

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP) Vietnam 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.

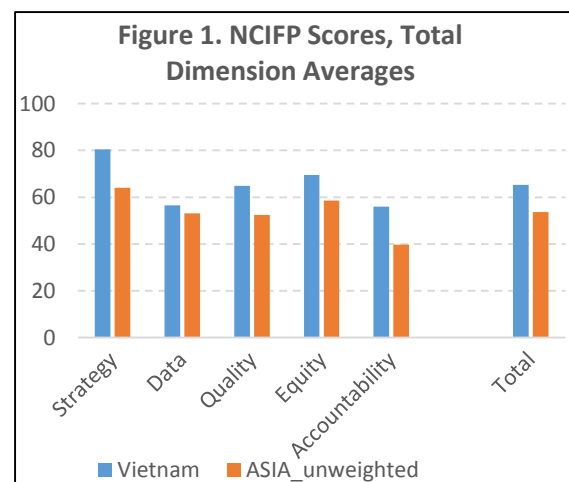
Accountability – whether there are 31) national, sub-national and facility-level mechanisms in place to monitor voluntary, non-discriminatory FP provision; 32-33) mechanisms to report denial of services in place and reviewed; 34) client feedback solicited, and 35) system in place to encourage dialogue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

Vietnam's total NCIFP score was much higher than that of the region (65 vs 54, in Figure 1). The country also averaged higher than Asia for all five dimensions.

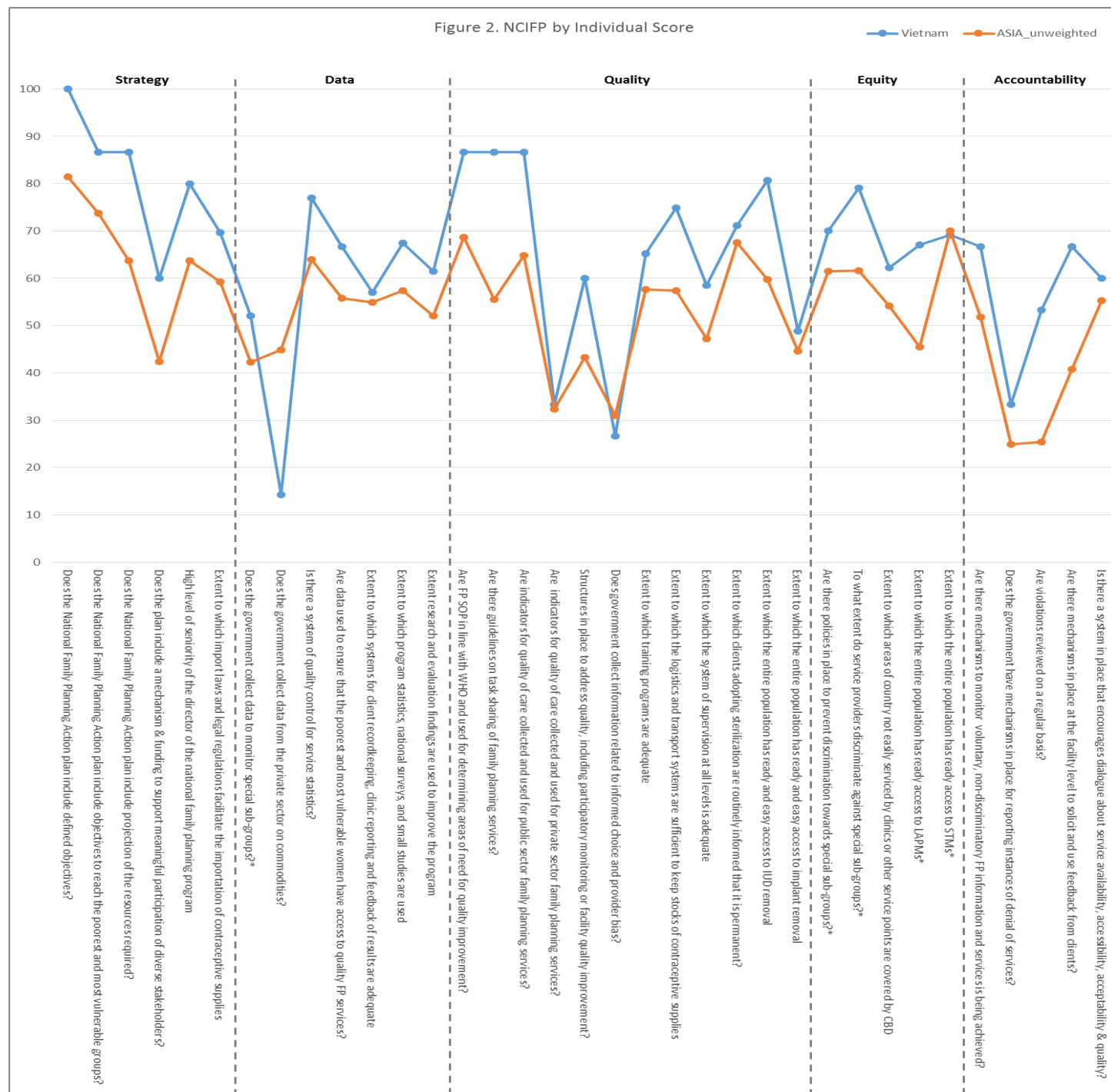
Although Vietnam scored higher across individual items, its ratings follow a pattern similar to that of Asia (Figure 2), indicating that oftentimes, the same activities are progressing, or moving less well. The country's highest ratings included 100 for the national FP action plan having defined objectives over a 5 to 10-year period, and 80 or higher scores for the action plan aiming to reach the poorest/most vulnerable and supporting a mechanism for stakeholder participation; for Quality items that include having WHO-based FP pro (task-sharing guidelines, public sector quality of care indicators, and easy access to IUD removal; and the Equity item on non-discrimination of services. Vietnam's lowest scores (40 or below) were regarding whether the government collects data on private sector commodities, two Quality items (government use of indicators on private sector quality of care and collection of information on informed choice and provider bias), and the Accountability item involving mechanisms in place for reporting instances of denial of services on non-medical grounds.



Implications

In 2016, the government of Vietnam committed to FP2020 by pledging to achieve universal access to FP and increasing modern use among married women to 70% by 2020. To reach this objective, the government will a) ensure adequate budgets for FP services for the poor, near-poor, marginalized, hard-to-reach, and ethnic minority groups and region; b) consolidate the service provision network and ensure services at the grassroots level in line with decentralization requirements; c) improve the quality of services by

using appropriate technical procedures, upgrading infrastructure, and providing equipment and training to FP/RH service providers; d) support youth-friendly information and service provision, policies, public-private collaboration, and youth participation in developing, implementing and monitoring RH interventions; e) strengthen the health system by improving linkages and integrating HIV into FP/RH programs and services at all levels; and f) foster an enabling policy environment through rights-based approaches in FP, quality assurance in accordance with international standards, private-NGO participation in service delivery, and financial mechanisms that ensure quality and competitive pricing. Vietnam's NCIFP scores reflect the country's efforts to strengthen its national FP program but also identify gaps involving private sector coordination and efforts to bolster rights-based approaches. These issues are for discussion and appropriate action by key stakeholders of the country.



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

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