4. Using the Tracking Information for Decisionmaking and Advocacy

Whatever system of tracking you use in your country, you are probably already using the information from your tracking exercise for decisionmaking and advocacy. This section is a resource to remind you of additional areas and to provide explicit information to help train others to work with you. We describe some common situations where you might use the information gained from a tracking exercise.

4.1 Advocate for Resource Mobilization

**Challenge:** You recently conducted a quantification for contraceptive commodities, and commitments to-date are far less than projected procurement needs for the coming year.

**Solution:** Clearly, to activate your advocacy network, you will need to mobilize additional resources for procurement. Develop a graph showing forecasted procurement needs, by specific contraceptive method, if possible. Against these procurement needs, juxtapose the current commitment levels (again by method, if possible). For an example of this type of graph, see *Commitment as a Percentage of Need* in section 2.7. Present this graph at the next monthly meeting of the contraceptive security committee; include a brief narrative explaining the projected shortfall and what it might mean for the many couples who may not be able to plan their families. To encourage a greater level of commitment from all key funders, ask the committee members to use the graph and accompanying brief to inform the key potential funders of the projected shortfall.

4.2 Hold Funding Sources Accountable

**Challenge:** Funding sources have not been spent based on their commitments. As a result, the flow of contraceptives into the country has been inadequate, leading to shortages and stockouts.

**Solution:** Conduct an analysis comparing commitments to spending for the previous year, similar to the analysis shown in *Spending as a Percentage of Commitment, by Source* in section 2.7. Develop an accompanying brief analysis of a paragraph or two explaining the reasons why certain funding sources may not have fulfilled their original commitments. Then, schedule a meeting that includes all the funders and relevant stakeholders to show the results and why the commitments and spending are different. Encourage an open discussion of how to correct any past problems when moving forward. If publicly discussing the gap between commitment and spending is too controversial, consider sharing the results of your analysis, individually, with each funding source.
4.3 Follow Up on Delayed Procurements

**Challenge:** According to the supply plan, one of the funders was scheduled to procure 30 million condoms to arrive in-country by June 15. On May 5, you obtain information indicating that the procurement process is stalled.

**Solution:** Refer to the financing process map you created for this particular source of funds (see the discussion of process maps in section 3). Contact this financing source to determine where this particular procurement is in the financing and procurement process. After you determine where the bottleneck occurred, you can activate your advocacy plan, in consultation with the tracking team. In two weeks, check back with the people carrying out the advocacy to determine the status of the bottleneck.

4.4 Determine an Optimal Quantification Timeline

**Challenge:** You do not know whether the quantification will occur in time for key funding sources to line up the appropriate financing for contraceptives.

**Solution:** Analyze the financing process maps you developed for each of the main funders (see the examples in section 3). For each source, determine the approximate lead time needed, in months, for financing to be in place to meet the procurement requirements of the supply plan. Then, compare these lead times to the scheduled date for the quantification. You should be able to determine if the quantification is planned far enough in advance to allow financing sources enough time to plan for scheduled procurements.

4.5 Ensure Spending in a Sector-Wide Approach Environment

**Challenge:** External donors contribute to a health SWAp that helps fund government purchases of contraceptives and other health items. Although the donors have an agreement on the level of government purchase of contraceptives, it is unclear the extent to which the government has actually used the SWAp funds to buy contraceptives.

**Solution:** Based on the information you collected on financing schemes and sources, create a table that shows the amount of money committed through the SWAp, by source, including external donors. To track the spending on the government scheme against the commitment from the various funding sources throughout the year, prepare a quarterly report that summarizes spending against commitment. Use a graph similar to the one shown in Spending as a Percentage of Commitment, by Source in section 2.7. If government spending is below the amounts set in the SWAp agreement, use the government financing process map (see section 3) to determine the current
stage of the government financing and procurement process. If appropriate, determine the bottleneck and activate the advocacy plan that you previously developed to overcome the bottleneck.

4.6 Gauge Success of Contraceptive Security Efforts in Increasing Government Contribution

**Challenge:** It is unclear how much the government has contributed from its funds out of the total spending on the government financing scheme, and whether this percentage is rising or falling, over time.

**Solution:** Based on the information you collect, construct a *sources by schemes* table similar to the one shown in *Contraceptive Spending According to Source and Funding Scheme* in section 2.7. Then conduct an analysis to compare the government contribution, over time. Develop a graphic that illustrates how the government’s share has changed over time; include a one-page brief describing the trends and some underlying reasons that explain the trends. Present this to government decisionmakers at the next contraceptive security committee meeting; talk about what an appropriate government contribution might be, and whether to set a target for government contribution in future years.