

Household surveys in the 21st century: UNICEF's experience

UNICEF's support to robust data collection: Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

Since 1995, more than 100 countries and 275 surveys*

21

Years

108

Countries

286

Surveys



*As of September 2016

UNICEF's support to robust data collection: Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

- One of the largest data collection efforts at the country level (along with the USAID-supported DHS)
- Provides critically important information for well over **100 indicators** including **three-quarters** of the data for the health related MDG indicators and over **50% of the proposed SDGs based on household surveys**
- Started in 1995 and now **275 MICS** surveys conducted in **108** low income, lower and upper middle income, and several high income countries
- **Demand-driven and government-owned** – implemented by NSOs
- The fifth round is underway with **54 surveys** in **45 countries**.
- **Capacity development** - integral part of the MICS technical support system: training workshops, government led implementation of survey processes, user-friendly documentation on survey implementation and analysis – results in influence on improvement of other surveys

MICS – leading data source on equity

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

Primary data source of global equity analyses: MPI, MODA

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

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

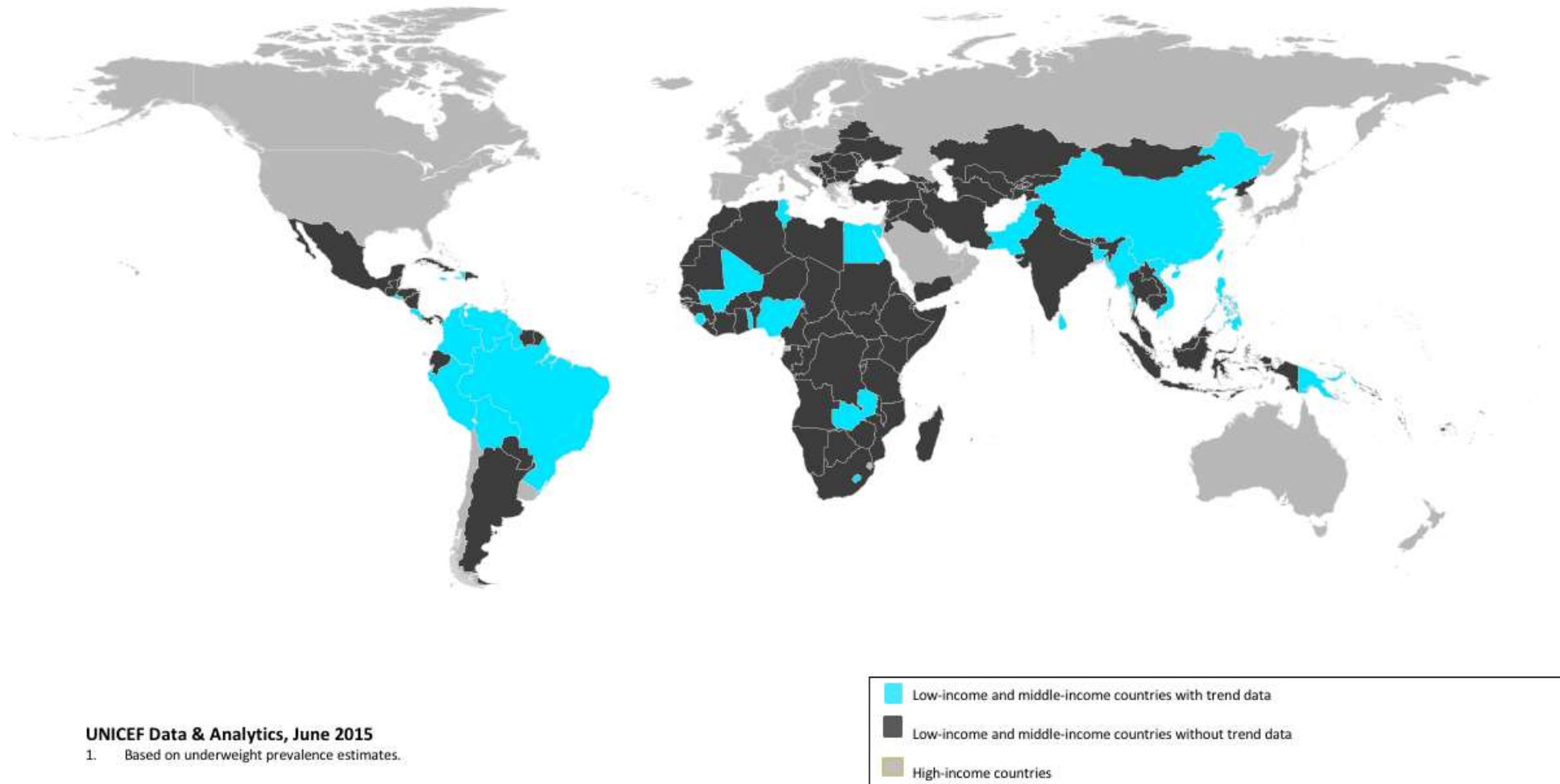
- Regions, provinces, districts
- Residence (urban, urban-poor, rural)
- Gender
- Wealth
- Education
- Age
- Ethnicity/religion/language
- Other stratifiers
- Combinations of the above

