

Health Economics

A Brief Introduction

Carlotta Bonn,
Action Lab for Development



Short Introduction of me

Who I am

Carlotta Bonn

26 years old

Born in Frankfurt, Germany

My studies

Bachelors in Political Science and Economics

Currently enrolled in masters of Economic Sociology

1 semester at the university Turku, Finland

Last 5 months I worked as an intern for GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation)

What brought me to Cameroon

I am a participant of the ASA program, which is implemented on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

3 months in Douala

Work for an NGO Action Lab for Development



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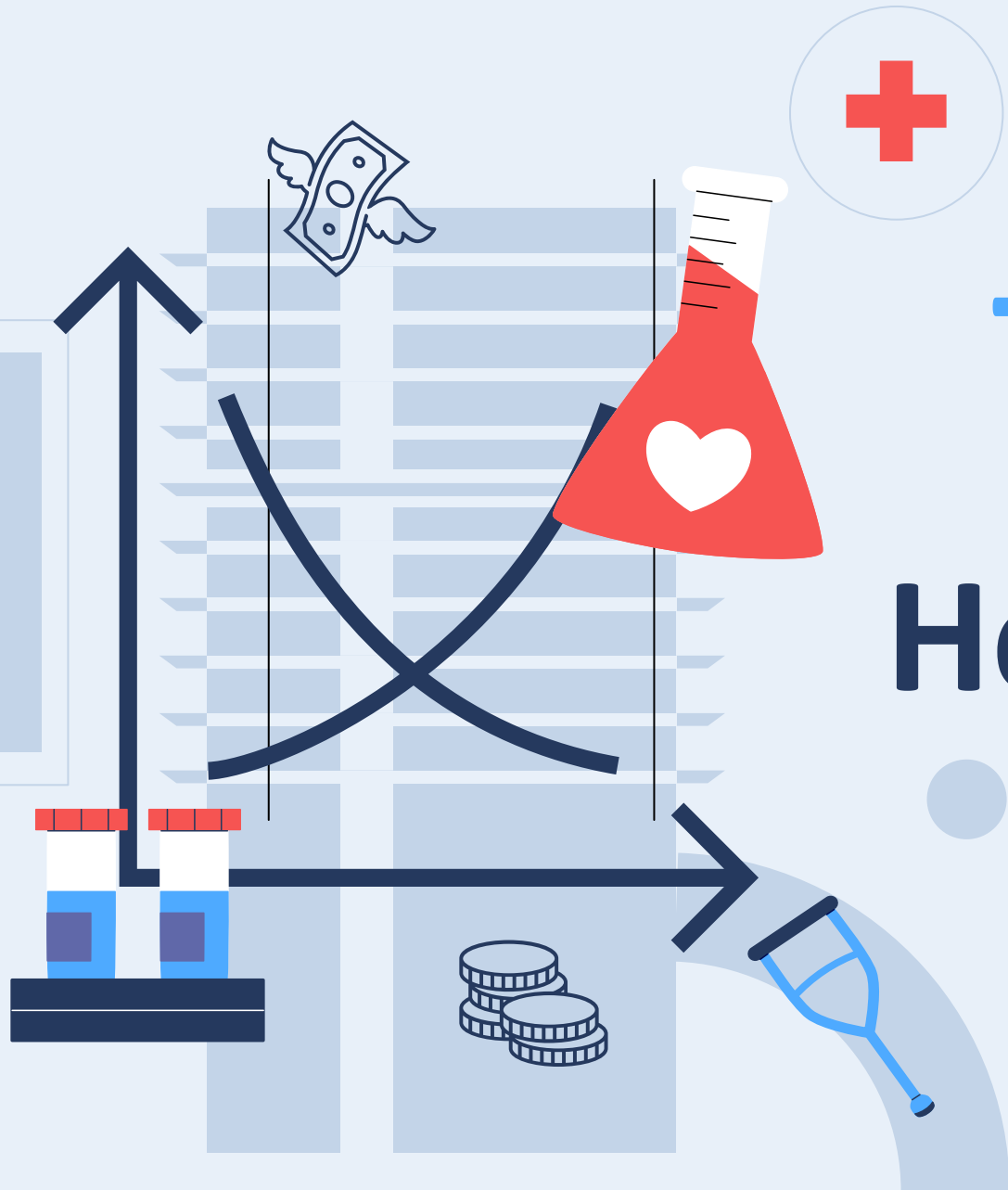
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Today's Topic

