

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

Pakistan 2014 Results

What is the NCIFP?

The NCIFP is a new tool developed to support FP2020's efforts to improve the enabling and policy environment for family planning. The NCIFP measures both the existence of policies and program implementation, using 35 individual scores organized under five dimensions: **strategy**, **data**, **quality**, **equity**, and **accountability**.

Strategy – whether the 1) national FP strategy/plan includes objectives that are quantified and 2) targets to reach the poorest and most vulnerable; 3) resource requirements are projected; 4) means to broaden participation among diverse stakeholders are supported; 5) seniority of FP program director; and 6) policies that facilitate contraceptive importation or local manufacturing.

Data - whether the government 7) collects data to monitor special sub-groups (e.g. the poor) and 8) availability data on private sector commodities; 9) quality control of service statistic in place; and 10) data used to ensure access by vulnerable groups; 11) adequate client record keeping in place; and 12-13) uses various data sources for program operations, monitoring and evaluation.

Quality – whether the 14) government uses WHO-based FP procedures; 15) has FP task-sharing guidelines; 16-17) has and uses quality of care indicators in public and private facilities, 18) has adequate structures in place to address quality, 19) collects information on informed choice and provider bias, 20) has adequate training programs in place, 21) logistics and transport systems insure sufficient stock, 22) adequate supervision system in place, 23) informed choice on sterilization, 24-25) access to IUD and implant removal.

Equity - whether 26) policies are in place to prevent discrimination; 27) extent to which service providers discriminate against special groups; 28) underserved areas are served by CBDs; and 29-30) the entire population has access to modern methods.

Accountability – whether there are 31) national, sub-national and facility-level mechanisms in place to monitor voluntary, non-discriminatory FP provision; 32-33) mechanisms to report denial of services in place and reviewed; 34) client feedback solicited, and 35) system in place to encourage dialogue between clients and providers.

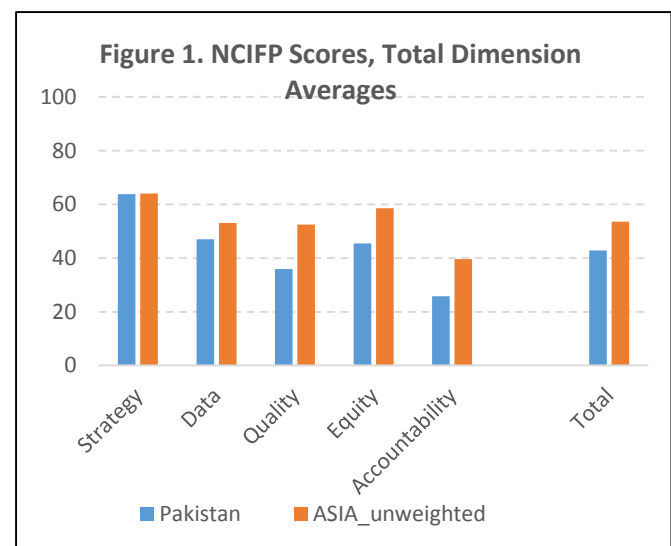
The NCIFP builds on the long-standing *National Family Planning Effort Index* (FPE). In 2014, questionnaires of the two indices were fielded jointly in 90 countries by the Health Policy Project (implemented by Palladium with USAID funding) and Avenir Health's Track20 project (funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). NCIFP data allow assessments of FP programs and can help stimulate discussions among stakeholders about factors that help make FP programs effective, widely supported and sustainable.

What do the Pakistan results look like?

Pakistan's total score was lower than the average for Asia (43 vs 54, as shown in Figure 1). Pakistan's Strategy average matched that of the region but its average ratings in all other four NCIFP dimensions were lower.

Overall, the patterns of individual item scores are similar for Pakistan and the region (Figure 2), indicating similarities in many program areas that are achieving more strongly or less well. Pakistan's three highest rated items - also the same items wherein the country outscored the region- were for its national action plan having projections of required resources, government collection of data on private sector commodities, and acceptors being informed about the permanence of sterilization.

