The Purely Economic Short-Term Case for Investing in Health in Middle-Income Economies

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Economic Theory in the Face of the Global Health Crisis

- Complete physical, mental, and social well-being, that is, health, is a fundamental human right, as well as the third UN SDG - to be guaranteed by universal health coverage.
- Both for-profit commercial initiatives and charitable efforts led by non-profit organizations are unfortunately insufficient to deliver health for all and its substantive economic benefits (WHO 2021)

The Transformative Power of Market Shaping

- A market-shaping role for policy tackling the 'grand challenges' of society would enable shifting not only the rate, but also the direction of economic growth, namely towards broader notions of public value creation driven by public purpose instead of private profit.
- The market-shaping view emphasizes how the creation and production of an entire health resource chain can provide numerous employment opportunities and innovation spillovers that will readily recover the initial investment cost.
- Market shaping has been successfully implemented in a variety of contexts, including global health.
- Need for new accounting frameworks beyond cost-benefit analysis



Economic Multipliers in the Production Channel

Final demand equals the surplus product:

$$Y = X - AX;$$
 $X = (I - A)^{-1}Y = LY = L(C + I + G)$ (1)

Expansion of Leontief matrix into a geometric sum:

$$L \equiv (I - A)^{-1} = I + A + A^2 + A^3 + \dots$$
 (2)

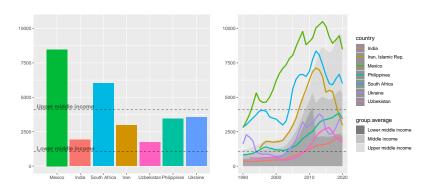
In vector notation:

$$Y = \sum_{i} f_{i} = \sum_{i} x_{i} - \sum_{i,j} a_{ij}x_{i} =$$
final demand gross output intermediate demand
$$= \sum_{i,j} (1 - a_{ij})x_{i} = \sum_{i,j} l_{ij}^{-1}x_{i}$$
(3)

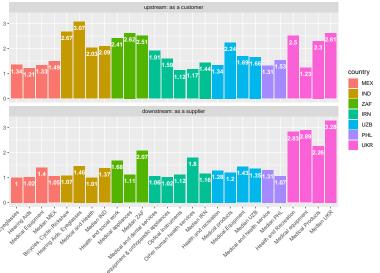
Assistive Technology and Health Industries

Mexico (822)	Iran (148)
Medical Equipment Eyeglasses Hearing Aids	Medical Equipment, Orthopaedic Appliances Eyeglasses Medical, Dental Services
India (132)	Other Human Health Services
Wheelchairs Hearing Aids, Eyeglasses Medical, Health	Uzbekistan (131) Medical Equipment Medical Products
South Africa (52)	Health, Recreation
Medical Appliances Health, Social Work	Ukraine (121) Medical Equipment
Philippines (77) Medical Health Services	Medical Products Health, Recreation

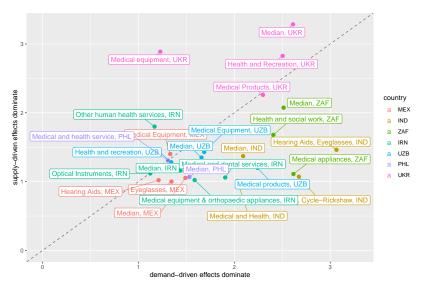
Gross National Income per Capita of Selected Economies



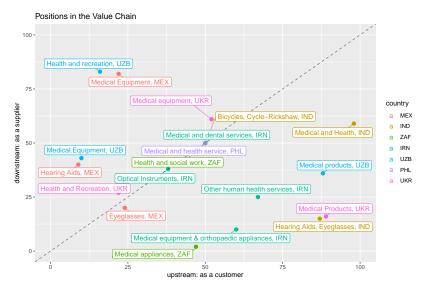
Aggregate Leontief Output Multipliers

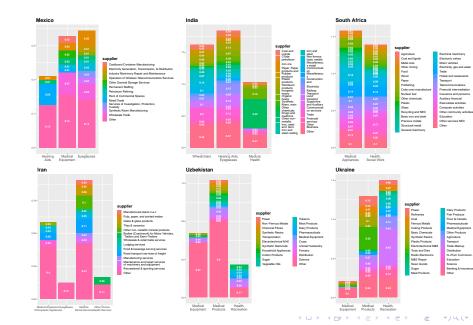


Demand-Driven vs Supply-Driven Effects (Absolute)

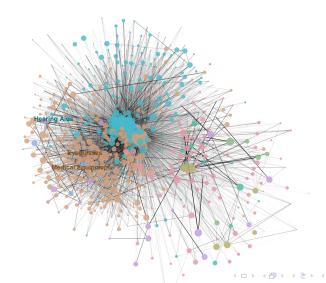


Demand-Driven vs Supply-Driven Effects by Quantile

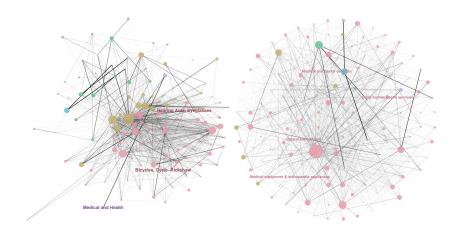




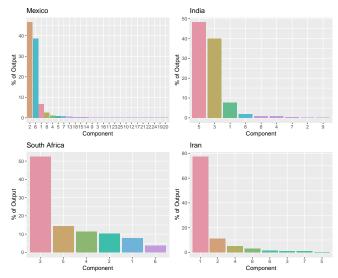
Mexico's Input-Output Network



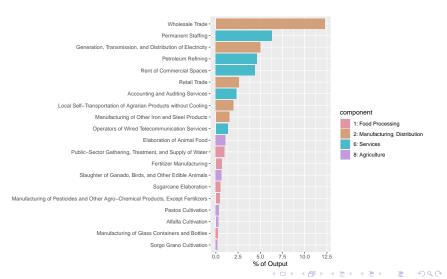
India and Iran's Input-Output Networks



Network Components of Selected Economies



Largest Industries in Mexico by Component



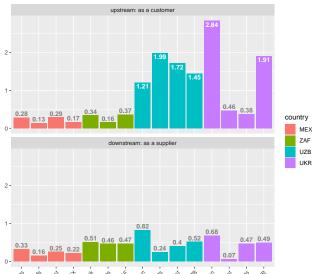
Conclusions

- Returns of mission-oriented investment are in fact immediate, involving rapid positive spillover effects in public revenue, output, employment, and productivity in the short run, as well as deep structural changes to the economy that push it towards public purpose.
- The network structure of input-output production highlights the common hierarchical community structure of input-output production, with health industries belonging to the largest components despite their small output.
- In agreement with industrial-policy logic at the basis of the market-shaping view, this paper finds strong empirical evidence in support of large-scale, mission-oriented investment into the upstream channel of health value chains, as their output multipliers are much higher in the upstream channel (i.e. as customers of intermediate goods) than downstream (i.e. as suppliers of intermediate goods), rippling through almost all industries (between 75% and 99% of the whole economy).
- Contrary to their conventional view as unimportant or peripheral, health and assistive technology industries are in fact as integral, well connected, and similar as most sectors of the industrial ecosystem, with an average network centrality and output and employment multipliers.



Thank you! o.vallescodina@leeds.ac.uk

Aggregate Leontief Employment Multipliers



South Africa's Input-Output Network

