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**7.2.4**

The complete RHIS curriculum is available here: <https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/routine-health-information-systems/rhis-curriculum>

**Conditions and Challenges that Complicate the Planning and Budgeting of Critical RHIS Funding**

This handout is an opportunity for participants to explore the reality of funding critical resources required for the optimum development and operations of an effective routine health information system (RHIS). The following is a sample of the conditions and challenges of the RHIS planning and budgeting process. After reading it, discuss your reactions, supplementing these examples with observations from your own experience.

1. **RHIS Human Resources.** As noted earlier, the predominant staff requirements for implementing and operating an effective RHIS are those managers and providers of health services at the district, facility, and community levels of the health system. Fewer full-time staff are assigned to the management, development, and operations of the RHIS and other RHIS subsystems—concentrated at the central and regional levels of the system. Their hiring and budgetary support can be managed through dedicated budget lines within the departments in which they work. But those staff managing, overseeing, and carrying out RHIS data capture, analysis, reporting, and monitoring functions in the services are normally responsible for a broad range of service management and provision. As such, their positions are budgeted and funded within service program and district budgets supporting the full range of service performance. Their availability for RHIS support is therefore dependent on local-level management and supervision, which is not addressable through RHIS budgeting processes.
2. **RHIS Consumable Supplies**. This RHIS resource is similarly affected by the broad service budgeting for district and facility service levels. Consumable supplies of many types are addressed through general budget lines and procurement and distribution processes, and therefore cannot be addressed by RHIS planners and managers.
3. **Donor and External Project Involvement in RHIS Development and Operations.** One huge factor affecting the planning and budgeting of RHIS development and operations is the somewhat unmanageable interest, support, and provision of technical assistance, hardware, software, and training by interested donors and their projects. All too often, the provision of funding and other support to RHIS development occurs outside of the ministry planning and budgeting process. The subjects and types of support are often chosen by the donor agency and project according to their own interests, priorities, and project cycles and schedules. While these types and sources of RHIS support are appreciated by the host governments, the receiving ministries often must adjust their development priorities to accommodate donor interests. More important, the results of the donor support are often not owned and managed by the ministries, and therefore the funding for their continued operations and maintenance is not provided within subsequent national budgets.

In small groups, review these challenges, relate them to your experience, and add other conditions and challenges confronting the mobilization of RHIS funding.

