

#01 MICS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

Multiple
Indicator
Cluster
Surveys



FROM THE GLOBAL
COORDINATOR

WELCOME to the first issue of the MICS newsletter

2015 was a special year – not only for MICS but also the global development community. It marked our 20th birthday – or [Year 20](#) – as we ended up calling it. We celebrated the occasion with a number of events and products, including a key [publication](#) on the development, evolution and future of the MICS programme. We officially closed shop on the fifth round of MICS, and began preparations for the next round, MICS6, which will span 2016-2019. The launch of our new website, mics.unicef.org, significantly

increased access to our reports, datasets and other resources. Meanwhile, UNICEF began work on the development of a new data strategy for the organization – an exciting initiative which will be implemented starting this year. As the data strategy will encompass MICS as well as UNICEF's other data work, you can expect to receive updates in the forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

All this coincided with major changes in the global development and data discourse. In 2015, the MDG era came to an end and in September, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was adopted by Heads of State at the UN General Assembly. Profound progress made during the MDG era in the collection, analysis, availability and use of data led to an unprecedented interest in data, including those from MICS and other household surveys, placing data and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the center of the global development agenda. Decisions on the global indicators of the SDGs will be

made at the upcoming UN Statistical Commission meeting in early March. This will be fundamental to shaping the future of MICS, as we continue to respond to countries' data collection needs.

Moving to a new round of MICS means change: new topics, new measurement tools and new ways of analyzing data. As we launch MICS6, we are testing and validating new modules, modifying questionnaires and revisiting our protocols while UN Member States are finalizing the list of global SDG indicators. As we aim to include additional relevant SDG indicators in the next round of MICS, we are also trying to keep MICS6 comparable with previous rounds. Additionally, we are integrating new, emerging non-SDG topics that are important for governments around the world. These are exciting times indeed.

Once again, welcome, to 2016, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and MICS6....

–Attila Hancioglu

DID YOU KNOW

MICS is the leading source of data on early childhood education attendance worldwide, providing four-fifths of the data in 2015. See more about this [here](#).





SURVEYS, REPORTS AND DATA

2015 was a busy year for the MICS programme – 19 key findings reports and 15 final reports were completed by implementing agencies during the year. We made micro datasets for 22 surveys available for public sharing via our [website](#). Here is the full list:

Key findings reports

- ▶ Benin 2014
- ▶ Cameroon 2014
- ▶ Congo 2014-15
- ▶ Cuba 2014
- ▶ Dominican Republic 2014
- ▶ El Salvador 2014
- ▶ Guinea-Bissau 2014
- ▶ Guyana 2014
- ▶ Kenya (Bungoma County) 2013-14
- ▶ Kenya (Kakamega County) 2013-14
- ▶ Kenya (Turkana County) 2013-14
- ▶ Nepal† 2014 (with tables)
- ▶ Oman 2014
- ▶ Pakistan (Punjab) 2014
- ▶ Pakistan (Sindh) 2014
- ▶ Sao Tome and Principe 2014 (with Biomarker Report)
- ▶ Sudan 2014
- ▶ Swaziland 2014
- ▶ Uruguay 2012-13

Final reports

- ▶ Algeria 2012-13
- ▶ Bangladesh 2012-13
- ▶ Cuba 2014
- ▶ Egypt (IPHN programme districts) 2013-14
- ▶ Kosovo* 2013-14
- ▶ Kosovo* (Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities) 2013-14
- ▶ Kyrgyzstan 2014 (in Russian)
- ▶ Malawi 2013-14
- ▶ Moldova 2012 (in Romanian)
- ▶ Mongolia (Nalaikh District) 2012
- ▶ State of Palestine 2014
- ▶ Sudan 2010
- ▶ Uruguay 2012-13
- ▶ Viet Nam 2013-14
- ▶ Zimbabwe 2014

