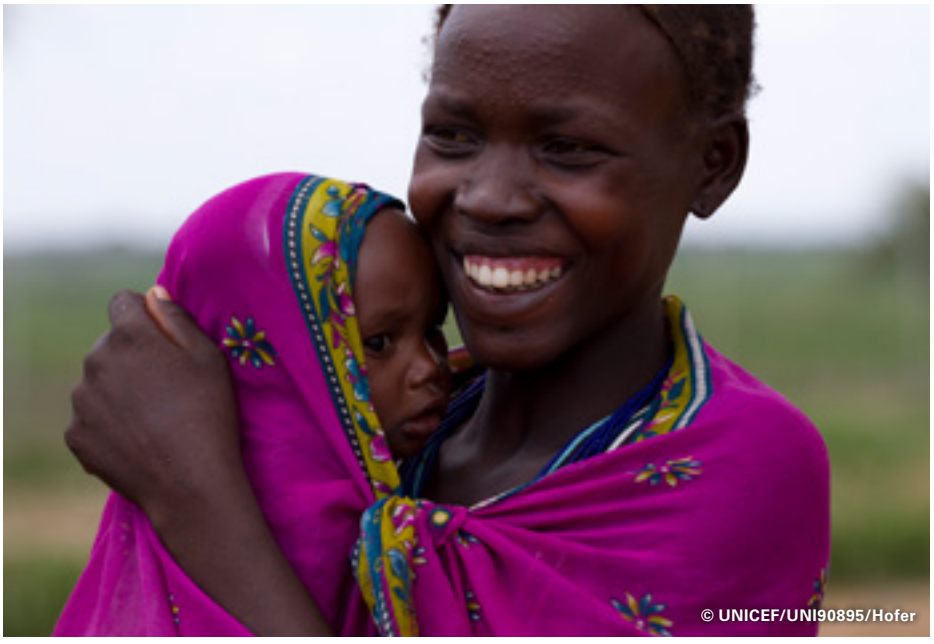
MICS NEWSLETTER
Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
#03 2016

FROM THE GLOBAL COORDINATOR

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have launched the sixth round of MICS. The latest round introduces a number of new topics that will considerably expand MICS' coverage of the SDGs. With new modules such as water quality testing, early learning, social transfers, victimization and child functioning, MICS now covers 32 global SDG indicators.

We are currently in the midst of launching three consecutive regional workshops to support countries in Africa. In Nairobi, we held the first ever survey design workshop for countries in the Eastern and Southern African region. In November we have invited countries from Western and Central Africa – the region with the largest number of MICS participating countries – to meet with us in Dakar. Many of the countries which will be attending have concrete plans to conduct a MICS in 2017. We will then have two more workshops before the end of the year: For countries in Western and Central Africa, we are holding a data processing workshop in December, also in Dakar, to support preparations for surveys in early 2017. Concurrently with this workshop, we will be organizing a data interpretation, further analysis and dissemination workshop for countries that have completed their MICS5 surveys in 2016, once again in Dakar. You can follow our workshop activities on our website.

While we have concrete plans for improving our survey governance structures and our survey tools, we are beginning the new round of MICS amidst a number of uncertainties. The global SDG Indicators are near-final, but work is still ongoing. For some indicators, metadata and definitions are being finalized; for others, discussions are under way on how the indicators will be defined and operationalized. We have started to support countries in need of 2017 baseline data by assisting them with collecting data on the large number of SDG indicators which are covered by MICS (see our news item on MICS & the SDGs here). Our standard survey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tools and questionnaires will continue to be living documents which will evolve alongside the SDG indicators. And within the next year or so, we are likely to take on more SDG indicators than we are currently covering.

As we strive to take the MICS programme to the next level – aligning it with the new development and monitoring agenda, improving the timeliness of reporting, incorporating innovative measurement tools and technology and the like – we are increasingly involved with key partnerships. We are now leading the Household Surveys Working Group of the Health Data Collaborative, together with USAID and the World Bank. As announced in the previous issues of the newsletter, we are active members of the DHS-MICS-LSMS Collaborative Group and the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. Less formally, we are working with a large number of UN entities, researchers, academics and NGOs for the development of new measurement tools.

MICS will be represented at critical events in the near future. At a side event at the next meeting of the Interagency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG), we will introduce the MICS programme to member states, other UN agencies, NGOs, academics, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies. In January, we will be at the World Data Forum, participating in the proceedings and organizing at least one session on household surveys.

