Phone Purchasing Decision Making

The below questions will help programs think through their outreach activities to better understand how many phones might be needed. Remember that these questions serve as a guide and may not be an exhaustive list of what programs should consider when assessing budget requirements! Some key points before the questions begin:

- Keep in mind that phones may be able to be deployed efficiently, pooling them at a central location.

- If multiple individuals record information at the outreach activity, then additional phones will be required.

- If 24-hour follow-ups occur concurrently with surgeries, then an additional phone is needed; if follow-ups are conducted before commencing new surgeries for the day, then the same phone(s) for patient registration and surgery recording can be used.

- If activities are tracked at the static center (while outreach activities are still being conducted), then a phone must remain at the center continuously.

- Surgical audits may also require phones - if phones from surgical outreach are available, they can be used for the audit.

Questions to consider:

- How many regions does your program support? How many districts are found within those regions?

- How does the surgical outreach program function?
  - In how many areas (districts/regions) are you supporting surgical outreach (simultaneously)?
  - How many teams are working simultaneously?
  - What is the make-up of the team?
  - Is there a designated surgeon/team per district/region or are surgeons (and assistants) pooled and used throughout a given area?
  - Would it be possible to pool camp outreach phones at a central location and deployed when needed for outreach activities? Who can manage this?

- How does a surgical camp function?
  - When is the patient data entered?
  - Who enters the patient information?
  - At how many different points is patient information entered?
  - Are there diagnosis sheets/registers that follow patients that can be utilized to enter patient data? Remember, due to network availability phones may not be able to sync while in the field, limiting the possibility that phones can communicate. Therefore, the phone that enters the patient registration

information should be the phone that enters surgery information. If this is not possible, programs will have to reconcile records at a later date, limiting summary information capabilities until records are reconciled.
- Are surgeries conducted at static sites?
  - If so, are surgeries conducted at the static sites tracked in your data?
  - Do static site surgeries occur while outreach activities are taking place?
  - How many static sites are operating within your coverage area? Do they all conduct TT surgery activities?
- Who conducts the follow-up activities? Who documents the follow-up information? Where and how are follow-ups conducted?
  - 24-hour
  - 7-14 day
  - 3-6 month