



PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE

2017



ADDRESSING THE HEALTH OF
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

PS2.1

PARALLEL SESSION 2.1

Political Strategies to
Tackle Social Exclusion and Improve Health

BACKGROUND

Tackling social exclusion and reducing inequalities in society is an inherently political process which often meets with resistance from privileged groups benefiting from the status quo. This is certainly the case when building and sustaining an inclusive and equitable health system with a view to reducing health inequalities.

Panellists in this session will share their experiences and views on different strategies that have been adopted in tackling social exclusion as a way to improve the health of disadvantaged and marginalised groups.

As well as considering the health and economic benefits of different approaches, they will also reflect on the political implications of these strategies. Specifically what have been the political costs and benefits to leaders and their governments and how have they tackled political interest groups opposed to their plans?

How effective have these strategies been in ensuring that that their route to UHC has been inclusive and equitable and that vulnerable population groups have not been left behind.

OBJECTIVES

- Enable participants to understand the political nature of social inclusion with respect to expanding health coverage and improving health outcomes
- Learn lessons from countries that have tackled social exclusion when developing their health systems, paying particular attention to the political costs and benefits of different policy options
- Provide evidence and advocacy material for countries attempting to extend health coverage to include the poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups



MODERATOR

Robert YATES

Senior Fellow
Chatham House
United Kingdom

Robert Yates is an internationally recognised expert on universal health coverage (UHC) and progressive health financing. He is a senior fellow of Chatham House, Royal Institute of International Affairs, in London where he is Project Director of the UHC Policy Forum.

His principal area of expertise is in the political economy of UHC, with a focus on advising political leaders and governments on how to plan, finance and implement national UHC reforms. He has previously worked as a Senior Health Economist with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), advising governments in Asia and Africa on health financing policy and health systems reforms.

He has published numerous papers in Lancet, The WHO Bulletin and the New England Journal of Medicine on issues relating to the political economy of UHC and health financing.

He holds a BA degree in Natural Sciences and Economics from the University of Cambridge and a MBA, from the University of Leeds.



PANELISTS

Tedros Adhanom GHEBREYESUS

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister
of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Republic of Ethiopia

Dr. Tedros Adhanom is Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. His distinguished health leadership career spans nearly 30 years.

As Minister of Health from 2005 to 2012, Dr. Tedros transformed Ethiopia's health system by investing in infrastructure, building the health workforce, and developing innovative ways to direct resources where they were most needed. His comprehensive reforms expanded access to care for tens of millions, met ambitious health targets—including Millennium Development Goals to reduce child mortality and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases—and set Ethiopia on a path to expand this success.

These achievements resulted in his selection in 2012 by Wired Magazine as one of the 50 people who will change the world.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 - 2016, Dr. Tedros put his proven diplomacy and negotiation skills to work and continued to champion global health. His leadership in advancing development agendas and helping resolve regional conflicts has improved safety and security and promoted economic development.

Dr. Tedros holds a PhD in Community Health. His global leadership includes service as a Chair of numerous prominent global bodies, including Global Fund, Roll Back Malaria, UNAIDS, and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health.



PANELISTS

Risa HONTIVEROS

Senator of the Philippines

Philippines

Akbayan Senator Risa Hontiveros is a health and women's rights advocate, a proud activist, and a champion of the basic sectors. She brings the voice of ordinary citizens to the Philippine Senate.

Senator Risa has been fighting the good fight from an early age. She organized a student group that campaigned against the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) while in high school at the St. Scholastica's College in Manila. During her college days, she led advocacies for peace and social justice as a student council leader.

In 2001, Senator Risa received the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award for Peace and Advocacy for her work in the peace talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF).

She was also one of the 27 Filipino women among the 1,000 women worldwide who have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. As Akbayan Partylist's representative during the 13th and 14th Congress, then- Congresswoman Risa fought for the passage of people-centered legislation like the Cheaper Medicines Law and the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms Law (CARPER).

She also led civil society groups and fellow advocates in working for the passage of the Reproductive Health (RH) Law, a landmark legislation that provides women and families access to reproductive health and modern family planning services.

Senator Risa also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). She pushed for expanded benefits and coverage, specifically for indigents and senior citizens.