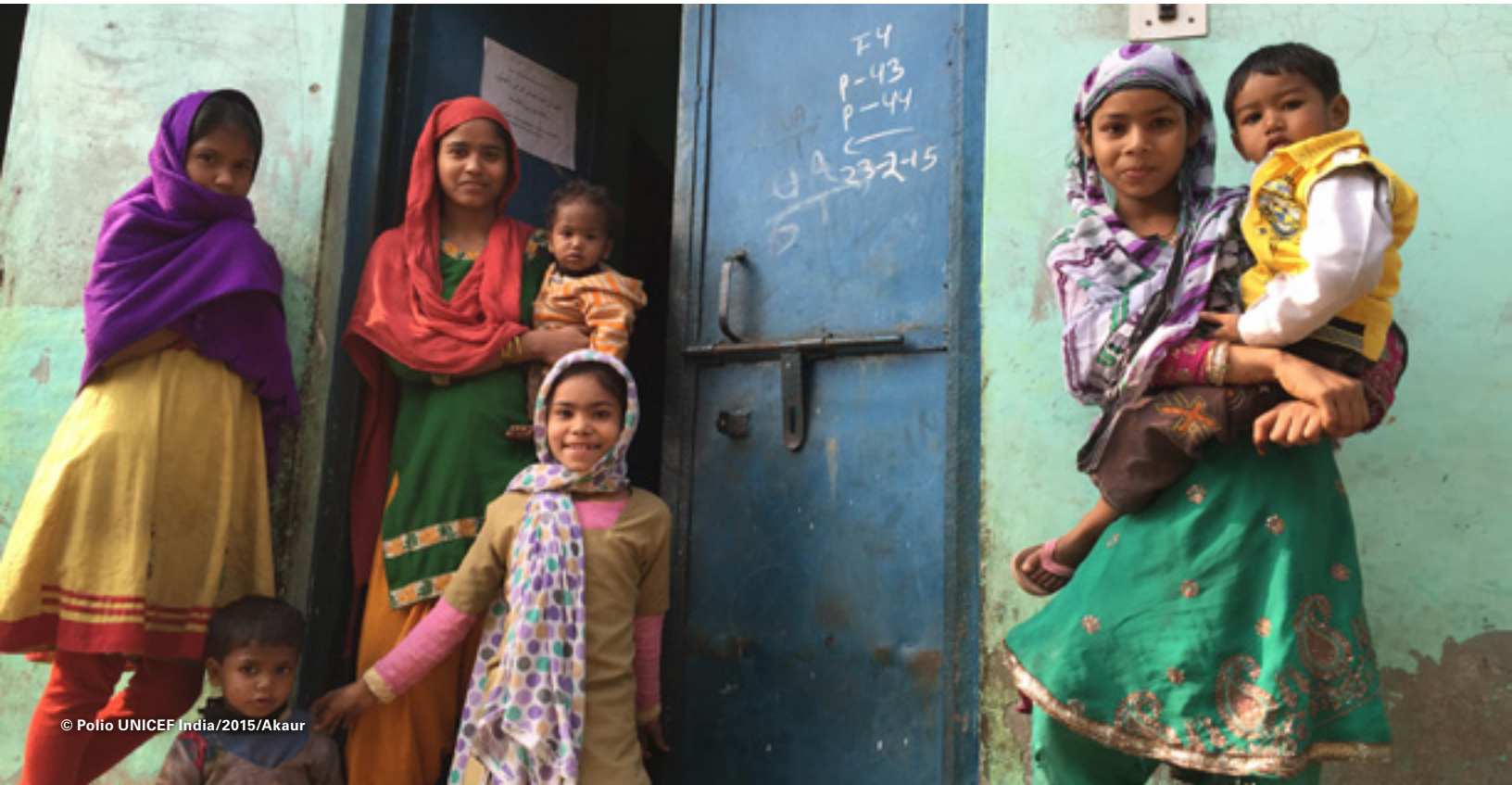
The next issue of the newsletter will include a dedicated entry on what's new in MICS. In the meantime, we have begun populating our website with new documents, including the new questionnaires and indicator list. Please visit our website for more information.

