



STEP 3: FINDING THE INFORMATION NEEDED

If CSOs can prove that the problem exists and deepen people's understanding around it this is likely to help with finding an appropriate solution. The information gathered can range from testimonies by community members, pictures of the effects of the problem, or analysis and packaging of data.

Generating information can be structured around three key questions:

1. What are the duties, rules or commitments made that should address the problem? Consider also commitments made against international standards for gender equality (SDGs, CEDAW, Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Convention on Population and Development, Beijing Platform for Action, etc.). As said earlier, gender inequality has a direct link to maternal mortality so Government commitments to promoting gender equality are essential for improved maternal health.
2. What did the Government do? Consider what the Government has or has not done to address the barriers that women and other marginalized groups face when accessing services, information, etc.
3. What were the consequences? Consider what are the consequences for different groups of the population, in particular women, girls and other marginalised groups. Analyse also how certain measures taken by the Government on a specific issue might have consequences on broader issues such as gender equality.

Identifying government commitments that relate to the problem allows advocates to explain to those responsible what promises they have failed to deliver. Organisations must work through identifying political, legal or financial commitments that are of importance to

their work from sources including policy documents as well as verbal agreements that have been made in political events.

It is then important to compare what has been done to the commitments that have been made. In the E4A-MamaYe project, we do this by utilising scorecards. A scorecard is a tool used to collect and visually present data gathered on a selection of indicators, and often includes advocacy asks or recommendations to target audiences based on an analysis of the data. This is then used as evidence to hold those responsible to account. See annex 1 for E4A-MamaYe's approach to scorecard development.

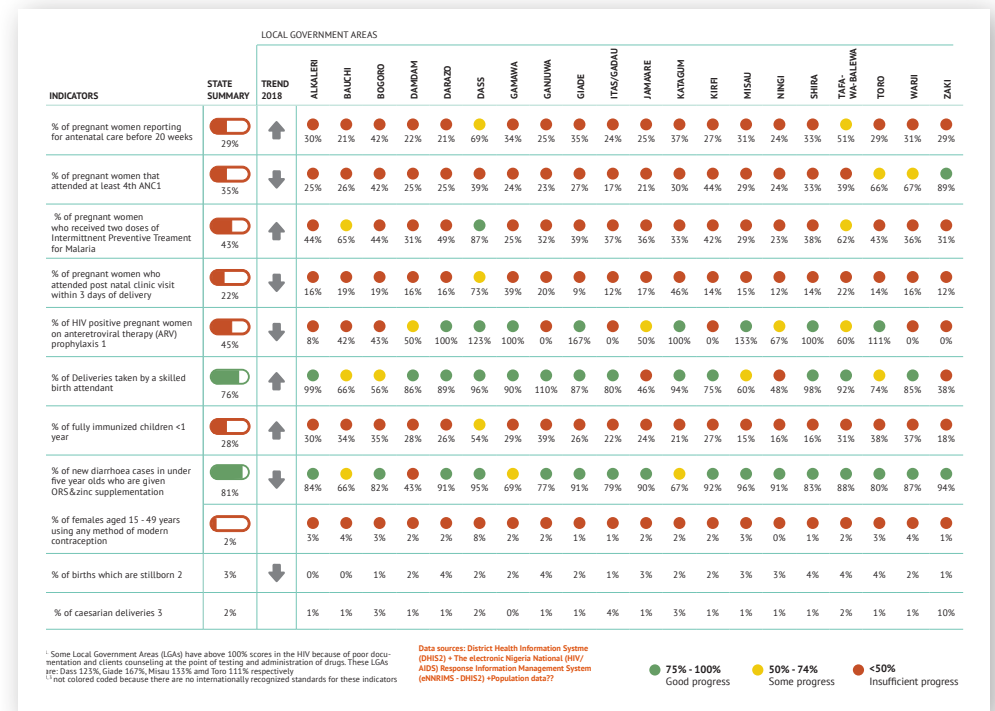


Figure 6: Scorecards



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The choice of commitments to focus on, and the indicators to capture in score cards, affects the extent to which gender issues will be part of the substantive focus of the advocacy and the discussions with decision-makers and influencers. Integrating gender considerations into these commitments and indicators can strengthen accountability toward these ambitions and allow for tracking progress.

The process of choosing indicators to include on a scorecard can reinforce or challenge gender (and other) inequalities. For example, how might the priorities of the women and girls most affected by poor MNH outcomes be reflected in the indicators? To what extent could the indicators capture gender barriers to services?

CASE STUDY: Budget line for Family Planning commodities in response to scorecard evidence

In Lagos and Gombe States, the 2018 scorecards revealed that uptake of Family Planning services was low. During the validation meetings, the group discussed the evidence behind these findings and agreed that user fees for consumables constituted a key barrier to access. In response to this the Ministries of Health and Economic Planning in both States created a budget line for Family Planning commodities as a key step to increase funding.



Civil Society Organisations during the Organizational Capacity Assessment in Bungoma, December 2019