



FROM THE GLOBAL COORDINATOR

The first [United Nations World Data Forum](#) (WDF) took place in Cape Town, South Africa in January this year. Bringing together leaders in data across information technology, geospatial information, data science, and the official statistical community, the event was attended by more than a thousand experts, and was probably the largest ever meeting of its kind – attesting to the unprecedented interest in data in this post-2015 era.

UNICEF participated in the WDF as a member of the Programme Committee. UNICEF in collaboration with [Development Initiatives](#), coordinated one of the five tracks: Leaving No One Behind. MICS organized a session on innovations in household surveys together with the Living Standards Measurement Study of the World Bank, showcasing the development of the [Water Quality Testing Module](#) in MICS surveys, among an exciting list of household survey innovations. MICS was cited as a key source for development data in several of the sessions – in particular, in the context of SDG monitoring.

Once again, we faced, first-hand, the demand from countries and the global community to innovate and continue to provide high-quality technical support for survey implementation.

We have already begun to roll-out regional workshops this year and to support the planning, design and implementation of MICS6 surveys. Most of the MICS6 surveys will be conducted to produce baselines for a large number of SDG indicators. At present, we have 36 surveys confirmed and listed on our website for 2017 through 2019.

We will also continue to improve the timeliness and accessibility of MICS results. To ensure that MICS findings are reported within six months of fieldwork completion, we have now moved to tablet-only data collection – all surveys will be conducted on tablets. For the same purpose, we are launching the Survey Findings Report (SFR) that will replace both the Key Findings Reports and Final Reports of MICS, with less repetitive narrative but with all the wealth of traditional and new disaggregates. The SFRs will be

complemented with thematic, user-friendly, visually enhanced statistical snapshots of the survey findings. And after several years of planning, this year we will produce uniform datasets to run in the background of a state-of-the-art platform with the capability of producing online tabulations for multiple surveys. In forthcoming issues of the newsletter, we will give you more details of this exciting project.

Until next time,

Attila Hancioglu
Global MICS Coordinator



SURVEYS, REPORTS & DATA

NEW SURVEYS

- ▶ Belarus 2018
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina (Roma Settlements) 2018
- ▶ El Salvador 2019
- ▶ Gambia 2017
- ▶ Georgia 2018
- ▶ Guinea-Bissau 2018
- ▶ Kazakhstan 2019
- ▶ Kyrgyzstan 2018
- ▶ The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2018
- ▶ The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Roma Settlements) 2018
- ▶ Mauritania 2018
- ▶ Montenegro 2018
- ▶ Montenegro (Roma Settlements) 2018
- ▶ Sao Tome and Principe 2018
- ▶ Serbia 2018
- ▶ Tunisia 2017-18
- ▶ Turkmenistan 2019
- ▶ Zimbabwe 2018-19

FINAL REPORTS

- ▶ Benin 2014
- ▶ Cameroon 2014
- ▶ El Salvador 2014
- ▶ Guinea-Bissau 2014
- ▶ Kazakhstan 2015
- ▶ Mexico 2015
- ▶ Oman 2014
- ▶ Senegal (Dakar City) 2015-16
- ▶ Swaziland 2014
- ▶ Turkmenistan 2015-16

DATASETS

- ▶ El Salvador 2014
- ▶ Guinea-Bissau 2014
- ▶ Kazakhstan 2015
- ▶ Mexico 2015
- ▶ Mongolia (Nalaikh District) 2012
- ▶ Swaziland 2014
- ▶ Turkmenistan 2015-16



**SURVEY
CLOCK**

292 COMPLETED

36 IN PROGRESS

DID YOU KNOW?

A growing number of MICS surveys are conducted at the subnational level – confined to a population group within a country, such as the Roma population in Serbia, or to a geographical or administrative domain, such as the Mexico City survey. Such surveys produce data with higher resolution and with detailed disaggregation not available in national scale surveys. In MICS5, 16 out of 51 surveys were subnational.



MICS EVENTS

We organized and participated in a large number of meetings, workshops and consultation from October 2016 through March 2017. A selection of these are listed here:

