

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

Togo 2017 Scores and 2014-2017 Trendsⁱ

What is the NCIFP?

A tool that supports FP2020'sⁱⁱ efforts to improve the policy environment for family planning (FP), the NCIFP provides information on FP program activities that are not readily available in national demographic or reproductive health surveys or service statistics systems.

The NCIFP measures the existence of FP policies and program implementation based on 35 items that fall under five dimensions:

Strategy, Data, Quality, Equity, and Accountability.

Strategy – whether a national FP strategy/plan exists that includes quantified objectives, targets to reach the poorest and most vulnerable, projected resource requirements, and support for wider stakeholder participation. Also included are two items that affect strategy implementation: high-level leadership and regulations that facilitate contraceptive importation or production.

Data – whether the government collects/uses data on special sub-groups (e.g. the poor) and their access, private sector commodities, and the quality of service statistics. It also includes data-based evaluation and research to improve the program.

Quality – whether the government uses WHO standards of practice (SOP), task-sharing guidelines, and quality of care indicators in public and private facilities. Quality of care (QOC) also considers the adequacy of structures for training, logistics, supervision, IUD and implant removal, and informed choice, including informing clients on the permanence of sterilization.

Accountability – whether mechanisms exist to monitor discrimination and free choice, review violations, report denial of services, enable facility-level feedback, and encourage communication between clients and providers.

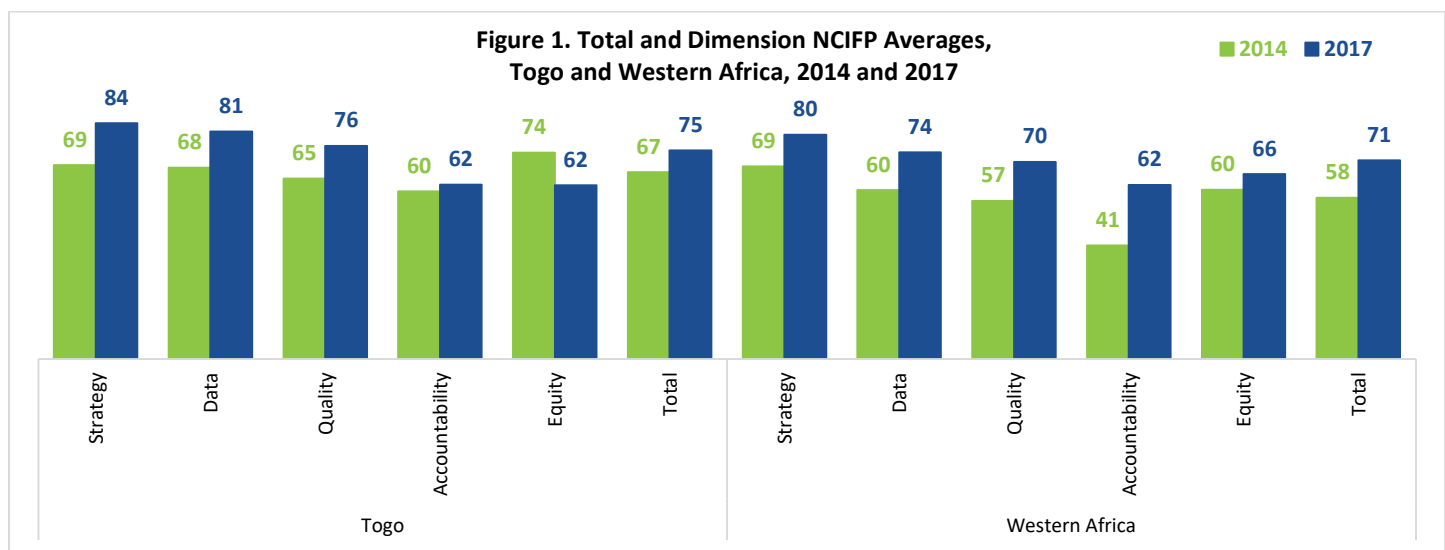
Equity – whether anti-discrimination policies exist, providers discriminate against special groups, the population has easy access to modern contraceptive methods (referring to STMs meaning short-term methods, or LAPMs meaning long-acting and permanent methods), and services are provided to underserved areas through community-based distribution (CBD).

