

Track20 Annual M&E Officer Training Overview & 2025 Highlights

Building and expanding a skilled cadre of M&E professionals inside government programs remains at the heart of Track20's mission. Tools and models like the Family Planning Estimation Tool (FPET), Service Statistics to Estimated Modern Use (SS-to-EMU), and the Family Planning Spending Assessment (FPSA) provide the backbone for global monitoring, but it is the Track20 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Officers who bring these tools to life — improving data quality, uncovering insights from routine statistics, and helping decision-makers transform information into action.

That spirit was evident in Kigali, Rwanda, where the 2025 Track20 Annual Training gathered M&E officers, and HMIS counterparts from 25 countries. Far from a typical workshop, the meeting became a working laboratory: participants arrived prepared through pre-workshop webinars and immediately plunged into active problem-solving, testing different ways of using routine data, and debating what the evidence truly showed. At the tables, peers flagged data anomalies, puzzled over uncertainty bounds in modeled estimates, and challenged one another — and Track20 staff — on how best to interpret data quality issues. Discussions spilled well beyond scheduled sessions, with participants lingering late into the evenings to refine estimates, re-check files, and continue spirited exchanges. This level of engagement reflects the ownership and curiosity that Track20 has helped cultivate, leading to government staff not only producing estimates, but questioning, interpreting, and strategizing with them in real time.

Workshop format matters: Hands-on learning & exchange

While the training always ensures participants are up to date on Track20's tools and able to generate annual estimates, its real value lies in the peer exchange and problem-solving at the tables. The Kigali workshop was not about passively absorbing information; it was about testing, questioning, and debating. Country teams sat side by side, comparing approaches, dissecting anomalies in their service statistics, and brainstorming strategies for addressing data quality issues.

Participants challenged one another and Track20 staff on how to interpret uncertainty in modeled estimates, how to present sensitive results to stakeholders, and how to use routine data more strategically for program improvement. Track20 staff and Gates Foundation's Nicole Young, along with technical partners from Rwanda, joined in these discussions, circulating through the room to probe data anomalies and share alternative perspectives. The mix of voices made the conversations richer and more dynamic, often sparking spirited debates that continued well beyond formal sessions.



Rather than ending when the agenda did, the workshop carried on into the evenings, with participants returning to laptops to refine their estimates, check assumptions, and continue exchanges across tables and countries. This unique atmosphere: part technical training, part peer-to-peer review, part strategic planning, is what sets

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Track20’s workshop apart: a space where government M&E officers own the data puzzles, wrestle with the evidence, and leave not just with results, but with new ways of thinking about them and new networks to allow these types of exchanges to continue into the future.

Workshop Components

Tools Training & Annual Estimate Calculation

Participants didn’t just learn about FPET, SS-to-EMU, or the Annual Indicator Calculator — they arrived prepared from pre-workshop webinars and immediately put these tools to work. While FPET does not require EMU as an input, countries able to use their EMU had the advantage of letting routine data directly influence their annual estimates. At the workshop, every country ran FPET with and without EMU, regardless of data quality, so they could see how service statistics shaped the results.

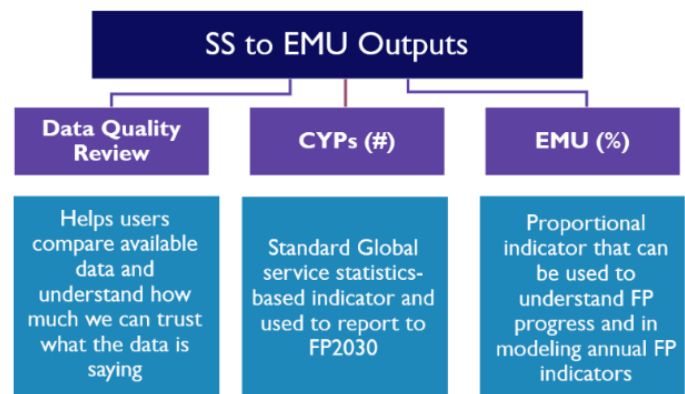
Teams also calculated subnational estimates, testing the process and sharing findings with peers. Participants plug outputs from FPET into the Track20 Annual Indicator Calculator to generate estimated impacts and produce useful data briefs to share with stakeholders.

These exercises turned abstract modeling into hands-on problem solving, giving officers the chance to compare approaches, question anomalies, and build confidence not only in using the tools, but also in explaining their assumptions and outputs to supervisors and stakeholders.

Deep Data Quality Review

Both leading up to, and at the training, Track20 worked with our country counterparts to gather and review all available data and use established Track20 tools and models to generate annual estimates of key FP indicators and impacts, and review data quality through internal validation and external benchmarking.

Review of service statistics is completed using **the Service Statistics to Estimated Modern Use (SS-to-EMU) tool**. This tool provides a rigorous process of internal validation of service statistics and external benchmarking to surveys and calculates an EMU value that can be used as a monitoring indicator and as an input that allows SS to be considered in the Family Planning Estimation Tool (FPET) that generates the annual estimates. It also calculates CYPs. In the workshop, the SS-to-EMU tool is used to calculate EMU, but The EMU can also be calculated in R and using Track20’s FP DataPro for DHIS2.



