

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

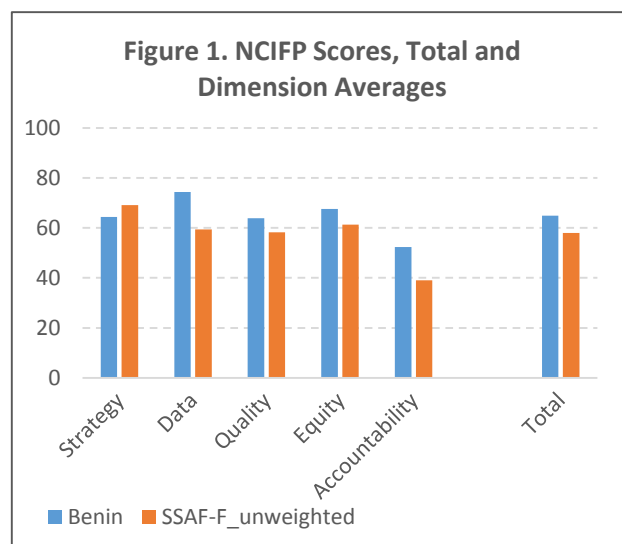
The NCIFP builds on the long-standing National Family Planning Effort Index (FPE). In 2014, FPE and NCIFP questionnaires were fielded jointly in 90 countries by the Health Policy Project (implemented by Palladium with USAID funding), and Track20 (implemented by Avenir Health with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funding). The NCIFP allows qualitative assessments of FP programs and can stimulate dialogue among stakeholders about the state of FP programs regarding the five dimensions.

What do the Benin results look like?

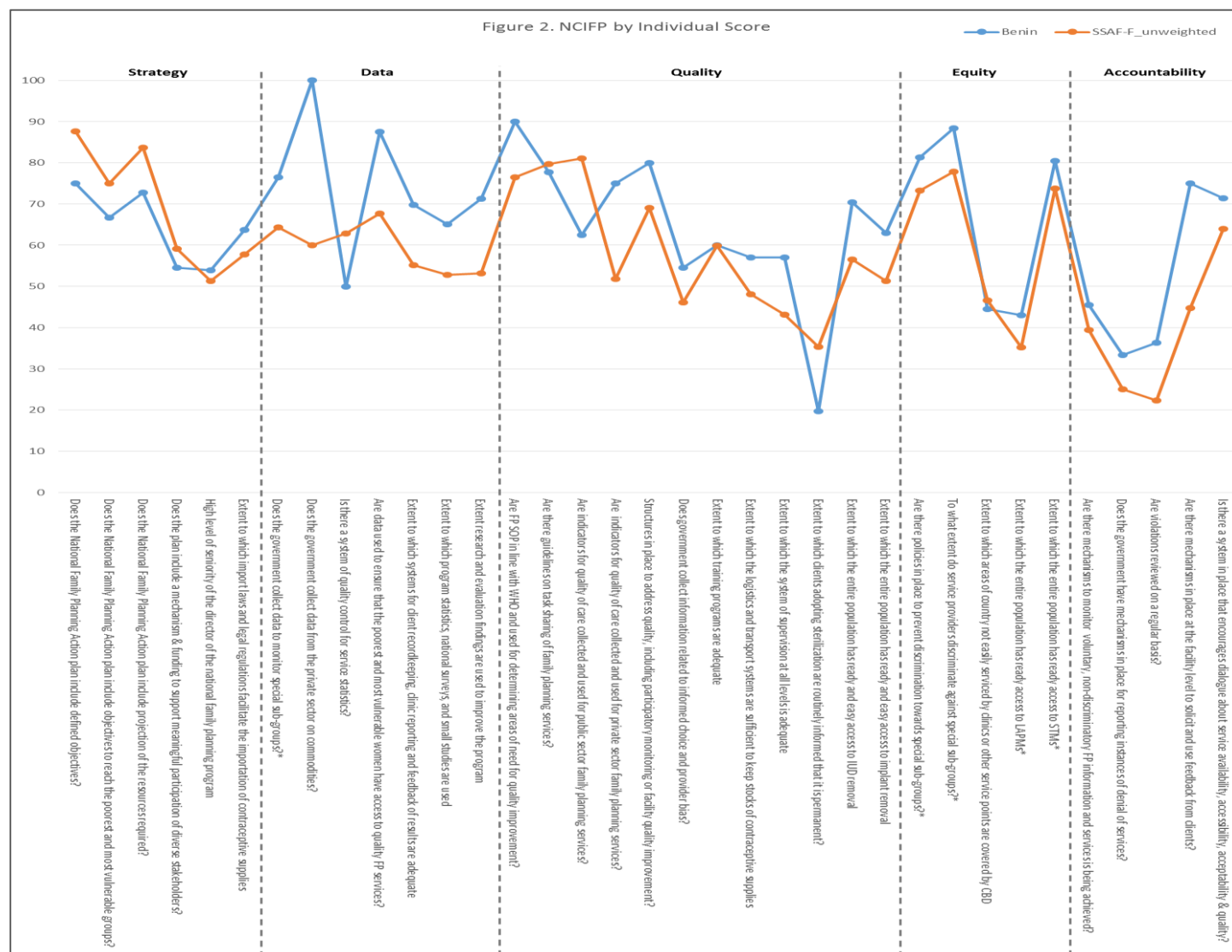
Benin's total NCIFP score was higher than the average for Francophone SSAF (65 vis-a-vis 58, as shown in Figure 1). Benin also averaged higher than the region in all dimensions except Strategy.

Benin's scores for individual items (Figure 2) follow to some extent the regional pattern, but with the country's ratings for most items higher than corresponding regional scores except for some items under Strategy. Benin even received a perfect score for government collection of data on private sector commodities, followed by scores in the 80-90s range for using data on FP access among the poorest, WHO-based procedures, and the extent service providers discriminate against certain group, as well as for having structures to address quality, ready access to LAPM, and facility-level mechanisms to solicit and use clients' feedback.

Benin rated lower than the region in terms of Strategy questions on whether the national FP action plan has objectives that are defined and aim to reach the poorest, projections of needed resources, and a mechanism (including funding) to support meaningful stakeholder participation. Benin's lowest ratings included a score of 20 regarding the extent acceptors are routinely informed about



the permanence of sterilization (under Quality), and 30s ratings for having mechanisms in place for reporting denial of services and regular review of violations (under Accountability).



Implications

During the 2013 International FP Conference, the Government of Benin pledged to support the Global FP2020 Partnership by increasing modern use to 20 percent by 2018 through activities that include revising Benin's national policies on task delegation of health staff; raising awareness about relevant policies including the RH law and the National Population Policy Declaration; making modern methods available for free to adolescent clients of public health facilities; increasing budget allocation for contraceptive purchase; supporting public-private collaboration; leveraging community networks to ensure access throughout the country; and improving FP communication to women with unmet need and the youth.

The NCIFP provides qualitative information that Benin can use to monitor and evaluate how the country stands regarding factors - Strategy, Equity, Quality, Data and Accountability systems - that help make FP programs effective and widely supported. Benin's 2014 NCIFP scores indicate that it is ahead of the region in many FP program activities. But the scores also identify challenges that Benin's FP stakeholders should discuss to decide on appropriate responses: lack of well-defined and quantifiable objectives and estimated requirements for financial and other types of resources in the national FP action plan including funding support for meaningful stakeholder participation; how to reach the poorest and the most vulnerable including the youth and women; and the need to put in place or strengthen mechanisms to improve access to high quality services.

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

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