



# UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Programme

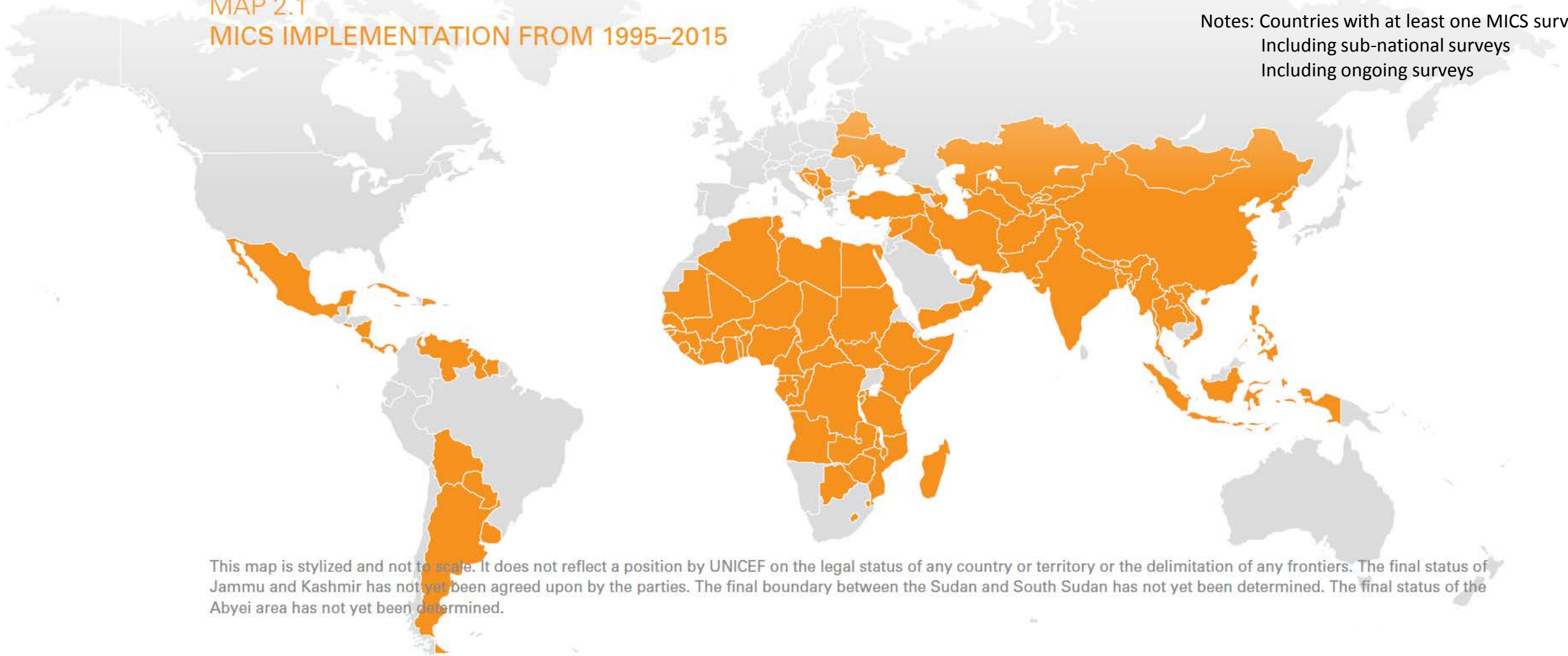
Presented by Turgay Unalan  
United Nations Expert Group Meeting on  
Strengthening the Demographic Evidence Base for  
the Post-2015 Development Agenda  
5-6 October 2015

# Since 1995, MICS has worked with 108 countries on 296 surveys



MAP 2.1  
MICS IMPLEMENTATION FROM 1995–2015

Notes: Countries with at least one MICS survey  
Including sub-national surveys  
Including ongoing surveys



This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined.

