

# The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP) Zimbabwe 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.

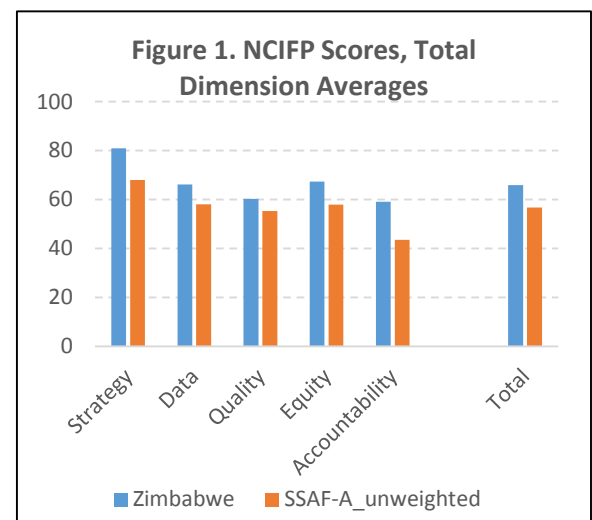
## What do the Zimbabwe results look like?

Overall, Zimbabwe scored higher than the regional average for Anglophone SSAF (66 vs 57 shown in Figure 1). The country also averaged higher than the region across all five NCIFP dimensions. Zimbabwe's dimension scores show Strategy with the highest and Quality the lowest.

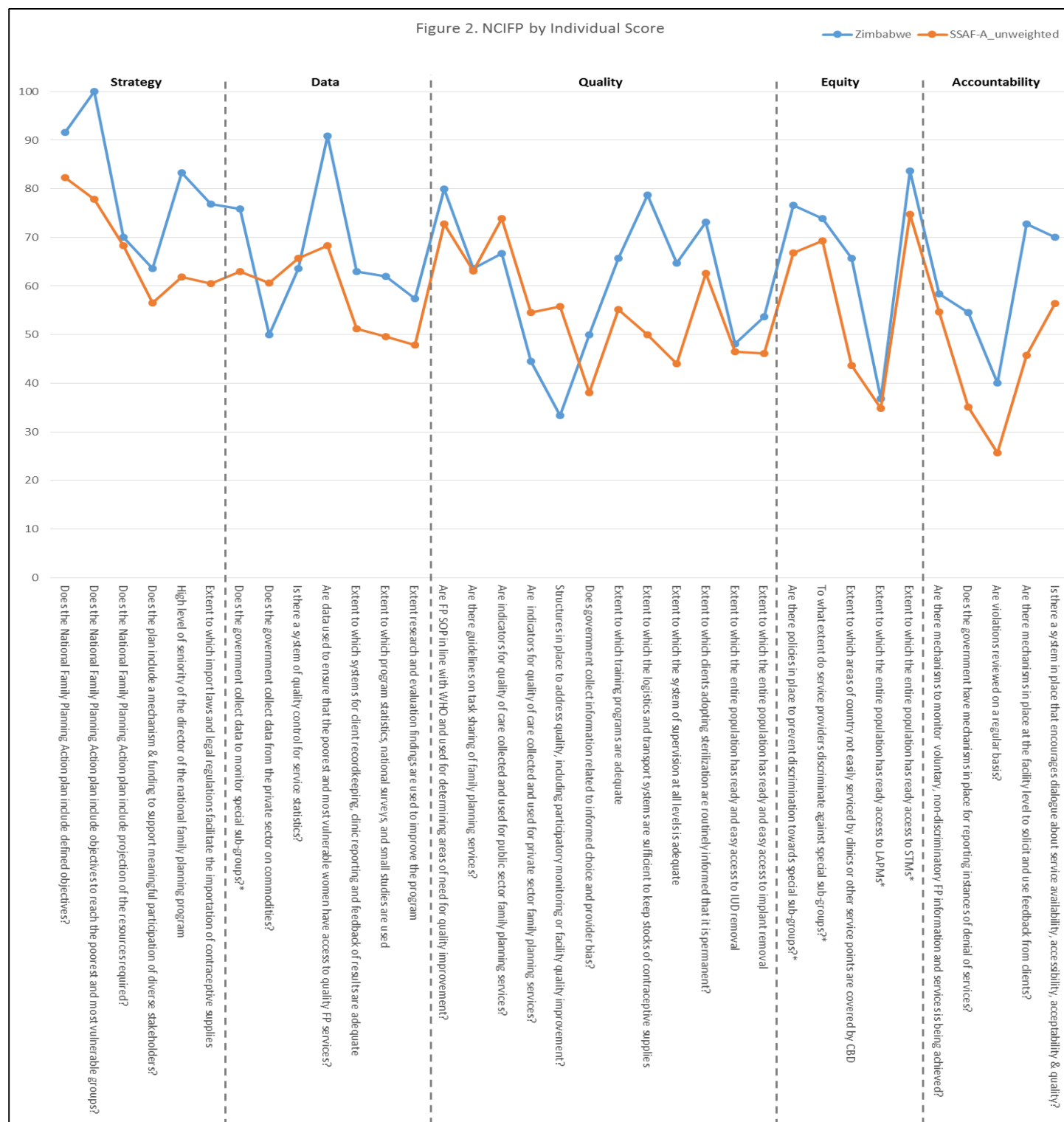
Although general patterns in scores tended to be similar, Zimbabwe out-scored the region across most items (Figure 2). The country's highest scores included 100 for its FP Strategy having objectives to reach the poorest and most vulnerable, and 90 for use of data to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable have access to FP services. The country's lowest scores (40 or below) were for questions regarding whether a) quality improvement structures such as participatory monitoring are in place, b) the entire population has easy access to LAPMs, and c) service delivery violations are reviewed regularly.

## Implications

At the Family Planning Summit in London in 2012, the Government of Zimbabwe pledged to increase contraceptive use and reduce unmet need for FP. Policy interventions include doubling the FP budget (which includes commodity procurement) to 3% of the total health budget; improving access for the poorest and most disadvantaged; removing user fees for FP services; improving the method



mix by increasing access to a wide range of methods including LAPMs in both private and public health facilities and ensuring dual protection to prevent unwanted pregnancies and STIs/HIV; strengthening the integration of FP with reproductive health, HIV and maternal health services; developing innovative service delivery models to meet adolescents' needs; strengthening public-private-civil society partnerships in providing community-based and outreach services; implementing a national FP awareness campaign; training health workers; and developing an FP research agenda and strengthening M&E. The 2014 NCIFP results show Zimbabwe scoring ahead of the region in several FP policy and program activities, but NCIFP scores also point to specific challenges and gaps, for discussion and appropriate action by the country's key stakeholders.



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