

# Evaluating an environmental tax as a source of funding for Social Health Insurance: Sudan case

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## Abstract

The majority of countries face challenges in providing social health insurance coverage to the poor. In order to improve people's well-being, this study will investigate the possibility of imposing an environmental tax in order to raise funds for national health insurance subscriptions for vulnerable families in Sudan. A qualitative analysis method depends on in-depth interviews to draw conclusions and quantitative predictions are utilized. The majority of the relevant studies focused on the impact of interventions in reducing environmental pollution, whereas this study focused on the allocation of environmental funds to pay subscriptions on behalf of the vulnerable. This study found that there is an impact of environmental pollution on health. Consequently, a mandatory law to reduce the effects of pollution on health is a necessity. Besides, there is a possibility to impose an environmental levy, which requires the formation of a team of experts from relevant bodies to determine the criteria for drafting the law. Moreover, there is a possibility of deducting a percentage of taxes already imposed on vehicles that varies according to what is agreed upon.

## 1. Introduction

Pollution is a major global environmental problem that has a variety of negative effects on human wellbeing and the climate. Air pollution is thought to be a major cause of a number of diseases. Even a report by (2021) concludes that pollution is a critical factor in the appearance of the corona virus COVID 19, concluding that a small increase in air pollution contributes to a large increase in COVID-19. Furthermore, (Yamineva & Romppanen, 2017) addressed how existing legal and administrative approaches to air pollution seem inadequate when the detrimental effects of new seen and risks at stake are taken into account. At the global, territorial, and national levels, compelling air pollution laws and approaches necessitate incitement and engagement, overcoming most economic factors that hit the public. (Bagayev & Lochard, 2017) use the European Union as an example of the influence of pollution control laws and regulations, claiming that countries with tighter air pollution regulations import more hazardous goods than developing and emerging European and Central Asian countries. Kutzin et al. (2017) in the guidance strategy to finance health stressed that stakeholders from the diverse sectors related to health need to be included. As a result, this study, which looked for fiscal space to fund national health insurance in Sudan, shed light on the importance of imposing pollution taxes and allocating the proceeds to health care. In this regard, the government is considering exploring the possibility of imposing an environmental tax with the aim of paying for the poor family's social health insurance fund subscription. The study sought to address similar questions, such as whether an environmental tax can be imposed and how an environmental tax can be imposed to finance the national health insurance fund (NHIF).

The importance of this study stems from the fact that the poverty rate in Sudan in 2017 was 36.1% (World Bank, 2021), and these poor cannot afford to pay health insurance contributions and thus ensure that they have access

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