

Ms. Maya Tskitishvili
Head of Government Administration
7 Ingorokva Street, Tbilisi

Ref.: LG/152/2017
December 15, 2017

Subject: Contribution of Government of Georgia to the MICS

Maia
Dear Ms. Tskitishvili,

Thank you for the meeting and the discussion on SDG agenda and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) we had on November 28, 2017.

As you know the MICS is one of the largest international household survey programmes worldwide. It is designed to collect estimates of key indicators that are used to assess the situation of children and women. Georgia is one of the pioneer countries in the Europe and Central Asia region implementing the MICS round 6 – which is aligned with the SDGs.

MICS is conducted by GeoStat in Georgia, with the technical support and partial financial assistance of UNICEF and partners. The adaptation of the MICS to Georgia is underway ensuring that there is no duplication with other existing or on-going surveys. The MICS is a valuable tool to establish baselines on key SDG indicators and support in evidence-based policy making and monitoring of progress thereof.

At the MICS Steering Committee Meeting of December 4, 2017 recommendations were made in respect of contribution of the Government of Georgia to MICS. The recommendations include the following:

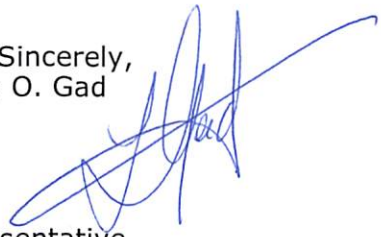
1. Financial contribution of approximately 50,000 USD – 70,000 USD constituting about 5% of the total budget for MICS estimated at 1.2 million USD.
2. In-kind contribution that includes:
 - a. Availing a training venue and accommodation for a period of one (1) month (in August 2018) to accommodate approximately 120 persons (trainees and trainers). The training is a crucial element in the success of the MICS, and hence making adequate provision for an adequate training venue and accommodation is important. As this will be in August, possible options could be University venues and student accommodation;
 - b. Availing transportation for the MICS fieldwork which will start September 2018 to December 2018. The exact specifications for transport are included as an attachment to this letter.

Based on UNICEF experience globally with MICS implementation, and in line with best practice, Government contribution to the MICS is important, particularly to assure Government ownership and to trigger further funding for the MICS. Governments have contributed to conducting MICS in respective countries with varying participation depending on the context. Government of some countries have contributed up to 50% of the total MICS budget.

Let me kindly inform you that UNICEF, UNFPA, SIDA and the World Bank have made commitments to MICS funding, and we are seeking contributions from other partners as well. However, I take this opportunity to assure you that contribution from the Government of Georgia is of utmost importance to ensure further funding for the MICS.

I would like to thank your team for active engagement and personally you for leading them in this important process.

Yours Sincerely,
Laila O. Gad



Representative
UNICEF Georgia

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the MICS Steering Committee Meeting of December 4, 2017
2. MICS Brochure
3. Transportation specifications

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Georgia

Steering Committee Meeting

Location: GeoStat Central Office in Tbilisi Georgia

Date: 04.12.17

Time: 11:00 AM

Attendees: UNICEF and Geostat MICS teams, Lire Ersado (World Bank Group); Laila O. Gad (UNICEF Georgia); Nino Sarishvili (Government Administration); Tengso Tsekvava (GeoStat); Lela Bakradze (UNFPA); Lela Sturua (NCDC).

Agenda Items

1. MICS timetable (as per MICS Technical Committee Recommendation)
2. Modules and Questionnaires (as per MICS Technical Committee Recommendation)
3. Lead Module
 - a. Inclusion in the MICS as non-standard module,
 - b. Involvement of NCDC in development of the module, especially protection protocols and follow-up action
4. MICS budget (as per MICS Technical Committee Recommendation)
5. Recommend Georgian Government contribution between \$50000 and \$70000, plus in kind contribution (training venue, transportation, etc.) to the MICS.
6. Added to the agenda later: Inclusion of six questions in the MICS energy module related to underheating

Discussions:

Mr. Tsekvava opened the meeting and introduced agenda items to the members of the Steering Committee. He presented the total budget of \$1.3 million, list of modules and questionnaires, timetable of the survey as well as the idea of including the lead module in the MICS.

