

Table 10. Example Data Analyses to Answer Questions and Meet Objectives of Tracking Exercise

Objectives	Questions	Analyses
<p>Monitor funding</p> <p>Consistently and systematically count and track procurement requirements, commitments, and spending on contraceptives; identify advocacy entry points.</p>	<p>How much is required to cover contraceptive procurement?</p>	<p>Total funding procurement requirements, by product</p>
	<p>What are the sources of financing for contraceptives (cash, in-kind donation, etc.)?</p>	<p>Actual spending, based on source and funding scheme, trends over time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amount released by the government • amount of funds spent on contraceptive procurement, by source of funds • amount of in-kind donations from foreign sources provided to various financing schemes (government, nongovernmental organization [NGO], social marketing)
	<p>How much has been committed for contraceptives, by each source?</p>	<p>Amount of funds committed for each commodity—by each source and trends—over time.</p>
	<p>Have each of the various funders followed through on their commitment? Have funders spent the budgeted amounts?</p>	<p>Spending as a percentage of commitment, by funding source</p>
	<p>How much has each source spent on contraceptives, over time?</p>	<p>Spending according to source and funding scheme trends, over time*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amount of funds spent on contraceptive procurement, by source of funds • amount of in-kind donations from foreign sources provided to various financing schemes (government, NGO, social marketing)
<p>Examine trends in donor and government financing trends to reduce the volatility of external financing and increase the diversity of aid.</p>	<p>To what extent is the government taking responsibility for funding its own contraceptive commodity needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government’s share of commitment on contraceptives for the public sector • Government’s share of spending on contraceptives for the public sector
	<p>How is funding changing over time? Is it going up or down? Has there been a shift in the sources of funding?</p>	
<p>Provide information to determine any potential funding gap; advocate from an informed point of view.</p>	<p>Has funding covered procurement requirements?</p>	<p>Spending as a percentage of procurement requirements</p>

Objectives	Questions	Analyses
Develop a detailed understanding of the financing processes of the government and other principal sources of revenue.	To what extent is forecasting done in time so that funds are available when needed to purchase the commodities?	Timeliness of forecasting in relation to financing process
	When will we need to advocate to ensure adequate funding and to overcome any funding bottlenecks? What is the best timing, given the funding processes?	Funding process analysis to determine optimal timing of advocacy activities
	For each funding source, what is the lead time between release of funds and delivery of commodities at the national warehouses?	Comparative lead times for various funding sources

Define the Time Frame for Analysis

Defining the period for the analysis can be one of the most difficult steps in the tracking process. The different entities that make up the financing system often operate on different fiscal years, which rarely coincide with the calendar year. Reporting of information may occur by either fiscal year or calendar year, or both. Given this complexity, the recommended approach is to select a single year of analysis, then convert all the information to that year. Because government funding will usually be the focus, the logical choice is to use the government's fiscal year as your unit of analysis.

Your team will also need to select a time span for analysis. To capture any important financing trends, because different elements can vary so much from year to year, we recommend using at least a three-year time span for collecting and analyzing data, starting from the most recent complete year of information and moving backward.

2.5 Prepare to Collect Funding Data

After you have a preliminary mapping of the players, the team can move to data collection. Compared to an NHA or reproductive health sub-accounts exercise, the scope of the information you need to collect is relatively narrow, with a correspondingly low investment in time and resources. Yet, because you will use the information for historical accounting of actual spending, but also, for *close-to-real-time* tracking of commitments and expenditures; your team will collect additional information that NHA-type exercises typically omit. This includes in-depth data on the required funding levels, requests, commitments, and spending. It is important to plan for collecting funding data. Based on the financial mapping (section 2.3), develop a list of the possible information sources on funding for each of the major funding and spending entities. If you or others are already doing quantification, supply planning, and tracking of shipments consider integrating the financial tracking into these ongoing activities.