Datasets

- ▶ Bangladesh 2012-13
- ▶ Cuba 2014
- ▶ Kenya (Nyanza) 2011
- ▶ Kosovo* 2013-14
- ▶ Kosovo* (Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities) 2013-14
- ▶ Kyrgyzstan 2014
- ▶ Madagascar (South) 2012
- ▶ Malawi 2013-14
- ▶ Mauritania 2011
- ▶ Montenegro 2013
- ▶ Montenegro (Roma Settlements) 2013
- ▶ Nepal† 2014
- ▶ Panama 2013
- ▶ Serbia 2014
- ▶ Serbia (Roma Settlements) 2014
- ▶ Somalia (Somaliland) 2011
- ▶ South Sudan 2010
- ▶ State of Palestine 2014
- ▶ Sudan 2010
- ▶ Turkmenistan 2006
- ▶ Viet Nam 2013-14
- ▶ Zimbabwe 2014

* Under UNSC res. 1244

† Because of the unique situation in Nepal following the earthquake, the datasets and selected tables from the 2014 MICS were made available before the release of the final report.



**SURVEY
CLOCK**

281

COMPLETED

21

IN PROGRESS



METHODOLOGICAL WORK

In November 2015, we conducted a field test of a selected number of new questionnaire modules and protocols in Belize, in collaboration with the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB). The field test included testing of several new modules in various stages of development: Child Functioning and Disability, Water Quality Testing, Social Protection, Victimization and Learning Assessments. Several features of the field-test were brand new to MICS – such as assessing children age 7-14 on basic literacy and numeracy skills – while others were implemented for further validation purposes – such as the comparison of the results of *E. coli* tests from the water quality module in the survey to standard laboratory testing. We also used this exercise to further improve the effectiveness of some of our protocols, including the use of tablets for data collection.

The Belize field-test used a split-sample approach to compare the performance of alternative versions of some modules and questions. Qualitative data were collected to examine implementation issues and the performance of specific questions and concepts. This was done using behavior coding during interviews, cognitive interviewing of respondents and debriefings of interviewers.

Results of the Belize field-test will be available in the MICS Methodological Paper Series early this year, and will serve as inputs towards the development of MICS6.

A pilot survey of the MICS6 questionnaires and tools is also being planned in the 2nd quarter of 2016.

EVENTS

In 2015, we organized and co-organized several meetings, workshops and consultations. A selection of these include:

- ▶ MICS Global Workshop on Data Processing, Istanbul, Turkey
- ▶ MICS Regional Data Processing Workshop, Istanbul, Turkey
- ▶ 11th Global MICS Consultation, New York
- ▶ Data for Children Forum, New York
- ▶ Data Strategy Inception Workshop, New York
- ▶ Data, Research, Evaluation, Analytics and Monitoring Network (DREAM) Meeting, New York
- ▶ Technical Meeting on the MICS Education Module, New York
- ▶ 1st and 2nd Meetings of the DHS-MICS-LSMS Collaborative Group, Washington DC and New York

We actively participated and/or presented on the MICS programme at a number of meetings, including:

