The Motion Tracker

Monitoring Local Action to Hold Governments Accountable
for Global Commitments

Photo credit: Brian Wolfe

Why do governments need to be held accountable?

In 2012, leaders from around the world gathered at the London Summit on Family Planning to generate global commitments aimed at enabling 120 million more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020 and establish a partnership, Family Planning (FP2020), to help achieve the commitments. However, FP2020 commitments can only be achieved with coordinated action at the local level, across multiple sectors and partners. Local stakeholders, including civil society, must be able to monitor progress towards achieving FP2020 goals to ensure government accountability.

How can local stakeholders ensure accountability?

In Uganda, an innovative approach to galvanizing civil society support for and involvement in achieving FP2020 goals has taken hold. The approach, known as the Motion Tracker, is a customized, dynamic framework for strengthening accountability and driving action. A six-step process led by local civil society organizations (CSOs), the Motion Tracker does this by:

- Keeping commitments visible and highlighting progress
- Ensuring universal understanding of commitments through purposeful and concurrent stakeholder engagement
- Harmonizing efforts and harnessing CSOs' collective power
- Fostering partner participation, engagement, and ownership to address bottlenecks

The tracker includes an online, user-friendly tool for visualizing action and progress towards commitments.

THE MOTION TRACKER METHODOLOGY: SIX STEPS TO GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY

1. **Identification of the commitments**
   Work with government and partners to identify commitments.

2. **Classification of commitments**
   Collaborate with government and CSOs to classify commitments as implicit or explicit.

3. **Deconstruction of commitments**
   Deconstruct the commitments by analyzing background documents.

4. **Categorization of commitments**
   Categorize commitments according to the World Health Organization (WHO) health systems building blocks.

5. **Development of commitment performance indicators**
   Work with a network of family planning practitioners and policymakers to develop performance indicators to track progress against each commitment statement.

6. **Implementation**
   Conduct targeted stakeholder engagement (with implementers, policymakers, legislators/politicians, advocates, donors, and the media) to identify and acknowledge partner action, showcase progress, and celebrate success. Identify barriers and actions to accelerating progress.

As part of the Motion Tracker methodology, the convening organization collects data, holds stakeholder meetings to update the online tool, and conducts media outreach on a quarterly basis. The tracker has been used in Uganda and is being rolled out in Zambia and Tanzania, with aims to expand regionally.

What sets the Motion Tracker apart?

The tracker complements already existing quantitative monitoring and measurement tools (e.g., Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020, Track20,

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Demographic and Health Surveys, health management information systems, and scorecards that primarily measure end results) by tracking the processes that lead to achieving commitments. The tracker:

- Allows for adaptability at global, regional, national, and subnational levels
- Tracks both financial and nonfinancial commitments
- Categorizes commitments by complexity, e.g., financial and service delivery targets or process and systems goals
- Employs principles of stakeholder engagement and reporting
- Recognizes the voice of champions and stakeholders and ensures their continuous engagement in tracking commitments
- Creates universal understanding and buy-in to commitments at all levels and across actors
- Tracks actions of commitment-makers and other actors towards the achievement of commitments
- Contributes to improving accountability and transparency

Does the Motion Tracker work?

The tracker has had enormous success in Uganda. By using the Motion Tracker's methodology, partners in Uganda:

- **Encouraged international organizations to mobilize small CSOs** to get involved in commitment tracking. Plan International obtained funding to build the capacity of 16 local CSOs to track commitments at the local level.
- **Enabled government to act on barriers** to achieving commitments. The Ugandan government constituted a task-sharing committee, chaired by the Ministry of Health, to ensure a task-sharing policy was in place and to accelerate achievement of FP2020 service delivery commitments.
- **Galvanized stakeholders around the need to update supply plans.** John Snow, Inc., with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), conducted a comprehensive reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health commodity quantification to inform advocacy and resource mobilization.
- **Persuaded UNFPA and the Advance Family Planning project to support reproductive health commodities budget tracking for fiscal year 2015/16.** DSW Uganda and the National Population Secretariat also formed the Uganda Family Planning Budget Advocacy Group.
- **Prompted Marie Stopes Uganda to support an expert analysis of the legal implications of task sharing** in the country.

What can you do?

For more information on how you can support Motion Tracker expansion and strengthen civil society's capacity to hold governments accountable for global commitments, contact the USAID-funded Health Policy Plus project.

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