As the Chairperson of both the Senate Committee on Health and the Senate Committee on Women and Gender Equality, Senator Risa pushes for legislative measures to address social injustice and inequality, particularly in the areas of health care and women's rights.

Senator Risa vowed to pass laws to expand the maternity leaves of working women and impose heavier penalties on hospitals that continue to demand a deposit as a prerequisite for the admission or medical treatment of an emergency patient. Also part of her commitment is to push for better benefits to be given to Barangay Health Workers, our front-line health care providers in the communities.

She is also pushing for the passage of the Anti-Discrimination bill on the basis of Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE), which reached the Senate plenary for the first time after nearly two decades of lobbying.

Senator Risa graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences from the Ateneo De Manila University. Before her career as a lawmaker, she was a community organizer and peace advocate. She was also a successful television journalist and news anchor who has worked for major news networks.

Senator Risa is also a dedicated solo mother to her four children and shares with them her love of music, culture, and the arts.



PANELISTS

Satyendar JAIN

Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

India

Shri Satyendar Jain was born in Village Kirthal, District Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, India. He did his schooling from Ramjas School, No.2, Delhi and Graduation in Architecture from Indian Institute of Architects, Delhi.

He joined CPWD and later on quit his job to set up an Architectural Consultancy firm in 1993. He has been closely associated with various social service causes and groups. He became deeply involved in Anna Hazare's movement against corruption and quit his Architectural Practice to pursue the same earnestly. He is a founder member of Aam Aadmi Party in India.

He served as Health and Industries Minister in the first AAP Government from 28th December, 2013 to 14th February, 2014 in Delhi, India. He was re-elected from Shakur Basti Assembly Constituency in 2015 Assembly Elections and is presently serving as Minister of Health & FW, Power, PWD, Industries, Transport, Home and Urban Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, India.



PANELISTS

Olusegun MIMIKO

Governor
Ondo State
Nigeria

Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, two-term Governor of Ondo State, Southwest Nigeria, is a registered medical practitioner with the Nigerian Medical and Dental Council,. He was trained in the late 70s at the then University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University Ile Ife, Osun State Nigeria.

He had stints in the private as well as public sector as a medical practitioner before he established his own MONA MEDICLINIC in Ondo, Ondo State in 1985.

His foray into political office took him through different era and platforms culminating into, appointments at different times as Commissioner for Health, (twice) Secretary to the State Government, Federal Minister of Housing and Urban Development and eventually his election into the office of Governor in February 2009.

Dr. Mimiko stands out as a Governor with obvious love and concern for the downtrodden in the society. Nothing demonstrates his total concern for the welfare of the people than his administration's policy on Infant and Maternal care through the homegrown ABIYE (Safe Motherhood) Project. He deployed the tools of Primary Health Care and established credible referral system to address the causative factors of high Infant and Maternal mortality through the Mother and Child Hospitals, the first in the country. The Mother and Child Hospitals sit atop a network of health facilities from General Hospitals, Comprehensive Health Centers and hundreds of Basic Health Centers, offering services free of charge to pregnant women and children from ages 0 to 5.

More than this, he also created a unique platform to reduce mortality resulting from the activities of unskilled faith-based midwives and Traditional Birth Attendants. AGBEBIYE, as the program is called, encourages remunerated referrals from faith-based clinics and Traditional Birth Homes to Government Health facilities on one hand and equips the Traditional Birth Attendants with modern skills and soft loans on the other.

The ingenious ORIREWA – (Ondo Routine Immunization Reaching Every Ward Always), another homegrown intervention for universal coverage on immunization, has also been deployed successfully by the Mimiko administration such that Ondo won the Bill and Melinda Gates Immunization Leadership Challenge in Nigeria in two consecutive years.

Accolades have come from many sources for his innumerable accomplishments and contributions in the health sector. These include; The Bill and Melinda Gates Award for the Best Performing State in Polio Vaccination, Gold Excellence in Public Health Award by the Institute of Public Health, Award of Excellence by the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy and Honorary Fellow of the Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria

The adoption of ABIYE by the World Bank as the preferred template to tackle infant and maternal mortality stands out as a testament to the success of Mimiko's interventions in the health sector. It was therefore not a surprise that his exploit in the Health sector also won him approbation by the Peer Review Committee of the Nigeria Governors' Forum

Governor Mimiko has replicated remarkable success in sectors such as Education, Agriculture, Rural Development and Urban Renewal among others.