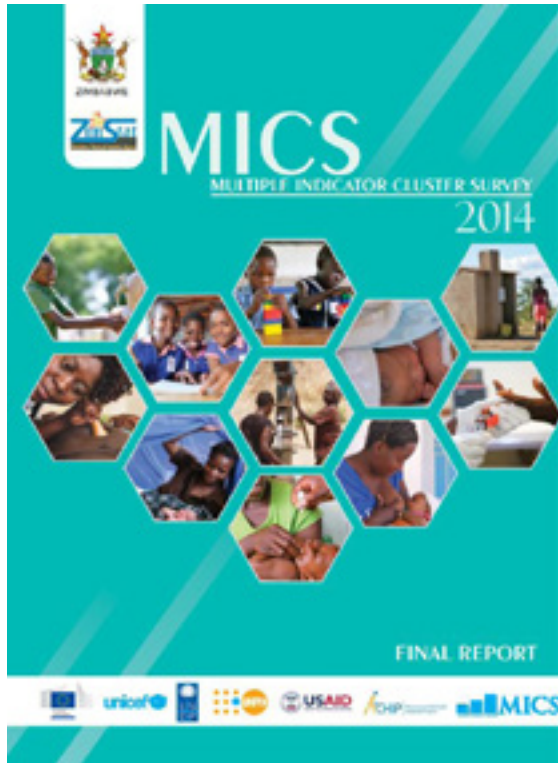
- ▶ USAID Meeting on Anthropometric Data in Population-based Surveys, Washington DC
- ▶ Technical Consultation on Measuring Early Childhood Development, New York
- ▶ The Cartagena Data Festival, Cartagena, Colombia
- ▶ Expert Group Meeting on the Indicator Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, New York
- ▶ DHS Technical Consultation on Vaccination Data in Household Surveys, Washington DC
- ▶ UN Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening the Demographic Evidence Base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, New York
- ▶ MENARO Social Policy and M&E Network Meeting, Dead Sea, Jordan
- ▶ CEE/CIS Regional Data, Research, Evaluation and Monitoring (R-DREAM) Network Meeting, Minsk, Belarus
- ▶ LACRO Deputy Representatives and M&E Specialists Meeting, Panama City, Panama
- ▶ Measurement and Accountability for Health Summit, Washington DC
- ▶ WHO Meeting on Indicators for Household Energy Use, Gender and Health, Washington DC





SURVEY HIGHLIGHT

ZIMBABWE MICS 2014



The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, with technical support from UNICEF, conducted the Zimbabwe MICS from February through April 2014 – a nationally representative survey which covered over 17,000 households.

MICS plays a critical role in informing national policies in Zimbabwe, such as the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation, which was crafted to achieve sustainable development and social equity in the country over the period 2013-2018. MICS 2014 was planned to inform the government and partners on progress made since the 2009 MICS, to serve as baseline data for the next programme cycle, and as a valuable means of gauging the impact of funding provided in the areas of health, education and child protection issues.

The timing of data collection was planned with respect to Zimbabwe's commitment to reporting on the MDGs, with the MICS results delivering data on nutrition; child and maternal mortality; health; child protection and development; education; reproductive health and sexual behavior, to name a few. The key findings report was

released four months after the completion of the fieldwork and the final report and datasets were made available seven months later, meeting survey objectives and following best practices of the MICS programme.

A special 'child-friendly' report on MICS findings was generated and used to ensure that children were informed on how well their country performed in key areas. The child-friendly report is a recommended input into transforming the findings of the survey into digestible and actionable information for children in their everyday lives.

The key findings, final and child-friendly reports can be accessed via our website [here](#), where the Zimbabwe MICS 2014 datasets can also be downloaded.





FEATURED PUBLICATION

STATE OF INEQUALITY: REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH

In the first MICS newsletter, we highlight a recent report published by the World Health Organization: [*State of Inequality: Reproductive maternal, newborn and child health*](#). The report points out inequalities across 23 key indicators for 86 countries and provides trend data for approximately half of them. Inequalities across the indicators are demonstrated using household wealth, education, place of residence and sex. The

findings, which show substantial improvements in indicator levels and reduction of inequalities, are based on data from the MICS surveys, as well as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). Data were used from the third and fourth rounds of MICS for over 30 countries.



TEAM UPDATES

The Global MICS Team is composed of seven dedicated people at UNICEF HQ in New York, and seven Regional MICS Coordinators (RMCs), one in each of UNICEF's regional offices. Three of the RMCs are supported by an additional staff member.

Recent changes to the Global MICS Team include:

The RMC in the Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO), Sarah Ahmad, joined the UNICEF Malawi Country Office as Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME), after 7 years with the MICS team. We wish Sarah all the best in her new

role in Malawi, where we know she will find a recently launched MICS5 survey to be very helpful in her work.

Teuta Halimi joined the Central and Eastern Europe/ Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) Regional Office in 2015 to support the RMC, Siraj Mahmudlu. Teuta replaced Alexandru Nartea who has now moved to the UNICEF Barbados Office. All our best wishes to both.

To view the current members of the Global MICS Team, visit the [About](#) page of our website: mics.unicef.org.

