

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP) Guinea Bissau 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.

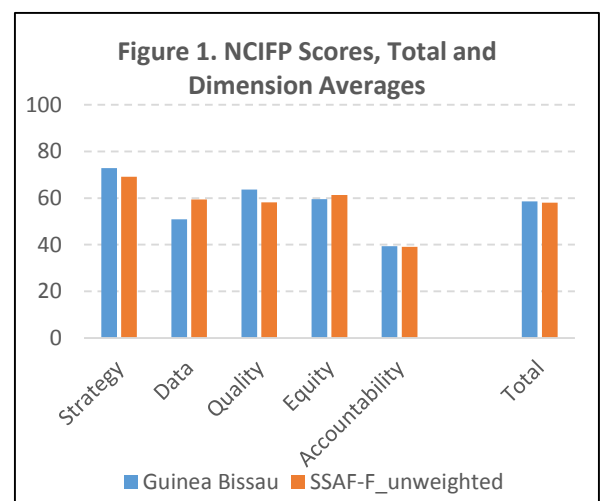
Accountability – whether there are 31) national, sub-national and facility-level mechanisms in place to monitor voluntary, non-discriminatory FP provision; 32-33) mechanisms to report denial of services in place and reviewed; 34) client feedback solicited, and 35) system in place to encourage dialogue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

Guinea Bissau's total NCIFP score in 2014 was one point higher than the Francophone SSAF regional average (59 vs 58, in Figure 1). In terms of dimensions, the country averaged higher than SSAF-F for Strategy and Quality, about par for Equity and Accountability, but lower for Data.

The general patterns of individual scores are similar for the country and SSAF-F (Figure 2), indicating the same types of program activities working well or lagging behind. The levels of many scores that the country and region obtained are not too far apart. Guinea Bissau did score 100 on four items: the national FP Strategy having defined objectives over a 5 to 10-year period and projections of required resources, and for Quality efforts involving use of task-sharing guidelines and public sector quality of care indicators. Guinea-Bissau, however, scored no more than 45 and even lower than the SSAF-F did for whether: a) acceptors are informed about sterilization being permanent; b) the national FP program head has high-level seniority; c) laws/regulations facilitate contraceptive importation/production; d) the government collects data on private sector commodities; e) a service statistics quality control system exists, f) data and studies are used to evaluate and improve the program; g) the population have easy access to LAPMs; and h) CBDs cover underserved areas.



Implications

NCIFP data provide qualitative information on how a country stands regarding factors that help make FP programs effective and widely supported: Strategy, Equity, Quality, Data and Accountability systems. Guinea-Bissau's NCIFP scores indicate various FP program activities that FP experts of the country rated highly, particularly regarding FP strategy development and quality of care efforts. The NCIFP results also point to several FP policy and program gaps for discussion and appropriate action by key stakeholders to improve contraceptive use and help achieve the country's health and development goals.



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

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