MICS – advantages of HH surveys

- **Impact and outcome level data** – main source for data on mortality, nutrition, etc. in countries lacking quality CRVS and admin data
- **Statistically verifiable** – can assess data quality, calculate confidence intervals
- **Robust, representative data on knowledge and behavior** –not collected through other systems
- **Flexible, high quality data** - flexibility to tailor to country needs, introduce new areas of measurement, highlight emerging issues
- **Validation of data** – from other data systems, including in countries with strong data systems
- **Rights based** – free of political bias, based on self-reports of household members

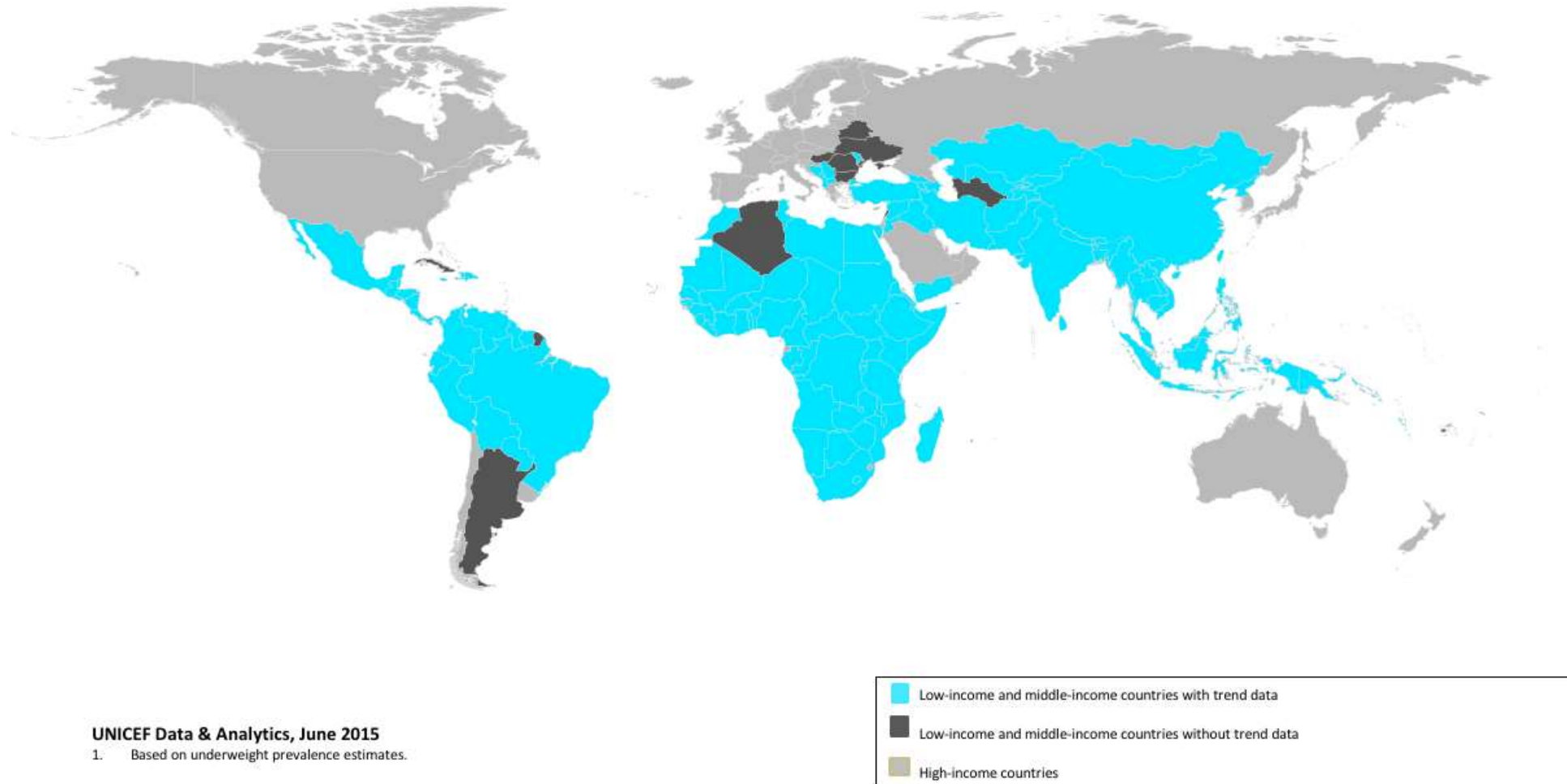
Evolution of data availability in low and middle income countries since 1990

Around 1990, 28 low income and middle income countries had trend data on child malnutrition¹



