

Track20 M&E Officers are a relatively new type of asset for Ministry of Health programs. Typically, staff seconded to the Ministry have very firm workplans entirely guided by the donor – there are few, if any, spillover effects. Track20 M&E Officers are different in that their primary scope of work is built around gaps that the Ministry has identified in their own ability to leverage data. While Track20 M&E Officers are responsible for some standard Track20 tasks, their daily role is to support the Ministry’s own work and priorities. Therefore, a Track20 officer’s day is quite dynamic as they fulfill routine M&E activities while finding ways to be agile with data and demonstrating and promoting the importance of quality data and targeted analysis. What we see are Family Planning (FP) programs being advanced by this approach’s focus on strengthening the internal data capacity of the Ministry, and a shift to the government, rather than partners, being the source of trusted data and insightful analysis. The Ministry is now the one empowered with data and valuable information to communicate – whether it is in the production of annual estimates, in the reviews of routine data, or in leading FP Goals applications to inform strategies.

**Rogers Kagimu** is a Track20 M&E Officer in **Uganda**. His placement in the Health Information Division rather than in the Family Planning Program serves to reinforce the connection between the two departments and raise the profile of FP in the HMIS department. He begins his typical day at 7:30 am, spending about 1 hour working on requests from the previous day before preparing analyses and quick reports for the FP program and partners, and for the Donor Focal Points WG, of which he is a standing member. He is called to attend at least 4 meetings every day and comes prepared to respond to potential data requests and questions from the FP program or partners, and usually has at hand a quick summary of program performance for the strategic level meetings. He is in these meetings around 3 hours a day. There is usually a partner training that the FP program or DHIS2 requires him to attend. Throughout the day, he receives multiple WhatsApp messages and calls with new data requests from within and outside the program. Rogers responds to these requests throughout the afternoon and spends the remainder of his day reviewing the FP data submitted in DHIS2 for all districts in Uganda by method and with an eye on

the new initiatives being implemented. Rogers is typically leaving for home around 6:30 pm by which time he may have had a quick discussion with Track20 on questions that come from outside Uganda – often from USAID core projects and FP2030 requests sent to the Ministry. Rogers is often still working around 9 pm, reviewing subnational level data. Because other programs, especially those without dedicated M&E Officers, are now leaning on him, DHIS2 has asked him to respond and generate information products for these programs as well.

Shown to the left is a typical email sent by Rogers to subnational health informatics officers on data errors in FP.



**Subject: Family Planning Dataset (July 2023) for clean up**

*A good day to you Biostats.*

*This is to request for your diligent support to verify the family planning data (July 2023) shared in the attachment and ensure the changes are tracked in the DHIS2.*

*Please forward to the rest of colleagues who could have been missed out.*

*Feel free to reach out to me in case of any questions or concerns.*

*Currently the system is open to allow tracking of changes!*

From Rogers Kagimu

Before assuming the Track20 M&E role, Rogers worked as a DHIS2 technician, and he does not recall coming across a data request from the program or partners in FP in that role.

**Zenon Mujani** is seconded to the **DRC** MoH through a partnership with Tulane University. Before working with Track20, his typical day included attending meetings and trainings, but much of his time was spent trying to generate performance signals from raw routine data. Zenon says that he had a limited understanding about what to do with routine HMIS data. He spent his day generating statistics from DHIS2 on couple years of protection (CYPs), new acceptors and repeat visits, but could not link them to emerging data from surveys from PMA, MICS, and DHS. He spent hours downloading data from DHIS2 and creating ad hoc charts and tables, all without any data quality checks.

**My work before Track20: Zenon Mujani, DRC**

*“CYPs, new acceptors and renewal of modern contraceptive methods were the only indicators I measured, but they didn't meet the country's needs in terms of mCPR, fast-growing interventions for modern contraceptive prevalence, percentage use of FP services by adolescents and young people, etc. The only indicators I measured were the number of new acceptors of modern contraceptive methods and the percentage use of FP services by adolescents and young people.”*

As a Track20 M&E Officer, Zenon feels his typical day is substantially more impactful. Having acquired skills in FP data analysis, he spends, “about 90% of my time on routine FP data analysis and providing feedback to the provinces. I continually train the provinces on new FP data analysis tools and methodologies, with particular emphasis on data quality.