PANELISTS

Mirai CHATTERJEE

Director
Women's Self-Employment Association
India

Mirai Chatterjee is the Director of the Social Security Team at the Self-Employed Women's Association, (SEWA). She is responsible for SEWA's health care, child care and insurance programmes. She is currently Chairperson of the National Insurance VimoSEWA Cooperative Ltd and actively involved with the Lok Swasthya Health Cooperative, of which she is a founder. Both cooperatives are promoted by SEWA. She joined SEWA in 1984 and was its General Secretary after its Founder, Ela Bhatt.

Ms Chatterjee serves on the Boards of several organizations, including the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Save the Children and the Health Action Partnership International (HAPI). She was advisor to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector and is in the Advisory Group on Community Action of the National Health Mission. She was also a Commissioner in the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. She was a member of the National Advisory Council (NAC), appointed by the Prime Minister of India. She was recently conferred the Global Achievement award by the School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University.

Ms. Chatterjee has a B.A. from Harvard University in History and Science and a Masters from Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health, USA.



PANELISTS

Naoko YAMAMOTO

Assistant Minister for Global Health
and Health Industry Strategy
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Japan

Dr. Naoko YAMAMOTO was graduated from Sapporo Medical University with the coveted degree of MD in 1985. She began her career at the Planning Division of the Health Policy Bureau at the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan. After a time spent at the Health Guidance Division of Health Department of the Health and Medical Bureau, City of Yokohama of Kanagawa prefecture, she worked at the Planning and Coordination Bureau, Environment Agency of Japan between 1989 and 1990. During the period, she also continued her epidemiological research activities and was conferred PhD degree from Okayama University In 1990. In 1991-1992, she studied in Johns Hopkins School of Public Health with the coveted degree of MPH. She then came back to the Ministry of Health and Welfare as Deputy Director of the Office of communicable diseases between 1992 and 1994. After that, she worked in the several offices and divisions at the MHLW including office of organ transportation and division of blood and blood products. She was also seconded to the Department of Health and Environment, the Sasebo City Office of Nagasaki prefecture as Director, and the Urayasu City of Chiba prefecture as Deputy Mayor, and the Health and Welfare Department, the Chiba prefectural Government as senior advisor for Governor. In 2004-2007, she worked in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations as Counsellor. In 2009-2011 she was appointed Director of the Health and Medical Division of the Bureau of Personnel and Education at the Ministry of Defense (MOD). At that time she was the first lady director in the MOD in Japan. In 2011-2013 she was appointed Director of Division for Rare Diseases, MHLW and worked for creating a new medical and welfare system for rare diseases

patients. Since October 2015, Dr Naoko YAMAMOTO has been Assistant Minister for Global Health at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, with Health Industry Strategy added to her responsibility in July 2016.

She now has a large stock of knowledge in the field of global health, such as Non Communicable Diseases, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and international health emergencies. After appointed as the Assistant Minister for global Health at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, she especially energetically goes to several countries on business, to appeal Japanese effort. Today's status of Japan for global health has been built under her effort in long terms.

She was in charge of AIDS disease measures just when the HIV infection spread, in 1998. She tried so hard to secure medical care, abolish the discrimination of patients, with researchers of Japan and foreign countries, infected persons, and patients. Her above-mentioned experience would lead to motivation to develop the field of global health and improve the quality of medical care.



PANELISTS

Gro Harlem BRUNDTLAND

Deputy Chair of the Elders Foundation
Former First Woman Prime Minister of Norway
Former Director General of the World Health Organization 1998-2003

Norway

Gro Harlem Brundtland is a founding member of The Elders and has served as Deputy Chair since 2013. A medical doctor by training, she was Norway's first woman Prime Minister, serving a total of ten years as head of government between 1981 and 1996. She chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development – known as the Brundtland Commission – which articulated the principle of sustainable development for the first time at a global level. She was Director-General of the World Health Organization from 1998 to 2003, UN Special Envoy for Climate Change from 2007 to 2010 and, from 2011 to 2012, was a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Sustainability Panel.