Until next time,
Attila Hancioglu
Global MICS Coordinator

SURVEY CLOCK

287 COMPLETED

20 IN PROGRESS



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SURVEYS, REPORTS & DATA

METHODOLOGICAL REPORTS

- Methodological Paper No. 3: Assessment of the effect of twin births, reference periods and birth subsets on low birth weight estimates
- Methodological Paper No. 4: Review of options for reporting water, sanitation and hygiene coverage by wealth quintile

NEW SURVEYS

- DPR Korea 2017
- Mongolia (Khuvsgul Aimag) 2016
- Mongolia (Nalaikh District) 2016

KEY FINDINGS REPORTS

- Belize 2015-16
- Kazakhstan 2015
- Mauritania 2015
- Mexico 2015
- Turkmenistan 2015-16

FINAL REPORTS

- Dominican Republic 2014
- Guyana 2014
- Pakistan (Sindh) 2014

CHILD-FRIENDLY REPORTS

- Belize 2015-16

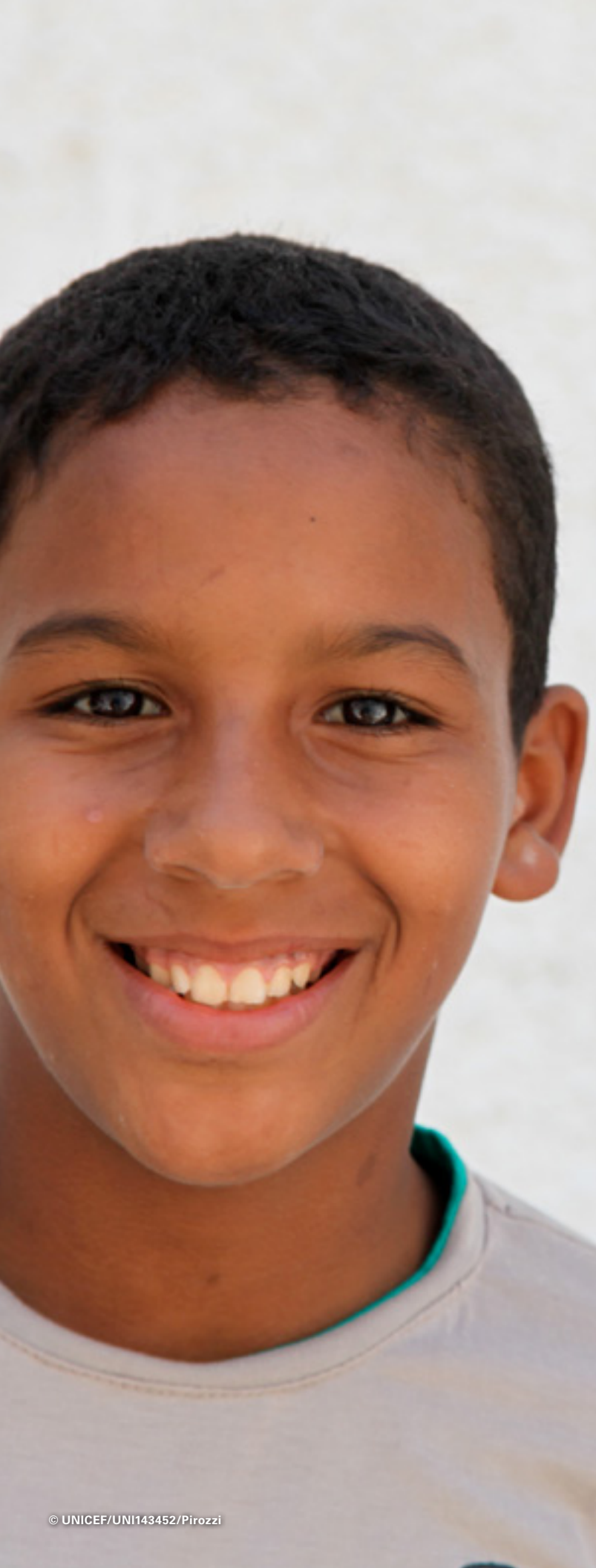
DATASETS

- Dominican Republic 2014
- Guyana 2014
- Pakistan (Sindh) 2014

MICS EVENTS

We organized and participated in several meetings, workshops and consultations from June through October in 2016. A selection of these are listed here:

- Fifteenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 14-16 June, Santiago de Chile, Chile
- JMP Expert Group Meeting on SDG Monitoring of WASH in Schools, 20-21 June, New York
- Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation organized with UN Statistics Division, 27-29 June, New York
- DREAM (Data, Research, Evaluation and Monitoring) Meeting 6-10th June, Florence, Italy
- International Conference on Gender Statistics, UN Women and INEGI Mexico, 7-9 September, Aguascalientes, Mexico
- Technical Meeting on Revising the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI), 13-14 September, New York
- Regional Capacity Development Workshop on SDG Indicators for Statistical Offices, UNFPA LACRO, 14-16 September, Panama
- Regional Seminar on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and its Implementation on Data Collection on Disability, INEGI, 20-23 September, Mexico City
- Third Meeting of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, CEPAL/ECLAC, 4-6 October, Santiago de Chile
- Workshop on the Measurement of Child Disability for the Americas Region, 17-20 October, New York



SDGS & MICS

How many global SDG indicators does MICS cover? The answer to this question is less straightforward than one might think.

