

MICS Implementation in Serbia

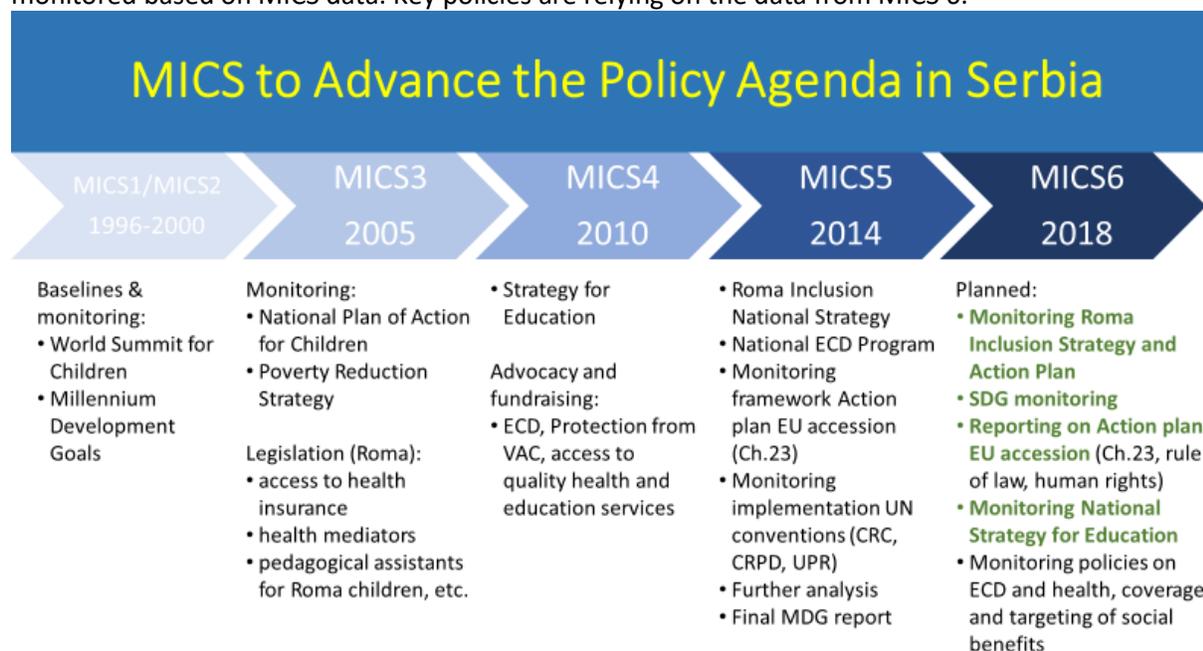
One of the key mechanisms of support to the Government of the Republic of Serbia relates to the increased availability and use of data to create evidence-based policies and monitor their implementation. One of the key instruments in this endeavor is the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), that started in 1996 and has been replicated every five years up to 2014. Since 1995, UNICEF has supported the implementation of five rounds of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) around the globe, with close to 300 surveys conducted in more than 100 countries. Serbia is one of the few countries¹ in which all four previous rounds of MICS were implemented.

MICS was from its start an evolving tool which responds to changing data needs, expanding from 28 indicators in MICS1 to 166 indicators in MICS5, and becoming a key source of data on child protection, early childhood education, and a major source of data on education, health, nutrition and overall wellbeing of children, women and men.

As of 2005, MICS was expanded and in addition to nationally representative data on the status of general population, it provided nationally representative data about population of Roma settlements. Due to the high quality of its data, MICS is the main source of statistics for development and monitoring of many social inclusion policies including the Roma inclusion policies.

Basis for Policy Development and Monitoring

As a result of the availability of reliable, internationally comparable and disaggregated data, major international and national policies and strategies, have been developed and their implementation monitored based on MICS data. Key policies are relying on the data from MICS 6.



¹ It was however in the three different states- MICS I was conducted in 1996 and MICS II in 2000 while Serbia was a part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. MICS 3 was implemented in 2005 when Serbia was the part of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro which ceased to exist in 2006 when Serbia became independent.

