

MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEY MANUAL 2005

Monitoring the Situation of
Children and Women

DIVISION OF POLICY AND PLANNING



**MONITORING THE SITUATION OF
CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

**MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEY MANUAL
2005**

Division of Policy and Planning

United Nations Children's Fund

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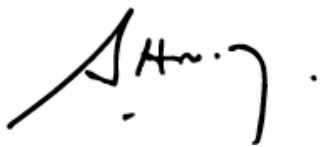
P R E F A C E

Achieving the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration, the World Fit for Children initiative and other international commitments is contingent on monitoring progress, using agreed-upon indicators which are comparable across countries and over time. In fulfilling this need, it is necessary that internationally comparable, yet nationally relevant household surveys be conducted, to serve both national and global level monitoring.

Household surveys are the most commonly used tools for collecting social data. During the last decade, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) have proved to be valuable and robust tools in filling gaps in data. The current round of MICS (MICS3) was designed to collect information on a large number of indicators required for monitoring the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration, the World Fit for Children Declaration and Plan of Action, the goals of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS and of the African Summit on Malaria. In response to this broader need, MICS3 covers a wider range of topics than those contained in previous rounds conducted in 1995 and 2000. With the increasing need to monitor and evaluate progress, MICS serves a very important purpose as a data collection tool at regular and timely intervals.

The third round of MICS surveys is the result of collaborative efforts and consultations with many other agencies, particularly United Nations agencies, national counterparts and other partners in development. These consultations ensure that the Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys are harmonized with other data collection efforts, and are able to produce relevant, internationally-comparable information - the cornerstone of evidence-based decision making for the development of policies, strategies and interventions, aimed at the improvement of the lives of children and women.

This manual is intended to assist governments and implementing agencies in the planning, design and implementation of MICS3 surveys. It is also hoped that it will serve as an important reference document in the field of household surveys.



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The manual has also benefited from the outstanding contributions of a number of individuals. Trevor Croft deserves special recognition; he coordinated the development of the MICS3 questionnaire, drafted several chapters and reviewed various chapters of the manual. Patricia David played a key role in the development of the MICS3 model questionnaire and drafted Chapter 3 (Designing the Questionnaire) and Appendix Three (Instructions for Interviewers). Anthony G. Turner revised the sampling chapters from the previous manual, added new material and drafted Chapter 4 (Designing and Selecting the Sample). Nicholas Hill wrote Chapter 7 (Processing the Data) and developed the data processing design.

From UNICEF, Division of Policy and Planning; Tessa Wardlaw, Edilberto Loaiza and Mary Mahy were instrumental in the development of the MICS3 questionnaire and methodology, as well as revising several chapters of the manual, and developing key training materials for and facilitation of the MICS3 workshops; Maryanne Neill, Ngagne Diakhate, Claudia Cappa and Endre Bakka actively participated and provided valuable contributions to various stages of MICS3 methodology development and implementation. Attila Hancioglu, the MICS3 coordinator, not only oversaw the finalization of the questionnaire but also coordinated the production of the entire manual, provided critical input to the review and updating of its content, and the overall design and content of the MICS3 technical workshops. Lois Jensen edited the manuscript.

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