As of October 2016, 241 indicators have been identified for the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs. A large number of these indicators remain without detailed metadata; many lack information on how they will be operationalized/measured (such as indicator 3.8.1 - see below). In fact, several indicators are repeated against several targets, so the actual number of indicators is 230.

Some of the indicators (e.g. indicator 6.1.1) combine multiple elements of measurement; in such cases, MICS may only capture part of those indicators. While several other indicators (e.g. indicator 4.2.1) are clearly defined, there may be an implicit understanding on how they will be measured in the interim, until further methodological work is completed to fully cover the measurement of these indicators.

As the definitions of the indicators continue to be refined, MICS may cover more SDG indicators than we currently estimate. For the time being, we expect that MICS can fully cover 20 indicators or partially cover 32 indicators. Based on our estimate that around 30 per cent of the 230 SDG indicators can be generated by household surveys, we can safely assume that MICS is currently able to cover close to half of all household survey based SDG indicators. On the following page is a list of SDG indicators which are covered by MICS, including global SDG indicator numbers.

1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3.1	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
1.4.1	Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services
2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age

2.2.2	Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)
3.1.1	Maternal mortality ratio
3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
3.2.1	Under-five mortality rate
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate
3.7.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods
3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group
3.8.1	Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)
3.a.1	Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older
4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex
4.2.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex
4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex
4.4.1	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill
4.5.1	Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated
5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/ cutting, by age
5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex
6.1.1	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
6.2.1	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity
7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
8.7.1	Proportion and number of children aged 5 17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age
10.3.1	Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law
16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live
16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age
17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet

METHODOLOGICAL WORK

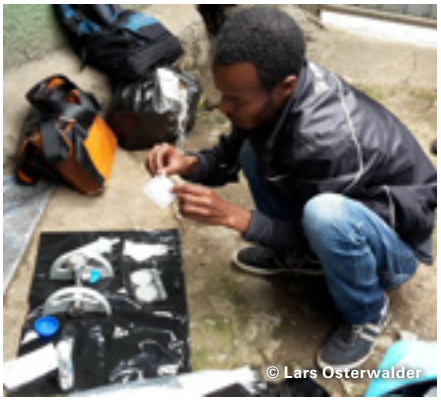
Inspired by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on education with its explicit focus on equity and learning, UNICEF began to develop a new module to measure children's foundational learning skills in 2014. The module is intended to be used in MICS surveys and other household surveys. It is an important addition to the existing MICS education module that collects educational attainment and school attendance data and has been used in more than 100 countries over the past 20 years. The development of the new module was supported by a technical advisory group composed of internal and external learning experts and household survey specialists.

Through a series of meticulous field tests in Ghana, Belize, Costa Rica and Kenya, in October 2016, the foundational learning skills module and an additional parental involvement module were finalized and incorporated into the suite of MICS6 standard tools. The new module will be administered to children aged 7-14 years, including those who do not attend school. The information provided by the module is expected to shed light on if children have basic reading and mathematics skills across a large sample of countries, which will greatly contribute to education SDG monitoring at national and global levels. Please visit our website for more information.

THE INNOVATION CORNER

The new Sustainable Development Goals include broader and far more ambitious targets for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Through close collaboration with the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, the MICS team has developed a new water quality module which allows for measurement of *E. coli*, an indicator of faecal contamination. Field teams test drinking water for levels of *E. coli* and are able to identify contaminated water. The new module was unveiled at the first MICS6 survey design workshop in Nairobi in October 2016 where participants witnessed a live demonstration of the test.