“I'm one of the country's resource persons for family planning data. I organize consensus workshops to feed the FP2030 report with information on the country's progress in FP. With the skills I've acquired in FP data analysis, I take part in many strategy development meetings, contributing to the setting of FP objectives, projects, and the strengthening of health information systems.”

**Khalil Sonogo** in **Cote d Ivoire** works within a multilayered hierarchical system, so learning to negotiate the opportunities for information and to strategically fill in gaps has become second nature. In a very telling remark, he points out that, “Before Track20, the measurement of the impact of FP was not known at all. Better still, FP was considered an activity reserved for staff close to retirement.”

In this kind of context, a typical day for an M&E Officer is about demonstrating that there is interesting, valuable information that can be generated for FP from the data, keeping the program relevant within the larger RMNCH and Adolescent agenda. Khalil spends his time reviewing data from all sources, including FPET, which is used in all internal reporting, quantification, and reporting through the Minister up to Parliament. Khalil's data expertise has increased the government's access and visibility into DHIS2 FP data. His work involves analysis and extraction of DHIS2 data and preparation of monitoring progress reports by health region which are presented at a management meeting for action. Previously, the presentation of data was limited, and data was not checked for quality or benchmarked against other sources.

In Asian countries like **Nepal** and **India**, the Track20 officer's day is very much guided by the value attached to protocol, to global commitments, and national reporting requirements. A typical day involves substantial time spent preparing estimates, reviewing FP data quality, and making presentations within the Ministry of Health. Nepal, like many countries, also leans on the Track20 officer to be the point of engagement on FP2030 data requests, on coordinating with partners and working closely with subnational

and HMIS departments on the data implications of new initiatives, scaling up activities, and financing needs. In India, a Track20 M&E Officer's day includes running both simple and complex analyses that produce granular (at the district) core indicator estimates, reviewing program numbers submitted by states to the National Health Mission, and developing new techniques to review facility level data in high need districts. In India there is much greater visibility of the Family Planning program politically, so Track20 M&E Officers are frequently pulled into drafting and providing technical responses to Parliamentarians during Question Hour. M&E Officers also conduct modelling to generate demographic projections that allow the program to monitor service uptake beyond counting numbers. In a typical day, the national M&E Officers mostly spend their time on extracting and analyzing "NFHS" (DHS surveys), "Service Statistics (HMIS)" and "Annual and Quarter Progress Report" data and then prepare, by state, FP Update Notes for each of the 36 States. Of note, the government civil service hires are often posted without any technical knowledge of FP and also lack data skills.

At the request of the Assistant Commissioner, In-Charge FP, two state seconded officers were moved to support the national FP team with their data skills. Below is their description of what has changed in terms of the data they are providing to the government.

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*"Things have changed. We were previously required to provide the findings of the "Core Indicators 1-9 computations," the FP indicators from the NFHS surveys, the FPET results, and the SS to EMU for all the states in India and special districts of concern. Now, in addition to the indicators, our supervisor requested that we create "State Program/PIP notes" for each of India's 36 states and UTs, develop "Records of Proceedings (RoP)" to analyze the achievements against the targets and annual budgeting for FP program, compile HMIS data, follow up with State Program Officers regarding quarterly FP, MPV, and Family Planning Indemnity Scheme (FPIS) reports, and provide feedback on data validity and overall data quality."*

*~ Track20 India M&E Officers Ashwani Kumar and Naveen Roy*

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Although each Track20 M&E Officer's scope is unique, all Track20 M&E Officers are helping Ministries see the value of quality data in making informed, strategic decisions, and work to embed data skills, tools, and sustainable data practices directly into government systems.