



FROM THE GLOBAL COORDINATOR

A key ambition of the sixth round of MICS is to support countries with establishing baselines for monitoring both new and established indicators of the SDG Agenda. Midway through the first year of implementation, it is becoming clear that countries are welcoming this ambition, with 40 surveys that have already joined the programme. We expect that by the end of this round, this number will go up to 50 surveys or more. Several countries have already embarked upon fieldwork, starting with Sierra Leone, conducting its fifth MICS survey. In early 2018, participating countries will begin generating their final reports, including first-ever estimates of several SDG indicators.

While countries in the MICS programme collect data in the field, we are also gearing up for our next field test – to try out new measurement tools. A global field test in Malawi is scheduled for October. The main focus of this field test will be our new Post-emergency Module, which will help generate data on the well-being of households affected by emergencies. The field test will also include various other

measurement tools for testing and validation. Please read more on the Post-emergency Module in the [Methodological Work](#) section of the newsletter.

In the next issue of our newsletter, we will report on the progress made with our regional workshops. By then, we will have completed regional workshops on survey design for all 7 UNICEF regions. The only survey design workshop remaining will be organized in Bangkok, 7-14 August, with countries from South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific attending. We will have a better sense of the total number of surveys in MICS6 after we complete this workshop. Also upcoming, as we draft this newsletter, is the regional workshop on data processing in Tunisia, which is being organized by the New York MICS Team and the UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa.

All of this takes a lot of planning, coordination, cooperation and dedication. One of the initiatives of the Global MICS Team to ensure that we work effectively and as one, has been the Global MICS

Consultations, which have been held since 2008. Earlier this year, the team met in Nicosia, Cyprus, for the thirteenth time, where we discussed progress made so far, and upcoming innovations and methodological work in the programme.

We are responding to the broad SDG Agenda and to an unprecedented degree of interest in, dependence on and recognition of the importance of data and evidence. We therefore need to continue to innovate, both to begin to measure emerging areas of concern and to improve how we measure the standard topics that have always been part of MICS. We will update you on these developments as we move forward, so please bear with us for exciting news.

Until next time,

Attila Hancioglu
Global MICS Coordinator



SURVEYS, REPORTS & DATA

NEW SURVEYS

- Azerbaijan 2018
- Madagascar 2018
- Mongolia 2018
- Pakistan (Punjab) 2017-18

NEW KEY FINDINGS REPORTS & FINAL REPORTS

- Belize 2015-16
- Thailand 2015-16

NEW DATASETS

- Cameroon 2014





SURVEY CLOCK

294
completed

36
in progress

DID YOU KNOW?

With digital data collection, MICS now practically eliminates data cleaning, allowing survey managers to focus more on data quality and the provision of efficient support to fieldwork teams.

For more information, see [here](#).



EVENTS

We organized and participated in a large number of meetings, workshops and consultations from 16 March through 30 June 2017. A selection of these are listed here:

- Including all Children in Quality Learning in CEE/CIS Regional Knowledge Leadership Agenda (RKLA) 3 & 4 meeting organized by UNICEF CEE/CIS RO, 13–17 March, 2017, Lisbon, Portugal
- Nineteenth meeting of the Management Group on Statistical Cooperation organized by European Commission: Eurostat, 16–17 March 2017, Luxembourg
- Regional seminar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators: Progress in the Development of Monitoring Frameworks for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by UNSD and ECLAC, 3–4 April 2017, Santiago, Chile
- Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas organized by ECLAC, 4–6 April 2017, Santiago, Chile
- Expert Meeting on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals organized by UNECE, 10–12 April 2017, Geneva, Switzerland
- MICS6 Survey Design Workshop, UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa, 19–26 April 2017, Beirut, Lebanon
- Seminar on Multidimensional Poverty – Non-monetary Indicators to Measure Poverty, organized by DANE-Colombia and ECLAC, 15–16 May 2017, Santiago, Chile
- UNICEF Regional Management Team, 17–20 May 2017, Panama City, Panama
- MICS6 Education Webinar: Foundational Learning Skills and Parental Involvement Modules organized by UNICEF CEE/CIS RO, 1 June, 2017
- Data Interpretation Workshop for Nigeria MICS, 1–9 June 2017, Lagos, Nigeria
- Technical Workshop on the Implications of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Education Planning and for Monitoring and Evaluation organized by UNESCO and the Caribbean Development Bank, 6–9 June 2017, Barbados
- MICS6 Education Webinar: Foundational Learning Skills and Parental Involvement Modules organized by UNICEF HQ, 15 June, 2017
- 13th Global MICS Consultation, 20–23 June 2017, Nicosia, Cyprus



METHODOLOGICAL WORK

Every year, millions of people are displaced from their homes due to insecurity, violent conflicts, and natural and man-made disasters such as recurrent droughts and flooding. Better data on these people, their circumstances and how well they cope with these negative conditions are needed to inform resilience efforts and programme targeting to ensure that populations in fragile contexts are counted.

