

## **Part Two: (A) Achieving Twin Objectives of Equity and Quality**

### **Benjamin Loevinsohn**

Dr. Loevinsohn of the World Bank discusses the role of government contracting in improving equity and quality of health services in developing countries. Dr. Loevinsohn reviews the global experience of contracting for health services, and discusses in detail contracting programs in Bangladesh and Cambodia.

RESOURCES: To access resources relevant to this subject matter, please select one from the box at the top right hand corner and click on view. This will take you to a PDF or a link where you can download the document.

To ask a question or post a comment, click the Contribute button at the top of this page

### **Susan Scribner**

Nov 14 2006 9:39PM

Could you tell us in which of the countries where the MOH is currently contracting private sector providers to deliver health services are these programs financed out of public budgets, as opposed to loans or donors grants?

### **Benjamin Loevinsohn**

Nov 14 2006 9:51PM

Good question.

The Government of Punjab (Pakistan) is using its own funds to finance NGO delivery of services. The NGO receives the same amount as had been in the budget the year before it took over management of the district basic health units. The government pays the health workers salary directly, but the rest of the budget is given to the NGO to spend as it likes (while having to provide audited financial reports). This now covers 13 districts in the Punjab, i.e., more than 30 million people.

### **Alexei Sitruk**

Nov 15 2006 11:12AM

I have some problems accessing your presentation so please forgive me if those questions were already addressed. Could you please tell us more about how to overcome the challenge of involving more the private sector (for profit organizations) in quality health services delivery and at the same time ensure equitable access in countries where 70% of the population live under the poverty line? Would it be possible to set up a public pro poor strategy in a privatized health system in Afghanistan? If yes, what would be the timeline? Would the contracting out system currently implemented in Afghanistan require adjustment if instead of NGO's, we have Private health providers?

Thank you.

### **olayinka Ayankogbe**

Nov 15 2006 12:44PM

I have been away from the conference for two days. I am Like Alexie. I have problems with audio and video. There is no power point Icon as advertised on the conference hall webpage. Can u help? Where I can I download your hot presentation?

Yinka

**Luis Mauricio Pinet Peralta**

Nov 15 2006 4:23PM

Avoiding high utilization rates for costly interventions (e.g. hospitalizations, long-term care for complications) by providing primary preventive care would make you expect lower rates of deliveries at health facilities. Many countries provide prenatal and OB/GYN services at home, unless the pregnancy is considered high-risk. What are some of the reasons why we saw an increase in this indicator in the presentation?

**Doug Eisengrein**

Nov 15 2006 5:12PM

Yinka,

The PowerPoint is available just above and to the right of the graphic with Dr. Loevinsohn's name and picture ("Prerecorded Presentation - Click to View"). Choose "PowerPoint Slides" from the list, then click the view button. You will be prompted to either open the file right away, or save it to your computer, where you can keep it and review it later.

Can you describe the problem you are having with audio/visual in more detail? For example, can you see the video but not hear sound? Can you hear but not see the video? Are you getting nothing at all after you click on the graphic to view the presentation?

It will be helpful also if you tell us:

1. what operating system are you using (Windows 2000, Windows XP, Mac OS9, Mac OSX, etc...)
2. did you already try following the troubleshooting tips on the video player page (the page that comes up after clicking the graphic)?

I will also send a regular email to you about this.

We're happy to help!

Doug Eisengrein

iCohere Support

[support@icohere.com](mailto:support@icohere.com)

**Doug Eisengrein**

Nov 15 2006 5:23PM

Alexei,

We would like to help resolve your issue with the videos, so you can view them - they are wonderful presentations! Can you describe the problem you are having in more detail?

For example, can you see the video but not hear sound? Is the video too choppy and slow? Are you getting nothing at all after you click on the graphic to view the video?

It will be helpful also if you tell us:

1. what operating system are you using (Windows 2000, Windows XP, Mac OS9, Mac OSX, etc...)
2. did you already try following the troubleshooting tips on the video player page (the page that comes up after clicking the graphic)?

As an alternative to the videos, there are corresponding PowerPoints available for each video that you may open or save to your computer. Just above and to the right of the

graphic with Dr. Loevinsohn's name and picture ("Prerecorded Presentation - Click to View"), you can choose "PowerPoint Slides" from the list, then click the "View" button. You will be prompted to either open or save the file.

I will also send a regular email to you about this.

We're happy to help!

Doug Eisengrein

iCohere Support

[support@icohere.com](mailto:support@icohere.com)

**Benjamin Loevinsohn**

Nov 16 2006 4:05AM

Thanks Alexi, this is a challenging question. There is limited experience in low income countries of contracting with for-profit firms for delivering health services. (For ancillary services, like drug distribution or hospital maintenance contracting has worked very well and has become routine in many places.) So the challenges of contracting with for-profit providers remain unexplored in situations like Afghanistan, although my sense is that contracting for primary health care is not going to make anyone rich. One interesting set of examples are for-profit medical colleges in India and Pakistan that have taken over health centers and rural hospitals at, what looks like a loss, in order to obtain enough "clinical teaching material" i.e., cases for their students. I'm not sure this is a sustainable model but it is intriguing.

**Benjamin Loevinsohn**

Nov 16 2006 4:44AM

In countries like Cambodia and Bangladesh the level of skilled birth attendance is so low that the government wants to increase deliveries in facilities. There are few trained midwives so that women who deliver at home will have no help or just that from an untrained traditional birth attendant.

**olayinka Ayankogbe**

Nov 17 2006 3:31PM

To the coferece organisers,

The Ugandan conference, will there be facilities for online participation at the conference for those of us who cannot arrange to come due to the short notice? I would like to participate actively in the conference! And to get all the information available!

Yinka

**Meaghan Smith**

Nov 17 2006 5:35PM

Dear Yinka,

Unfortunately the Uganda trade show is not going to be on-line. It is being set up as a networking opportunity so that private health providers in Uganda are able to network and identify resources that can help their practices. We would be happy, however, to share any information that we get from the trade show.

Best regards,

Meaghan Smith