



About the Contraceptive Security Indicators Survey - History

The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT developed the CS Indicators in 2009 to help in-country and global aid program managers, advocates, and decision-makers to measure and track countries' progress in improving access to contraceptives, particularly for those areas requiring more focused interventions. The survey was conducted annually until 2016, when it was determined that a biennial (every two year) frequency would be best for tracking changes across these indicators. The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program – Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project took over responsibility for the survey in 2016 and has since launched two survey rounds – in 2017 and 2019.

The CS Indicators build off the Strategic Pathway for Reproductive Health Commodity Security (SPARHCS) framework as an approach to assess, identify, and prioritize reproductive health (RH) issues around the “7 Cs”: context, commitment, coordination, capital, capacity, commodities, and client demand and use. The CS Indicators were designed to complement the CS Index (collected every three years between 2003 and 2015), which is now collected and reported alongside the CS Indicators as a series of indicators called the Contextual Measures. These measures provide insight into a mix of higher-level indicators to help countries identify strengths and weaknesses across five components — financing, supply chain, utilization, access, and health and social environment. It has guided stakeholders in determining which countries are most in need, where to focus resources, and what type of assistance is needed. Data for the Contextual Measures and former CS Index are obtained from secondary sources to develop a composite index. When taken together, the two tools have enabled high-level and granular analyses of CS constituent elements and contributing factors in fixed locations and in trends over time and across countries.

Survey updates in 2017 and 2019

GHSC-PSM led the collection of the survey in 2017 and published the results in a report, raw dataset, and online dashboard. Changes to the survey in 2017 included the following:

- **Addition of two new sections:** Section F. Quality, which considers the ability of country pharmaceutical regulatory authorities to ensure the quality of contraceptive products, and Section G. Private Sector, which examines the extent of collaboration between the public and private sectors in ensuring contraceptive security. In addition, other questions throughout the survey have been modified or added to capture additional information related to private sector contributions to contraceptive security, including commercial or for-profit entities, nonprofit organizations, community groups, informal vendors, and private providers.
- **Data Source Standardization:** The survey tool now requires users to select from a drop-down list of common sources for up to two sources of data used. This feature is intended to increase the rigor of the data collected by: a) limiting the data collected to a selection of acceptable and common sources, b) increasing the reliability (consistency) of data collected

across countries, and c) controlling the quality of the data by documenting the source used for each response to allow for future data quality assessments.

- **Alignment with GHSC-PSM reporting:** Several CS indicators in the original survey tool were similar to indicators which GHSC-PSM reports on a quarterly or annual basis. To better align these similar indicators, some of the wording was modified and/or additional questions added to ensure that these data can be compared.

In 2019, GHSC-PSM together with USAID reviewed the survey tool and made updates throughout. These updates roughly fall into three categories: 1) small changes to indicator wording, response options, and/or accompanying definition explanations, in order to clarify interpretations and facilitate analysis, 2) the removal of indicators that had not proven useful (mainly from among those added in 2017), and 3) the addition of new indicators to delve further into several areas, including the procurement process, social marketing of FP products, training of providers, functionality of logistics management information systems, and most notably a number of updated questions in the quality and private sector sections to assess questions around product registration, the health of the market for FP product manufacturing and quality assurance, and plans for private sector engagement.