

## **Reclaim Public Health Services for a Healthier Planet and Green Economic Recovery**

*7<sup>th</sup> April 2022*

As we commemorate World Health Day under the theme: *Our Planet. Our Health*, ISER is cognizant that challenges posed by climate extremes, economic slowdowns and poor-quality health services share one thing in common: they hit the poor and disadvantaged hardest while the rich get richer.

Today, we call upon government and all development partners to adequately fund public health services for a green just recovery. In the [Peoples Manifesto](#), Ugandans made their voices clear- ***Enough Is Enough : Reclaim Public Services.***

The unending COVID-19 pandemic continues to unmask the systemic and structural weakness of Uganda's public health system, partly due to chronic [underfinancing](#) and [privatization](#). The result of this was [medical oxygen crisis](#) and private actors [Profiteering off the pandemic](#), that unfolded at the height of the delta variant reaffirming the centrality of the state and why we cannot rely on the private sector to achieve health equity.

Additionally, catastrophic health expenditure means one has to rely on either their meagre savings, sell off their assets, or rely on the mercy of friends and family to foot their medical bills. Meanwhile, politicians escape our crippled health facilities, flying abroad for quality healthcare off tax payers' money.

Health is inextricably linked to the planet which ultimately impacts the quality of life and health equity. It is unsurprising that the rise in non-communicable diseases, food insecurity, poor waste management among others have disproportionately increased pressure on both the planet and health system.

It is time for the government to act and prioritise our public health system. We, therefore, call on the government to;

- Fund and equip public health services
- Monitor and regulate private actors in health
- Mobilize maximum available resources including curbing illicit financial flows and adopting progressive tax programs that focus on the rich paying their fair share of taxes to finance public health facilities
- Use special drawing rights to finance public services
- Ensure equitable access to Covid 19 vaccines for all