

# William D. Savedoff

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**William D. Savedoff** is Senior Partner at **Social Insight**, an international consulting firm with expertise in economic and political analysis of public policy. Dr. Savedoff has worked extensively on questions related to improving the accessibility and quality of social services in developing countries. His primary expertise relates to aligning incentives for better provision of services through changes in institutions, organizations, contractual arrangements and payments. For more than 15 years, Dr. Savedoff has worked on these issues, first as an Associate Researcher at the *Instituto de Pesquisa de Economia Aplicada* (Rio de Janeiro) and later as an economist at the Inter-American Development Bank (Washington, DC), and the World Health Organization (Geneva). In addition to preparing, coordinating, and advising development projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia, he has published books and articles on labor markets, health, education, water, and housing.

## Experience

### 2004 – Senior Partner, Social Insight

*Recent projects include:*

- Investigating the best forms of governance for social health insurance systems for the World Bank
- Leading a high-level working group to improve evaluation of development programs and policies for the Center for Global Development, under funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Writing a companion volume to the Disease Control Priorities Project to translate technical material into information for policymakers
- Serving as an Expert Reviewer for Utstein Anti-Corruption Resource Centre and Transparency International, Berlin

### 2001 - 2004 Senior Health Economist, World Health Organization

Responsible for developing a WHO policy on issues related to mobilizing financial resources for the health sector and paying providers in ways that promote greater productivity and effectiveness; for providing technical advice to Ministers of Health and their top advisors regarding health financing and payment reform options; and supervising consultants and staff in the production of technical studies, design and analysis of surveys, and development of training materials

*Achievements included:*

- In consultation with Ethiopian government, analyzed and reported on public health expenditure issues, providing recommendations on future allocations of spending
- Managed an internal consultation on health financing issues in WHO with regional offices (Mar. 2002); wrote and circulated a draft policy paper that is under review.
- Wrote and supervised the production of technical studies on topics including different payment mechanisms, how much countries should spend on health, medical savings accounts, health policy reactions to macroeconomic crises, and user fees.
- Supervised the development of socioeconomic and demographic sections of the World Health Survey, managing the coordination of these sections with developments in related parts of the survey.
- Managed support to the government of Malaysia on its initiative to introduce national health insurance, including a review of payment methods to public and private providers.
- Supported health policy development in Ethiopia, providing guidance on health financing issues and completing a full expenditure review of the public health sector. Coordinated WHO engagement in Ethiopian health reform issues with the World Bank, the Earth Institute, and the Commission for Macroeconomics and Health.
- Supervised development of training materials and conducted training for staff from countries and WHO offices in Namibia, South Africa, Crete, Switzerland, and Malaysia on payment mechanisms and mobilizing financial resources for health.

**1999 - 2001 Senior Health Economist, Inter-American Development Bank, Sustainable Development Department, Social Program Division.**

Responsible for leading the IDB's health sector specialists in improving the design, approval and implementation of health sector programs.

*Achievements included:*

Advanced the IDB's health sector programs through specific projects, case studies and analytical reviews of (1) contractual arrangements with providers, (2) occupational health and safety, and (3) National Health Accounts.

- Review of public sector contracting of private sector health providers in Latin America.
- Developed guidelines for contracting private health providers in developing countries for use in designing projects and training.
- Established and managed an effective network of communication among Bank health specialists, in headquarters and in country offices;
- Managed and advised Bank health projects (e.g. Brazilian TC for Regulation of Private Health Insurance, Guatemalan Health Sector Program, Belize Health Sector Program);
- Organized and managed a series of internal discussions, technical training, and technical seminars to improve the work of health specialists;

- Played a central role in developing a coordination process between IDB health sector activities and those of the World Bank and PAHO, in direct communication with the IDB Executive Vice President, World Bank Vice President, and PAHO Director General.
- Contracted, managed and supervised 6 case studies on corruption in public hospitals, demonstrating the impact of payment mechanisms and institutional arrangements on the scope for fraud and abuse. Edited a final published volume based on the case studies.

### **1995 - 1998 Senior Economist, Inter-American Development Bank, Office of the Chief Economist.**

Responsible for contracting, managing, conducting and organizing research on topics related to improving the delivery of social services through changes in organizations, institutions and incentives. Also responsible for providing top-level policy advice to the Chief Economist and Executive Vice President of the IDB.

#### *Achievements included:*

- "Making Social Services Work" IPES 1996 (coordinator and main contributor). Flagship publication of the Inter-American Development Bank which demonstrated the importance of changing institutional forms and payment mechanisms for the improvement of social service delivery in Latin America & the Caribbean.
- *Organization Matters* (A Latin American Research Network Project). Contracted, managed, and supervised 6 case studies that were published as a book demonstrating the effects of different contractual and payment arrangements on social service efficiency.
- *Wealth from Health* (A Latin American Research Network Project). Contracted, managed, and supervised 6 case studies that were published as a book, estimating the impact of health investments on income and earnings.
- "Social Service Delivery Strategy" (GN-1932) – key contributing author to the IDB's policy statement in the mid-1990s that signaled the organization's shift from financing social service infrastructure to supporting institutional reforms.
- Key member of the team that analyzed, proposed, and negotiated an amendment to the Bank's operational policy on urban development, specifically related to housing
- Participation in project teams directly or as an advisor (e.g. PN-0054, BR-0182, UR-0107, PN-0069, BR-0199)
- Review of Mexican Higher Education Credit Proposal
- Review of loan and policy documents for the Chief Economist
- Preparation and participation in "Encerronas" (particularly Costa Rica 1998)
- *Spilled Water* (A Latin American Research Network Project). Contracted, managed, and supervised 6 case studies that were published as a book, demonstrating the institutional mechanisms that facilitate and hinder the expansion of potable water systems.

