

Virtual Regional Seminar

Comparative experiences of health system reforms in Latin America June 3rd, 2022

https://cepal-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TGM_sEn_RfmxMNwhBo0cYQ

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the structural weaknesses of Latin American countries' health systems, deepening the region's health inequalities. Chronic underfunding, segmentation, and fragmentation of health systems in the region result in shortcomings that may be observed in insufficient human resources, infrastructure, and technologies, alongside a low capacity to lead change due to weaknesses in leadership and weak financial protection (ECLAC/PAHO, 2021).

ECLAC has emphasized the need to restructure health systems, with financial sustainability, as a basis for the formulation of public policies that support countries towards more advanced health systems, which are universal, comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable and that allow guaranteed access to all people. This, in recognition of the close relationship that exists between health and the possibilities of growth, development, and well-being of the countries. Consequently, ECLAC has raised the need to increase public investment in health and guide it towards the restructuring of health systems, which, according to the reality of each country, may act as strengthening, reforming, or transforming the structures of the health system. This would contribute decisively to sustainable social development (CEPAL, 2022).

Although these problems have been observed with greater intensity during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are not new obstacles but rather historical challenges common to most Latin American countries. To overcome these barriers, various countries in the region have carried out reforms and restructuring of their health systems, with different emphases, objectives and at different historical moments. This workshop aims to learn about and discuss the main objectives of the reforms made to health systems in Latin America, reflecting together with the authorities and/or specialists who oversaw the implementation of the reforms, on the main challenges that had to be faced in their different stages and a brief evaluation of their results, highlighting the most important lessons learned. This discussion will emphasize the most important lessons learned from these processes that could be useful for the reform of the Chilean health system that is currently under discussion.

Agenda

09:00 – 09:20	<p>Opening</p> <p>Mr. Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC Mrs. Begoña Yarza, Minister of Health of Chile</p> <p>Moderator: Claudia Robles, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p>
09:20 – 10:00	<p>Panel 1 – Latin America and the health reform debate in Chile</p> <p>“The urgency of a structural health reform in Chile: moving towards universal health coverage”, Mrs. Begoña Yarza, Minister of Health of Chile</p> <p>“The need to reform health systems in Latin America in light of the pandemic: progressing towards universal, comprehensive and sustainable health systems”, Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC</p> <p>Moderator: Claudia Robles, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p>
10:00 – 12:00	<p>Panel 2 - Health system reforms in Latin America: the cases of Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay and Chile</p> <p>“The consolidation of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund as a single fund for a universal and integrated health system”, Román Macaya, Former Executive President of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund</p> <p>“Primary health care in Brazil: challenges of the Unified Health System”, José Temporão, Former Health Ministry in Brazil (2007-2011). Professor and researcher at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. Full member of the National Academy of Medicine</p> <p>“Towards the universalization of health services in Mexico: planning and creation of the Institute of Health for Wellbeing”, Carolina Tetelboin, Academic, Department of Health Care, Autonomous Metropolitan University, Xochimilco Unit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Break (10:45 – 11:00)</p> <p>“The change in the financing model of the Uruguayan health system: the creation of the National Health Insurance”, Daniel Olesker, former Minister of Health Development (2010-2011) and former Minister of Social Development (2011-2015) of Uruguay, Senator of the Republic of Uruguay</p> <p>“Economics of health reforms in Latin America and Chile”, Camilo Cid, Director de FONASA, Ministry of Health of Chile</p>



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	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Joseph Kutzin, Unit Head, Health Financing, Department of Health Systems Governance and Financing, WHO <p>Moderator: María Luisa Marinho, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p>
12:00-12:40	<p>Panel 3 – Debate, questions and discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Amalia Palma, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p>
12:40 – 13:00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <p>María Luisa Marinho, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p> <p>Jaime Peña, Chief Advisor, Cabinet of the Minister of Health, Ministry of Health of Chile</p> <p>Moderator: Amalia Palma, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p>