While all countries will do FPET runs at the training with and without SS, only those whose SS meet defined quality criteria will use the SS in the final FPET estimates reported to FP2030. This year, **17 of the 25 countries included SS in their estimates**. Among Gates priority countries, Cote D’Ivoire and Niger included commodity to client SS this year in their estimates.

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Inclusion of SS in FPET estimates for Gates priority countries	
Cote D'Ivoire	Clients 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Ethiopia	Users 2019; Facilities 2020
Niger	Clients 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Nigeria	Clients 2018, 2019; Facilities 2020
Pakistan	Clients 2017, 2020, 2021
Senegal	Users 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023

The determination of whether the SS meet the criteria for inclusion in FPET is something that can change year to year for countries. For example, changes in DHIS2 that impact the number of years of comparable data available, or data reporting issues that present in one year but not another are examples of issues that may change whether the same country uses SS or not from one year to the next.

Data Interpretation & Discussion

A defining feature of the workshop was the way participants engaged with data quality. Using SS-to-EMU and FP DataPro, teams confronted inconsistencies head-on: puzzling over improbable figures, benchmarking against surveys, and debating when service statistics were reliable enough to feed into FPET. These conversations were candid and technical, often spilling into animated debates about what anomalies revealed about systems and reporting. The exercise underscored a critical shift — data quality was not just “checked” by Track20; it was interrogated by the government staff themselves.

Beyond calculation, the workshop emphasized how to use results strategically. Officers explored how uncertainty bounds could guide conversations about program direction, how subnational estimates might inform targeting, and how to prepare for difficult discussions with stakeholders at consensus meetings. Several countries presented draft materials and received peer feedback, sharpening both their technical outputs and their messaging strategies.

Preparation of Consensus Meeting Presentations

Once the data elements to be included in the consensus meeting presentation are prepared, participants tailor the consensus meeting template to their country’s context, data and policy environment, and audience.

Participants discussed with their table mates how best to present certain topics and several M&E Officers presented portions of their CM presentations as examples. These sessions allow participants to gain confidence in their presentations and glean ideas for how to approach sensitive topics related to data quality or program performance.

Special Sessions

Impact of USAID Funding Cuts

Prior to the workshop we conducted a survey with participants on early impacts of USAID cuts on the national program. The impacts, ranked from greatest to least, were felt most in commodities, followed by service availability, then LMIS functionality, and finally demand creation. Across all of these areas, participants

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emphasized that supportive functions — such as technical working groups and capacity building — were being weakened, with particularly acute effects on service delivery.

This session was among the most participatory as USAID cuts were still new and raw and there was significant interest in the presentations from Zimbabwe and Ethiopia on how they were approaching mitigation. This work at the training was the first to highlight national government concerns early in the process of USAID cuts and as a result, we were invited by the Gates Foundation to do deep dives on Gates priority countries with modelling on impacts and invited to present at the global FP2030 seminar.

Field Trips – Seeing data in action

The annual training location is chosen in part based on opportunities to share the host country's data expertise and innovative approaches with the broader group. This year, Rwanda provided a unique opportunity for participants to see HIPS implementation in action and a cutting edge, wholistic health program data approach.

This year, selected attendees participated in one or both of the following field trips:

Rwanda's recently opened **Data Intelligence Center** is an impressive, shared workspace dedicated to collecting and analyzing health data across several health areas. This site provided a dynamic example of a government prioritizing and bringing to life data analysis and visualization to inform decisions and explore bottlenecks and opportunities. Deputy Manager of the center, Sylvain Muzungu, and Track20 M&E Officer Silas Rudasingwa led the facility tour.

The family planning data pulled into the Data Intelligence Center come from FP DataPro, Track20's module embedded in Rwanda's DHIS2 system which automates complex data analyses and prepares easy to understand visualizations. As seen to the right, these FP data are displayed side by side with other health programs and operational data, allowing for a full picture of program delivery and its challenges.



The Center is a place to bring together all of the programs and look at the data in a big picture way. The vision is to have the technical working groups (TWGs) meet at the Center for their routine meetings, so they can see all of the different kinds of data together in one place and make data the centerpiece of the meeting agenda instead



of a small slice. Large format screens and interactive allow visitors to see a lot of complimentary data at once and investigate spikes and causes by combining data from human resources, commodities, infrastructure, quality of services, etc. For example, as seen in the photo to the left, participants explored an interactive data table that displayed real-time ambulance tracking alongside complimentary data to provide a view of how health systems elements combined to serve patients and where bottlenecks slowing response existed.

The Center is the end result of a broad long-term base investment made many years ago by the Government, which included creating electronic records, digitization, expanding internet access, policy and education

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investments, among others, all of which cleared the path to having this central data center. While ambitious, this field trip provided a glimpse of what can be accomplished when governments make real investments in data.

PPFP program at Kibagaga District Hospital: Rwanda has achieved significant increases in the uptake of Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) at the national level following the pilot of targeted programming in 3 districts. Participants visited the Kibagaga Hospital in the Kasabo District in Kigali. The group was hosted by the Clinical Director, Dr Kubaho Peter, who presented their approach along with a midwife active in program implementation. The outing was facilitated by Dr. Joel Serrucca, Head of FP at the MoH and Track20 M&E Officer Silas Rudasingwa. MoH staff described the detailed approach and shared the associated registers and forms used to monitor the program and track progress. They provided insight into the successes and challenges and answered the group’s questions about implementation, reporting and tracking.