A Tool for Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals

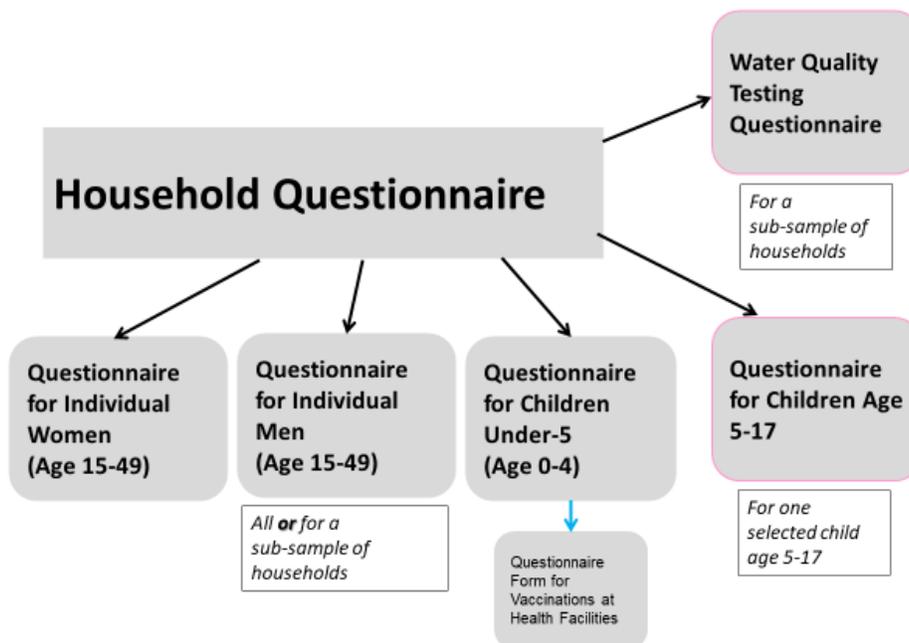
As a follow-up to the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals and the requirement to report on 230 indicators, MICS evolved in a tool which, through a single survey, provides data for more than 50% of SDGs based on household survey data.

Indicator	Tier	Custodian	Other Agencies
Population below poverty line	I	National governments	UNICEF World Bank
Men, women, children living in multidimensional poverty	II	National governments	UNICEF World Bank
Stunting	I	UNICEF	WHO
Wasting/Overweight	I	UNICEF	WHO
Skilled birth attendance	I	UNICEF	WHO, UNFPA
Under-5 Mortality	I	UNICEF	UN Population Division World Bank
Neonatal Mortality	I	UNICEF	UN Population Division World Bank
Coverage of tracer interventions	III	WHO	UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Population Division
Fully immunized children	I	WHO- UNICEF	
Early childhood development	II	UNICEF	UNESCO, OECD
Preschool attendance	I	UNESCO	UNICEF
Sexual violence against women and girls, by intimate partner	II	UNICEF UN Women UNFPA WHO	UNSD UNDP

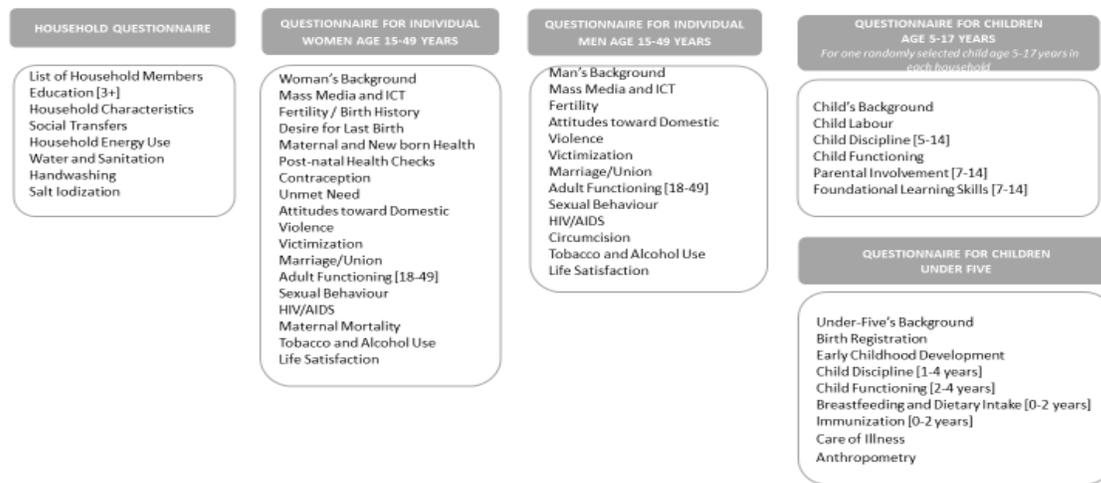
Indicator	Tier	Custodian	Other Agencies
Sexual violence against women and girls, by person other than intimate partner	II	UNICEF, UN Women UNFPA, WHO	UNSD
Early marriage	I	UNICEF	WHO, UNFPA, UNWomen UN Population Division
FGM/C	I	UNICEF	UNFPA, WHO
Safely managed water	I	UNICEF, WHO	UNEP
Safely managed sanitation and handwashing	I	UNICEF, WHO	UNEP
Child labour	I	ILO, UNICEF	
Child discipline	I	UNICEF	UNDP
Sexual violence against children	II	UNICEF	UNSD, UNDP, UNODC
Birth registration	I	UNSD, UNICEF	UNFPA, UN Population Division
Countries with (a) one or more population and housing census in last 10 years; & (b) 100 per cent birth, 80 per cent death registration	I	UNSD	UNFPA, IAG on CRVS, UN Population Division

