



GLOBAL MEASUREMENT UPDATE

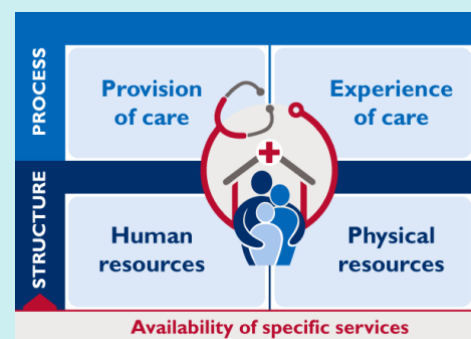
Overview of the Service Provision Assessment (SPA)

THE SERVICE PROVISION ASSESSMENT (SPA) is a health facility survey that assesses availability and quality of care across a country. SPA data can inform program, policy, and budgeting processes. In 2022, the Demographic and Health Surveys Program revised the SPA based on recommendations from global technical partners to provide more programmatically relevant data to increase uptake and local adaptation of the survey, thus promoting data use. SPA datasets are made globally [available](#) for use.

WHAT DOES THE SPA INCLUDE?

The [SPA](#) captures data around a Quality of Care (QoC) Framework with two main components: **structure** (service *readiness*) and **process** (service *provision*). The SPA collects standardized quality of care measures across a broad set of content areas, with a focus on service readiness, service provision, and healthcare workers' competencies. These measures can be used for systems and project monitoring. The revised SPA also offers improved metrics on the experience of care, measures of providers' experience in the workplace, and newborn resuscitation skills assessment using simulation. A modified sampling approach allows for calculating effective coverage estimates and sampling weights. Table 1 shows the five main questionnaires SPA uses to assess services and skills across topics.

SPA's Quality of Care Framework





SPA Complements HMIS Data with:

- Large set of standardized QoC indicators
- Client and healthcare worker experience indicators
- Client and healthcare worker characteristics
- Disaggregated data
- High-quality data

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SPA?

The [SPA](#) can contribute to a multifaceted picture of the health system's ability to provide quality care by assessing the inputs and processes of care at the facility level. The survey captures data from multiple perspectives on infrastructure, human resources, and clinical interactions, with greater emphasis on provider and client's experience of care. The [SPA quality of care data](#) complement existing HMIS (health management information system) data to provide a more nuanced understanding of quality of care. It also captures information on healthcare worker gender, salaries, and experiences of abuse. The SPA tools emphasize data quality control and strengthening local entities' capacity to adapt and implement health facility surveys.

Table 1: Tools Used and Topics Assessed in the SPA

		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory Questionnaire Health Worker Interview Questionnaire Newborn Resuscitation Simulation Questionnaire NEW Observation protocols for antenatal care (ANC), family planning (FP), and sick child services Client Exit Interview Questionnaires for antenatal care, family planning, caretakers of sick children, and postpartum clients NEW 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Child Health* Antenatal Care* Delivery and Newborn Care* Family Planning* Malaria* Nutrition* Health System Strengthening * Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene* Emergency Preparedness NEW 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gender-Based Violence NEW HIV/AIDS Non-Communicable Diseases* Post-Abortion Care NEW Primary Health Care* Reproductive Cancers NEW Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Tuberculosis <p style="text-align: right;">* = Updated</p>

WHO SHOULD USE THE SPA, AND HOW CAN IT BE USED?

The main purpose of SPA is to inform program and policy decisions. Any new SPA survey should be accompanied by [plans for data dissemination and use](#). Key uses of SPA by stakeholder groups include:

- **NATIONAL POLICYMAKERS AND MANAGERS** can use SPA data to monitor and evaluate national strategic health plans, identify areas needing strengthening, and help with prioritizing budgetary resources.
- **SUBNATIONAL POLICYMAKERS AND MANAGERS** can use SPA results to identify focus areas and specific action points for quality improvement for specific health areas, including effective coverage of interventions.
- **DONORS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**, such as those working in the MOMENTUM suite, can use the SPA to identify areas of focus for capacity strengthening, quality improvement, and investment.
- **CIVIL SOCIETY** can use results from the SPA to support social accountability efforts and to inform advocacy efforts to improve the experience of care.
- The DHS Program is currently updating the SPA supporting tools and translating the materials into French.
- Additional modules are being considered, such as for small and sick newborns and obstetric emergencies.

Reference

The DHS Program. 2022. SPA Questionnaires and Manuals. ICF: Rockville, MD. Available at: <https://dhsprogram.com//publications/publication-SPAQ8-SPA-Questionnaires-and-Manuals.cfm>

Additional Information on SPA

- [Overview](#)
- [Methodology](#)
- [Quality of care](#)
- [Data availability and use](#)
- [Person-centered care](#)

For Further Information on The DHS Program and SPA:

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