



Technical Brief: Track20 M&E Officers

What is a Track20 M&E Officer?

Track20 works with FP2020 commitment-making countries to identify, train and support dedicated family planning monitoring & evaluation (M&E) Officers. Officers are placed in the country Ministry of Health, Office of Population or other relevant office, with the intent of their becoming the point person for family planning data from both the public and private sectors. The M&E Officer collates, analyzes and disseminates family planning data for reporting, program improvement and strategic decision-making. He/she plays a leading role in building consensus around estimates for annual reporting on family planning progress to FP2020. Track20 provides ongoing capacity building for these officers in the form of trainings, country visits and direct responses to specific technical requests.

What kind of training is provided by Track20 for M&E Officers?

Each year Track20 hosts a week-long training that includes detailed sessions discussing family planning data available in countries, introducing methodologies and tools used to calculate FP2020 core indicators and monitoring efforts currently being supported by global partners. This venue provides an opportunity for these M&E officers to meet counterparts from other countries and engage in critical discussions about the quality, availability and use of family planning data available in their countries. In addition to training workshops, Officers receive ongoing technical assistance from Track20 via regular communication and country visits.

What kind of activities are Track20 M&E Officers engaged in?

All Track20 M&E Officers are engaged in producing data for and leading consensus-building workshops. Activities around improving data quality, accessibility and use vary according to a country's needs. While in one country an Officer may provide technical support during the revision of FP indicators in DHIS-2, in another an Officer may focus on producing sub-national estimates of key FP indicators, while in a third an Officer may provide data and M&E support for development of a new National Strategy or a Costed Implementation Plan. In all countries, however, the M&E Officer serves as the key liaison between Track20 and country partners working on FP M&E, all collectively working towards the ultimate goal of encouraging the use of quality data in family planning programming and policy decision-making.

Additional examples of work include: the M&E Officer in Côte d'Ivoire developed new indicators related to the social impact of modern contraceptive use in the general population as well as in adolescents and young people, including calculation of the number of expected maternal deaths, the number of expected unwanted pregnancies and the expected number of unsafe and high-risk abortions. In Zimbabwe, The M&E Officer led a major review of existing data elements and developed new ones that better monitor progress. And in Afghanistan, the M&E Officer worked with the USAID SHOPS project to put in place a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with 40 private hospitals and clinics to facilitate inclusion of their data in DHIS2, which now also includes integrated data and reports of private sector FP commodities distribution.

Who do M&E Officers work with in-country?

M&E Officers sit and work directly within MOH departments. Collaborations are driven by country partners and can include: FP Technical Working Groups, private sector partners implementing family planning programs, and various people that are responsible for data collection and analysis both within the government and the private sector.