## MICS – Basic Features

- ❑ Face to face interviews, observations, measurements
- ❑ Representative data based on probabilistic samples
- ❑ Modular structure of questionnaires, easily customized to country needs
  
- ❑ Increased periodicity from 5 to 3 years; now an ongoing program
- ❑ Country led survey program with UNICEF's technical support -full government ownership

# Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

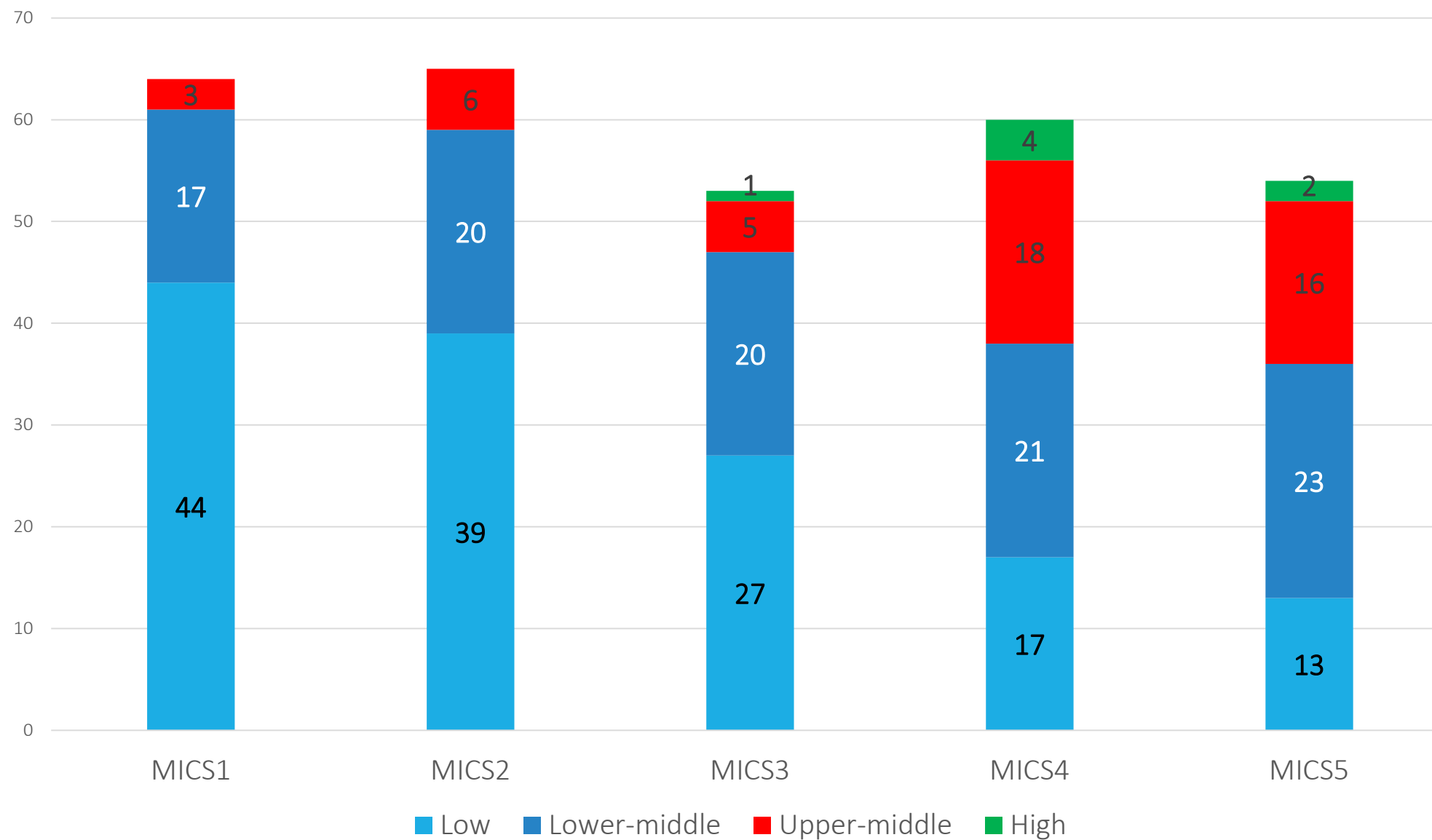
Round	Year/Period	Emphasis	# of Surveys completed
MICS1	1995	World Summit for Children Goals	64
MICS2	2000	World Summit for Children Goals	65
MICS3	2005-09	World Fit For Children Goals, MDGs, Other Global Monitoring Frameworks (e.g. HIV, Malaria)	53
MICS4	2009-13	MDGs, Other Global Monitoring Frameworks (e.g. HIV, Malaria)	60
MICS5	2013-15	Final MDG Assessment, A Promise Renewed, Other Global Monitoring Frameworks (e.g. HIV, Malaria), baseline for post 2015 goals/targets	54 (21 in progress)