In August 2015, the MICS programme initiated a process to develop a new survey module to address the information gap on populations affected by emergencies. The overall objective of the MICS Post-Emergency (PE) Module is to assess the well-being of households affected by emergencies. This includes households affected directly by the emergency as well as households affected indirectly by the emergency

such as host communities. In particular, the module will help to create understanding about how households and their members are affected by emergencies, and when combined with other MICS modules, it can demonstrate the association between emergency affectedness and population well-being. The information captured will be useful both in the ongoing long-term response and in the transition from relief to development, and will strengthen linkages between preparedness, response, recovery, risk reduction and development. The module does not assess humanitarian needs, damage to infrastructure, or emergency response capacity. It also does not aim at evaluating results of humanitarian interventions.

The module has undergone stand-alone testing in several locations; cognitive interviewing in Nepal

following the major 2015 earthquake, pilot testing in Pakistan in a conflict-affected area and Indonesia after flooding. The next phase of testing is scheduled to take place in October 2017 in Malawi which is experiencing the prolonged effects of drought due to El Niño. The module will be housed within the standard MICS questionnaire for the first time to examine how it works in conjunction with other modules in the survey. The data from the exercise will allow for recommendations on using the module in a prolonged emergency and assist in finalizing the MICS indicators that can be captured by the module. The finalized module is expected to be released in early 2018.





SURVEY HIGHLIGHT

Data for improved public investment in children, adolescents and youth: the case of Kosovo*

A lack of updated data on the situation of children in Kosovo has been one of the critical bottlenecks to effective policy making and budgetary allocation. Initial data assessments for the country had shown that approximately two-thirds of MICS indicators were not readily available or routinely collected in Kosovo. To address this, UNICEF has played a pivotal role in strengthening institutional capacity to collect and report data on children's rights through the implementation of the 2013-14 MICS surveys. Two surveys were conducted, the first in the general population for all households and a second survey among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

MICS results provided clear evidence on the greatest inequities in Kosovar society and more importantly, they provided data that enabled the Office of the President to submit a proposal to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for funding. In the proposal, MICS was instrumental as the data source for six key indicators that made Kosovo eligible for 49 million USD in MCC funding in 2016. These indicators are: under-five mortality, access to improved water and sanitation, girls primary education completion rate, girls secondary education enrolment ratio and coverage of diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus and measles vaccinations. The MCC program is



intended to help Kosovo invest more in children, adolescents and youth and to accelerate economic growth and social progress in the next three years.

Apart from using MICS data as a basis for funding from the MCC, MICS data in Kosovo has also been instrumental in generating a policy dialogue on expanding Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Early Childhood Development (ECD). The 2013-14 MICS found that few children attended ECE programs (14%) and that not all children age 36-59 months were developmentally on track (83% on track). These results triggered Kosovo's Parliament to request UNICEF to conduct an additional study on financing Universal ECE and ECD in Kosovo. This study revealed that it is possible to reach high coverage of pre-school education within 5 years through a combination of public kindergartens, private kindergartens and community-based pre-schools.

To achieve coverage, Kosovo will introduce a publicly-funded minimum entitlement of 10 hours of pre-school learning per week for

every child. This will be combined with teacher training on inclusive education and improved quality of teaching materials. The recently approved National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2021 also reflects the appetite to improve ECE/ECD, citing that 5,000 children should be enrolled in pre-primary education until 2020. ECD data coming from the MICS have also been used to leverage 5 million Euros from the European Union and an additional 1 million Euros from the Ministry of Education, science and technology to build nine new kindergartens. This will enable 1,224 children age 0-6 years to have access to preschool institutions. In addition, Kosovo is now developing a national action plan on ECE/ECD to ensure that every child is physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally sound and ready to start grade one at age six.

* All references to Kosovo are made in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)



FEATURED PUBLICATION

In the report, 'Stolen Childhoods, End of Childhood Report 2017', Save the Children provides a snapshot of various key events that end childhood prematurely in 172 countries. The document discusses numerous indicators such as mortality, malnutrition, early marriage, out-of-school rates (based on education data), child labor, adolescent births, conflict-related displacement and child homicides which are used to create the "End of Childhood Index". The data tables in the report cite that for many indicators, data are taken directly from MICS surveys or from modelled estimates using MICS data. The report estimates that 263 million children are out of school, 156 million have stunted growth and about 16 million girls age 15-19 give birth each year. Further, the report ranks countries finding that Norway and Slovenia rank highest while Angola and Niger rank the lowest, according to the End of Childhood Index. Further information on the report can be found [here](#).



TEAM UPDATES

By the time you read this issue of our newsletter, Michele (Michka) Seroussi, Regional MICS Coordinator at the Western and Central African Regional Office (WCARO) in Dakar, will have moved to the UNICEF office in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), after serving as part of the Global MICS Team since 2008. We wish Michka all our best in her new position. Issa Kone, who has been with the DRC Country Office as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, will be replacing Michka in WCARO. Issa is no stranger to the Global MICS Team as he was involved with the DRC MICS several years ago. Eduard Bonet Poqueras will also be joining the Global MICS Team, as Statistics and Monitoring Specialist in the Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS). Eduard will be responsible for MICS coordination in the region and will be joining formally in early September. We welcome both Issa and Eduard to the Global MICS Team!



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