

# Reproductive Health Cost Reporting System

Program managers, finance directors, and funders often want to know the cost of delivering services. To answer this, programs often undertake or commission cost studies. Such studies take time, can be expensive, and provide snapshot information of a point in time. Organizations frequently collect service delivery data and track expenditures on human resources and labor and medical supplies, including pharmaceuticals and other regularly incurred office and equipment expenses. Yet these data are rarely assessed together. A better way may be to harness the basic information already available to an organization in real time—housed in its tracking systems and service delivery records. That is where the **Reproductive Health Cost Reporting System** can assist.

MEASURE Evaluation, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has developed a web-based tool—the Reproductive Health Cost Reporting System (RHCRS)—that can be configured for any health program. The system can be used to estimate costs for each of the services a program offers, by service delivery point and with the individual cost elements.

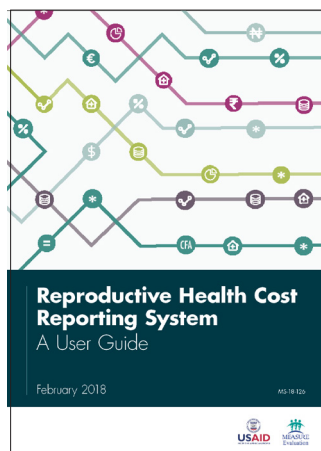
The RHCRS is a management tool that can help reproductive health service delivery organizations capture and analyze existing financial and other data regularly. It is designed to treat finance, commodity procurement, human resources, asset management, and other cost data as inputs to a system that allows service delivery organizations to estimate what delivering specific health services costs; what the cost drivers are; and how these costs may differ across service delivery points,

across regions, and over time. Reports and graphics are available in the system to illustrate and summarize these comparisons. A regular set of such data compiled annually enables programs to assess trends in service costs.

**The RHCRS helps programs that deliver family planning and other health service programs to understand their costs and use this to inform decision making.** Understanding the cost of health services can help programs manage funds and budgets more effectively, estimate government reimbursement or patient charges per service with increased accuracy, or inform service provision decisions. Information about the costs of services—both across an organization and at individual sites—allows for better resource allocation and potential cost reduction. At the program level, knowing what individual services cost allows for better planning and budget tracking and anticipation of funding gaps.

**The RHCRS differs from other costing tools.** The RHCRS is a cost analysis system, not a cost forecasting tool or cost analysis study.

- Most available tools help organizations forecast costs, estimate scale-up, or plan supply purchases. However, these tools cannot estimate an organization's cost per service. The RHCRS can.
- Most cost analysis studies are specific to an organization and/or the services being studied. Often, cost elements in one study are not available in another, similar study. The RHCRS solves this issues, by offering a standard platform for cost analysis. It enables organizations to make comparisons across multiple service delivery sites and regions.
- Most costing exercises are one-time occurrences that do not capture trends over time. The RHCRS system is designed to capture data on a regular basis, potentially over many years.
- The RHCRS system is a general cost analysis system that can be completely customized for any health delivery system.



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