

Service Provision Assessment (SPA) Surveys

What is the SPA? SPA surveys collect information from a country's formal sector health facilities. The SPA provides a comprehensive overview of the multiple components of health delivery systems. It also provides validation of self-reported information on service delivery, system functioning and data reporting. SPA surveys fill an urgent need for documenting gaps in services and monitoring health system strengthening efforts in developing countries.

SPA surveys include:

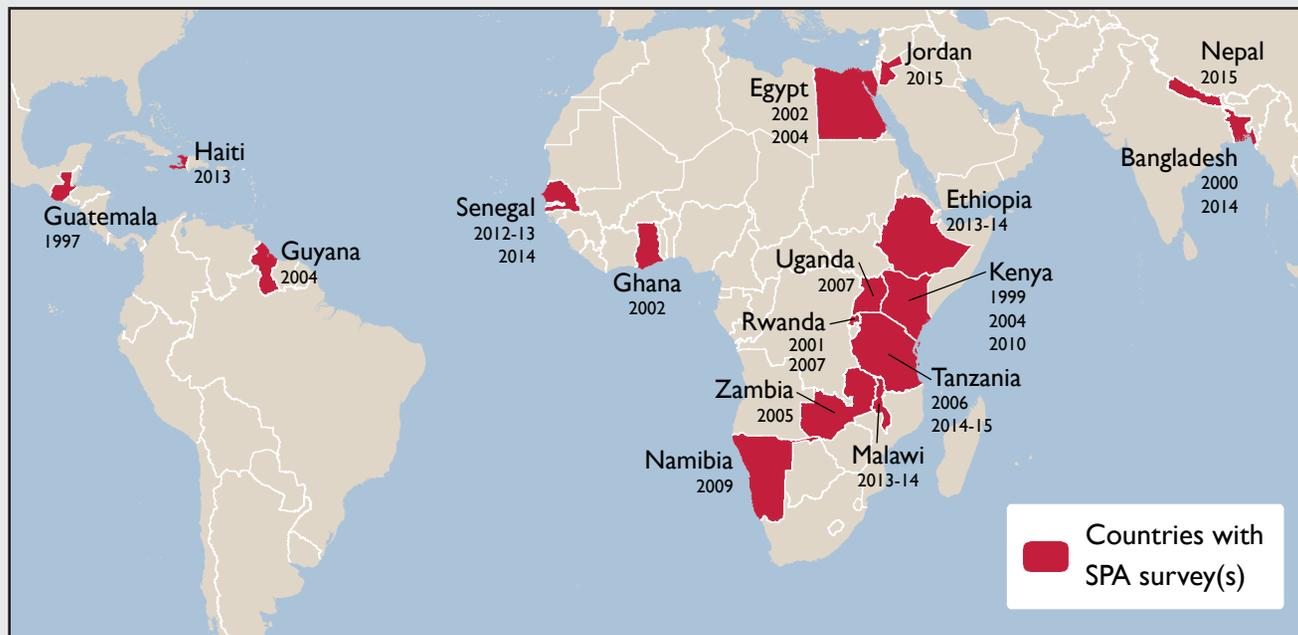
- Inventory of service availability, facility infrastructure, equipment and medicines
- Interviews with health care providers on their qualifications and recent in-service training
- Observations of client-provider interactions
- Exit interviews with clients whose consultations were observed

SPA questionnaires and reports were recently updated and revised in collaboration with international agencies. They provide information for the calculation of USAID and WHO service readiness indicators and Quality of Care indicators.



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Where have SPA Surveys been conducted?



How are SPA data used? Multiple organizations use SPA results to develop master facility lists, revise in-service training, modify facility service delivery options, and monitor performance.

After the 2012-13 SPA in Senegal, the Ministry of Health took the following actions:

- Equipped health huts (lowest level of health system) to provide injectable contraceptives
- Provided in-service training for health care providers on long-lasting family planning methods
- Ordered restocking of malaria diagnostic supplies and SP/Fansidar at all health service delivery sites

In Haiti, SPA data are being used by:

- The Ministry of Health as baseline indicators for program implementation and health system strengthening
- The Futures Group to create a geo-referenced electronic map of all health facilities with corresponding services
- The University Research Corporation for monitoring its health service delivery projects in North Haiti

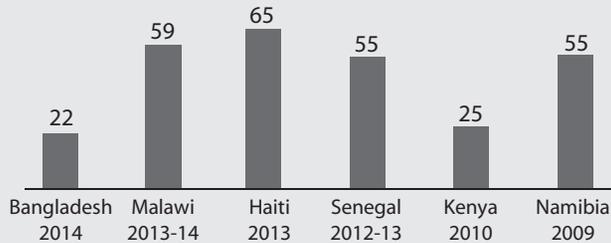
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Sample SPA Indicators

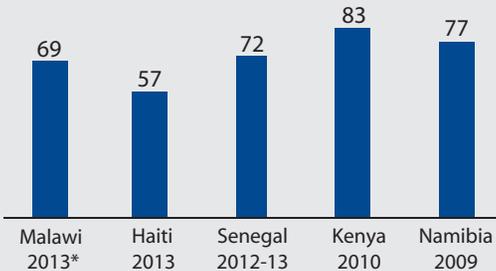
Regular Electricity Supply or Generator

Percent of facilities with electricity routinely available during service hours or a backup generator with fuel available on the day of the visit



Availability of Vaccines

Percent of facilities that have all 4 basic child vaccines (BCG, DPT/pentavalent, polio, and measles) among those offering child vaccination services



*includes 4 basic vaccines + pneumococcal and rotavirus

Family Planning Counseling

Percent of FP clients who reported that the provider counselled about side effects of the method used



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For additional information on the Service Provision Assessment Surveys, please contact

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Service Provision Assessment (SPA) Survey



The DHS Program

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All photos courtesy of Photoshare.

Cover photo: © 2013 Diana Mrazikova/ Networks/ A man leaves a health facility with a long-lasting insecticidal net for malaria prevention.