

SECURE WEBINAR 21
Leveraging Insurance and Innovative Financing for Non-Communicable Diseases:
South Asia-Southeast Asia Synergies

15 May 2025
2:00-3:30pm Manila time

The SECURE Webinar Series is a platform to promote innovation and best practices to strengthen health security in Southeast Asian developing member countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The webinar series is supported by the ADB technical assistance (TA 6767) on Supporting Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccination and Post COVID-19 Health Security Responses in Southeast Asia, and serves as a venue for knowledge exchange among governments, the private sector, development partners, civil society networks and other stakeholders.

SECURE Webinar 21 is part of [NCDs Talks](#) and Regional Technical Assistance on Strengthening Primary Health Care Management of Noncommunicable Diseases (TA10106). -

Background:

Globally, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 71% of deaths and 15 million premature deaths annually (WHO, 2018). The burden of NCDs in the Asia-Pacific region follows a similar trend, with 70% of all deaths attributed to NCDs which are expected to rise significantly by 2030 (WHO, 2019). In India, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs), and diabetes are responsible for 55% of deaths and a substantial proportion of premature mortality (WHO, 2018).

The economic burden of NCDs is equally staggering. Globally, NCDs are expected to make a \$47 trillion toll by 2030 (WHO, 2018). Likewise, India's economy faced losses of \$237 billion in 2018, which are projected to rise to \$472 billion by 2030 (WHO, 2018).

Countries across the world are moving towards Universal Health Coverage; and national health insurance programs are now being implemented in many countries. Often these national health insurance schemes have a defined benefits coverage for covered populations. Most of these programs also cover NCDs as part of their benefits package and a substantial part of their claims payments are on NCDs. To ensure that provisions are not misused, countries have also developed mechanisms to prevent or control fraud and abuse.

India which is the most populous country in the world, launched a national health insurance program in 2018 which now covers more than 650 million people, especially the poor and vulnerable. The Indian insurance program provides only inpatient benefits, but NCDs are a major part of it. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia has undertaken landmark reforms to merge various health insurance programs into a single program which aims to cover everybody in the country. The Indonesian program has a comprehensive package which includes NCDs.

This webinar will explore experiences from South and Southeast Asia in using their respective national health insurance schemes and innovative financing to tackle NCDs. It will share lessons learned and discuss the critical barriers and enablers to ensure that NCDs are managed well within the program scope. The governments of these countries still have vertical programs related to NCDs that are running in parallel to national health insurance. The challenge is to align these programs and remove duplications.

The webinar will examine the strategies and experiences from these two regions regarding leveraging national health insurance programs for managing NCDs, challenges and lessons learned.

Session Objectives:

1. Understand how countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia are covering NCDs through their national health insurance programs.
2. Understand the lessons learned, best practices, barriers and enablers for using health insurance to manage NCDs.
3. Discuss alignment between NCDs and innovative funding mechanisms.

Target Audience: Policymakers and practitioners, researchers, industry experts, and innovators.

Webinar Format: 90-minute online session featuring presentation, panel discussion, and Q&A.

Guiding questions:*Government Representatives:*

- 1) What is the government's vision and priorities for leveraging national health insurance programs and alternative financing schemes to address NCDs?
- 2) In your experience, what policies and programmatic support are required to cover NCDs more effectively through these programs?
- 3) What has worked and what needs to be changed to align vertical programs on NCD with national health insurance programs and other innovative financing options?

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DRAFT AGENDA

Duration	Agenda	Speaker / Facilitator
2:00-2:05pm (5mins)	Welcome remarks	Dr. Alexo Esperato Senior Health Specialist, ADB
2:05-2:40pm (35 mins)	Experience Sharing	Moderator 1: Dr. Nishant Jain Senior Health Specialist, ADB Dr. Pankaj Arora Director, National Health Authority India Mr. Mahlil Ruby Director of Planning and Development Indonesia
2:40-3:10pm (30mins)	Lessons Learnt and Implications	Moderator 2: Dr. Vasoontara Yiengprugsawan Senior Universal Health Coverage Specialist, ADB <i>Landscape analysis of innovative financing for non-communicable diseases</i> Dr. Priyanka Bajaj PATH India <i>Innovative financing in an era of population ageing</i> Professor Soonman Kwon Professor and Former Dean of the School of Public Health, Seoul National University
3:10-3:25pm (15mins)	Commentary followed by Q & A	Ms. Blaire Ng Health Specialist, ADB
3:25-3:30pm (5 mins)	Closing Remarks	Dr. Eduardo Banzon Director, ADB Health Team