

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

Myanmar 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.

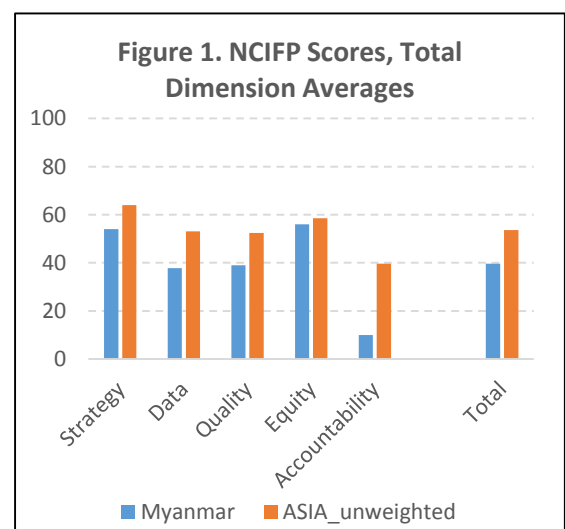
The NCIFP builds on the long-standing *National Family Planning Effort Index* (FPE). In 2014, questionnaires for the two indices were fielded jointly in 90 countries by the Health Policy Project (implemented by Palladium with USAID funding) and Avenir Health's Track20 project (funded by the Bill and 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 Myanmar results look like?

Myanmar's total score was much lower than the average for Asia (40 vs 54, as shown in Figure 1). Myanmar also scored lower than the region across all five NCIFP dimensions, with the largest difference notable for Accountability.

The ratings that Myanmar and the region obtained for about half of all NCIFP items follow the same direction, indicating similarities in which FP activities are moving well or are problematic (Figure 2). But the two areas starkly differ in how scores ranged: Asia's ratings went from 25 to 80 while Myanmar's were in the 0 to 90 range. Myanmar's highest scores were for its national FP action plan having defined objectives and projections of required resources. Other high scores include under Quality, for WHO-based standards, acceptors routinely informed about sterilization being permanent, and government use of indicators on quality of care in public sector FP services; under Data for the service statistics system, and under Equity for anti-discrimination policies.