## Did you Know That MICS....

- Was first developed at the country level (India & Bangladesh)
- Surveys include a separate Under-5 Questionnaire and in some countries, over-sample households with under-5s
- Includes regional and global workshops as major capacity building exercises – since the 1990s
- Surveys are not always at the national level
- Surveys are coordinated and technically supported by a small group of global MICS team members

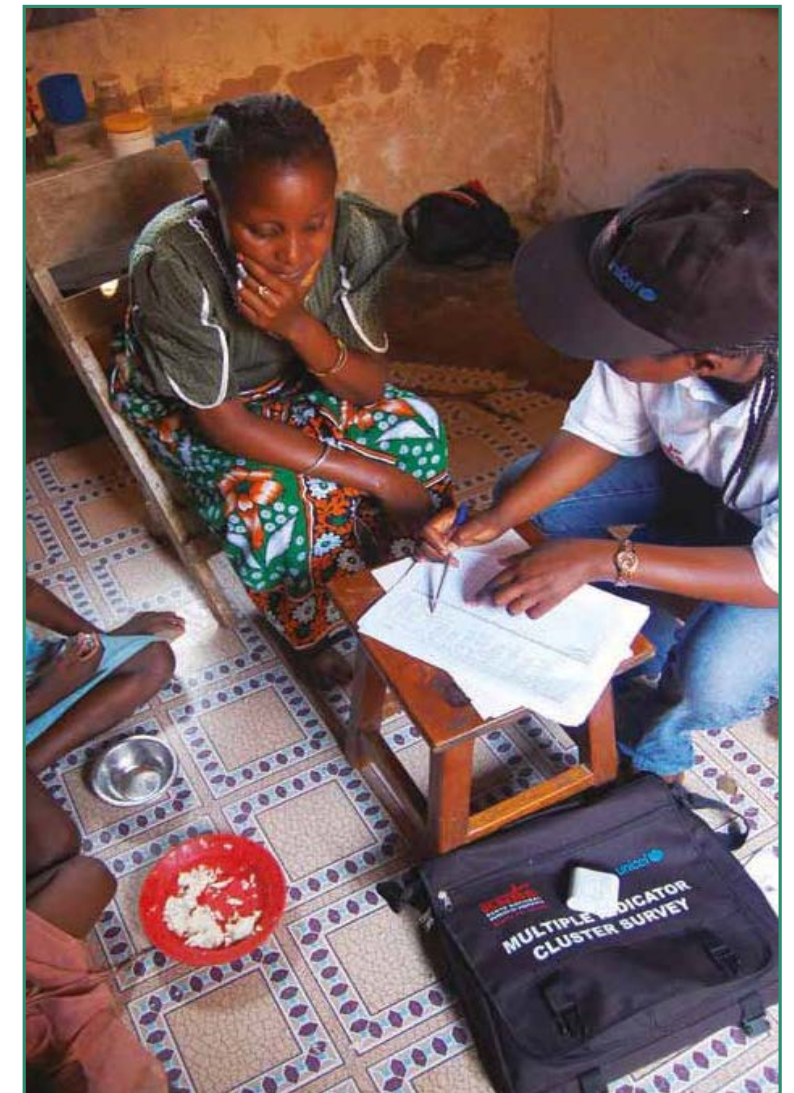
# MICS works with diverse countries

MICS surveys by income level and round



## Through household surveys, we have been able to....

- Generate official statistics and fill the gaps
- Validate and complement administrative data
- Understand knowledge, attitude, behavior in all contexts
- Generate evidence on equity: who is left behind, where, and what are the gaps?



