

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

Republic of the Congo 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.

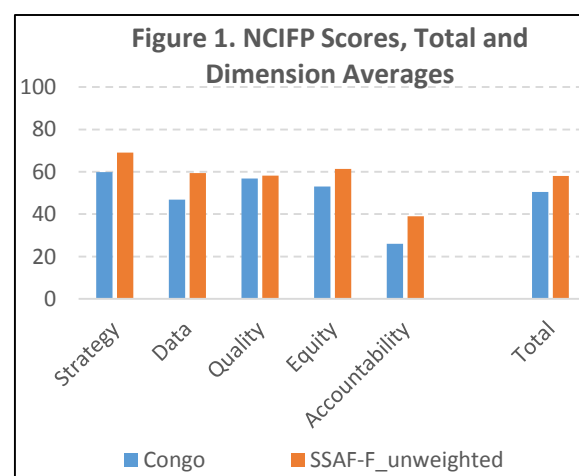
Accountability – whether there are 31) national, sub-national and facility-level mechanisms in place to monitor voluntary, non-discriminatory FP provision; 32-33) mechanisms to report denial of services in place and reviewed; 34) client feedback solicited, and 35) system in place to encourage dialogue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

The NCIFP builds on the long-standing *National Family Planning Effort Index* (FPE). In 2014, the two questionnaires 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 Congo results look like?

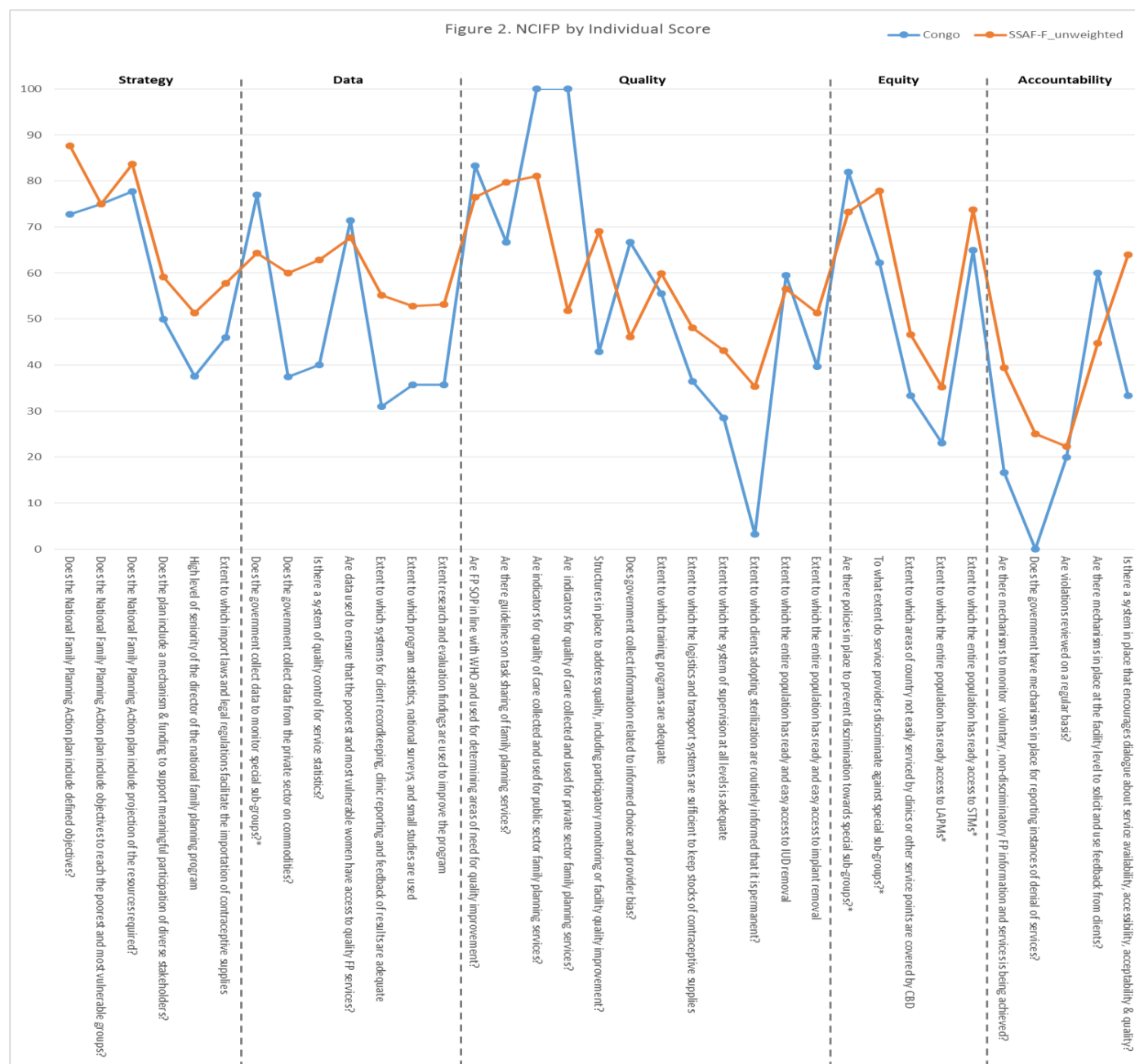
The country's total score was lower than the regional average for Franco-phone SSAF (50 vs 58, as shown in Figure 1). The Congo also scored lower than the region across the five NCIFP dimensions, although the difference was not significant in the case of Quality.

The general patterns of individual item scores are similar for the Congo and Francophone SSAF (Figure 2), indicating similarities in what program areas are achieving more strongly, and, less well, although the country's ratings for individual items were often lower than corresponding regional averages. Perfect scores (meaning all respondents said "yes") were given to the Congo for Quality items regarding collection and use of public and private sector FP quality of care indicators, but low ratings dominated, including on whether acceptors are informed about the permanence of sterilization, supervision and logistics systems are adequate, and structures such as participatory monitoring exist to address quality of services. The Congo also received very low scores for Accountability; notable challenges include whether mechanisms exist for reporting denial of services on non-medical grounds, to monitor voluntariness and non-discrimination in FP services, and to review violations regularly. Most Data and Equity items also earned low scores.



Implications

The Republic of the Congo faces many socioeconomic challenges as a result of years of political turmoil. The NCIFP results indicate various activities in the area of family planning that the country's leaders from the government and non-government sectors can discuss and decide on which are the most critical to support health and development efforts. FP experts of the country can help using data from the Congo and other countries in the region to demonstrate the benefits of a government-supported family planning program. There are also good examples from other developing countries on what activities make FP programs accessible and effective, which the country can adapt and utilize in conjunction with local and international partners.



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

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