

# The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP) Bangladesh 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 for the FPE and the NCIFP were fielded jointly in 90 countries by the Health Policy Project (implemented by Palladium with funding from USAID), and Avenir Health (with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). The NCIFP allows qualitative assessments of FP programs and can stimulate discussions among stakeholders about the state of FP programs in relation to the five dimensions outlined above.

## What do the Bangladesh results look like?

Bangladesh's total NCIFP score was two points lower than the average for Asia (52 vis-a-vis 54% respectively as shown in Figure 1). In terms of NCIFP dimensions, the country scored lower than the region for Quality and Accountability, much higher for Strategy, but about par for Data and Equity.

The patterns of scores comprising NCIFP dimensions (Figure 2 next page) show Bangladesh and Asia rated strongly or less well in similar items and activities. For example, the country and Asia had very high ratings for having FP strategies with defined objectives and ready access to short-term methods, but relatively low scores regarding support for meaningful participation of diverse stakeholders. Both areas similarly scored very low regarding collection of data to monitor population sub-groups and informed choice/provider bias, private sector quality of care, and having mechanisms for reporting instances of coercion or denial of services.

Levels of scores, however, differ. Bangladesh's scores for all items under Strategy surpassed those of the region. The country's scores for several items under Equity were also higher than averages for Asia. But in terms of the Quality of Care items mentioned in the preceding paragraph, Bangladesh scored much lower than the region. The same can be said of other Quality items, including guidelines on task-sharing of FP services, collection and use of indicators on public sector quality of care, and existence of structures to address quality such as participatory monitoring or community /facility quality improvement activities. Bangladesh also scored much lower than Asia regarding most Accountability items, including review of violations of voluntariness and whether feedback mechanisms exist.