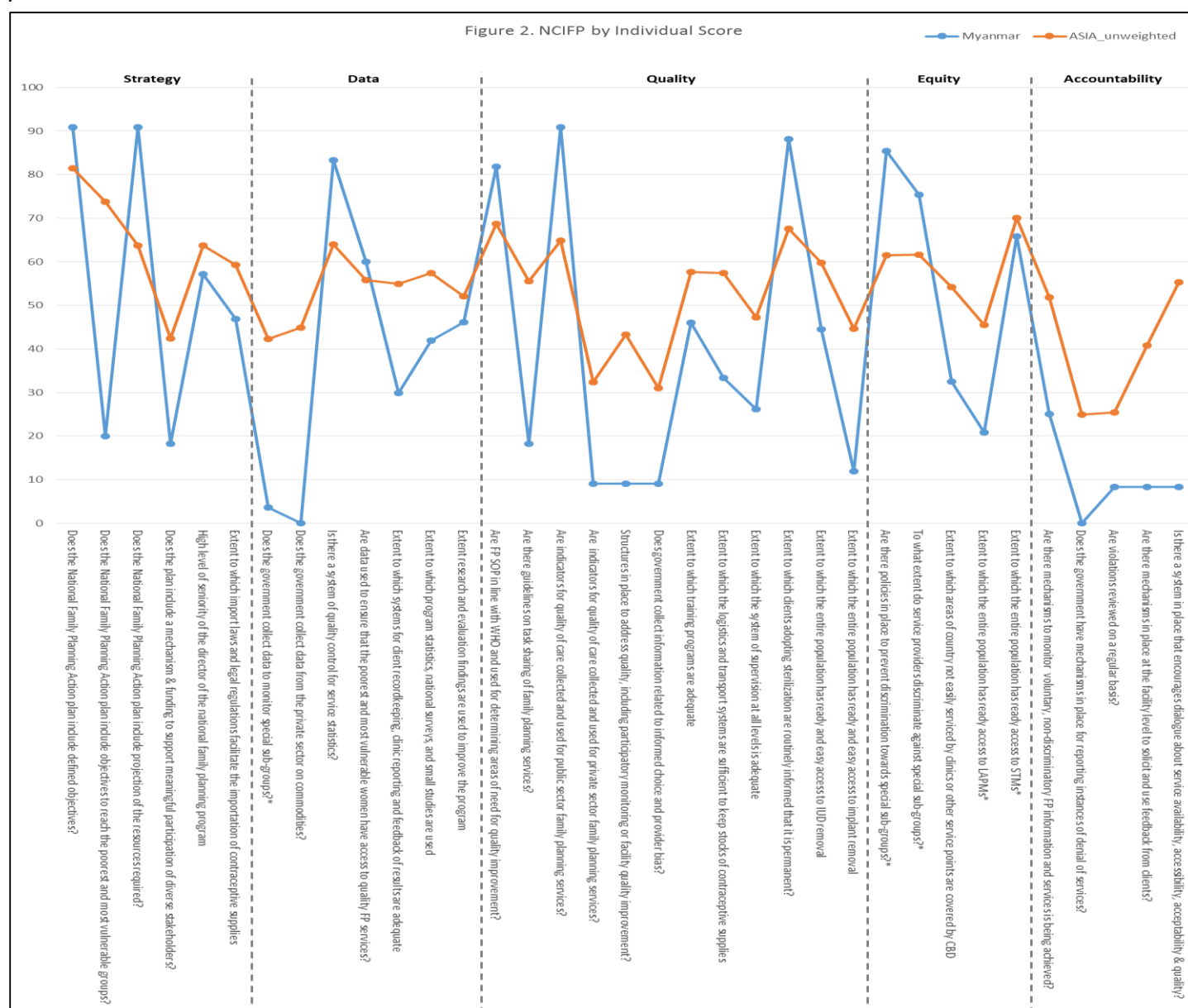
Country ratings below 30 can be noted for the following: under Strategy, on whether the action plan has objectives to reach special groups and a mechanism to support stakeholder participation; under Data on whether the government collects information on private sector commodities and uses data to monitor special subgroups; under Quality, on government use of indicators on private sector quality of care, collection of information on informed choice or provider bias, structures to address quality, and training system adequacy; under Equity on LAPM access, and under Accountability on the existence of mechanisms for reporting denial of services, review of violations, and client feedback or provider-client dialogues.



Implications

In pledging to FP2020 in November 2013, the Government of Myanmar declared that FP is critical in saving lives and access to FP , services is a fundamental right. The country aims to increase contraceptive use from 41% to 50% in 2015 and over 60% by 2020, reduce unmet need, and increase LAPM use. Interventions include strengthening the provision of clinical methods through skilled health workers and volunteers; expand service delivery through partnerships with the private sector, civil society groups and other development partners; implement policies that address regional, urban-rural, and economic disparities; expand the FP forum under the Health Sector Coordinating Committee and create an FP Working Group as a branch of the Maternal Newborn and Child Health Technical Strategic Group; increase the health budget to cover almost 30 million couples by 2020, undertake results-based management for effective fund flow; work for reproductive health commodity security; implement a monitoring system to strengthen quality of care and choice; develop a five-year reproductive health strategic plan through a consultative process, and address regional inequalities.

The 2014 NCIFP data collection took place in Myanmar only a few months after the government made its FP2020 commitments. The NCIFP data provide valuable information for the country to consider as it firms up national FP policies, plans, and programs intended to improve access to high quality FP services. The NCIFP results also provide leads on important data for monitoring and evaluation.



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

Suggested citation: Avenir Health. 2016. The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP): Myanmar 2014 Results. Track20 NCIFP Policy Brief Series.

