

UNICEF Country Office

Terms of Reference

Individual consultant to monitor Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) activities with the partners

Title	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Monitoring Consultant
Purpose	To support MICS implementation and monitoring of field activities
Duration	6 months (January- July 2022)
Expected Start Date	01 January 2022
Duty Station	UNICEF Office Sana'a, Yemen
Reporting to	Monitoring and Research Manager

1. Background

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) is an international household survey programme developed and supported by UNICEF. MICS is designed to collect estimates of key indicators that are used to assess the situation of children and women. Over the past 20 years, MICS has evolved to respond to changing data needs, expanding from 28 indicators in the first round to more than 200 indicators in the current sixth round, and becoming a key source of data on child protection, early childhood education, and a major source of data on child health and nutrition. In addition to being a data collection tool to generate data for monitoring the progress towards national goals and global commitments for promoting the welfare of children, MICS is a major source of data for the Sustainable Development Goals Report. The UNICEF Yemen Country Office (YCO) supported MICS round 3 surveys in 2006 but unable to participate in the last two rounds due to the state of instability in Yemen.

Since the commencement of the conflict in Yemen in 2015, there has been no universally accepted and reliable sources of nationally representative evidence on the situation of children and women in the country. The last nation-wide survey was the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) conducted in 2013 and the last MICS was conducted in 2006. In the recent years, efforts

have been made by the humanitarian community in conducting rapid assessments at national and subnational levels to identify the immediate needs of the people informing the humanitarian response. However, such rapid assessments - including Standardized Monitoring & Assessment of Relief & Transition (SMART), Food Security & Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) and Multi Cluster Location Assessment (MCLA) - are not multisectoral in coverage and provide limited information that can be used for a comprehensive response to address the plight of children and women, who bear the largest consequences of the current Yemen conflict in which they have no say. Since the start of the conflict, welfare and general condition of the children have deteriorated significantly. Access to basic healthcare, education, water and sanitation facilities has been largely impaired by the crisis. The periodic outbreak of cholera has killed thousands of children while violence against children and women has increased significantly.

To address the current data gaps on development indicators to respond to the ongoing humanitarian situation and meet the SDG reporting requirements, YCO is currently collaborating with Central Statistical Organization (CSO) to implement MICS in Yemen.

2. Justification

Currently, MICS implementation is being coordinated being by the Monitoring & Research Manager, assisted by a national officer (NOB). The planning phase of the survey is completed and the field work phase is starting January 2022. Training and data collection activities have been scheduled to be implemented back-to-date from January to July 2022. The activity schedule in this phase requires close follow-up with our implementing partners and quick resolution of bottlenecks to ensure that activities are implemented as planned within the agreed timeline.

A national consultant is also required to monitor data collection and other field activities where UNICEF staff cannot be present due to requirement for travel clearances, logistics and security issues.

3. Objectives of the consultancy

The main objective of this individual consultancy is to ensure that the field work implementation phase of the MICS survey runs smoothly and that the implementing partners are supported to meet up with the agreed deadlines.

4. Scope of work and main tasks

- Constantly follow up with partners (MoPIC, CSO and SCMCAH) on implementation of agreed activities in timely manner.
- Bring to the attention of the Monitoring & Research Manager any bottleneck that may affect the timeline or quality of activity implementation for quick resolution
- Attend all MICS technical meetings and trainings activities to represent UNICEF interest.

- Conduct field monitoring of data collection activities to confirm that activities are conducted according to MICS guidelines, especially in areas not accessible by UNICEF staff.
- Support coordination and engage in direct discussions with partners as may be assigned.
- Represent UNICEF interest during activities/events that UNICEF staff are not able to attend
- Conduct programmatic monitoring visits to verify the quality of activity implementation and use of UNICEF resources
- Submit progress/status and situational reports on weekly basis
- Facilitate information sharing and regular communication among UNICEF, CSOs, MoPIC and SCMCAH as related to the survey.

5. Deliverables and timelines

This consultancy will be conducted from January to July 2022 and the following deliverables are expected:

- Weekly status report of implementation, describing activities undertaken during the week and highlighting problems met and solutions put in place to mitigate them
- Field trip reports to resolve issues and to monitor MICS implementation

6. Qualifications of consultant

Consultant should demonstrate that he/she meet the following requirements:

- Possess an advanced degree (master's degree preferred) in social sciences, management, health, education, law or development studies.
- At least 4 years of relevant professional experience, for which two years should be in conducting studies, research and evaluation.
- Excellent analytical and report writing skills in English language (sample analytical products will be requested).
- Strong coordination skills and ability to adhere to deadlines.
- Strong communication and presentation skills.
- Previous working experience with UN and or International Agencies in a similar capacity is an asset.
- Committed to remain on board for this whole duration of the consultancy

- Fluency in Arabic & English is required

7. Reporting Line

The successful candidate will report directly to the Monitoring and Research Manager under the general oversight of the Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Research Section in UNICEF Yemen Office.

8. Confidentiality of Data and MICS Documents

The Consultant must respect the confidentiality of the MICS data as well as any specific MICS documents that will be produced throughout the MICS process.