



CIVIL SOCIETY DRIVING INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINED GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING: THE COMMON FRAMEWORK EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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CURRENT STATE OF GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING

In recent years, there have been great successes toward increasing government funds for family planning—however, considerable work remains. For example, important initiatives such as FP2020, the Ouagadougou Partnership and the Global Financing Facility have mobilized government commitments to fund family planning programs. Advocacy has ensured that these commitments are implemented through budgetary allocations, but due to challenges of monitoring real-time government spending, there has been little progress in tracking whether such allocations are spent. There is also no commonly accepted approach to measuring and tracking government spending on family planning, which inhibits investment comparisons across countries and benchmarking.

Sustained government ownership over family planning programs is urgently needed. Government investment in family planning is essential to building a country's resilience to the current volatile global funding landscape.

Countries are facing harmful policy restrictions on U.S. funds for global health, declining U.S. funding for international family planning, stagnating support for family planning from other bilateral donors and diminishing resources for UNFPA, all of which threaten equitable access to quality family planning.^{1,2,3} Yet government ownership in many sub-Saharan African countries has lagged, as evidenced by the small share of government investment as a percentage of the total support needed to ensure quality family planning programs.

CIVIL SOCIETY INNOVATION FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Civil society plays an important role in building sustained domestic resource mobilization. In July 2017, PAI and Advance Family Planning (AFP) convened family planning budget advocacy experts from Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia to operationalize a common framework for tracking government expenditures on family planning.⁴ Participants also explored adapting the framework for a subnational context. The long-term goal of this work is

to ensure that governments are accountable for providing family planning services by allocating and spending the majority of funding required for commodities and service provision.

THE COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR MEASURING GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON FAMILY PLANNING

The updated framework developed at the meeting is a set of shared indicators that family planning advocates and technical agencies can use to monitor government spending on family planning in a comparable way across different geographies (see Box 1). To approximate real-time expenditures, the Samasha Medical Foundation has shared an innovative data collection approach using workplan implementation, followed by mapping costed activities in the workplan back to the approved budget. While data tracked through this effort will not be perfect, it will be a timely approximation of government spending within a budget year. The framework also includes a dimension on transparency, which is necessary to measure access to information for monitoring and accountability purposes. All of

these indicators will be tracked for contraceptives alone, as well as the full package of family planning services defined by World Health Organization. The anticipated outcome of common framework use is increased government ownership, measured as a rising share of government spending on family planning as a percentage of total funding needed over time.

REAL-TIME TRACKING AND A SCORECARD

The indicators in the common framework will be collected and presented in two different advocacy tools based on the types of decisions and decision-makers advocates seek to

influence. Over the next year, PAI will collaborate with other leaders in the field to build a real-time tracking dashboard and ensure progress within a given fiscal year—while there are opportunities to work with governments and make necessary course corrections. Official budget data collected through real-time tracking will populate a cross-country scorecard that advocates can use to build nation-to-nation peer pressure and inspire high-level political support during the budget and planning cycle.

CONCLUSIONS

A new round of financial commitments by governments

at the 2017 London Summit on Family Planning has renewed emphasis on the need to track expenditures. The prioritization of indicators during the meeting convened by PAI and AFP was the first step in the operationalization of the common framework. The next step will provide advocates and governments with a tool to understand how well a country is allocating and spending family planning resources. For advocates, the methodology can help to answer important questions regarding how to use budget data and provide a clear process for information collection.

BOX 1: THE COMMON FRAMEWORK (UPDATED)

Key:
 * Indicates an indicator that is intended for real-time tracking, within the budget cycle and may be based on unofficial sources of data.
 ^ Denotes an indicator for the scorecard, which will be produced once a year based on official/public data.

FUNDING NEED	1. Amount of funding needed to achieve family planning goals in a given year, as understood by the government
ALLOCATION	2. Government allocation for family planning as a percentage of total funding needed per year* [^] 3. Family planning budget allocation as a percentage of the (capital or development) health budget* [^] [<i>Priority</i>]
DISBURSEMENT	4. Funding disbursed to date as a percentage of funding allocated for family planning* 5. Percentage of the family planning budget disbursed as scheduled [^] [<i>Quality of spending</i>]
EXPENDITURE	6. Actual spending as a percentage of the budget allocation for family planning [^] [<i>Budget execution</i>] 7. Funding spent as a percentage of funds disbursed* [<i>Absorption</i>] 8. Annual government spending on family planning per capita (per modern method user for contraceptive spending) [^] [<i>Adequacy</i>]
OUTCOME	9. Government spending on family planning as a percentage of total funding needed in a given year [^] [<i>Government ownership</i>]
TRANSPARENCY	10. Allocation and expenditure information on each family planning budget item that is publicly available, including level of detail and timeliness of information [^]

ENDNOTES

- 1 PAI. (September 2017). What You Need to Know About the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Restrictions on U.S. Global Health Assistance. Retrieved from: <http://trumpglobalgagrule.pai.org/understanding-the-policy/>
- 2 Wexler, A. and J. Kates. (December 2017). Donor Government Funding for Family Planning in 2016. Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from: <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/report/donor-government-funding-for-family-planning-in-2016/>
- 3 PAI. (September 2017). The Fix is In-Shaheen Amendment Counters Anti-Family Planning House Bill. Washington Memo. Retrieved from: <https://pai.org/newsletters/overkill-house-committee-votes-ratify-trump-attacks-international-family-planning/>
- 4 For the previous meeting report, see Couture, T. and S. Dennis. (July 2016). Towards A Common Framework for Measuring Government Spending on Family Planning. PAI. Retrieved from: <https://pai.org/reports/towards-common-framework-measuring-government-spending-family-planning/>