- ▶ MICS6 Survey Design Workshop, UNICEF Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa, 25-31 October 2016, Nairobi, Kenya
- ▶ MICS6 Survey Design Workshop, UNICEF Regional Office for Western and Central Africa, 14-21 November 2016, Dakar, Senegal
- ▶ 12th Global MICS Consultation, 30 November-3 December 2016, Athens, Greece
- ▶ Data Interpretation Workshop for Cote D'Ivoire MICS, 6-10 December 2016, Dakar, Senegal
- ▶ MICS6 Data Processing Workshop, UNICEF Regional Office for Western and Central Africa, 6-13 December, Dakar, Senegal
- ▶ UN World Data Forum, 15-18 January 2017, Cape Town, South Africa
- ▶ MICS6 Survey Design Workshop, UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 1-8 February 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia
- ▶ Global Indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Country Team, 7 February 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia
- ▶ Regional Meeting on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children and Adolescents, 7-8 February 2017, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
- ▶ First High-level Technical Workshop on Human Settlements Indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, 13-17 February 2017, Naivasha, Kenya
- ▶ Improving Coverage Measurement Group (ICM), 15-17 February 2017, New Orleans, USA
- ▶ Report Launch: Is Every Child Counted? Status of Data for Children in the SDGs, Side Event to the 48th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, 6 March 2017, New York, USA
- ▶ Consultative Workshop on the SDG 4 (Education) Targets and Indicators and the Links to the Education Policy in Central America, 6-8 March 2017, San Jose, Costa Rica
- ▶ Data Interpretation Workshop for Guinea MICS, 6-11 March 2017, Conakry, Guinea
- ▶ Measuring the Interconnected Dimensions of Poverty to Energize Policy, Side Event to the 48th Session of the United Nations Statistics Commission, 7 March 2017, New York, USA
- ▶ DHS-MICS-LSMS Collaborative Group Meeting, 8 March 2017, New York, USA
- ▶ Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, 8 March 2017, Atlanta, USA
- ▶ Presentation of the New Interagency Expert Group on the Measurement of Early Childhood Development, Side Event to the 48th Session of the United Nations Statistics Commission, 9 March 2017, New York, USA
- ▶ MICS6 Survey Design Workshop, UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, 15-22 March 2017, San Jose, Costa Rica



METHODOLOGICAL WORK

Early childhood development (ECD) sets the stage for life-long thriving for children and produces some of the highest economic rates of return to families, societies and countries. The importance of ECD is recognized by the international community through Target 4.2 of the SDGs, which proposes that countries ‘Ensure that, by 2030, all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.’

The MICS programme began work on ECD back in 2009, with the launch of MICS4. As a result of methodological work, an index on ECD was added to MICS questionnaires to measure the overall developmental status of children in four domains: physical, literacy-numeracy, social-emotional and learning. The Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) was developed on the basis of these four domains – the first population-based, internationally comparable indicator on the overall developmental status of children. Now, ECDI data exists for around 60 countries worldwide, making MICS the largest source on the issue.

In the meantime, member states adopted an SDG indicator on ECD (Indicator 4.2.1): “the percentage of

children under age 5 years who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being”. Since the development of the ECDI 8 years ago, much progress has been achieved in the measurement of ECD. As the custodian of the SDG indicator on ECD, UNICEF is now moving forward to carry out new methodological work on ECD, to align the existing measurement protocols with the new SDG definition.

The MICS programme will take an active part in the methodological work on ECD. To date, further analysis of ECDI data, including psychometric testing has been completed, which was followed by consultations with academic experts to review the ECD items and develop a road map for the methodological work. A review of new instruments and items used to measure ECD has also concluded. Cognitive testing of the current ECDI items is taking place in India and Jamaica in March and April 2017. UNICEF will begin drafting a revised set of questions which will undergo cognitive testing of items in three countries. Following this, MICS will be staging a field test of the revised items. The work is expected to be completed at the end of 2017.



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SURVEY HIGHLIGHT

MEXICO



Mexico has a population of 120 million people, of which almost 40 million are children. The 'National Survey on Children and Women in Mexico 2015' (called ENIM 2015), conducted by the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, is the first MICS survey in the country. The Mexican statistical system is well-known as a prolific producer of data, supporting sectoral surveys as well as administrative data gathered from diverse government entities. The ENIM 2015 was implemented in this context and has now become a very powerful tool to fill data gaps on numerous issues affecting children, many of which have not been previously examined or updated from various data sources. Some of these areas include early childhood development, child discipline, functioning and disabilities and water and sanitation. The ENIM 2015 complements data gathered in

other surveys, such as the National Survey on Health and Nutrition, as well as administrative data.

Mexico has actively participated in the 2013-2014 negotiations led by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is one of the countries that has volunteered to report first on the SDGs. The information collected in the ENIM 2015 is unique as it provides one of the first baselines used to report on the SDGs. The survey will be used to track Mexico's progress on 15 SDG indicators. Apart from the SDGs, these data will be used to monitor parts of the National Development Plan and the National Information System on Children's Rights.

Comparing the ENIM 2015 findings to other data sources reveals that Mexico has made considerable progress in the realization of rights

of children and women in terms of exclusive breastfeeding, a decrease in childhood obesity, coverage of antenatal care and delivery by a skilled provider. Yet, data also reveal stark inequalities between population groups. For example, children with at least one functional difficulty are more likely to be stunted (SDG 2.2.1).