Integrating water quality testing in household surveys is a cost-effective approach to generating representative information on SDG indicator 6.1.1, calculated to measure the population using safely managed drinking water services. Since the water quality data can be linked to socio-economic information, such as the wealth index quintiles, this is a powerful way to examine inequalities in service provision. To date, ten countries have integrated water quality testing in their surveys and we anticipate great demand for this module over the coming years. For further information on the water quality module, please see the Methodological Work and MICS Tools pages of our website.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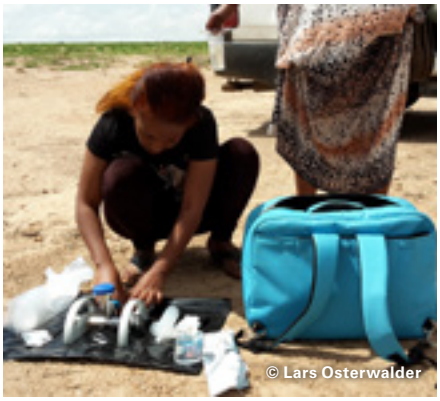
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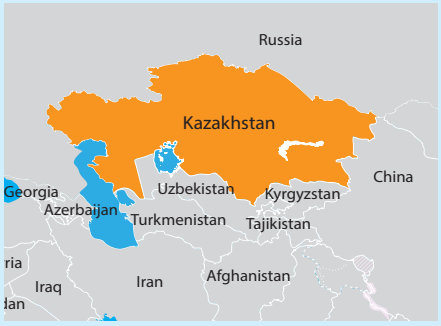
SURVEY HIGHLIGHT

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, the 9th largest country on the globe, completed its third MICS survey in 2015. The survey, with a sample of close to 17,000 households, was implemented by the Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy whose Chair, Nurbolat Aidapkelov, recounts the Kazakh MICS survey experience in the interview below.

Can you tell us more about the reasons for conducting a MICS in Kazakhstan?

We need MICS indicators to ensure the completeness and quality of data for assessment of the situation of women and children in Kazakhstan. This includes coverage of major goals such as the past Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MICS provides us with data on a number of indicators, such as children's nutritional status, the protection of children's rights, iodized salt consumption, attitudes towards domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. Not enough data on children are collected through the national statistical system. For example, the Household Budget Survey gives a limited number of indicators on children while the Labour Force Survey covers only the working population of Kazakhstan. In addition, administrative data is widely used but it only provides sectoral information on the main parameters of health, social assistance and education of children. But these do not characterise attitudinal and behavioural data gained through the MICS.

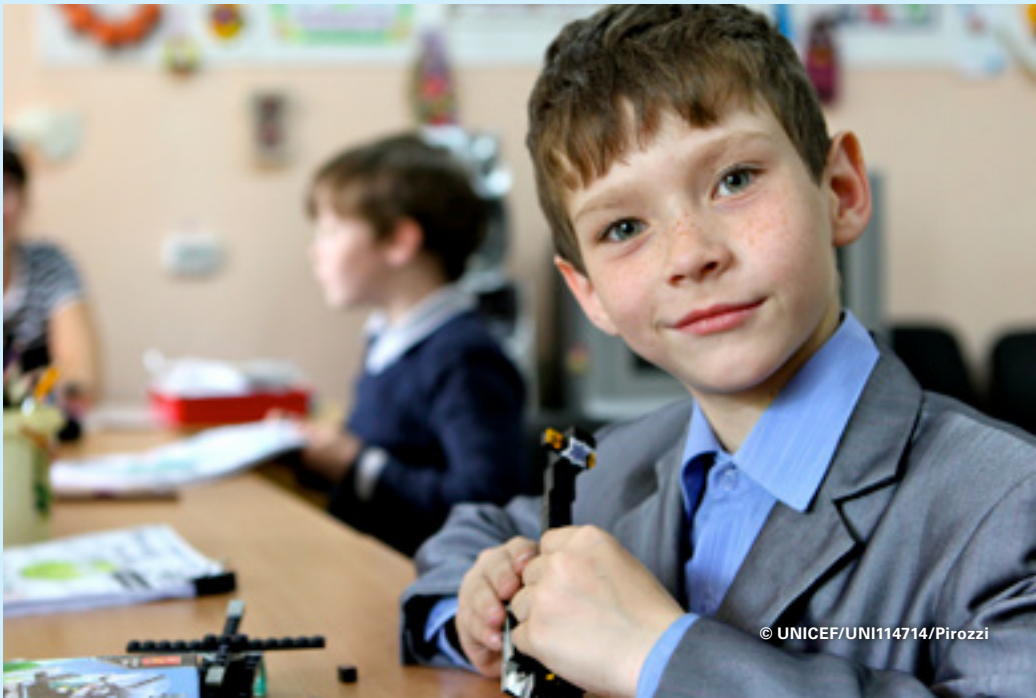
Can you describe the contribution of MICS to the national statistical system in Kazakhstan?