Health Economics

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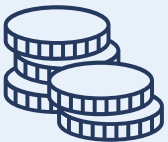
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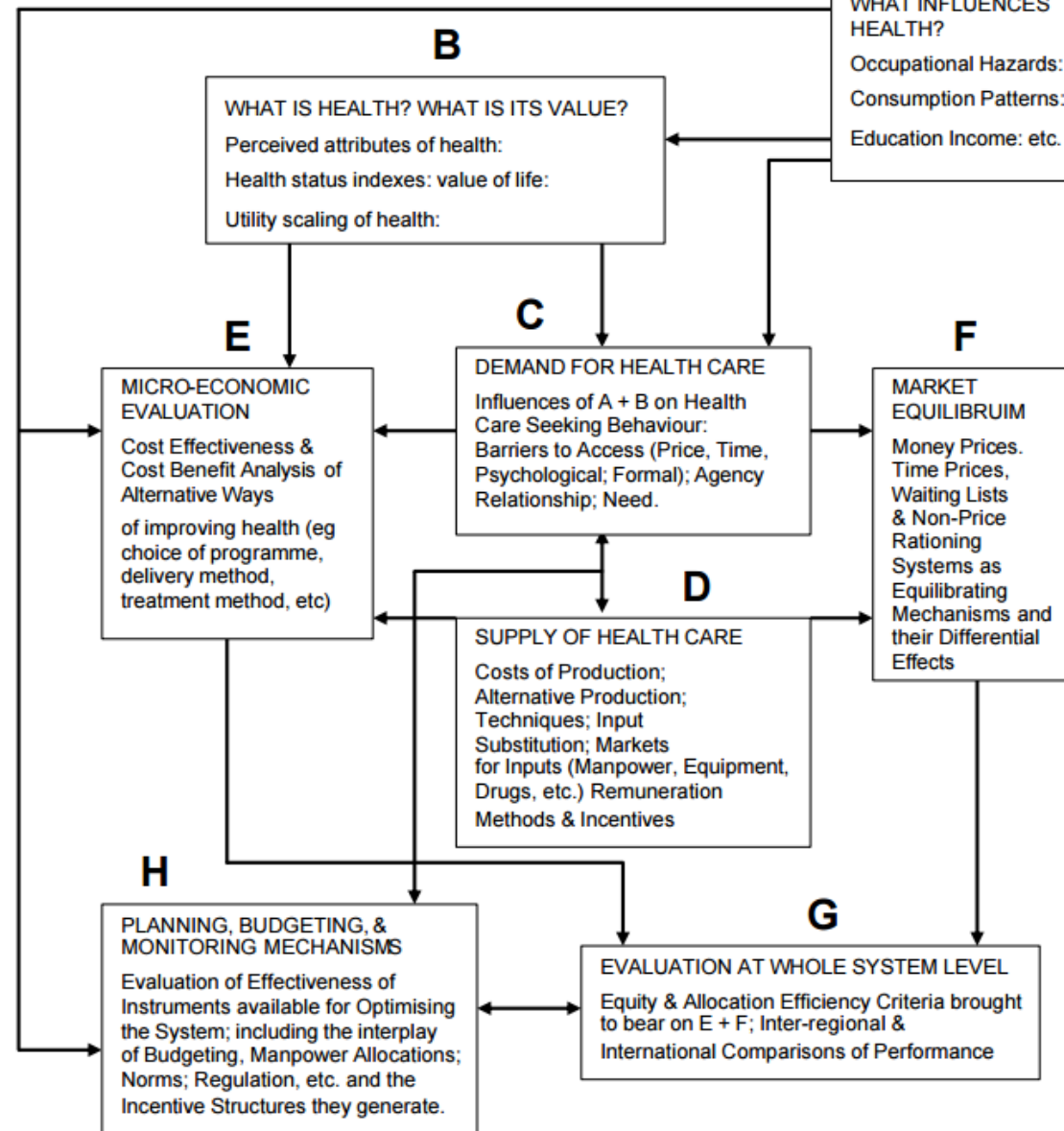
“Economics is the study of how people and society end up choosing, with or without the use of money, to employ **scarce productive resources** that could have alternative uses, to **produce** various commodities and **distribute** them for consumption, now or in the future, among various persons and groups in society. It analyses **the costs and benefits** of improving patterns of resource allocation.”