MICS Questionnaires and Modules

A number of global questionnaires and modules are available to enable data collection. Based on the data gap analysis countries are customizing questionnaires to their national contexts and prioritizing key modules.



MICS6 modules



Data Disaggregation

MICS remains the sole source of data on child nutrition, early marriage, child labor and disability, early childhood development and the only source of disaggregated data on many other indicators which are guiding social inclusion policies processes in Serbia.

188 indicators collected through MICS can be disaggregated as per:

- Regions, administrative units
 - Residence (urban, urban-poor, rural)
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Education
 - Wealth
 - Ethnicity/religion/language
 - Migration status
 - Disability status
 - others
- and for combinations of the above

Tentative Timetable for MICS 6 in Serbia

Forming of Steering and Technical Committees	April 2018
Prioritization of modules and customization of data collection instruments	April - August 2018
Pretest of questionnaires	November 2018
Update of enumeration areas	January - February 2019
Training of fieldwork staff	March 2019
Fieldwork	April - June 2019
Survey report drafting	July - August 2019
Dissemination	September 2019

MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey)

What is MICS?

Developed and supported by UNICEF, MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) is one of the largest international household survey programmes worldwide. It is designed to collect estimates of key indicators that are used to assess the situation of children and women. Since the inception of MICS in the 1990s, over 300 surveys have been carried out in more than 100 countries. As part of the global effort to further develop national capacities to generate and analyse high quality and disaggregated data, UNICEF launched the sixth round of MICS in October 2016 – specifically designed to meet policy-makers' needs in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) era.

How does MICS work?

MICS is conducted by National Statistical Institutes (NSI), with the technical support and partial financial assistance of UNICEF and partners. A comprehensive set of tools provided by UNICEF guide survey teams through every step of the MICS process – from overall planning, design and data collection in the field to data processing, analysis, interpretation, documentation and dissemination. As part of the MICS implementation, UNICEF also provides technical assistance and training for the survey teams through a series of regional workshops as well as in-country and long-distance support.

MICS, ethnic minorities and sub-national samples

To better monitor equity and inclusion for ethnic minorities, such as for example Roma children, separate MICS surveys can be conducted in the Roma Settlements in parallel to the country-wide surveys. The average sample size for MICS Roma surveys in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region is 1,400 households. Sub-national MICS can also be designed for specific geographical regions including enclaves/non-government controlled areas.



MICS6 questionnaires and methodology

The MICS questionnaires have undergone rigorous methodological and validation work to broaden the scope of tools and include new topics that reflect SDG indicators and emerging issues in the 2030 Agenda, including: rapid water quality testing, social transfers, foundational learning skills (children age 7-14), child and adult functioning, migration status, use of clean fuels and technology and victimisation. Covering half of all SDG indicators that can be collected through household surveys, MICS includes seven questionnaires that can be customized to fit the data needs of a country. Additional validated questions may be added to MICS to help fill outstanding national data gaps.

Including the right number of households in a MICS survey is key to generating precise estimates and to allowing for disaggregation (age group, sex, urban/rural, wealth quintile, disability status, ethnicity, etc.). UNICEF's technical assistance includes the provision of a sampling expert to work with the NSI in order to establish the sampling frame, sample size and sampling approach. On average in the ECA region, national samples of between 5,000-8,000 households are standard. Sampling, data gathering and analysis is facilitated by the use of real time technology (tablets).

For more information please visit: <http://mics.unicef.org/>