Policy Implementation Toolkit

STAGES OF POLICY IMPLEMENATION: ASSESSING COMPLIANCE



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Assessing Compliance

Introduction to this Implementation Stage

It is critical for implementation of new legislation and regulations to be monitored to document compliance and address enforcement weaknesses and challenges. Routine monitoring puts government agencies on notice that they are being watched. Compliance studies can be used to inform enforcement, transport, and public health agencies about where to target enforcement and public education resources. Publicity about results may be used to educate the public and businesses about the provisions of the law as well as to celebrate strong compliance results. If designed properly, a compliance study can also document weaknesses or ambiguities in the law and be used to advocate for necessary amendments.

Goals and objectives of this Implementation Stage

Conducting baseline studies, assessing compliance and sharing the results are important in order to inform enforcement, transport, public health and other government agencies about where to target enforcement and public education resources. Ultimately, the goal of this stage is to achieve high compliance.

Role of CSOs in this Implementation Stage

In some countries, government agencies, including research institutes, will monitor the implementation of legislation, particularly in the area of enforcement. However, civil society can also play an important role in providing independent compliance monitoring.

At this stage, CSOs can:

- Define benchmarks for compliance;
- Design and implement methods to monitor compliance with the law;
- Document compliance issues and inform enforcement agencies about where to target enforcement resources;
- Document compliance issues and inform relevant agencies about where to target educational and outreach resources;
- Assess and publicize levels of public support for the law; and
- Document the health and social impacts of the law.

Case Study: Using compliance Data to Support Helmet Law Implementation in Vietnam

In Vietnam, the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation (AIPF) created a successful example of working with the government to develop and implement the 'National Child Helmet Action Plan' (NCHAP). The organization assessed compliance of helmet-wearing requirements among children at the beginning and the end of a campaign to implement the Action Plan.

AIPF conducted a baseline compliance assessment prior to the implementation of the NCHAP to illustrate low rates of helmet use among children and subsequently advocate for robust implementation of the new helmet wearing requirements. Rather than doing so nationwide (which would have been expensive and required extensive resources), AIPF focused their data collection on 3 major cities.

Following the introduction of the NCHAP, AIPF conducted subsequent rounds of data collection which revealed significant increases in helmet wearing among children. AIPF, in turn, used these data to call on government to continue to implement the NCHAP as strongly and completely as possible..

Key Questions to Consider at this Implementation Stage

Civil society organizations play a critical role during the implementation process. Many of the same skills and strategies utilized during the advocacy process can be employed during the implementation phase. However, it is important to understand the role of CSO's and government within the implementation process, where and when to engage decision makers, the public, and the media, and the skills and strategies you will need to employ.

Consider the following questions to guide your strategy:

- Does the government have a plan to monitor and assess compliance?
- What are realistic yearly compliance goals? How can you support government to ensure those goals are met?
- Are there non-compliance or enforcement issues? Why? Does the policy need to be changed to address those issues?



Child helmet use in three major cities

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