Kazakhstan conducts MICS every five years (2006, 2010-2011, 2015). The indicators received from MICS significantly expanded the number of available indicators. What is crucial is that all these indicators are gathered for all regions of Kazakhstan disaggregated by the social status, sex, location, level of education and ethnicity.

In addition, we think it is necessary to note that UNICEF supported several training seminars for staff members of the Statistics Committee that covered all stages of this survey, starting from data collection and processing to data analysis, publication and dissemination, in accordance with international standards. The knowledge gained at these seminars plays an important role in training and skill improvement of staff members of the Statistics Committee, as well as in improvement of the national statistical system in general.

What do you think about using MICS data? How useful are these data for Kazakhstan?

As the indicators collected by MICS can be disaggregated by a number of variables such as area, level of women's education and wealth quintiles of households, these results help to characterise the situation of women and children in Kazakhstan by region. These indicators also expand the evidence-base for development and implementation of public policies and programmes in Kazakhstan. In this regard, the survey results were one of the most important information sources for Kazakhstan's attainment of the past Millennium Development Goals with more than 21 MDG indicators. We expect similar coverage of new indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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FEATURED PUBLICATION

Measuring inequalities examined in the most recent MICS methodological paper

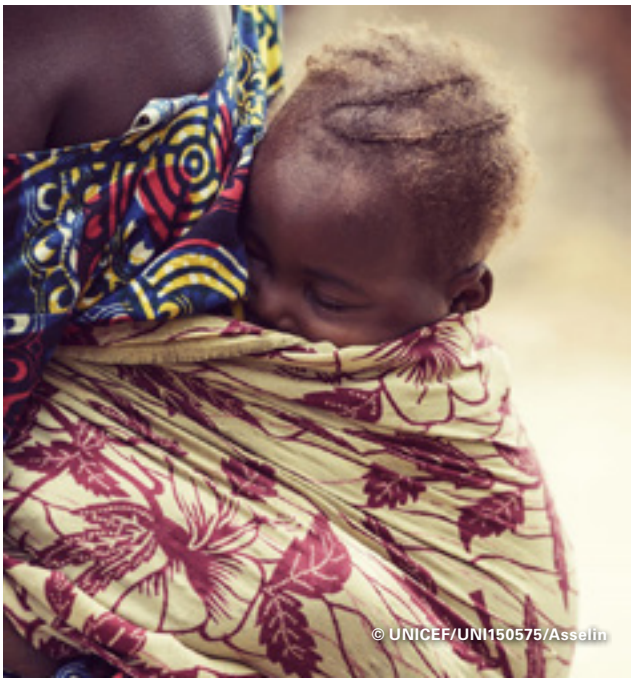
In the most recent MICS methodological paper, Pierre Martel investigates the implications of the continued use of the classic wealth index to report on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) indicators. WASH variables are typically used in the construction of the wealth index. As such, a tautological problem can arise when measuring inequalities in WASH variables using the classic wealth index. Using data from 17 MICS surveys and 5 Demographic and Health Surveys, the author constructs alternative wealth indices by removing WASH variables and examining the impact on WASH coverage by wealth quintile. Martel concludes that reporting on WASH indicators in MICS reports can continue to use the classic wealth index but detailed analysis of trends in WASH-specific reports would need custom indices to capture inequalities.

The MICS methodological paper series focuses on reporting activities that advance survey methodology and analysis of MICS data which can inform various aspects of implementation, reporting and dissemination of results for the household survey programme. The papers also serve a key role in documenting why and how modules in MICS questionnaires change over time and why new ones are developed. They also showcase potential novel ways to analyse data.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHT

MICS6 survey design workshop in Nairobi, 25-31 October, 2016

Organized by the UNICEF Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa, the first survey design workshop of the 6th round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Programme was held in Nairobi, Kenya during 25-31 October 2016. A total of 48 participants representing 16 countries participated in the workshop. The new set of MICS6 questionnaires, indicator list and revised survey planning tools were introduced during the workshop. Participants had the opportunity to discuss their survey plans and SDG related data collection needs as well as share their former household survey experiences with other survey teams. The MICS6 Survey Design Workshop series will continue in other regions in the coming months.



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