

Health Economics & Finance

Context

Both at national and international levels, in the public and/or private (not-for-profit) health sector, it is essential that all actions be guided by a coherent strategy consisting of clear objectives and corresponding targets to be achieved. Adequate monitoring and evaluation should be built in and strategies should be aligned with national and international development priorities. Furthermore, policy must be informed by reliable financial data on past and future interventions to be implemented, as a means to establish as precisely as possible the cost of achieving set targets and potential financing gaps. At the same time, the economic evaluation of health care interventions constitutes a vital tool to support the decision-making process at all levels of the health sector, particularly in settings where choice is severely limited by resource constraints. Indeed, it provides policy-makers with the necessary evidence to design and implement a package of cost effective strategies, aimed at improving the health of the population as a whole, particularly the poor.

In turn, a comprehensive and equitable financing strategy not only promotes the system's sustainability, but also provides the adequate mechanisms to channel essential resources in the most efficient and coordinated way and ensure those are targeted towards the poorest and most vulnerable.

What We Offer

LATH's work in the sphere of health planning, economics and financing has been aimed at improving the quality of strategic and operational planning at different levels of the health sector, through the design and implementation of effective tools, adapted to their users both in the national and international arena. Moreover, we continually aim to strengthen links between health care delivery, planning and budgeting/financing. We are committed to doing this in a way that strengthens existing systems, builds capacity and therefore fosters sustainability.

More specifically, the services we can provide include:

- Support to and facilitation of strategic and operational planning processes, including the design and implementation of tools which are adapted to specific contexts;
- Design and implementation of health sector financing strategy;
- Design and implementation of the SWAp in the Health Sector;
- Design and implementation of planning tools and processes in the health sector, including Health Sector Strategy, Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and operational plans;
- Design and implementation of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys and National Health Accounts
- Design and implementation support for minimum health care packages
- Design and implementation of costing protocols for health care interventions/health projects and programmes;
- Comprehensive and detailed resource estimate of health sector strategy or specific health projects and programmes;
- Capacity development of health professionals in health economics and financing through LSTM accredited tailor made training;
- Economic evaluation of health care interventions/ health projects;

In order to provide the above services, our permanent team at LATH is constituted by a specialist in health systems development and our in-house health economists, who combine a comprehensive set of core skills and experience in the areas of health planning, economics and financing, in particular applied to low and middle income country settings. Their expertise is complemented by that of senior staff at the School, who provide continuous support and specialist knowledge.

Selected experience

County	Client	Date	Programme/Project
Global	GAVI	2008	Support to GAVI work planning process Together with the GAVI Alliance Partners and the GAVI Secretariat we are supporting the development of two annual work plans (2009 and 2010) for the GAVI Alliance. The process has been streamlined based on previous years experience but is still based around review of past progress and consensus building with partners.
East and Southern Africa	USAID	2006-2011	Indoor residual spraying (IRS) Programme We have developed a costing protocol to be used by programme managers to collect IRS data in countries, which can subsequently be used to carry out cost-effectiveness analyses of different pesticide usages, as well as comparing those with other interventions to reduce the incidence of malaria in the countries involved.
Mozambique	World Bank MoH	2005-08	Revision of the Strategic Planning Process The work carried out has addressed a number of fundamental issues, such as the development of a sound financing strategy, a decentralisation plan, and the design of an essential health package, pro-poor financing mechanisms, and decentralisation strategy. As an integral part of the work, a detailed costing model was designed and populated to produce a cost estimate of the health strategy and an estimate of the financing gap. MoH staff were engaged throughout and the model is now being used in the planning department.
Kenya	DFID/MoH	2005-08	Public Expenditure Tracking Survey LATH and partners have been supporting the Government of Kenya Ministry of Health to provide integrated effective essential health services in Kenya, particularly for poor women and children. As part of this work we have been supporting the design and implementation of a Public Expenditure Tracking Survey at the District level to track resource flows against stated aims.
Malawi	DFID/MoH	2002-08	Design and implementation of a sector wide approach for the health sector In 2002 LATH provided intensive TA to design the SWAp. The design was accepted and we are now supporting its implementation through short and long-term TA in health planning, financing, procurement, Human Resource Management/Development, monitoring and evaluation and financial management. A number of long term technical assistance posts are being

