

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

HONDURAS 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 about 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.

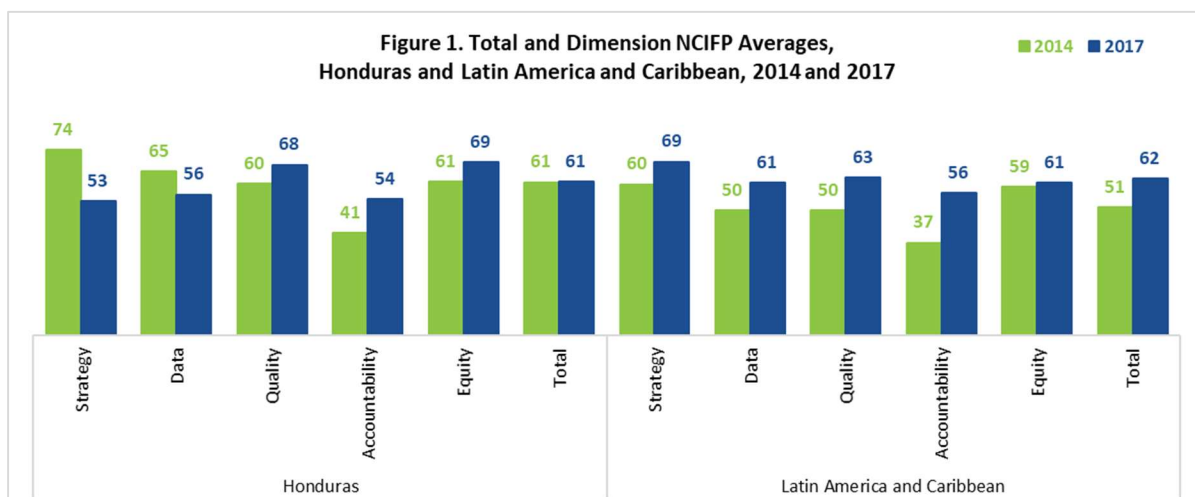
Equity - whether anti-discrimination policies exist, providers discriminate against special groups, the population has easy access to modern contraceptive methods (referring to STMs meaning short-term methods, or LAPMs meaning long-acting and permanent methods), and services are provided to underserved 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. NCIFP data are intended for policy and planning use by each country's FP stakeholders.

Honduras vs Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Results

Figure 1 shows Honduras' total NCIFP scores remaining the same in 2014 and 2017 compared to the region's improving total score. While the region averaged higher for all five dimensions in 2017, Honduras' scores for Strategy and Data declined.

- Honduras's highest rated dimension was Strategy in 2014 but Equity and Quality became its highest rated in 2017. The region's highest rated dimensions were Strategy and Equity in 2014 and Strategy alone in 2017.
- Accountability averaged the lowest in both areas in 2014. Although the dimension's ratings improved in both areas in 2017, it was the region's lowest ranked while Strategy became the lowest for Honduras (in a near tie with Accountability).