**1994 - 1995 Economist, Inter-American Development Bank, Project Analysis Department, Project Advisory Office.**

- Conducted technical review of loan proposals;
- Developed and evaluated new econometric and statistical methods for project analysis;
- Developed materials and provided training in logical framework and economic analysis;
- Organized and managed training courses in economic analysis and financial analysis;
- Participated in high-level policy discussions regarding IDB programming as member of the country teams for Ecuador and Barbados; Provided briefings and policy advice to the Manager of the Project Analysis Department (PRA).

**1991 - 1994 Economist, Inter-American Development Bank, Project Analysis Department, Sanitation and Urban Development Division.**

- Conducted economic analyses of sanitation and urban development projects (e.g. BR-0186);
- Reviewed project proposals for economic viability;
- Provided technical support to other bank economists on economic evaluation econometric and statistical methods.

**Positions Prior to 1991**

1991 Consultant, Inter-American Development Bank, Review of energy sector lending requirements regarding pricing.

1989 - 1991 Visiting Researcher, IPEA/Rio de Janeiro (The Institute of Social and Economic Research of Brazil's Planning Ministry).

1990 Consultant, Ford Foundation. External evaluation of a study on hydroelectric power in Brazil.

1990 Consultant, World Bank. Estimation of rates of return to education in Brazil for Prof. David Ross.

1988 Visiting Instructor, Connecticut College. Economic Development, Labor Economics, Macroeconomics

1986 and 1987 - Research Assistant, Boston University, Growth and the Environment in Massachusetts.

1985 - Research Assistant, Boston University, "Reviving Mature Economies: firm location and local factors in Western Massachusetts' economic development"

1983-84 Research Assistant, Economic Development Group, Inc. - Research, analysis and writing on U.S. economy and international commodity markets

1982 - 1983 Benjamin A. Trustman Travelling Fellowship. Field research in Peru, Bolivia, and Mexico on agriculture.

## Education

Boston University, Ph.D. in Economics, 1992

Doctoral Thesis: "Regional Wage Differences in Brazil's Urban Labor Markets"

Boston University, M.A. in Economics, 1986.

Harvard University, A.B. in Social Studies, Magna Cum Laude, 1982.

## List of Publications and Reports

"Private Health Insurance: Implications for Developing Countries", *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 83:2, Feb. 2005, pp. 127-134. (with Neelam Sekhri).  
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/83/2/en/127.pdf>

"Find Out What Works To Achieve The MDGs", Comment on Jeffrey D. Sachs, "Health In The Developing World: Achieving The MDGs", *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 82:12, Dec. 2004, pp. 950-951.

(Contributor to) Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, *Strengthening Health Systems: The Role and Promise of Policy and System Research*, Global Forum for Health Research, WHO: Geneva. 2004.

"Public Health Expenditure and Health in Ethiopia", Chapter 4 in World Bank, *Ethiopia Public Expenditure Review, Volume I, Public Spending in the Social Sectors 2000-2020, The Emerging Challenge*, Report No. 29338-ET, World Bank: Washington, DC, June, 2004.  
[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS\\_IBank\\_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000012009\\_20040714101156](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000012009_20040714101156)

"Is there a case for social insurance?", *Health Policy & Planning*, 19(3):183-184. May 2004.

"40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Kenneth Arrow and the Birth of Health Economics", *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 82(2), February, 2004.

Poullier, JP, P. Hernandez, K. Kawabata, W.D. Savedoff, "Patterns of Global Health Expenditures: Results for 191 Countries" Ch. 17 in Murray CJL, Evans DB, eds. *Health systems performance assessment: debates, methods and empiricism*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

Savedoff, W.D., G. Carrin, K. Kawabata, A. Mechbal, "Monitoring the Health Financing Function" Ch. 18 in Murray CJL, Evans DB, eds. *Health systems performance assessment: debates, methods and empiricism*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

Savedoff, W.D., G. Carrin, "Developing Health Financing Policies" Ch. 19 in Murray CJL, Evans DB, eds. *Health systems performance assessment: debates, methods and empiricism*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

Giuffrida, Antonio, R. Iunes and W. D. Savedoff. 2002. "Occupational Risks in Latin America and the Caribbean: Economic and Health Dimensions of the Problem", *Health Policy and Planning*, 17:3, September.