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			provided by LATH which are all integrated inside the MoH, reporting to the Departmental Directors or Heads of Unit in which they are based. Their primary purpose is to technically support the implementation of the SWAp through supporting each unit/department they are part of, to achieve annual implementation plans which collectively feed into achieving the National Programme of Work. LATH's role is to facilitate, supporting the TAs technically, managerially and administratively to help them integrate into the MoH and focus on their primary purpose.
Mozambique	DFID/MoH	2007	Development of a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the health sector The work consisted partly in identifying the relevant data sources and MoH departments and individuals to provide the necessary information to feed into the MTEF, as well as advising the MoH on how the existing data should be organised in order to meet the demands of the Ministry of Finance.
East and Southern Africa	USAID	2007	Larval source management (LSM) The project involves three African settings, namely the coastal metropolitan area of Dar es Salaam, a highly populated Kenyan highland area, and a lake side district in rural Kenya. Its main components include the design of a framework for analysing the costs of LSM programmes, using this framework to model and estimate the costs of implementing large-scale LSM programs in three African settings and communicate the findings of this study to malaria control programme managers and other decision makers in national and international organisations. The results will help USAID decision makers and malaria control programme managers consider the potential costs and benefits of using Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs), IRS, and LSM in integrated strategies.
Mozambique	Malaria Consortium/ National Malaria Control Programme	2007	Support to NMCP 2008 Operational Plan The main objective of this work is to develop a comprehensive and detailed plan which presents internally and externally funded activities to be carried out in 2008 in the fight against malaria in Mozambique. The assignment has also been designed to build capacity in the NMCP for the design of operational plans.
East and Southern Africa	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	2006-07	Integrate control of the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) LATH has prepared a protocol to estimate the cost effectiveness of integrated versus vertical control programmes. This work is in collaboration with a number of partners including the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, The International Trachoma Initiative and the Global Alliance to Eradicate Lymphatic Filariasis. In a similar vein we also assisted to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support their

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			grantees develop costing methods for integrated NTD control.
Global	GAVI	2007	Support to the GAVI Work Planning process Following on from our support to the GAVI strategic planning process in 2006, LATH was asked to support the development of the 2008 GAVI annual Work Plan. This document coordinates the activities of all GAVI partners and serves as the basis for developing the annual budget.
Global	GAVI	2006	Support to the GAVI strategic planning process Together with the GAVI Alliance Secretariat and Partners, a 2007-10 Roadmap, a 2007 Work Plan for the Alliance, and Secretariat Team Work Plans were developed. Additionally, the final report proposed a structure for developing individual work plans for Secretariat staff which link directly to individual's job descriptions and the Secretariat Team Work Plans. The process was complemented by the development of an activity-based budget, consolidated in the Alliance Work Plan.
Uganda	AMREF	2006	Establishing the cost-effectiveness of the Uganda Malaria Partnership Programme (UMPP) The analysis was designed to build upon that of the impact evaluation which was carried out at the same time as the economic evaluation. LATH was able to provide some useful insights to be taken forward to the Ministry of Health and learning points for AMREF, in particular relating to the use of economic evaluation.
Global	GFATM	2003-06	Local Fund Agent (LFA) for the GFATM The role of LFAs is to assess the ability of Global Fund grant recipients to manage and implement projects to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. This includes verification programme results against agreed activities and indicators.
Global	GAVI	2005	Mid-term review of the GAVI Work Plan 2004-05 Following completion of the two year work plan, an independent review of work plan achievements (measured against the 30 targets) was carried out by LATH and partners, which included "lesson learned" on the work planning process.
Mozambique	DFID/MoH	2000-03	Design and implementation of a health sector strategic plan This work was carried out in the light of a new sector-wide approach and technical assistance was procured in a number of key areas, including health financing and others related to it, such as health planning, decentralisation, the role of special clinics. Experienced MoH officials were brought in from various African countries to share their experiences in budgetary support and common fund modalities.

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Mozambique	DFID	2007-08	<p>Costing of the Human Resources for Health Development Plan</p> <p>LATH was tasked with estimating the overall cost of the HRH strategy, including the presentation of various scenarios of development of the health workforce over 8 years (2008-15). The outcome included a yearly breakdown of salaries and training costs, as well as other key areas of HRH. A detailed discussion of the methodology adopted to derive unit costs and make adequate staff and cost projections was also presented.</p>