# New Directions

- New areas of measurement
- Coordination and collaboration
- MICS for different purposes
- Disaggregation
- Use of technology
- Dissemination, utilization and accessibility





# Current MICS Topics

**21 MDG  
indicators**

	<p><b>W O M E N (15-49)</b></p> <p>Fertility                  Child mortality                  Antenatal, delivery and postnatal care                  Contraception, unmet need                  FGM/C                  Maternal mortality</p>
<p><b>U N D E R – 5s</b></p> <p>Birth registration                  Early childhood development                  Diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria                  Breastfeeding and dietary recall                  Immunization                  Anthropometry</p>	<p><b>W O M E N (15-49) &amp; M E N (15-49)</b></p> <p>Marriage                  Attitudes towards domestic violence                  Sexual behavior                  HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitudes                  Access to mass media and ICT                  Tobacco and alcohol use                  Life satisfaction                  Literacy and education</p>

## New Directions: New Areas of Measurement

- The SDGs will extend to new issues key to children's wellbeing, emphasize equity- focused, country-led, country-specific target setting and implementation.
- We can't wait for the final SDG indicators!
- We are already starting to test/validate (a field test is planned in Belize), and we will continue to test as necessary

## New Directions:

### Development of improved and new measurement tools for SDGs and other child-related emerging issues

#### Recently developed measurement tools

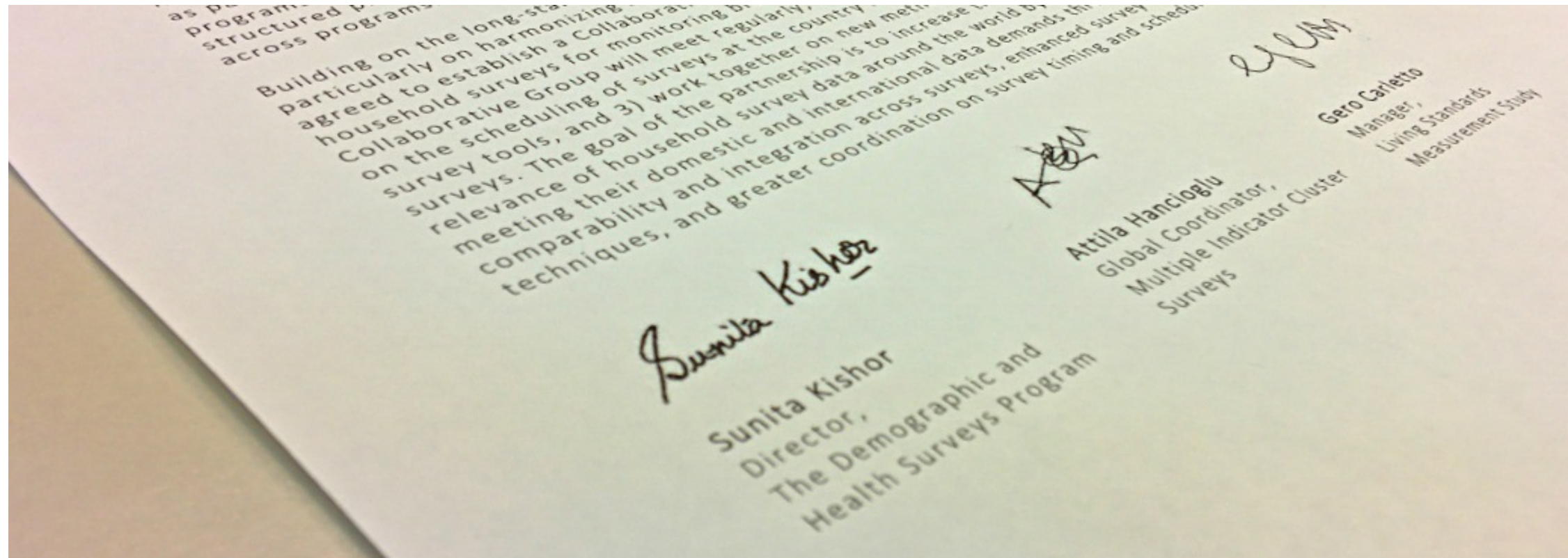
- Child discipline
- Early childhood development
- Children left behind
- Child labour
- Dietary recall
- Post-natal care
- Emergency C-section