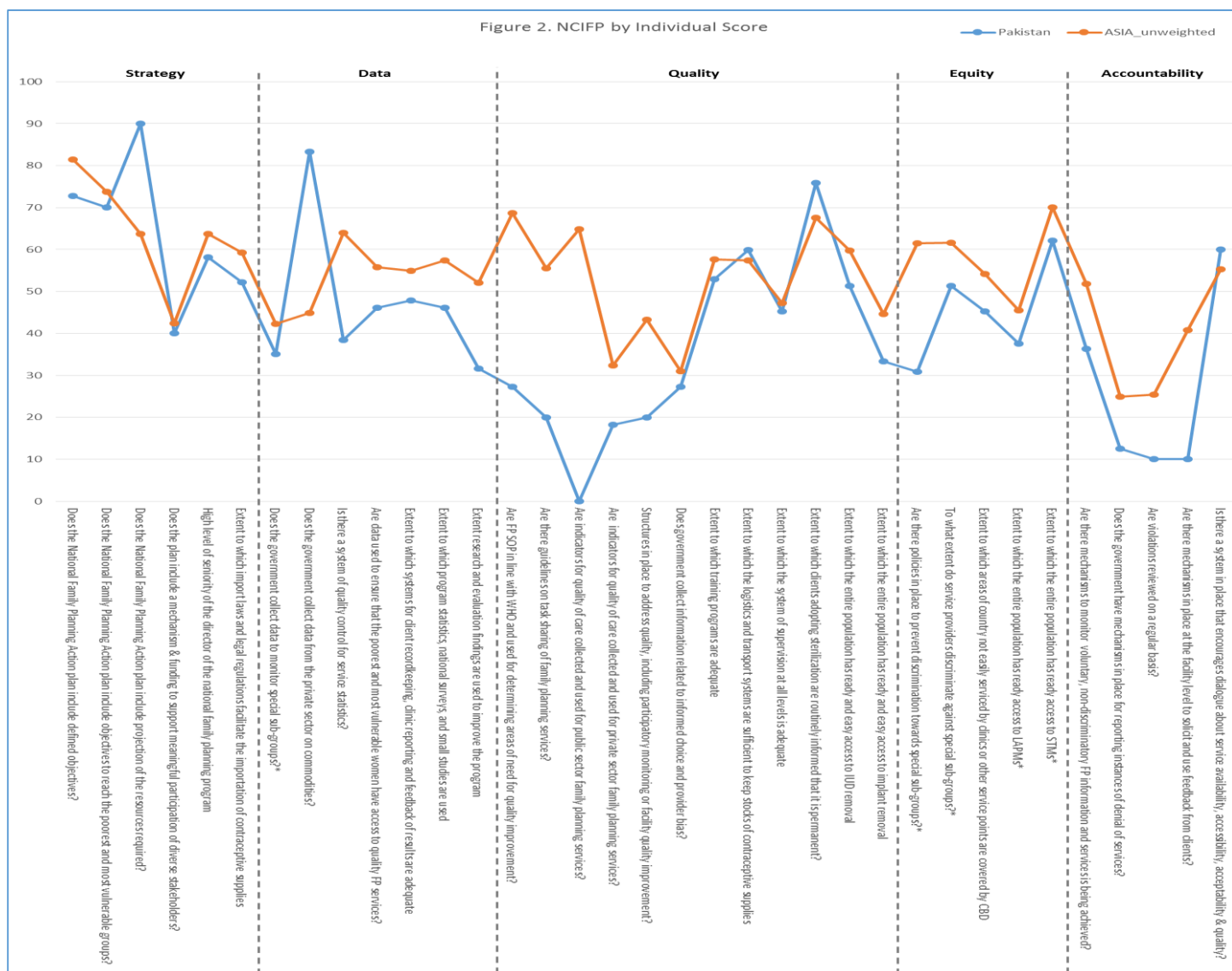
Pakistan, however, received a score of 0 for the Quality item on whether indicators on quality of public sector FP services are collected. The country also received below 30 ratings for other Quality items, including indicators on quality of private sector services, if FP SOP are based on WHO standards, if there are task sharing guidelines, structures to address quality exist, and whether the government collects information on informed choice and provider bias. Accountability items are also very problematic, particularly whether the government has mechanisms for reporting denial of services on non-medical grounds, for regular review of violations, and, at the facility level, to solicit and use client feedback.



Implications

During the 2012 FP2020 Summit, the Government of Pakistan pledged to work toward universal access to reproductive health services and achieve 55% FP use by 2020. Commitments emphasize financing and planning: increasing annual public spending for FP, including procurement of contraceptives based on federal government projections; strengthening the National Task Force/ National Population Commission on Population and Development to achieve policy consensus and program improvement and coordinate with provinces to agree on targets for periodic monitoring since federal financing will be based on achievement of targets; developing provincial medium-term budgetary frameworks and health sector strategies that include FP financing and a specific line item for FP in their health budgets; raising additional resources to increase access to quality services through trained staff in client-centered services; improving supply chain management; strengthening training, communication and demand-generations programs; including FP services in the essential service package; making FP a priority for over 100,000 lady health workers covering 70% of rural areas; fostering public-private partnerships that include contracting-out mechanisms to help scale up access; and continuing work with religious leaders and men to promote the benefit of birth spacing. Pakistan also pledged to provide birth spacing services in health facilities at all levels

Pakistan's 2014 NCIFP results reflect progress in strategy development particularly with the national FP action plan specifying projected resource requirements, and government collection of data on private sector commodities. The latter is a problem in other countries; Pakistan's success can provide important lessons. Pakistan's other NCIFP results also reveal many FP program challenges, including quality, equity and accountability, for stakeholders to discuss and address in order to achieve national objectives.



Want to know more: Read the full NCIFP report and use the interactive data tool available at track20.org