

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

Cameroon 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.

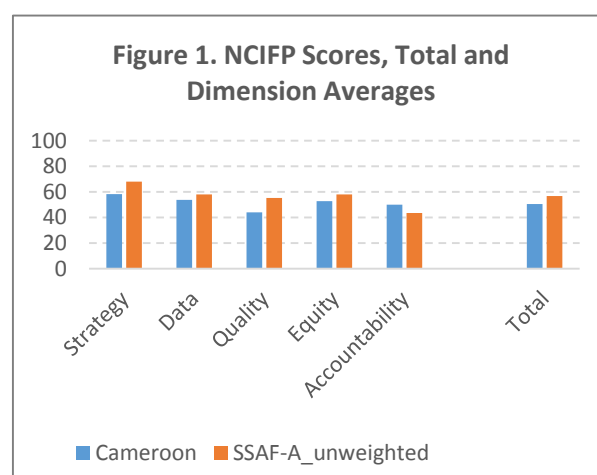
Accountability – whether there are 31) national, sub-national and facility-level mechanisms in place to monitor voluntary, non-discriminatory FP provision; 32-33) mechanisms to report denial of services in place and reviewed; 34) client feedback solicited, and 35) system in place to encourage dialogue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

The NCIFP builds on the long-standing *National Family Planning Effort Index* (FPE). In 2014, FPE and NCIFP questionnaires were fielded jointly in 90 countries by the Health Policy Project (implemented by Palladium with USAID funding), and Track20 (implemented by Avenir Health with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funding). The NCIFP allows qualitative assessments of FP programs and can stimulate dialogue among stakeholders about the state of FP programs regarding the five dimensions.

What do the Cameroon results look like?

Overall, Cameroon scored lower than the average for Anglophone SSAF region (51 v 57, as shown in Figure 1). Cameroon also scored lower than the regional average across all NCIFP dimensions except Accountability.

Cameroon's scores for individual items (Figure 2) vary substantially from the regional pattern. Cameroon's highest scores went to collection and use of quality of care indicators for public sector FP services, the national FP Action Plan having objectives to reach the poorest and most vulnerable, and three Data items (government collection of data to monitor special sub-groups, private sector commodities, and use of data to ensure target groups have access to quality FP information and services). It should be noted that Cameroon's scores for the five items mentioned above were notably higher than corresponding regional item scores. Cameroon, however, scored much lower than the region in terms of most of the other NCIFP items. The country averaged 30 or lower for two Quality questions (whether FP SOP are in line with WHO and used for determining areas needing quality improvement, and whether structures are in place to address quality issues), for the Strategy item on seniority level of the national FP program director, and for the Data item on adequacy of systems for client recordkeeping, clinic reporting and feedback.





Implications

In 2014, the Government of Cameroon committed to the Global FP2020 Initiative by pledging to allocate a budget line item for contraceptive purchase; advocate for State budgetary allocation for reproductive health (RH) and FP to increase to 5% per year by 2020; establish a mechanism to subsidize FP services for the most vulnerable including adolescents; strengthen multi- sectoral commitment to FP; disseminate RH/FP framework documents; implement priority interventions including modern methods in community outreach; ensure wider contraceptive choices and quality services, and ensuring the government's and its partners' accountability for funding family planning. Cameroon's commitments are significant and require various data to assess progress. The NCIFP provides qualitative information that the country can use to monitor and evaluate how it stands regarding factors - Strategy, Equity, Quality, Data and Accountability systems - that help make FP programs effective and widely supported. Cameroon's 2014 NCIFP scores indicate many challenges affecting the national FP program for FP stakeholders to discuss and decide on appropriate responses.

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

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