

Part Two: (B) Vouchers: Increasing Access and Quality Through Choice

Claus-Peter Janisch

Dr. Janisch of the German Development Bank (KfW) provides a background of KfW's work with the private sector and why KfW has chosen to work specifically with private sector health programs. His presentation also discusses the benefits of out-put based aid, and in particular vouchers to improve access among marginalized community to specific health services and/or products.

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Neha Suchak

Nov 14 2006 9:55PM

Are there examples of vouchers pilot programs that were not brought to scale? What are the lessons learned from those cases?

Mursaleena Islam

Nov 14 2006 9:58PM

Hi, my name is Mursaleena Islam and I'm a health economist. In doing a literature review, I have seen references to voucher programs that were not brought to scale. For example I think there was a voucher program in China that was not brought to scale. But looking at these references I found little or no information that would tell us why these types of programs were not brought to scale or lessons learned about these experiences. I hope someone else can provide examples of pilot programs that were not brought to scale and some lessons learned from those failed experiences.

Reed Ramlow

Nov 15 2006 1:45PM

Excellent presentation by Dr. Janisch! I am delighted to see KfW is supporting voucher innovations as a better way to target subsidies to the poor, while at the same time creating demand side incentives to obtain health services from providers that health consumers can choose.

Moises Rosas

Nov 15 2006 2:03PM

Congratulations Dr. Janisch for your presentation. I would like to ask is there is any experience regarding counterfeiting vouchers and how to proceed in that case. Thanks.

Bruce Mackay

Nov 15 2006 2:13PM

Yes, but' would be my response to Janisch's presentation. How to make sure that this interesting, donor-funded pilot in Kenya does not end up like most donor-funded pilots, namely on the shelf. Among other things, I would like to know what monitoring is taking

place and whether it includes the people in the target groups who are NOT utilising the vouchers, and/or utilising the same service providers.

Edith Patouillard

Nov 15 2006 3:40PM

Hi and Thank you for this presentation

I am interested in the available evidence of the impact of vouchers on improved access to affordable and quality health services or products by the poor.

Your presentation mentions several voucher schemes, and for instance the impact of voucher programmes implemented in Nicaragua have been evaluated (Sandiford et al. 2002, Meuwissen et al. 2006) [other voucher schemes which have been evaluated to my knowledge also include Mushi 2003 (vouchers for ITNs)]

but, what about the other voucher programmes? have these interventions been evaluated yet? is there any evidence of their impact on improved access/coverage?

Thank you

Gael O'Sullivan

Nov 16 2006 4:32PM

This is an interesting presentation and I appreciate the attention to consumer-based considerations such as choice and incentives. I would like to see additional discussion in this conference of demand-side considerations so that the framing of the topic - the role of the private sector - is broadened to examine the range of both supply-side and demand-side variables and considerations.

Building on that thought, do other conference participants have experiences and examples to share of innovative ways to meet consumer demand through private sector providers?

One question I am particularly interested in is how to tap into retail networks to better target and serve low-income consumers. Different programs have used contests, promotions, etc over the years - what else can be done to motivate retailers to provide good customer service and counseling information and also what kinds of consumer-based incentives can help customers overcome barriers to seeking products and services?

Lastly, there seem to be new trends in some countries to provide health services within retail outlets - such as "medical corners" in pharmacies where customers can get screenings and other basic health services. Any thoughts about this in terms of the potential to strengthen efforts to meet the health needs of low income consumers?

Thanks, Gael

Alison Bishop

Nov 17 2006 3:28PM

Here are the resources Edith mentioned. "Vouchers and Output-based Aid / Competitive Voucher Program / Use and Misuse of Vouchers"

"Sandiford_voucher_schemes_for_output-based_aid.pdf /

Meuwissen_competative_voucher_program_for_adolescents.pdf /

Tami_Use_and_misuse_of_discount_voucher_scheme.pdf"

162 "Part Two: (B) Vouchers: Increasing Access and Quality Through Choice" Tania Dmytraczenko "Nov 17 2006 4:38PM" "Dear Edith,

The PSP-One has published a primer on vouchers (<http://www.psp-one.com/content/resource/detail/3003/>) and the World Bank has a comprehensive guide to voucher (<http://www.psp-one.com/content/resource/detail/2169/>). These publications cover some other examples besides Nicaragua and ITNs in Tanzania.

Delila Lojo

Nov 22 2006 9:12AM

Thanks, Dr Janisch for the presentation! The OBA as presented is very interesting. May I know if there is such OBA program involving midwives, and the experience with midwives, including lessons learned? In the Philippines, the initial link from the public to the private sector are the midwives in private practice. In addition, many physicians and nurses are leaving the country for better work opportunities and higher income overseas. Providing private midwives new opportunities to improve the provision services and to improve patient load will be a significant support in partnering with the private sector.

Thanks again!

Nina Lojo

Manila, Philippines