First undertaken in 2014, the NCIFP builds on the long-standing National Family Planning Effort Index (FPE). In 2017 Avenir Health's Track20 project (funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to assist countries participating in the FP2020 Global Initiative) administered a new round of NCIFPs to assess current national FP program status and changes since 2014.

Togo vs Western Africa Results

Figure 1 shows the total NCIFP scores of Togo and the Western Africa region increasing from 2014 to 2017, with Togo rated higher than the region in both years. Except for Togo's Equity rating, dimension averages for both areas improved from 2014 to 2017.

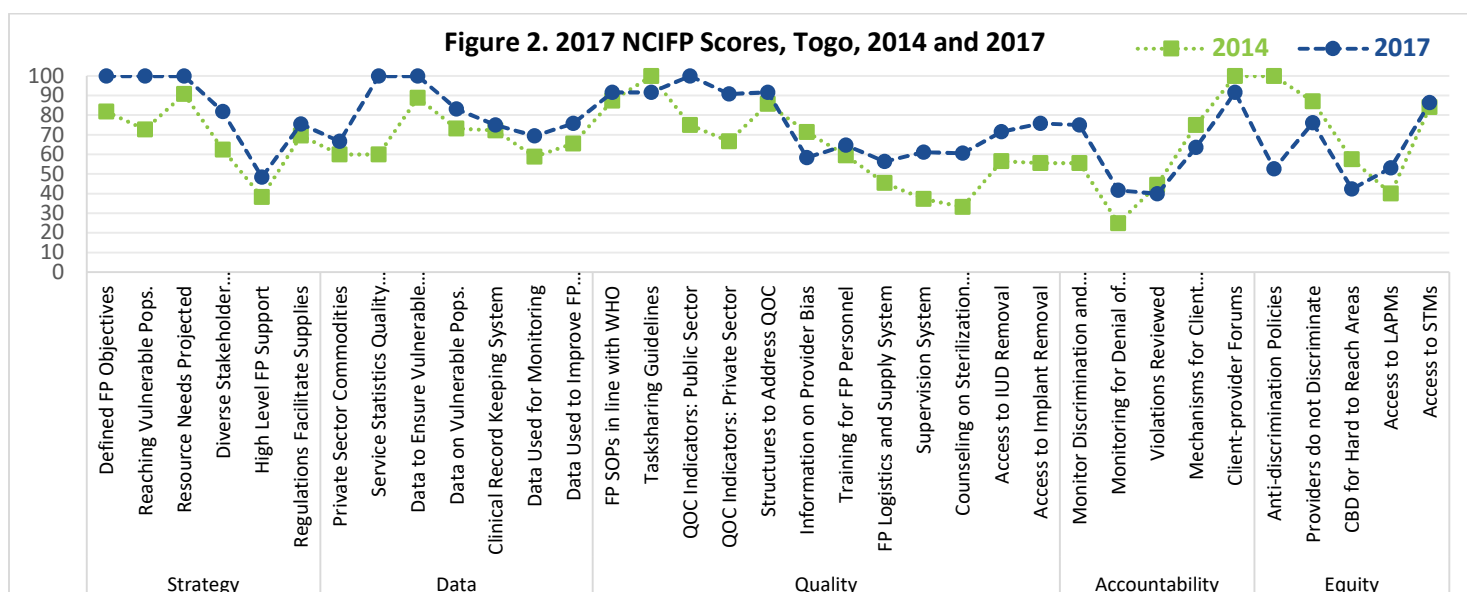
- Equity was the highest rated dimension for the country in 2014. Togo's Strategy average rose from 69 in 2014 to 84 in 2017, making it the highest rated dimension. Strategy was the highest rated dimension in the area for both years.
- Although its score improved, Accountability persisted as Western Africa's lowest rated in both years. In Togo's case, Accountability averaged the least in 2014 (60) and only slightly improved to 62 in 2017. The Equity dimension scored 74 in 2014 but dropped to 62 in 2017, and together with Accountability, became Togo's lowest rated for the year.



