

# The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

## Ghana 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.

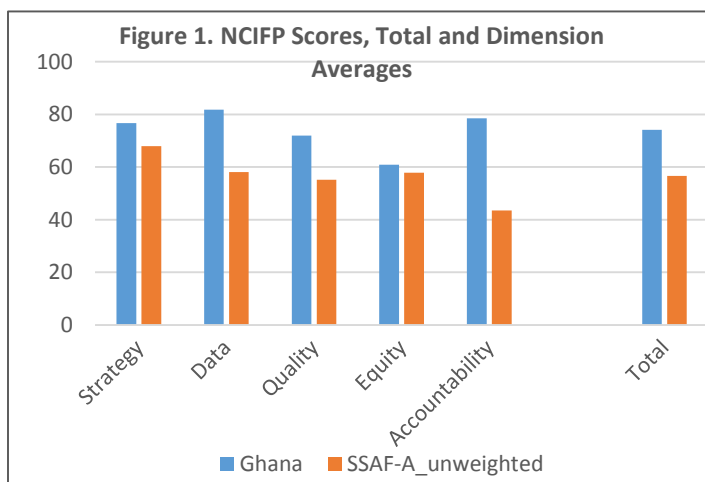
**Accountability** – whether there are 31) national, sub-national and facility-level mechanisms in place to monitor voluntary, non-discriminatory FP provision; 32-33) mechanisms to report denial of services in place and reviewed; 34) client feedback solicited, and 35) system in place to encourage dialogue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

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

Ghana's total NCIFP score was much higher than that of the Anglophone SSAF region (74% vis-a-vis 57% as shown in Figure 1). The country also averaged higher than the region across all five NCFIP dimensions, and most notably for Accountability.

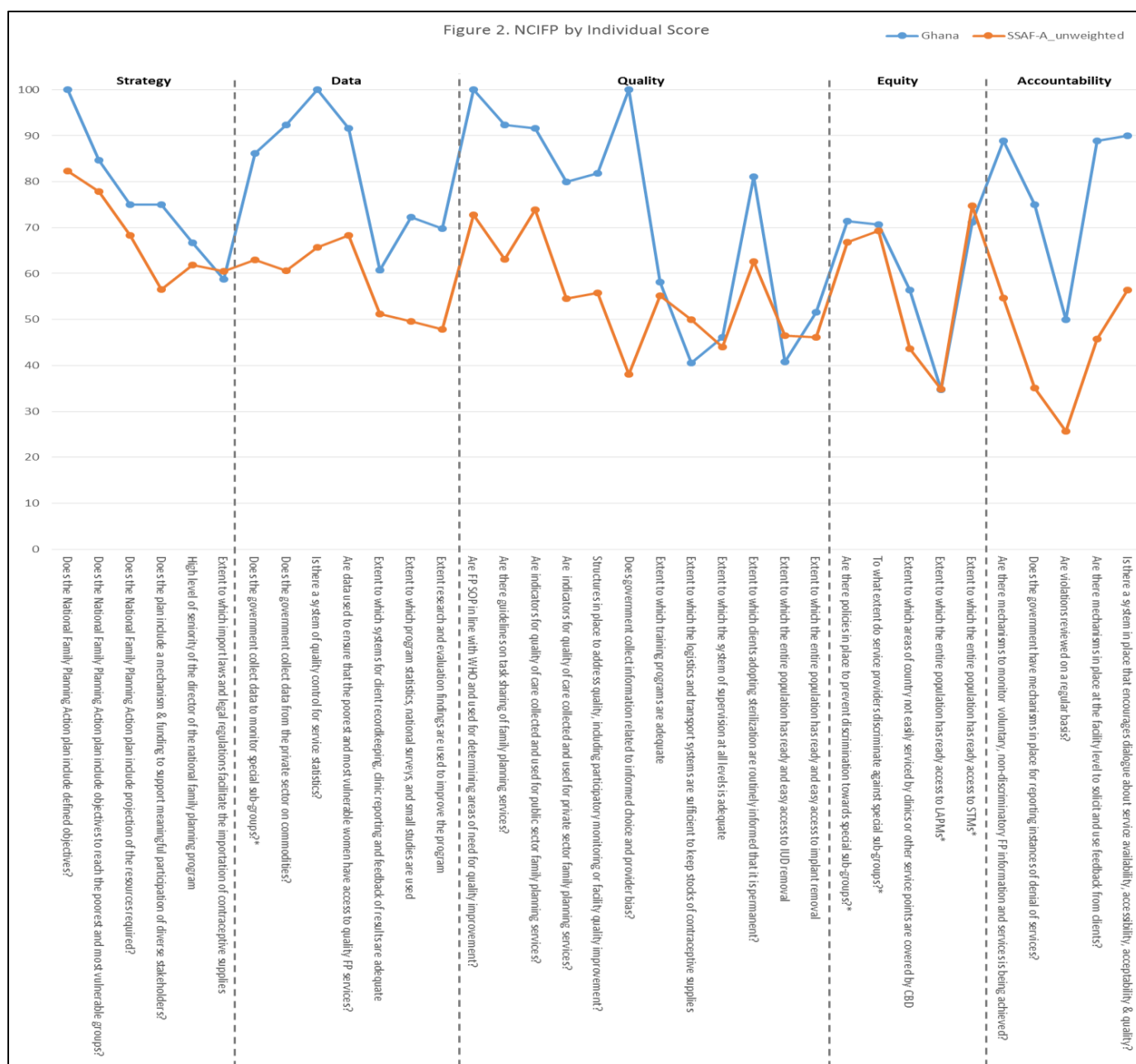
The country's scores for individual NCIFP items (Figure 2) follows the regional pattern, even though Ghana's ratings for most questions are often higher. The country even scored a 100 percent for having 4 key items: a national FP action plan with defined objectives and quantitative targets, a service statistics quality control system, use of WHO-based guidelines to identify quality of care issues, and structures in place such as participatory monitoring to address quality concerns. But there are also items where Ghana fell below the regional average: adequacy of the training program and access to IUD removal. Despite many items rated in the 70s or higher, Ghana scored 60 or lower for the extent to which policies facilitate contraceptive importation, adequacy of Quality of care support systems (e.g.



client record-keeping and feedback, contraceptives logistics, supervision, data collection on informed choice and provider bias), and whether the population has ready access to LAPMs.

## Implications

The NCIFP provides qualitative information on how a country stands regarding factors that help make FP programs effective and widely supported: Strategy, Equity, Quality, Data and Accountability systems. During the FP2020 Summit in 2012, the government of Ghana committed to increasing modern FP by making FP free in the public sector, supporting the private sector, providing adolescent-friendly services to sexually active youths, giving priority to improved counseling and customer care, task shifting and improving post-partum and post-abortion FP services. The government also pledged to expand contraceptive choices to include LAPM. Ghana also pledged to implement fully its MDG 5 Acceleration Framework (the MAF Plan) which includes various Quality and Equity-focused interventions. Ghana also pledged to increase funding for the Plan and for contraceptive purchase. Ghana's very high scores in many NCIFP items attest to the government's efforts to implement the MAF. The NCIFP results also point to various issues for discussion and appropriate action by Ghana'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)