Case study on data flows for indicator 4.2.1: *Early Childhood Development*

[UNICEF Logo]

*for every child*
Early Childhood Development in the SDGs: Indicator 4.2.1

Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being

**ECD Index** developed by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) programme used to report on the indicator in the interim

**ECD Index:** Children age 3-4 developmentally on track in literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, learning domains
Data Flows from National to Regional/Global Level

• Main sources of data
  – Household surveys, typically implemented by NSOs, with findings published in survey reports
  – Household surveys are the main data sources to generate the data necessary for all three domains covered by the indicator, especially psychosocial wellbeing

• Frequency of national data collection
  – Household surveys can be implemented annually; however every 3-5 years sufficient to capture changes
Data Flows from National to Regional/Global Level

Method for data compilation

Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING): Annual process established in the early 1990s to update UNICEF global databases, through UNICEF country offices, early in the calendar year
Data Flows from National to Regional/Global Level

Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING):

- UNICEF Country Offices consult on and validate new/updated data as part of their ongoing cooperation with governments.

- UNICEF Country offices submit new/updated data through an online platform after which:
  - Review by sector specialists at UNICEF HQ (for consistency with definitions, data quality etc.)
  - Feedback is provided on submitted data points
  - New/updated data included in UNICEF global databases, posted online at data.unicef.org and provided to UNSD for SDG reporting.
Data Flows from National to Regional/Global Level

Process of converting national data to the SDG indicator

– Nationally produced data are already calculated in accordance with indicator 4.2.1 and no adjustments or recalculations are necessary

– Global aggregates are calculated as population-weighted averages of all the sub-regions that make up the world. Regional aggregates are population-weighted averages of all the countries within the region
Inter-agency advisory and coordination group (IAEG-ECD)

Goal: Serve as global advisory and coordination body whose overarching purpose is to support countries in the monitoring of SDG target 4.2, indicator 4.2.1.

Establishment of group announced at the 2017 UN Statistical Commission
Methodological work for the development of 4.2.1

Expert Panel and Observers

• **Expert Advisory Panel:** academics and experts from relevant research institutes/agencies. Members will have technical expertise in the measurement of ECD and former experience with tool development and/or tool/instrument testing and validation.

• **Observers:** Interested individuals and organizations that cannot commit to the same degree as core members or do not fulfill membership criteria.
Methodological work:
Activities completed to date

• In-depth review of existing tools/items used in ECD measurements in the last 10 years - some 20 instruments and more than 500 items reviewed

• Technical consultations with experts to select extended list of items for testing

• Cognitive testing of selected items in India, Jamaica, USA, Mexico, Bulgaria and Uganda, in collaboration with national partners
For further information: www.data.unicef.org

THANK YOU!
Planned activities

• Preparation of papers on the three domains of health, learning and psychosocial wellbeing to build summary measure

• Dedicated field tests of the revised ECD measure to validate items

• Methodological work expected to be completed in the second half of 2018