The Ebola crisis and climate-related disasters are bringing home a scary realization that the World is not ready for pandemics or existing and emerging planetary health challenges. There has been a major failure by donors and countries to prioritize investments in core functions that are fundamental to protecting and promoting health and well-being. These functions, called “Common Goods for Health,” are population-based functions that require collective financing either from government or donors due to their related market failures.

This half-day session will present a new WHO knowledge program to address obstacles to under-financing of these Common Goods for Health. This session will articulate, provide the technical and economic rationale for, estimate the cost of, identify modalities, and provide country experiences for financing common goods for health. Top academics and practitioners at the frontline of implementation will be brought together to present work and experience on these issues.
ABDO YAZBECK, INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT
When both markets and governments fail health
The motivation behind financing common goods for health will be presented to provide the rationale behind the knowledge program.

PETER SMITH, IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON
When market fail: common goods for health
A framework to identify common goods for health based on the economic rationale behind market failures with population-based interventions and functions that contribute to health and well-being.

SUSAN SPARKES, WHO
Financing common goods for health: a country agenda
The mechanisms, as well as potential challenges and opportunities to finance common goods for health at both the national level will be unpacked and explained in detail.

GAVIN YAMEY, DUKE UNIVERSITY
Financing global common goods for health: when the world is a country
This presentation will define and analyse global common goods for health that require supranational financing and will propose policy options that address financing- and governance-related issues.

DR. PALITHA ABEYKOON, PRESIDENT OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICINE ASSOCIATION
We will learn how Sri Lanka’s commitment to preventive health services and functions has informed and been incorporated into their ongoing primary care strengthening reforms, as well as hear about the challenges and successes to financing common goods for health.

TOLBERT NYENSWAH, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF LIBERIA
We will hear from the Liberian leaders who managed and coordinated the national Ebola response in 2014 as to how the country is working to prioritize investments in core public health functions post-Ebola, as well as about some ongoing challenges.

AJAY SHAH, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC FINANCE AND POLICY, INDIA
India’s decentralized government provides a rich example of ways in which public health functions have and have not been prioritized by local governments.