

## **Public expenditure reviews and health financing analysis: A case study from Jamaica**

A Public Expenditure Review (PER) is a diagnostics instrument used to evaluate the effectiveness of public finances, and may focus on specific sectors like health care, education or social protection. These are typically requested by countries to assess the quality and efficiency of public spending, and their consistency with policy priorities, and the results achieved.

In this presentation and report, we focus on what is a public expenditure review, how is it conducted, and how is a PER used to inform health policies by using a case study from Jamaica. This PER was conducted in 2022 and reviews public financial management, technical and allocative efficiency of public spending, and the equitable distribution of public finances in Jamaica.

Overall, we find that Jamaica showcases a resilient health financing system by prioritising health during economic downturns with reduced fiscal capacity. The health financing system in Jamaica has high technical efficiency, and there is high absorption of allocated funds by the health system. However, more attention needs to be placed on allocative efficiency issues including increasing or reallocating funding to preventive and PHC activities, and targeting specific efforts by disease priorities in particular in relation to NCD prevention. While distribution of benefits is mostly progressive, more information is needed on health seeking behaviour, especially unmet health care needs due to financial barriers.