Measuring Early Childhood Development in the SDGs: UNICEF’s Ongoing Activities on Indicator 4.2.1

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Target 4.2 and Indicators

Ensure that, by 2030, all girls and boys have access to quality *early childhood development*, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

**Indicator 4.2.1**

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

**Indicator 4.2.2**

4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex.
SDG Target 4.2 – Indicator 4.2.1

• UNICEF identified as the custodian agency - supporting agencies: UNESCO-UIS and OECD

• 4.2.1 is a Tier III indicator: This means there is no internationally established methodology or standards yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being developed.

• MICS-ECDI currently used as an proxy measure – e.g. for reporting in Secretary-General’s Annual SDG Progress Reports
Challenges of Population-level measurement of ECD

• Limited availability of comparable measures of children’s developmental outcomes at population level, particularly in low & middle income countries

• Only a handful measures until 7-8 years ago, and confined to
  • Selected countries
  • Primarily using direct assessments, school based or clinical measures

• Absence of an established reporting mechanism
Population-level measurement of ECD- UNICEF’s experience

In mid-2000s, UNICEF set out to develop a tool to measure key domains of child development

Using the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) programme as the platform, and for possible use in other household surveys
MICS ECDI for the Region

Central Asia proxy data on SDG 4.2.1

Western Asia proxy data on SDG 4.2.1
MICS ECDI for the Region

Southern Asia proxy data on SDG 4.2.1

South-Eastern Asia proxy data on SDG 4.2.1

Eastern Asia Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mongolia
Planned activities and next steps for 4.2.1
Inter-agency advisory and coordination group (IAEG-ECD)

Purposes:

• Oversee and approve revision, testing and validation of the ECD measure for use by all countries

• Support development of capacity-building initiatives for countries to collect, analyze and use the ECD measure

• Develop guidelines for implementation of ECD data collection at country-level

Plans:

The IAEG plans to submit a comprehensive review of the global SDG indicator framework to the UNSC in 2020: In preparation, a review of indicators, proposed changes and possible deletions will start in Q4 of 2018
Steps and timeline

3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), 5-6 June 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

Technical consultation: January 2015

Cognitive testing of current ECDI items: March/April 2016

Desk review and expert rating: early 2017

Technical consultation: January 2018

Dedicated field test: 2018

Further analyses of current ECDI: 2016

Technical consultation: Sept 2016

Cognitive testing of draft items: June-Oct 2017

Development of background papers: early 2018

Finalization and release: early 2019
For further information on UNICEF’s data: [www.data.unicef.org](http://www.data.unicef.org)

For further information on MICS, including data collection tools and surveys: [www.mics.unicef.org](http://www.mics.unicef.org)

THANK YOU!