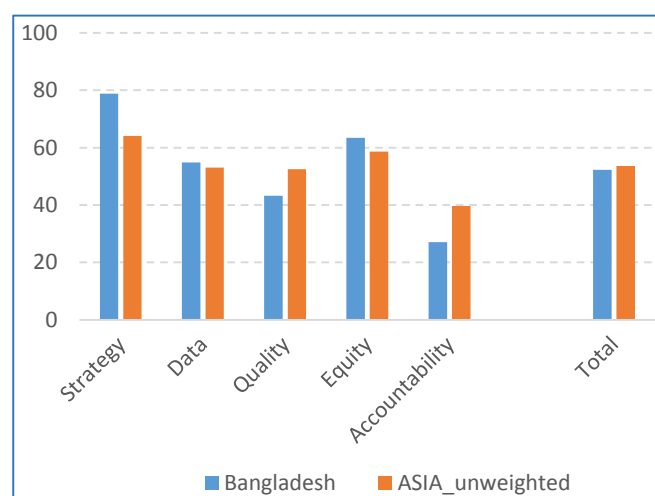
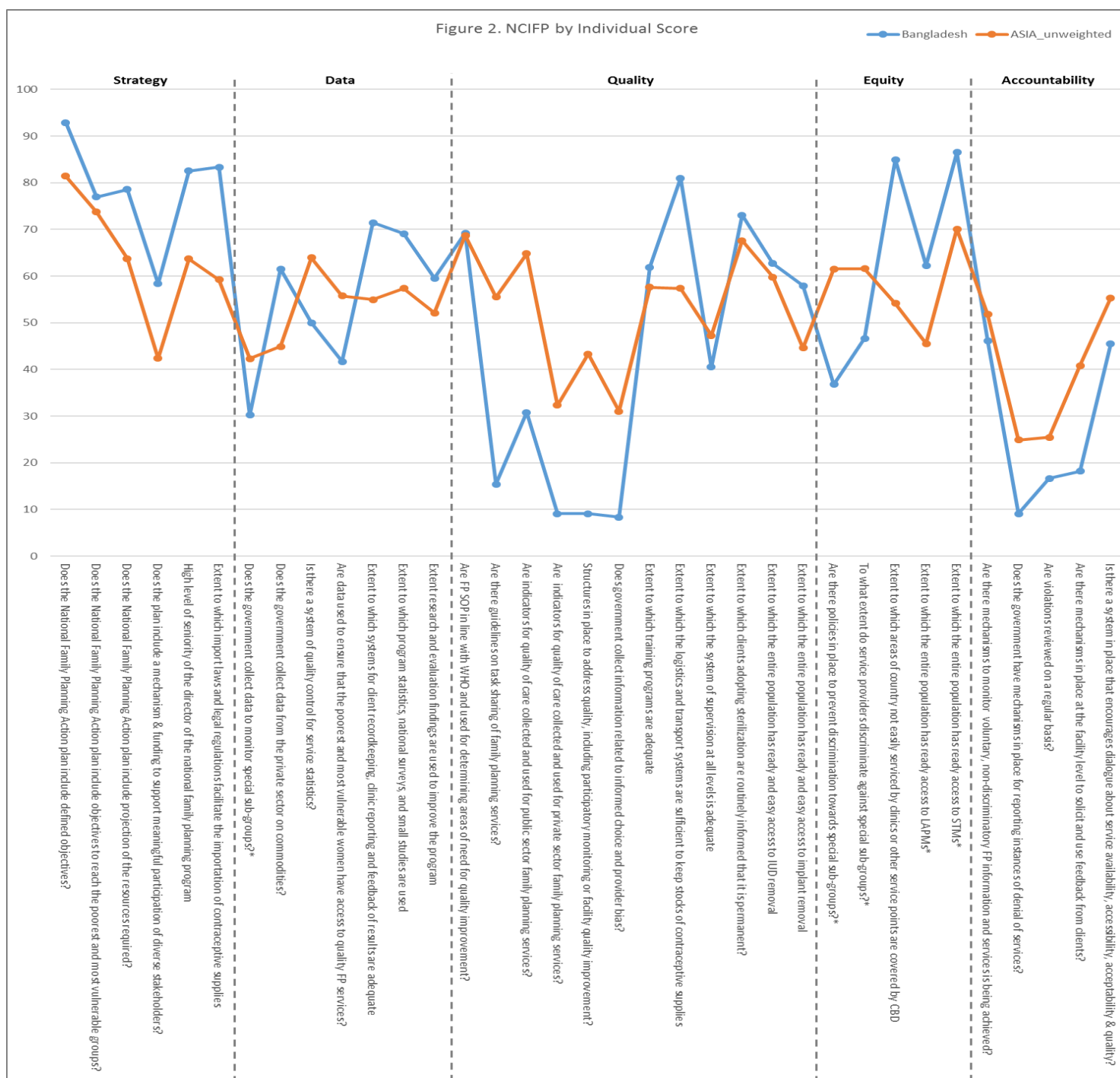


Figure 1. NCIFP Scores, Total and Dimension Averages



## Implications

Bangladesh's NCIFP scores point to policy and program challenges for further discussion by country stakeholders considering the development objectives of the *National Population Policy*, the *Perspective Plan of Bangladesh, 2012-2021: Making Vision 2021 A Reality*, and country commitments to the Global FP2020 Partnership to expand access to voluntary, rights-based programs in the world's poorest countries. For FP2020, Bangladesh pledged to undertake program reforms to:

- minimize the family planning resource gap by allocating \$40 million annually for FP services;
- ensure the provision of clinical contraceptives by trained/skilled nurses, midwives, and paramedics;
- eliminate geographic, urban-rural, and economic disparities;
- address the high rate of early marriage and adolescent pregnancies by increasing adolescent-friendly FP/RH services;
- monitor quality of care, informed consent and choice;
- improve choice and increase availability of LAPMs.

Want to know more: Read the full NCIFP report and use the interactive data tool available at [track20.org](http://track20.org)