(Samuelson, Paul A. 1948)

What is Health Economics about?



Figure 1: The Framework of Health Economics



Source: Adapted from Centre for Health Economics, University of York.

Source: Phelps (2017) Health Economics, 6th Edition, Routledge: London and New York.

Distinctive Aspects

High Government Involvement

Dominant Presence of Uncertainty

Knowledge Gap

Externalities

Source: Phelps (2017 Health Economics ,
6th Edition, Routledge: London and New
York.





The health care system is the association of all persons, organizations, institutions, regulations, and processes whose mission is the promotion and maintenance of health.

(Swoboda, Walter (2016): Informationsmanagement im Gesundheitswesen).



Challenges for Health Care Systems

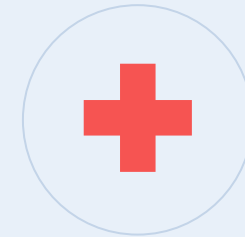


Changing Demographics

● City vs. Countryside/ Shortage of skilled workers

Chronical Diseases

2008: 63% of deaths worldwide (WHO 2014)
Higher life expectancies
Unhealthier lifestyle



Case Study: Diabetes in Cameroon

- Number of people with chronic diseases like diabetes are rising
- Not enough medical staff and equipment in rural areas
- Possible Solution: Telemedicine

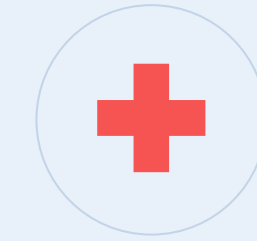


Source: Holl, Felix (2019): E-Health-Lösungen zur Verbesserung der Gesundheitsversorgung im ländlichen Afrika – Machbarkeitsstudie einer M-Health-Lösung für Diabetespatienten in Kamerun, in: M. A. Pfannstiel et al. (Hrsg.), Digitale Transformation von Dienstleistungen im Gesundheitswesen VI.



“Telemedicine is the delivery of health care services, where distance is a critical factor, by medical professionals using information and communication technologies to exchange validated information about diagnoses, treatments and prevention of diseases and injuries with the aim of improving the health of the individual.”

World Health Organisation (1998)



The Setting

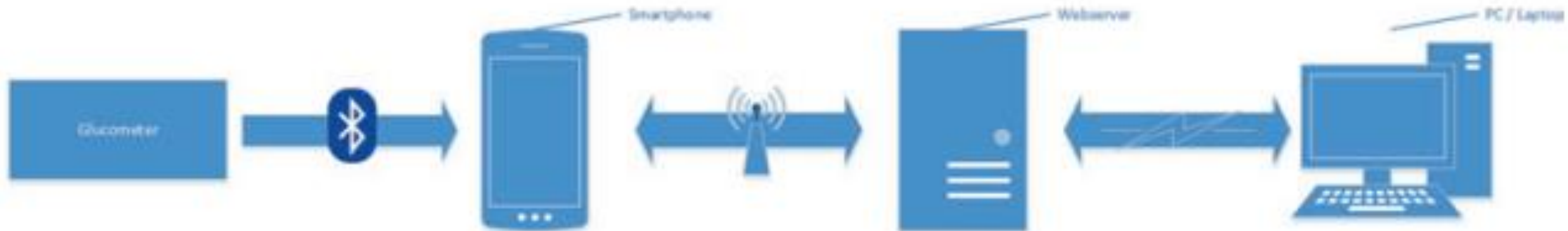


Abb. 10.3 Schematische Darstellung des M-Health-Systems. (Quelle: eigene Darstellung 2018)

Blood glucose meter, which is attached to the arm of the participants.

Smartphone of participant

PC/Laptop of medical personnel

The Study

25 Days

Interviews before and after the study phase

10 Participants

Average age: 56, 1 years
4 women, 6 men



Findings

- Patients and medical staff are satisfied
- Telemedical applications make monitoring and caring for patients with chronic diseases easier and better.
- Problem: Costs for mobile Internet & medical equipment



Health Economics Perspective

Costs too high



Demand higher than supply

Possible Solution ?