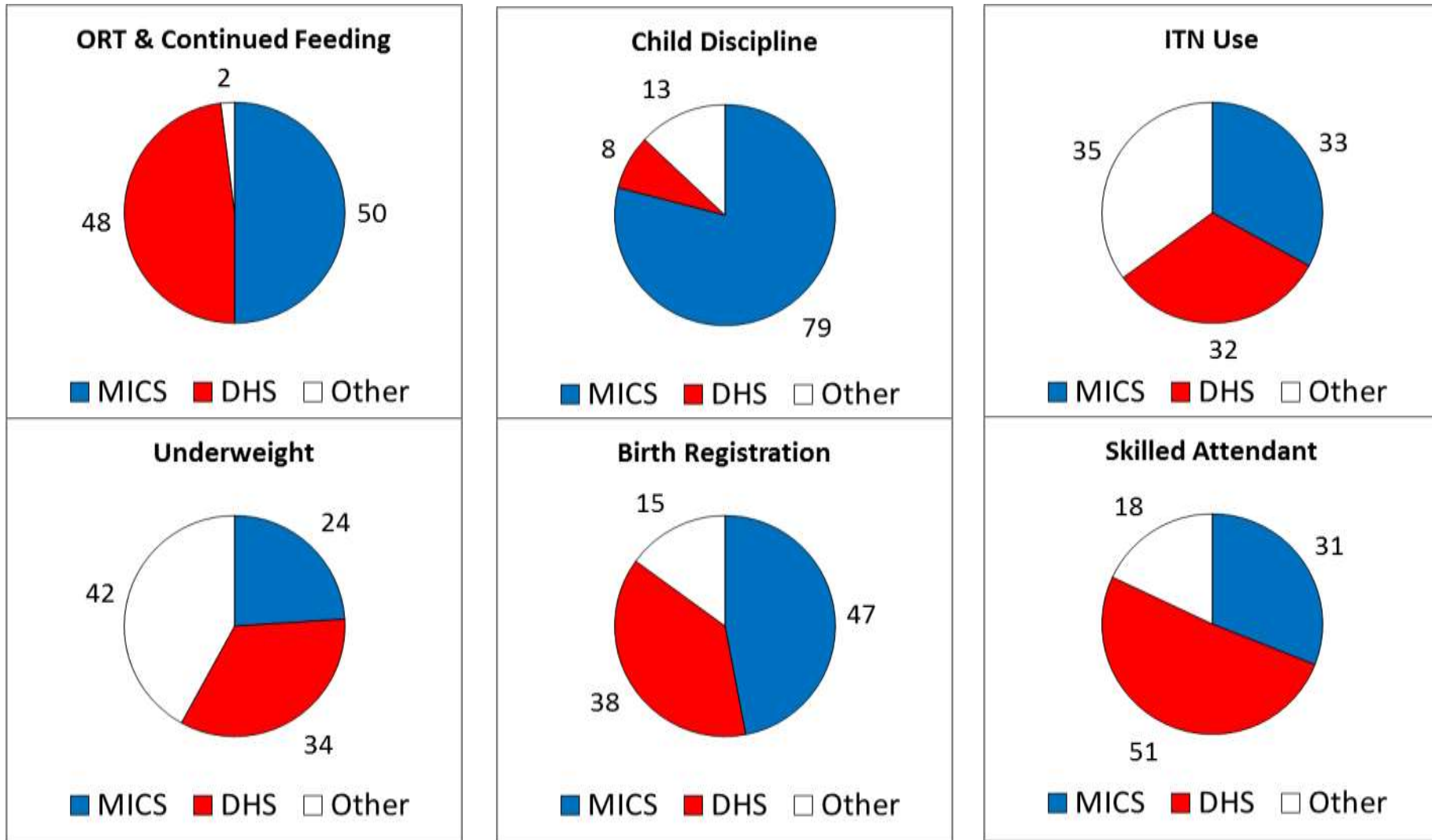
Evolution of data availability in low and middle income countries since 1990

Today, 119 low income and middle income countries have current trend data on child malnutrition¹



Global Databases and MICS

Data sources for most recent national data points



MICS serves different functions in different contexts

- **Countries with low functioning CRVS and routine monitoring systems**

MICS delivers official statistics on key indicators – mortality, malnutrition, health related indicators with disaggregation, as well as attitudinal and behavioral data

- **Countries with higher functioning CRVS and routine monitoring systems**

MICS is used to validate data generated from these systems and generates information on attitudinal and behavioral correlates, stratifiers, and determinants that are not available from other data systems

MICS serves different functions in different contexts

- MICS is the **main data source on children** in numerous countries, in development plans, intervention strategies, and government work plans
- **Flexible tool** that can be used at sub-national level to dig deeper into disparities
- An increasing number of countries have now adopted **MICS in their statistical plans**
- One of the three household surveys (with DHS and LSMS) used in estimating statistical cost/investment needs for the post-2015 agenda

New Directions in support to MICS

- Development of 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 in support to MICS

- Methodological work for linking with other types of data such as facility data
- Improved technical support to ensure release of all results within 3 months
- Increased use of technology, including tablet assisted data collection, collection of GIS information
- Establishment of a collaborative group between MICS/DHS/LSMS
- Active participation in the inter-secretarial committee on household surveys (led by Statistical Commission)

MICS Website: mics.unicef.org

The revamped MICS website launched in 2015, as part of Year 20 activities