Mintz, Patricia, Gerard La Forgia, and William D. Savedoff. 2001. "Sub-Contratacion de Prestaciones de Salud: Una Propuesta Metodologica" (Subcontracting health services: a methodological approach), co-authored chapter that was published and used in "Métodos de Contratación: Programa Flagship: Reformas y Financiamiento Sustentable del Sector Salud", Panama, November 2001 and subsequent workshops throughout Latin America.

Di Tella, Rafael and William D. Savedoff. eds. 2001. *Diagnosis: Corruption. Fraud in Latin America's Public Hospitals*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank.

Mintz, Patricia, Gerard La Forgia, and William D. Savedoff. 2001. "Contracting health services: getting from here to there." In RAP Author's Workshop, May 13-15, World Bank: Washington, DC.

Giuffrida, Antonio, R. Iunes and W. D. Savedoff. 2001. "Occupational Health and Safety in Latin America: Economic and Health Dimensions", Social Development Department, Technical Working Paper Series, SOC-121. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank.

Slack, Katherine and William D. Savedoff. 2001. "Public Purchaser-Private Provider Contracting for Health Services". Social Development Department, Technical Working Paper Series, SOC-120. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank.

Savedoff, William D. et al. 2000. "Experiments in Reaching the Poor without Tearing the Safety Net: Public Health Insurance in Massachusetts" in Rosenmoller, M. ed. *The Challenge of Health Reform: Reaching the Poor*. IESE & World Bank: Barcelona.

Savedoff, William D. and T. Paul Schultz. eds. 2000. *Wealth from Health: Linking Social Investments to Earnings in Latin America*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank.

Savedoff, William D. *et al.* 2000. "Experiments in Reaching the Poor Without Tearing the Safety Net: Public Health Insurance in Massachusetts". Case study for a conference on Health Reform and the Poor in Latin America.

Savedoff, William D. 1999. "Health Equity and Good Intentions in Latin America" in *Institutional Reforms, Growth, and Human Development in Latin America*, a Conference at The Yale Center for International Area Studies, New Haven, CT. April 16 and 17.

Savedoff, William D. and Spiller, Pablo T. eds. 1999. *Spilled Water: Institutional Commitment in the Provision of Water Services*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank.

Spiller, Pablo T. and W. D. Savedoff. 1999. "Commitment and Governance in Infrastructure", Chapter 7 in F. Basañes, E. Uribe and R. Willig, eds. *Can Privatization Deliver? Infrastructure in Latin America*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank.

Savedoff, William D. ed. 1998. *Organization Matters: Agency Problems in Health and Education in Latin America*. Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC.

Piras, Claudia and Savedoff, William D. 1998. "How Much Do Teachers Earn?" Office of the Chief Economist, Working Paper Series WP-375, July.  
<http://www.iadb.org/oce/324a.cfm?CODE=WP-375>

Savedoff, William D. 1997. "Social Services Viewed Through New Lenses: Agency Problems in Education and Health in Latin America", Inter-American Development Bank. Office of the Chief Economist, Working Paper Series, R-318.  
<http://www.iadb.org/oce/321a.cfm?CODE=R-318>

Inter-American Development Bank. 1996. *Economic and Social Progress in Latin America: Making Social Services Work*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. (coordinator of Special Section). <http://www.iadb.org/oce/ipes>

Inter-American Development Bank. 1996. "Supporting Reform in the Delivery of Social Services: A Strategy". Social Programs Division, Washington, DC. (Co-author).

Savedoff, William D., Ricardo Hausmann, and Claudia Piras. 1997. "Reform of Social Service Delivery Systems in Latin America". Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Working Paper Series, No. 230, Washington, DC.

Savedoff, William D. 1995. *Wages, Labour and Regional Development in Brazil*. Aldershot, England: Avebury Press.

Savedoff, William D. 1993. Review of *Labor in the Puerto-Rican Economy, Postwar Development and Stagnation*. *Hispanic American Historical Review* 73(3):534-535, August.

Savedoff, William D. 1991. "Wage dynamics in urban Brazil: evidence of regional segmentation or national markets?". *Revista de Econometria*, Ano XI, No. 2, Recife.

Savedoff, William D. 1990. "Os diferenciais regionais de salarios no Brasil: segmentacao versus dinamismo da demanda". *Pesquisa e Planejamento Economica*. Rio de Janeiro.

## Prizes

IDB Outstanding Team Award 1998 - Economic Assessment Report for Costa Rica  
IDB Outstanding Team Award 1998 - Rio de Janeiro Neighborhood Program, Favela Bairro

## Journals

Editorial Board Member of Health Policy & Planning

Reviewer for:

- The Lancet
- Social Science & Medicine
- International Journal for Quality in Health Care
- WHO Bulletin
- World Development

## International Commissions, Panels and Associations

- Editorial Advisory Panel, *Global Corruption Report 2006*, Transparency International
- Evaluation Gap Working Group of the Global Health Policy Research Network
- Working Group member for *Millions Saved*
- Member of Working Group 1, Commission on Macroeconomics and Health
- American Economics Association
- International Health Economics Association

**Languages** English, Portuguese, Spanish, French