Given the intense focus in Mexico to understand and address inequalities, the country is now embarking on subnational MICS surveys. One such survey has been implemented in Mexico City and provides data on inequalities within the capital, which few data sources had been able to address until now. Other states in the country are now showing interest in gathering similar data: there will likely be more MICS surveys in Mexico in the near future. Data and the final reports from the Mexico MICS survey can be accessed [here](#).





REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Regional workshops are a trademark of the MICS programme. They have played a critical role since the early days of the programme as a means of technical dialogue, capacity development and data advocacy during the survey process. Bringing together survey experts, implementing agencies (almost always national statistical offices), UNICEF staff members and others, regional workshops are a perfect platform where the latest developments in the world of household surveys and monitoring are discussed. Participants are provided guidance to the MICS programme and trained on MICS tools. Synergies are created among participating countries, with a substantial amount of lesson learning from one and other. And workshops are great events

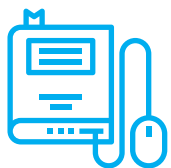
for the continuous education of the Global MICS Team! Learning from countries' experiences enables the Global MICS Team to improve guidance and technical support protocols, which are then shared back with countries that will be conducting MICS.

The MICS programme now runs three workshops in (roughly) each of the 7 UNICEF regions. These workshops – on Survey Design (SD), Data Processing (DP) and Data Interpretation, Further Analysis and Dissemination (DIFAD) – are heavy on hands-on sessions, panels for sharing lessons learned and group work. The table below provides a glance at various features of the workshops.

Workshop	Countries invited	When	Who participates	Content
Survey Design	All countries in the region	At the beginning of the MICS round	Implementing and/or government agencies, national survey experts, UNICEF staff members, other international agencies	SDGs and household surveys, planning and design, sampling, questionnaire content, survey implementation, quality assurance
Data Processing	Countries that are conducting MICS	Before fieldwork, and after questionnaires are customized	Data processing experts from MICS implementing agencies	Data entry and editing programmes customized by participants to align with tailored MICS questionnaires
Data Interpretation, Further Analysis and Dissemination	Countries that have completed MICS data collection	After fieldwork, once results of the MICS surveys are available	Implementing and/or government agencies, UNICEF staff members	Survey results reviewed, dissemination of survey results discussed, further analysis ideas explored

In MICS6, we have now completed 5 regional workshops on Survey Design, in Nairobi (October 2016), Dakar (November 2016), Tbilisi (February 2017), San Jose (March 2017) and Beirut (April 2017). In addition, one Data Processing workshop was organized in Dakar, in December 2016. More than 300 participants from 80 countries attended these workshops. Around 60 per cent of the participants were from national statistical offices and other government organizations.

We will then complete the series of Survey Design workshops in August for the countries of South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific. A second Data Processing workshop will be organized around the beginning of the third quarter of the year – and it is now certain that several countries will have completed their surveys before the end of the year, which means that we will be organizing a DIFAD workshop during the fourth quarter of 2017, as well as a third Data Processing workshop.



FEATURED PUBLICATION



TEAM UPDATES

A recent research article in PLOS ONE, 'Water, sanitation and hygiene: quantifying the issue in sub-Saharan Africa', presents an in-depth look at drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in Sub-Saharan Africa, the region with lowest levels of access to drinking water and sanitation. Using MICS and other household survey data for 25 countries, Roche, Bain and Cumming estimate a combined 'basic' SDG coverage indicator on round trip water collection within 30 minutes of source and sanitation services, including the presence of hand-washing facilities with soap and water. Overall, the findings point out that only 4% of the region has 'basic' coverage, indicating that close to 921 million people are not covered using the new SDG indicator. These results also reveal important inequalities of coverage across countries in the study; in some rural areas, the estimates are close to zero for multiple countries. These estimates are useful to understand the scale of the issue and can point to areas where policy can be created to assist countries towards investing more into basic services. The publication can be accessed [here](#).

Siraj Mahmudlu, Regional MICS Coordinator in the Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS), has moved to Turkmenistan, as the Deputy Representative of the UNICEF Office in Ashgabat. Ana Maria Restrepo was supporting the coordination of MICS surveys in the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office. Ana Maria is now joining UNICEF's Thailand Country Office. We wish both Siraj and Ana Maria all the best in their new endeavours. And we look forward to working with them with the now-confirmed Turkmenistan MICS, and a possible Thailand MICS in the near future, respectively. In the meantime, Daniel Reijer has been appointed as the Statistics and Monitoring Specialist in the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, responsible for MICS coordination. We welcome Daniel to the team. Teuta Halimi has recently re-joined the CEE/CIS Regional Office to support MICS coordination, while Achraf Mrabet joined the Western and Central Africa Regional Office to support the Regional MICS Coordinator. Welcome to both!