Individual 2014 and 2017 NCIFP Scores

Ratings of individual NCIFP items over time indicate which FP program activities are progressing, stagnating, or deteriorating. Figure 2 shows that from 2014 to 2017, Togo's scores improved for most items under Strategy, Data, and Quality. The country had ratings over 80 for 14 items in 2017 (including six with perfect marks). However, scores declined for several items under Accountability and Equity.

- **Strategy** – All items scored higher in 2017: 100 for the strategy’s defined objectives, target groups, and resource needs; 82 for diverse participation; 76 for regulations facilitating contraceptive imports; and 48 for high-level program leadership.
- **Data** - All items were rated higher in 2017, with perfect scores for the use of data to ensure the most vulnerable have access and the quality control system for service statistics; 83 for population subgroups data; 70s for clinic recordkeeping and use of research findings to improve the program; and upper 60s for data on private sector commodities and data-based monitoring.
- **Quality** – Higher scores prevailed for most items in 2017: 100 for QOC indicators in public facilities; 90s for using WHO SOPs, QOC indicators in private facilities, and community/clinic QOC structures; 70s for access to IUD and implant removal; 60s for the training and supervision systems, and sterilization counseling; and 56 for logistics. The ratings for two items declined: the use of tasksharing guidelines (from 100 in 2014 to 92 in 2017) and provider bias monitoring (from 71 to 58).
- **Accountability** –2017 scores improved for discrimination and free choice monitoring (75) and denial of services (42) but declined for client-provider dialogue (92), facility-level client feedback (64) and violations review (40).
- **Equity** –The ratings for access to STMs stayed in the mid-80s while those for LAPM access rose from 40 to 53. The three remaining items had scores that largely declined from 2014 to 2017, including policies to prevent discrimination (from 100 to 53), providers not discriminating against certain population groups (from 87 to 76) and CBD coverage (from 58 to 42).



Implications

A member of the Ouagadougou Partnership, Togo committed to the Global FP2020 Partnership in 2012 and pledged to increase FP use by improving access in isolated areas and among marginalized groups and adolescents; funding for contraceptive procurement; integrating FP into health services; recruiting and training qualified personnel; strengthening the supply chain, evaluating CBD; reinforcing results-based mechanisms for coordination, monitoring, and evaluation; and firming-up FP communication.ⁱⁱⁱ In 2017, Togo updated its FP2020 commitment and aims to develop a new FP acceleration plan to increase modern contraceptive use among women in union from 23% in 2017 to 35.5% in 2022; gradually increase the annual state budget for contraceptive purchase; implement comprehensive sex education for youths/adolescents in all schools; and reduce contraceptive stock-outs by 50%. As FP2020 reports noted, Togo has progressed despite limitations in domestic financing. Togo is also scaling up innovative strategies, expanding method choice, developing a national scale-up plan for postpartum and post-abortion FP, and using a “Motion Tracker” to monitor progress.

Togo’s many high NCIFP scores attest to the country’s efforts to strengthen the national FP program, particularly in firming up key elements of the national strategy, developing data systems, using QOC protocols and indicators in the public sector, encouraging private sector involvement, training, and improving access to IUD or implant removal. The NCIFP results also specify several items with significant decline in ratings or continuing very low scores: high-level FP program leadership, mechanisms to monitor violations and to report denial of services based on non-medical grounds, policies to prevent discrimination, CBD coverage of underserved areas and groups, and access to LAPMs. These challenges are for the country’s stakeholders to discuss, identify underlying causes, and agree on appropriate action to build support for the national program and ensure achievement of the Togo’s FP, health, and development goals.

ⁱ Suggested citation: Avenir Health Track20. “The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP): TOGO 2017 Scores and 2014-2017 Trends”. 2017 NCIFP Policy Brief Series (2019)

ⁱⁱ FP2020 is a global initiative through which governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, donors, the private sector, and the research and development community work together to enable more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. For more info on FP2020, visit <http://www.familyplanning2020.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.familyplanning2020.org/togo>