Ms. Laila O. Gad thanked the Committee members for coming and to GeoStat for their productive work. She underlines the important role of the Committee members and asked them to look at the data to be generated from the point of policy use.

She has underlined the importance of the Lead Module and stated that it is not the standard module of the MICS and UNICEF is ready to include it in the Survey as long as the government counterpart [NCDC] will both assist UNICEF in development (selection) of relevant methodology as well as undertake further actions in its capacity when results become available.

Ms. Gad has also pointed out that in every country governments are expected to contribute towards some funding for the MICS, thus she asked the Committee to issue a recommendation on governmental financial contribution to MICS in Georgia.

Ms. Gad emphasized that MICS will be regionally representative and will also allow segregation by gender, age group, urban/rural settlement status, ethnicity, and that the work is ongoing to make sample selection

3. Lead Module
 - a. Inclusion in the MICS as non-standard module,
 - b. Involvement of NCDC in development of the module, especially protection protocols and follow-up action
4. MICS budget (as per MICS Technical Committee Recommendation)
5. Recommend Georgian Government contribution between \$50000 and \$70000, plus in kind contribution (training venue, transportation, etc.) to the MICS.
6. Technical team shall start evaluating the feasibility of including six questions in the MICS energy module related to underheating.

2018 Georgia MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey)



What is MICS?

Developed and supported by UNICEF, MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) is one of the largest international household survey programmes worldwide. It is designed to collect estimates of key indicators that are used to assess the situation of children and women. Since the inception of MICS in the 1990s, over 300 surveys have been carried out in more than 100 countries. As part of the global effort to further develop national capacities to generate and analyse high quality and disaggregated data, UNICEF launched the sixth round of MICS in October 2016 – specifically designed to meet policy-makers' needs in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) era.

How does MICS work?

MICS is conducted by National Statistical Offices (NSO) – GeoStat in the case of Georgia, with the technical support and partial financial assistance of UNICEF and partners. A comprehensive set of tools provided by UNICEF guide survey teams through every step of the MICS process – from overall planning, design and data collection in the field of data processing, analysis, interpretation, documentation and dissemination. As part of the MICS implementation, UNICEF also provides technical assistance and training for the survey teams through a series of regional workshops as well as in-country and long-distance support.

MICS6 questionnaires and methodology



The MICS questionnaires have undergone rigorous methodological and validation work to broaden the scope of tools and include new topics that reflect SDG indicators and emerging issues in the 2030 Agenda, including: rapid water quality testing, social transfers, foundational learning skills (children age 7-14), child and adult functioning, migration status, use of clean fuels and technology and victimisation. Covering half of all SDG indicators that can be collected through household surveys, MICS includes seven questionnaires that can be customized to fit the data needs of a country. Additional questions may be added to MICS to help fill outstanding national data gaps. In Georgia's case lead testing in the blood of children under five will be added as well as questions related to pregnancy history of women.

Including the right number of households in a MICS survey is key to generating precise estimates and to allowing for disaggregation (age group, sex, urban/rural, wealth quintile, disability status, ethnicity, etc.). In Georgia's case, we have up to 14 000 households as a sample size, providing regionally representative survey results which can be segregated by age group, sex, urban/rural and other covariates allowing most precise policy and development intervention targeting.

Transportation required for the MICS fieldwork

Type of vehicle	Number of vehicles	Capacity	Purpose	Duration
Minivan	13	7-8 seats each	Field work	3 months (from September to December 2018)
Bus	3	30-35 seats each	Transfer interviewees from hotels to training venue	1 month (August 2018)