

Financing and Supply of Essential Medicines: Building Resilient Health Systems

Facilitator

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Description

Access to essential medicines remains a persistent challenge in global health, driven by financing gaps, procurement inefficiencies, and fragile supply chains. These systemic weaknesses contribute to stock-outs, inconsistent quality, and unaffordable prices, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries and undermining progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This interactive short course offers PhD and MD students a clear, practice-oriented introduction to the financing mechanisms and supply system dynamics that determine whether essential medicines reach the people who need them. Participants will learn how funding flows, procurement strategies, and supply chain design interact to either strengthen or weaken medicine availability in resource-constrained settings.

Through real-world case examples and applied group exercises, participants will explore how national policies, purchasing models, and the actions of global health actors shape the affordability, quality, and continuity of essential medicine supply. Designed for students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, this course provides an accessible yet rigorous foundation in the economics and operations behind resilient essential-medicine systems, equipping future researchers and practitioners with the analytical tools to understand and influence this critical area of global health.

Objectives

- Understand core principles of essential medicines financing and supply systems
- Identify key bottlenecks affecting procurement and availability in different contexts

	• Assess selected models, such as pooled procurement or revolving drug funds, that support supply chain resilience. • Reflect on trade-offs between equity, efficiency, and sustainability in medicine access policies
Date	5 May 2026, 14:00 – 17:00
Level	Basic
Eligibility	The course is open to PhD and MD students of the SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus.
Course Structure	The course will include a combination of lectures and practical case studies with group discussion, divided in the two following parts: <i>Lectures:</i> • Introduction to essential medicines financing • Global trends and recurring challenges • Analysis of Pooled Procurement and Patent Pool mechanisms • Strategies for resilience and sustainability <i>Applied group exercise:</i> • Short scenario simulating a national stock-out • Group discussion around a policy or financing reform • Debrief and conclusion
Work load	Preliminary Work: 30 minutes; Contact time: 3 h
Credits	(1 ECTS for active participation in 4 short online courses and 1 passed assessment in 1 course)
Assessment	If participants choose this course for credit, they will write a short report on a financing aspect of the supply chain of medicines in their country of choice (voluntary).

in collaboration with

Location	Online course on zoom
Course Fees	SSPH+ PhD and MD Students: o.- CHF
Registration	http://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2026
Deadline for registration	4 April 2026

This course is an SSPH+ IGC initiative to provide post-doctoral scientists at SSPH+ network institutions to teach.