



Brookings Global Health Financing Initiative

About the Initiative

The Brookings Global Health Financing Initiative analyzes current and potential innovative health financing proposals and makes practical recommendations for moving forward to fill financing gaps using the tools of public finance, commercial finance, aid and philanthropy.

The Agenda

While global health needs have grown, official development assistance has fallen short of stated goals and the future for sustained or increased aid is uncertain. In order to fill the expected gaps to serve the poor's health needs, international health advocates from both the public and private sectors have encouraged the use of innovative mechanisms to augment and improve the efficiency of funding flows for health. Yet, while a number of innovative financing proposals have been put forth, little evidence exists for which proposals will be successful and have sustained impact for the investment.

To address this gap, the Brookings Global Health Financing Initiative was created in November 2006 to identify and analyze innovative financing instruments that add genuine value, both in terms of increased net financial resources and improved health system performance in developing countries. Over the course of its two-year program, the initiative seeks to address the following questions:

- **Financial:** How much could be raised, in what form, and is the finance additional? Do these funds distort other financial flows?
- **Cost and Benefit:** What is the impact of options on overall welfare, health status, and other dimensions? Are costs, public or private, associated with the gains?
- **Efficiency:** How efficient is the allocation and operation of the proposal?
- **Equity:** Do allocations and expenditures correspond to need?
- **Implementation and Sustainability:** How do options compare in terms of the practical aspects of carrying them out? What are the prospects for sustainability?

Through this research program, the Brookings Global Health Financing Initiative will evaluate current and potential health financing proposals in depth and issue practical recommendations on how to fill financing gaps through the use of public and commercial finance, aid programs and philanthropy.

The Brookings Global Health Initiative is headed by David de Ferranti, a Brookings Senior Fellow. The initiative receives its support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



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