ms Charlene Bain**

Moderators:- Dr Heather Harewood and Dr Stanley Lalta

Never ever give up!



© Marks PC Solution

HEALTH FINANCING SYSTEM: RESILIENCE vs FRAGILITY

- **Capacity of health system (actors, institutions, population) to prepare for and effectively respond to crises (sequential and simultaneous) by maintaining core functions and re-organizing for sustained services.**
- **Ability of the health system to protect human life, limit spread of disease, avoid systemic disruptions and collapse of basic services, respond to surge in demand and produce good health outcomes during a crisis. So:**
 - *Financial resilience*: protection of national funds for health and particularly resources for the vulnerable in the face of economic contraction.
 - *Adaptive resilience*: managing the system (gov't & providers) with fewer resources through efficiencies without sacrificing key priorities, benefits, access, entitlements.
 - *Transformatory resilience*: capacity to design and implement desirable and realistic reform when current organisation structures and strategies are no longer feasible.

Critical Capacities for Resilience

- **Anticipate--Assess risks, capacity & weaknesses re: scenario analyses**
- **Absorb & Mitigate Crises and Shocks—**
 - **maintain core functions,**
 - **shift-generate resources to tackle specific crisis,**
 - **Invest in vulnerable components**
- **Adapt--Review and improve**

'Perma/Poly-crisis' & Sources of Challenges in Health

Sources of Challenges	Point Person	Key Aspects
Health Systems Risk Analysis, Economics and Regulations	Dr Ricky Braithwaite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and financial shocks (Tourism market, Employment Patterns, Fiscal Space/Public Debt), • Demand for vs Supply of Resources Gap • Climate Change
Technological Innovations	Dr Lex de Jong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI/IT * Organ transplant, Medical Devices & Prosthetics, • Diagnostics * Gene Therapy, Stem Cell, • Robotics, Telemedicine * Anti-microbial Resistance,
Hospital Operations and Integrated Care	Dr Victor Castillo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Large General vs Specialised Hospitals vs Teaching Hospitals • Hospital Franchises (Cross-border operations) • Linkages with Primary/Community Care
Public Health and Social Determinants	Ms Charlene Bain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pandemics/Infectious Diseases, NCDs, Trauma/Violence • Ageing, Social Determinants of Health * Human Rights • Communications & Community Compliance
Politics of Health and Stakeholder Influences	Ms Jeanine Kook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance; Changing governments and Ministers, * Migration • Stakeholder (non-) Collaboration, * Workers rights/shortages

Improving Resilience

- **Building resilience is context-specific and iterative rather than static.**

So:-

- **Invest in strategic (crisis) planning and health in all policies (HIAP)**
- **Increase role of public health and primary/community care/integrated care**
- **More Global alliances eg. vaccines, strategic supplies, research outputs, technology transfer, crisis funds**
- **Communication and Community mobilization/partnerships**
- **Increase role of IT and digitization**
- **Efficiency imperative in small, resource-poor countries**