

# OPEN FORUM ON PRIVATE FINANCE AND HEALTH

## BACKGROUND

In the face of fiscal and policy constraints, many governments are resorting to private investors to fill financing gaps and to meet SDG targets, including those related to universal health coverage. Underlying these dynamics is the prevailing view that mobilising private investment is invariably beneficial, cost-effective, and essential for achieving health, social, and development policy goals.

However, policy efforts aimed at both generating attractive profits for private investors and delivering equitable access to quality healthcare carry considerable tensions and contradictions. Indeed, there are many examples of private healthcare investments leading to predatory and harmful forms of profiteering at the expense of considerable public resources and equitable access to quality healthcare services. Despite these concerns, efforts to analyse and monitor the scale, nature, and impacts of private healthcare investments remain largely inadequate.

This forum is open to all interested participants from diverse sectors, contexts, and levels of expertise. The forum will introduce and describe global and regional private healthcare investment trends and foster an interactive discussion on key implications. It will also equip attendees with some basic knowledge and practical skills for monitoring and addressing private investment in the health sector from a global and planetary health equity perspective.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM:

- Provide historical and political context behind surging levels of private investment in the health sector worldwide.
- Describe the universe of private healthcare investments (including blended finance and de-risking initiatives).
- Present information on key regional and global trends in private healthcare investments.
- Discuss illustrative cases of private investment initiatives targeting the health sector.
- Present and discuss different approaches, methods, and data sources for gathering policy relevant evidence on private healthcare investments.
- Engage in an interactive discussion on advancing research and policy actions to address the health equity impacts of private healthcare investments.

## DATE

June 8, 2026

## TIME

9:00am – 4.00pm (MYT)

## Venue (in-person)

Level 3, Room 306,  
Kuala Lumpur  
Convention Center  
(KLCC), Malaysia

## SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Please RSVP through the  
Eventbrite platform using the QR  
code.

Participants can join in-person or  
follow online (access link will be  
made available soon).

Programme details and venue  
location will be shared with all  
registrants in coming weeks.

# PROGRAMME

Session 1		
09:00	Welcome	David McCoy
09:15	What is driving surging levels of private investment in the health sector worldwide?	Anna Marriott, Ben Hunter
09:45	Regional and global trends in private healthcare investments	Ben Wood
10:00	Confronting the impacts of private investments on healthcare workers: insights from Kenya	Mercy Nabwire
10:30	Morning break	
Session 2		
10:45	Conducting policy-relevant research on financialisation and corporatisation of healthcare: insights from India	Abhay Shukla
11:05	Unpacking the public-private finance mix in healthcare: insights from Malaysia	Chee Khoon Chan
11:25	Financialization and Narratives within Global Health Development: insights from Geneva	Dena Kirpalani
11:45	Q&A and panel discussion	Panelists: Abhay Shukla, Chee Khoon Chan, Dena Kirpalani Chair: Anna Marriott
12:15	Lunch	
Session 3		
13:15	Building a global network to monitor private healthcare investments: insights from CICTAR	Jason Ward
13:45	How research on private healthcare investments can support WHO's strategy on the economics of health for all	Anna Vassall
14:15	Afternoon break	
Session 4		
14:30	Open discussion on advancing a research, advocacy, and policy agenda on private finance and health	Panelists: Jason Ward, Anna Vassall, Anna Marriott, Dena Kirpalani, David McCoy Chair: Owain Williams

## SPEAKERS



### Ben Hunter

Ben is Senior Lecturer in the University of Glasgow's School of Social & Political Sciences, where he works on the political economy of global health and development. He authored *Investor States: Global Health at the End of Aid* (2023) and current research includes work on the expansion of a globalised commercial healthcare economy and the growing influence of the private finance in health and development.



### Chee Khoon Chan

Chee Khoon Chan is a health policy analyst based in Kuala Lumpur. He has previously taught development studies and public health at Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Malaya. He coordinates Citizens' Health Initiative which he co-founded.



### Dena Kirpalani

Dena received her PhD in International Law (minor in Anthropology and Sociology) at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Dena is a solicitor (England & Wales), has practiced in the City of London and worked with the World Health Organization Regional Office of the Western Pacific's Health Law and Ethics program in Manila, Philippines. Her research focuses on exploring the relationship between finance, health and law.



### Anna Marriott

Anna is an independent consultant working on the financialisation of health globally and in the UK. She was Oxfam's health policy lead for nearly 20 years where she led ground-breaking research on the impacts of private investment in healthcare in the global South. Her recent report, *Sick Development*, exposed the role of development finance in expanding unregulated and harmful growth of private healthcare in low and middle-income countries.



### David McCoy

David is currently a Research Lead at the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH). Prior to this he was Professor of Global Public Health at Queen Mary University, London. He also spent ten years working in South Africa as a clinical and public health doctor.



### Mercy Nabwire Ouma

Mercy is the National Treasurer of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), an alumna of the Global Labour University Penn and serves on the board of CICTAR. She is currently attached with the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR/SEIU) in the U.S.



### Abhay Shukla

Abhay is a public health physician and national co-convenor of People's Health Movement-India. He led drafting of the national 'Patients' Rights Charter' in India, and has authored various publications including 'Dissenting Diagnosis,' exposing malpractices in commercialised healthcare. Currently he is researching corporatisation and financialisation of healthcare in India, while campaigning for right to health, public health system accountability, and social regulation of private healthcare sector.



### Anna Vassall

Anna is the current unit head of planning, performance and economics at WHO. She previously was a Professor of Health Economics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and has over 20 years' experience in health and investment planning and evaluation.



### Jason Ward

Jason is the founder and Principal Analyst of CICTAR, the Centre for International Corporate Tax Accountability & Research. CICTAR has done extensive research on private investment in the health and care sectors in several countries. Prior to CICTAR's creation 8 years ago, Jason has decades of experience in strategic corporate research for global trade unions.



### Ben Wood

Ben is a Research Fellow and co-lead of the 'Investing for Health' stream at Deakin University's Commercial and Economic Determinants of Health Research Translation Centre. Ben's current research focuses on exploring policy and collective action pathways towards financing health for all.