STEP 4:
COMING UP WITH SOLUTIONS

Decision-makers are more likely to take action to address a problem if it is clear what they can do to bring about change, and if the call to action is a realistic ask. In addition to making action more likely, it can change the government's perception of advocates from adversary to a valuable partner who can guide response. In this step, civil society are supported to identify solutions using tools such as a solutions tree, and the short-term concrete steps required to get there using the 'steps to change' approach.

CASE STUDY:

In Senegal, E4A-MamaYe have worked with a coalition to identify their steps to change to ensure RMNCH remains at the forefront of efforts during COVID-19. The below steps demonstrate how they will move through this work.

Step 1 - Information Gathering: Information on the impact of COVID-19 in RMNCH is gathered and easily communicable

Step 2 - Decision Makers given information : Decision-makers have the information on the impact of COVID-19 on RMNCH

Step 3 - Integration into plans: Integration of RMNCH in the COVID-19 response plan and budget

Step 4 - Service providers receive information: Service providers have information and guidelines to ensure the provision of maternity services

Step 5 - Community actors involved in plans: Involvement of community actors in decision-making processes for the COVID-19 response

Step 6 - Changes seen at community level: Protective products are available for health care providers in maternity wards.

Step 7 - Final Goal: 70% of essential services in maternity wards are provided

This approach supports advocates to define a pathway to change by mapping out how to get from where they are today to the change they want to achieve. The pathway visualises this process starting with a clear, identified problem or current situation (see; step one) and defining the desired change. These are then connected through a defined process of change.
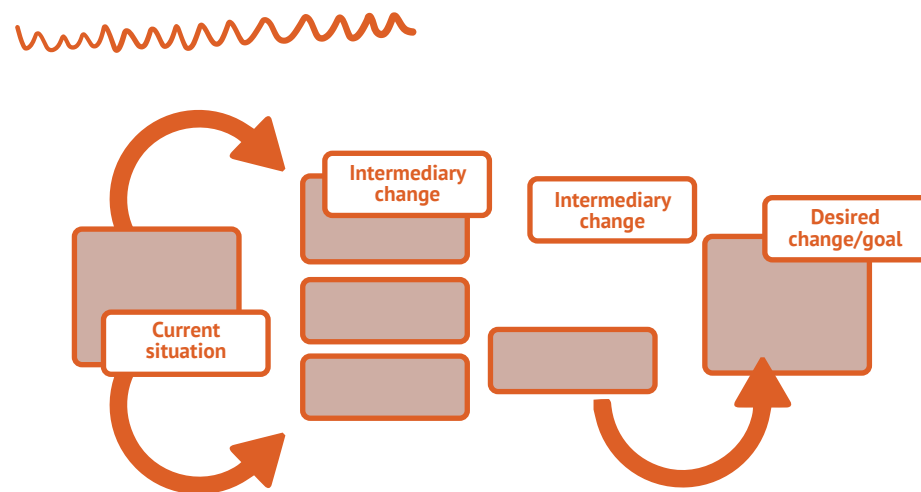

Figure 7, Change Pathway

Organisations can use a solution tree (instead of mapping the problems, a solution tree reverses the negatives statements in a problem tree to form objectives and outline how to progress through these objectives) to identify an objective, that can then be turned into a SMART goal. Adopting the 'steps to change' approach allows advocates to identify the path to achieve this, and which steps they can realistically support, or achieve, given their available resources and expertise. Dependent on capacity, advocates can further strengthen their suggested solutions by calculating the cost of the solution, defining the financial and human benefit of implementing that solution, and comparing this to the cost of not undertaking the solution.