

MICS-Kazakhstan Progress Report

To ensure capacity of Statistic Agencies to implement Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) three workshops were held at the Regional (Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States) level. Those were Workshop on Survey Design, Sampling and Survey Implementation held in Tbilisi, Georgia in April 2005, Workshop on Data Processing held in Ankara, Turkey in July 2005 and Workshop on Data Analysis and Preliminary Report Writing held in Sarajevo, Bosnia in March 2006. There will be one more Workshop on Final Report Writing planned for August – September 2006. Responsible partners of the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan took part at all the above mentioned workshops.

A Steering Committee was established in 2005 with participation of relevant government ministries, agencies and international organizations to overview the MICS progress and review preliminary and final results of the survey. List of Coordination Committee members is attached in Annex A.

Sample Design

The sample for the Kazakhstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) designed to provide estimates of survival, development and protection indicators at the sub-national level, for urban and rural areas, and for 16 administrative districts of Kazakhstan: 14 Oblasts and 2 Cities – Astana and Almaty City. The total number of clusters is 625 with 15,000 households covered within the survey.

The sample selected in two stages. At the first stage, census enumeration areas have been chosen from a national listing of population distribution by cities, *rayons*, villages, selected with probability proportional to size. If the selected village (cluster) had less than 500 persons, another cluster was chosen. At the second stage, within the selected enumeration areas (clusters), a household listing carried out and a systematic sample of 24 households was drawn.

Questionnaires

The questionnaires are based on the MICS Model Questionnaire used during the assessment of the End Decade Goals and adapted to the conditions and survey objectives in Kazakhstan. There are three questionnaires: a household questionnaire administered in each household, which collect various information on household members including sex, age, literacy, marital status and on all other agreed indicators along the MDG/ WFFC and MTSP concerns. In addition to the household questionnaire, there are questionnaires administered for specific age groups: women 15-49 and children under five.

Questionnaires were translated into two languages: Kazakh and Russian and have been pre-tested in October 2005. Based on the results of the pretest necessary editing was conducted.

Training of field teams and field work (data collection)

The field teams were trained during November-December 2005. Four regional trainings were conducted for the field work staff – in Petropavlovsk (21-26 November), in Shymkent, (28 November - 3 December), in Semipalatinsk (5-10 December) and in Aktobe (20-25 December). In total 129 regional statistics division's staff members have been trained, i.e. sixteen teams for data collecting; each team comprised of six interviewers, one editor, one driver and a supervisor. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the questions to be addressed to women (mothers and caregivers) all interviewers are women. The fieldwork was conducted starting from 12 January and completed at the end of March 2006. 144 people in total were involved into the field work.

Fieldwork monitoring

In February 2006 project coordinator on behalf of Agency RK on Statistics Mr. Mussabek E. carried out inspections of field work (data collection) in Mangistau, Atyrau, Akmola, Karaganda oblasts and Astana city. At the end of February 2006 inspection visits to the Akmola and Karaganda oblasts with following discussion of the project progress were made by Mr. Sakvarelidze, the Regional MICS Coordinator, Mr. Zouev, UNICEF Kazakhstan Representative, Mr. Sissemaliev, Head of UNICEF Almaty Sub-office, UNICEF MICS focal point and Mr. Mussabek, Agency on Statistics.

During 18-28 March the fieldwork inspections in Kyziyl-Orda, South-Kazakhstan, Zhambyl and Almaty oblasts were carried out by Ms. Moldakulova, MICS project coordinator and Ms. Kukanova, Chief of the Population Statistics Unit of the Agency on Statistics.

Data entry

For data entry with verification (double entry) and data editing 24 operators, 4 editors, 4 supervisors and 2 administrators were trained in January 2006.

Data were double entered into computers and internal consistency checks, verification were performed to ensure data quality control. Procedures and standard programs developed under MICS and adapted to the Kazakhstan questionnaire were used throughout the data entry and data processing steps. Data processing was started at the last decade of January and completed end of March 2006.

On-going activities

Currently the Agency on Statistics completed data processing and data cleaning and shared the data set with the Headquarters for data quality and consistency check (including weights and wealth indexes).

It is advised that first the country produce MICS Preliminary Report that should be thoroughly discussed with the Steering Committee members. We assume that

Preliminary report on MICS results should be completed by last week of June 2006 and present the Report at the Steering Committee meeting on the week of 10 or 14 July (MICS results validation meeting).

The MICS preliminary report will be without micronutrients part: prevalence of anemia and prevalence of iodine deficiency among women of reproductive age and prevalence of vitamin A deficiency among children under 5. Currently the Academy of Nutrition is conducting data collection – measuring iron level in blood (hemocue), iodine excretion with urine, collection of venouse blood in children under five. The micronutrients part data collection to be completed end of this week (14 May). Then laboratory analysis will be conducted and will last for three months. In September it is expected to conduct data entry for one week and data analysis one or two weeks with following report writing for three weeks.

The MICS Final Technical Report development will be initiated after the Steering Committee meeting and the Regional Workshop on Final Report Writing planned by UNICEF in August or September 2006. We assume to have MCIS Final Technical Report in Russian, Kazakh and English to be produced by the end of 2006.

Overall MICS budget is about \$420,000, the overall MICS budget increased from the initial one by 40% (\$298,490). The funds provided by USAID (\$70,000) are completed utilized and used for data collection (field work), as agreed between UNICEF and USAID.