Health Economics Perspective

Costs too high



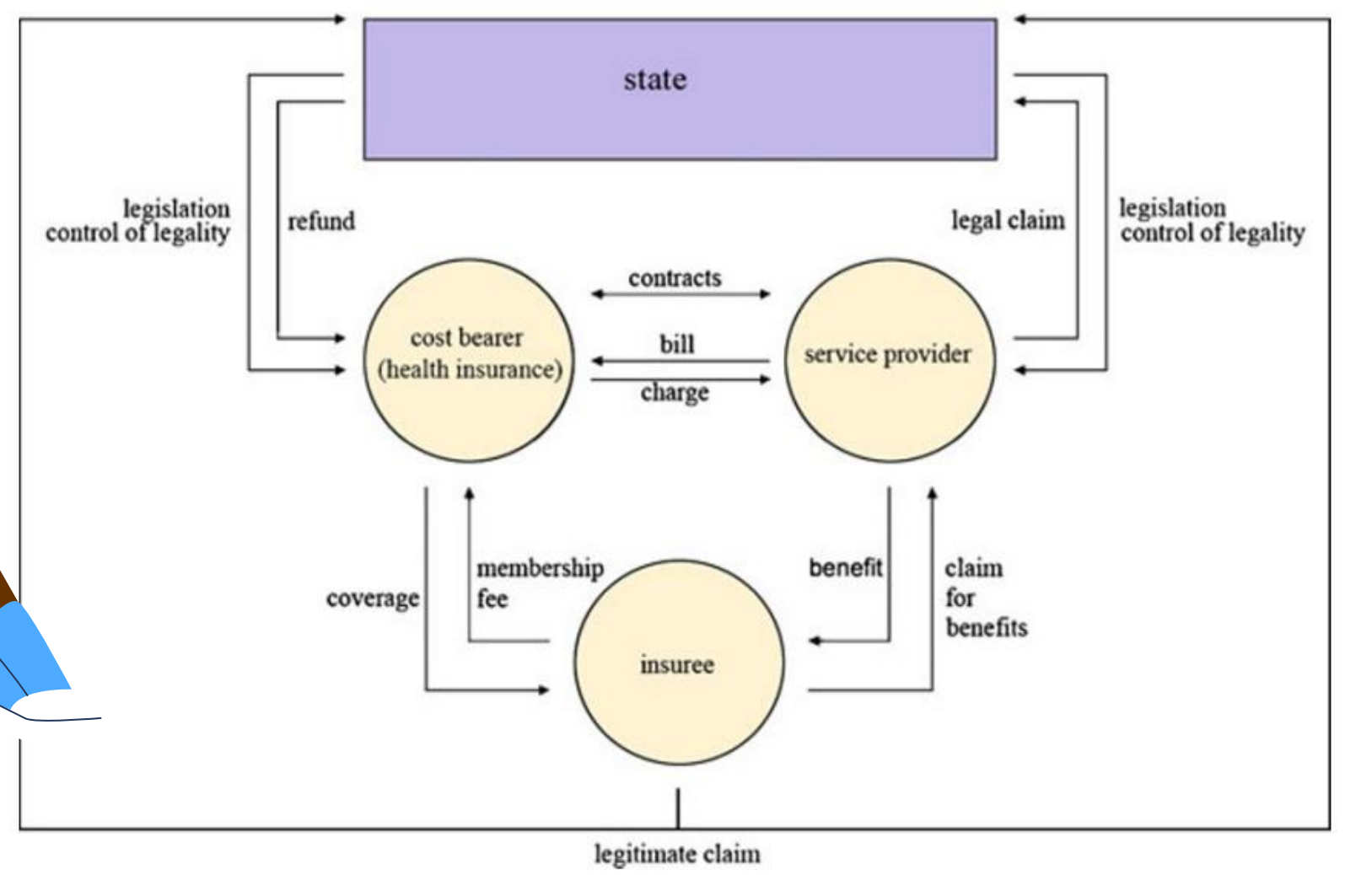
Demand higher than supply

Possible Solution ?

Costs for mobile internet and smartphones are falling
Health Care Policy to support supply side
Incentives for better health behavior (e.g. higher taxes on alcohol, cigarettes, sweets etc.)



German Healthcare System



Challenges

Digitalisation

● Demographic Change

Medical Personnel



Thank you for your attention!

Any Questions?



Sources



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