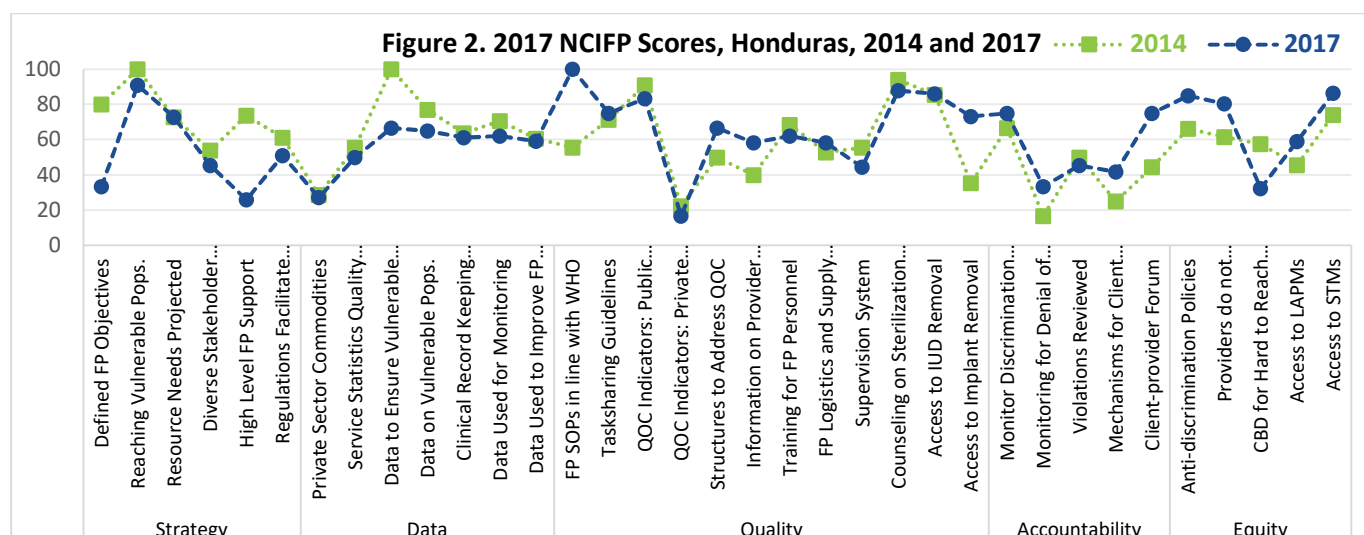


Individual NCIFP Trends, 2014 and 2017

Ratings of individual NCIFP items over time indicate which FP program activities are progressing, stagnant, or deteriorating. Figure 2 shows Honduras's scores in 2017 improved for over 12 items, declined for nearly 15 items, and hardly changed for the rest.

- Strategy** – While the score stayed at 73 for estimated resource needs, 2017 scores declined for all other items: the strategy's focus on vulnerable groups (91), regulations for contraceptive importation (51) and diverse participation (45), strategy's objectives (33) and high-level support (26).

- **Data** – 2017 ratings were either lower or stagnant: use of data to ensure the most vulnerable have access (67), service statistics quality control (50), data collection on population sub-groups (65), clinic recordkeeping/feedback (61), data-based monitoring (62), use of research findings to improve the program (59) and data collection on private sector commodities (27)
- **Quality** – 2017 scores included 100 for the use of WHO SOPs; 80s for QOC indicators in public facilities, access to IUD removal, and sterilization counseling; 70s for the use of tasksharing guidelines and access to implant removal (the latter from only 35 in 2014); 60s for community/clinic structures to monitor QOC and training; upper 50s for logistics and provider bias monitoring; but only 44 for supervision and 17 regarding the use of QOC indicators in private facilities (the lowest of all 35 NCIFP items).
- **Accountability** – Discrimination and free choice monitoring and client-provider dialogue scored 75 in 2017 compared to ratings only in the 40s for violation review and facility-level client feedback and 33 for mechanisms for reporting denial of services.
- **Equity** – The score for CBD coverage fell from 58 to 32, while ratings rose for all other items, including 80s for STM access, anti-discrimination policies, and lack of provider discrimination of certain population group; and 59 for LAPM access.



Implications

Honduras has a total population of about 8.5 million of which about 9% are indigenous and Afro-descendants. More than half of Hondurans are younger than 25. A majority of the population live below the poverty line; economic inequality persists and the most disadvantaged are Afro-descendants and indigenous communities. National long-term development plans aim to reduce inequalities and promote human development. Policy efforts to strengthen the legal framework to improve access to reproductive health services include plans to prevent adolescent pregnancies, strengthen social protection, ensure health commodities, and support FP. Sexual and reproductive health indicators are improving. From 2006 to 2012, the fertility rate fell from 3.3 to 2.9 births per woman. Modern contraceptive use among married women increased from 56 to 64%, although modern contraceptive use among all women is still about 44%ⁱⁱⁱ. The maternal mortality ratio has also declined. Fertility rates, however, remain high among adolescents, the poorest, indigenous groups, and rural inhabitants. FP access remains a problem; 71% of health units experienced contraceptive stock-outs in 2014, an increase from 48% in 2013. UNFPA reports also noted that despite increasing statistical data on socio-demographic variables, more robust data gathering, analysis and dissemination are needed to address persistent disparities.^{iv}

Honduras has high NCIFP scores for its efforts to reach vulnerable groups, improve the quality of FP services (especially in the use of WHO SOPs and QOC indicators in public facilities, sterilization counseling, and access to IUD and implant removal), and prevent discrimination against vulnerable groups. The NCIFP results, however, also point out several FP program activities with scores that significantly declined or continued to have ratings only in the 40s or even lower, including the following: whether the FP strategy has well-defined and quantifiable objectives and high-level leadership; data issues particularly the use of information to ensure the most vulnerable have access and government collection of data on private sector commodities; quality issues involving the supervision system and the use of QOC indicators in private facilities; accountability mechanisms to review of violations, solicit client feedback at the facility-level, and report denial of services based on non-medical grounds; and CBD coverage of underserved areas and populations. These FP program challenges are for the country stakeholders to consider as they plan and implement efforts to ensure accessible, high-quality services and reach the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

ⁱ Suggested citation: Avenir Health Track20. "The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP): HONDURAS 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. (See: <https://www.familyplanning2020.org/>)

ⁱⁱⁱ Track20 estimate prepared for FP2020.

^{iv} <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/portal-document/N1620757.pdf>