

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP) Mauritania 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.

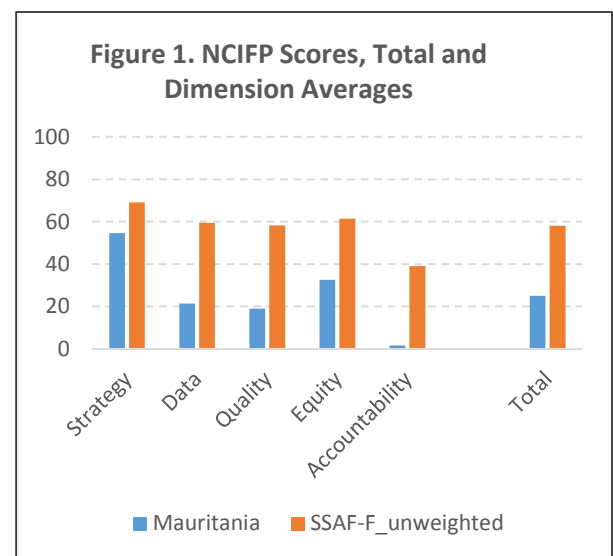
Accountability – whether there are 31) national, sub-national and facility-level mechanisms in place to monitor voluntary, non-discriminatory FP provision; 32-33) mechanisms to report denial of services in place and reviewed; 34) client feedback solicited, and 35) system in place to encourage dialogue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

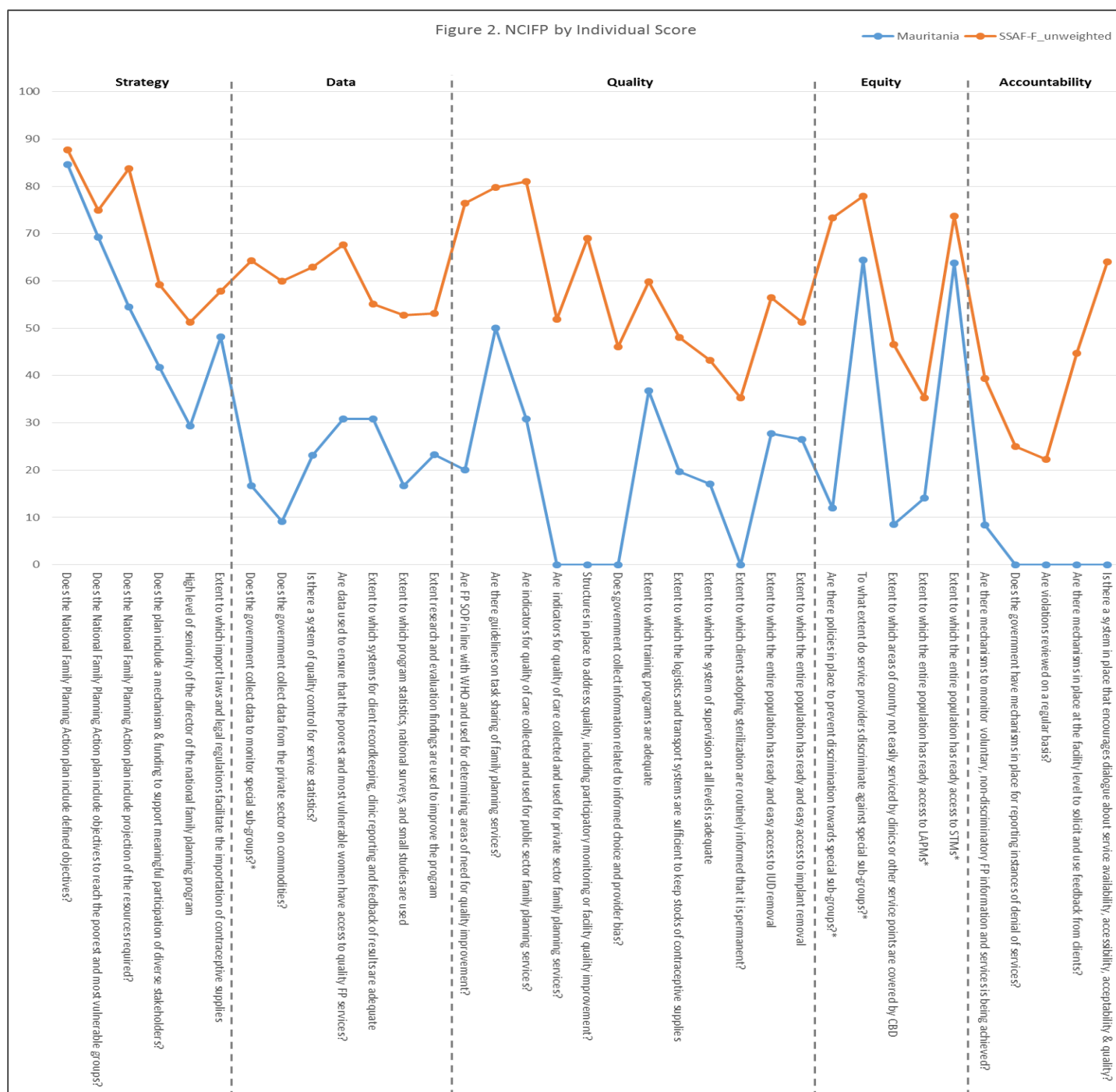
The NCIFP builds on the long-standing *National Family Planning Effort Index* (FPE). In 2014, questionnaires of the two indices were fielded jointly in 90 countries by the Health Policy Project (implemented by Palladium with USAID funding) and Avenir Health (with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates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

Mauritania's total NCIFP score is very low, amounting to less than half the Francophone SSAF average (25 vs 58, as shown in Figure 1). The country's scores for the five NCIFP dimensions are also much lower than those of the region, most notably for Accountability, Quality and Data.

When individual items are considered, Figure 2 shows that general patterns of individual item scores are somewhat similar for Mauritania and Francophone Africa. However, Mauritania's ratings consistently fall below corresponding regional averages. The country's highest scores were for the national FP Action Plan having defined objectives over a 5 to 10-year period (85) and for Equity issues indicating non-discrimination against special sub-groups and population's easy access to short-term contraceptives (scores in the 60s). But Mauritania's low NCIFP scores included 0 (meaning all FP experts who were interviewed said 'no') on all Accountability issues except for the item on whether mechanisms exist to monitor achievement of voluntary, non-discriminatory FP services (which scored below 10). Mauritania also scored 0 for Quality questions on whether quality of care indicators on private sector FP services are collected/used, whether structures such as participatory monitoring exist to address facility quality improvement, and if the government collects information on informed choice and provider bias.





Implications

During the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning, the Government of Mauritania pledged to support FP2020 by increasing the national modern contraceptive prevalence rate from 11% to 18.5 percent by 2018, an objective that builds on the country's commitment to the Ouagadougou Partnership. The Government also pledged to allocate health commodity security funds for family planning and mobilize additional resources to implement the National FP Action Plan, 2014-2018 that was developed in 2013 through a participatory process. The Plan outlines Mauritania's priorities and serves as a framework for partnership and resource mobilization. Mauritania's NCIFP results provide information that can be used by the country's stakeholders to track progress in implementing the Action Plan as well as identify challenges and develop appropriate responses to improve the policy environment for FP as well as develop mechanisms to improve access, quality of care, equity and accountability.

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