Key Messages

• 8% of children (2-17 years) have functional difficulties in at least one domain. While 2% of children aged 2-4 years and 10% of children aged 5-17 years suffer from difficulties in functional abilities in at least one field, respectively.

• Moreover, it's noteworthy that 1.2% and 0.9% of children aged 2-4 years have functional difficulty in communication and learning domain respectively, followed by walking and controlling behavior with equal share (0.2%) and seeing, hearing and playing at the same rate (0.1%).

• 4.4% of children aged 5 to 17 suffer from anxiety, whereas 1.6% - from depression. Herewith 1.4% and 1.3% have difficulties in learning and walking domains respectively.

• There are no significant differences in child functioning regarding sex of the child and area of residence.

• Percentage of children aged 5-17 with functional difficulties is highest in Kakheti (16%), while the percentage of children aged 2-4 with functional difficulties is the highest in Guria (6%).

• 4% of children aged 2-17 have difficulties in seeing when wearing glasses; 0.3% have difficulties in hearing when using the hearing aid. 0.7% have difficulties walking when using equipment or receiving assistance for walking.

Children with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in society. Facing daily discrimination in the form of negative attitudes, and lack of adequate policies and legislation, children with disabilities are effectively barred from realizing their rights to health, education, and even survival. Children with disabilities are often likely to be among the poorest members of the population and are less likely to attend school, access medical services, or have their voices heard in society. Discrimination against and exclusion of children with disabilities also puts them at a higher risk of physical and emotional abuse or other forms of neglect, violence and exploitation.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 1989) and the more recent Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 2006) explicitly state the rights of children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children. These Conventions focus on the disparities faced by children with disabilities and call for improvements in their access to services, and in their participation in all aspects of life. In order to achieve these goals, there is a need for cross-nationally comparable, reliable data.
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The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Georgia MICS 2018 related to Child Functioning. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables EQ1.1, EQ1.2, EQ1.3 and EQ1.4.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.