

UTILIZING DATA EFFECTIVELY

# Meeting Local Family Planning Objectives Through Regular Review of the Data

## Why use this approach?

Evidence shows that the use of data for program management is a powerful, cost-effective means to assess performance of inputs, processes and outputs, which inform correct and timely decision-making.



### STEP 1: Determine the indicators

that need to be captured along with their source and frequency. This should be based on the programmatic or policy goals and/or questions that you are trying to address in your city's family planning program. For example: Are we reaching clients in need of family planning services? Are resources adequate to maintain quality of care? Depending on the goal or question, identify appropriate indicators, such as number of clients that received a family planning method disaggregated by age or percentage of facilities with long-acting reversible contraceptives in stock. All indicators should be monitored periodically.



### STEP 2: Make operational definitions of indicators

by defining all indicators with a numerator and denominator and providing examples.



### STEP 3: Devise Expected Level of Achievements (ELAs)

against which these indicators can be monitored. What are reasonable ELAs? If data is available for previous years, review it with stakeholders and discuss why the numbers are what they are. There should not be any target in terms of number of clients for different FP methods.



### STEP 4: Ensure that indicators are understood

by all staff members and those handling data. They should be informed and oriented on all the data forms, definitions of key indicators and basic analysis of the data and indicators. Annual training on data management should be considered for those handling data.



### STEP 5: Use the data for feedback

during review meetings by communicating gaps in a constructive manner by appreciating and acknowledging each person right in the beginning, followed by suggested improvement (including offering any support / peer coaching that the person may require) instead of direct blaming. This approach boosts morale and provides direction for course correction.

For more information, refer to <http://tciurbanhealth.org/lessons/utilizing-data-effectively/>.