#### Methodological work in progress

- Child disability,
- Social protection,
- Victimization,
- Water quality assessment,
- Literacy-numeracy tests,
- Verbal autopsy,
- Post-emergency assessments

## New Directions: Collaboration

- Establishment of the MICS-DHS-LSMS Collaborative Group
- MICS part of Inter-secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys led by Statistical Commission



## New Directions: MICS for different purposes

- If and when systems that generate other types of robust and non-robust data, such as big data, develop sufficiently to deliver good-quality data with known limitations, MICS will serve purposes other than generating official data:
- MICS will be able to
  - validate official data,
  - provide types of robust data that cannot be generated by other data sources – such as data on attitudes, behaviours and knowledge, and
  - generate the type of robust equity/disparity data that can only be generated by household surveys
  - create more space to focus on topics not captured in other systems

# MICS – Disaggregation

Data collection through MICS and DHS are the primary source of disaggregated data

MICS currently provides data for 126 indicators which can be disaggregated by:

- Regions, provinces, districts
- Residence (urban, urban-poor, rural)
- Gender
- Wealth
- Education
- Age
- Ethnicity/religion/language
- Other stratifiers
- Combinations of the above
  
- *Forthcoming*
  - *Migratory status*
  - *Disability*

## New Directions: Use of Technology

- Increased use of technology, including tablet assisted data collection, collection of GIS information
- Currently, 30% of the MICS surveys are CAPI
- Within a few years, it is very likely that MICS interviewers will no longer be using paper questionnaires to conduct interviews, but will all be relying on mobile instruments, such as tablets, to do so

# New Directions: Dissemination, utilization and accessibility

- Continue advances in improving effective dissemination, including
  - the reduction of time required to release the results,
  - transforming survey findings into formats accessible by a broader audience,
  - ensuring that secondary analysis of MICS data is increased and that data and results are more accessible
- Further standardize datasets and develop internet interfaces to make possible the online access of non-statistical audiences to data to perform analysis in real time
- Enlarging the scope of dissemination tools to cater to varied audiences, i.e. child friendly MICS reports



# Key Challenges

- Broad agenda:
  - Lots of indicators, difficult to take in all, we will need to prioritize. The criterion for MICS will need to be children's data
  - MICS is well-positioned on a number of themes coming in the SDG agenda
- Timeliness:
  - Starting early to report: We need to be ready to carry our surveys to furnish the baseline for SDGs
  - Timeliness in terms of reporting will also be a great problem. We are continuously trying to invent new ways of working to avoid delays
- Frequency:
  - Most indicators do not move that fast so MICS is avoiding frequent cross-sectional surveys.
  - Alternating with DHS (as we are often doing) and also cross-walks with LSMS and DHS will ensure that we increase availability of data in certain indicators

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MICS  
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## Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

MICS celebrates 20 years as a survey programme

[Visit our Year 20 Pages](#)

## Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women for 20 Years

**Tools**  
Documentation to guide survey teams through every step of the MICS process

**Surveys**  
Access the full list of MICS surveys, view survey status, download reports and datasets

**Methodological Papers**

**Year 20**

**Workshops**

**News**

**Highlights**

**UNICEF CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF MICS**

On 8 September 2015, the UNICEF Executive Director, Anthony Lake, hosted a reception at UNICEF House in New York to celebrate the 20th anniversary of MICS.

[Read more](#)

**News**

**VIET NAM 2013-14 MICS FINAL REPORT RELEASED**

The General Statistics Office released the Final Report of the Viet Nam 2013-14 MICS conducted as part of the Global MICS Programme.

[Read more](#)

**News**

**MEXICO BEGINS DATA COLLECTION FOR ITS FIRST MICS SURVEY**

Using tablets, Mexico is conducting its first Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey to highlight the situation of children and women in the country.

[Read more](#)

**More news**

**THREE CAPI SURVEYS LAUNCHING IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

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**MICS DATA STIMULATE DISCUSSION ON WHAT CONSTITUTES SAFE SANITATION FOR CHILDREN**

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**CAMEROON 2014 MICS KEY FINDINGS REPORT RELEASED**

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**SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE 2014 MICS KEY FINDINGS AND**