

What does
it mean to
be a child
in Kosovo?

**LAUNCHING OF THE KEY FINDINGS of the 2020
Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS)**

Kosovo Agency of Statistics and UNICEF Kosovo Office

Content

- What is MICS?
- Survey findings: the situation of children in Kosovo
- Advancing child rights: an opportunity to invest in human capital

What is the MICS

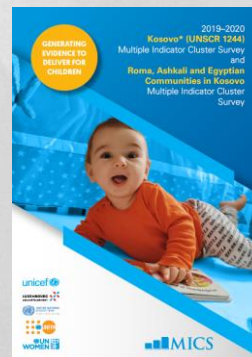
- Nationally representative household survey programme developed and supported by UNICEF since 1990s
 - To assist countries in filling data and knowledge gaps and tracking progress towards national and international goals and commitments
- In its 6th round globally: second round of MICS for Kosovo (2014 and 2020)
 - Face to face interviews, observations, anthropometric measurements, water quality testing, reading and numeracy assessments

Why is MICS important for Kosovo?

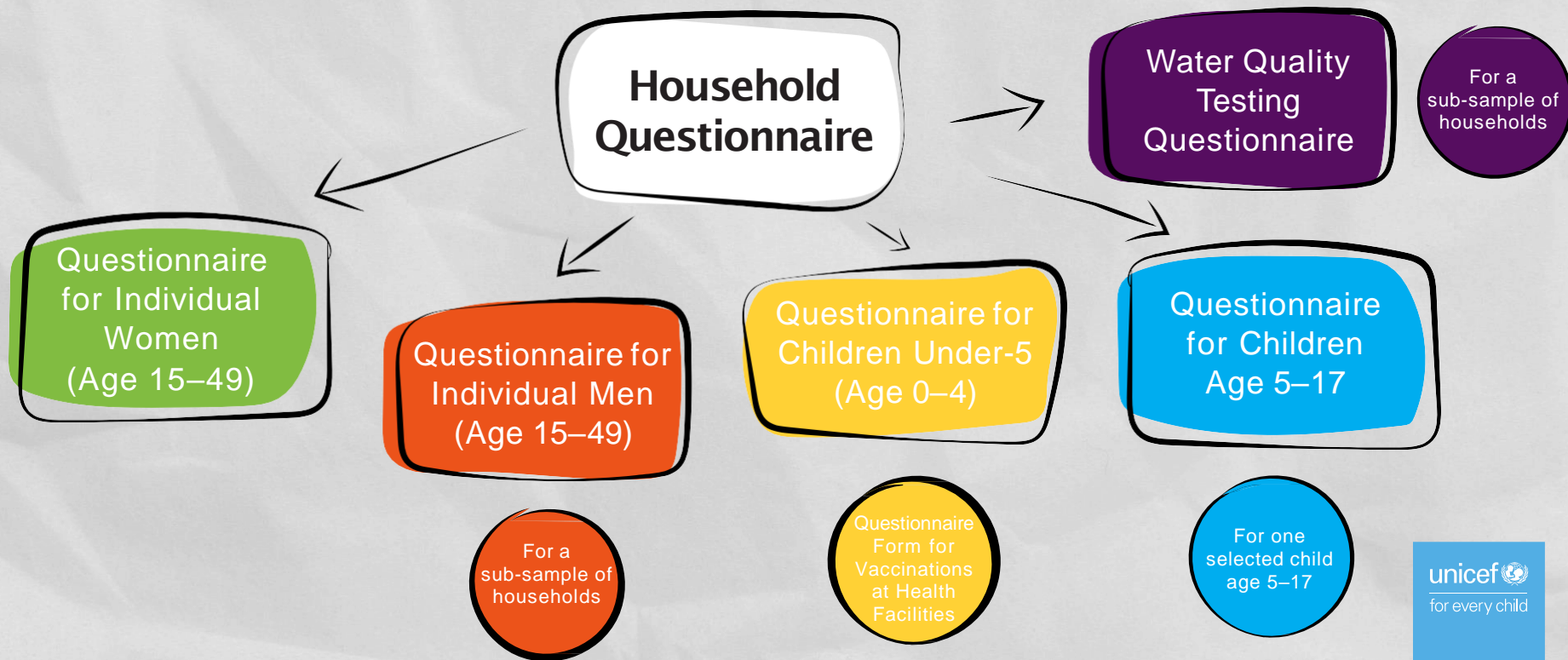


2020 Kosovo MICS

To better monitor
equity and
inclusion of the
most vulnerable
groups



MICS6 Questionnaires



What data is collected in MICS?

Household

Education
Household Characteristics
Social Transfers
Material Deprivation
Energy Use
Water and Sanitation
Water Quality Testing

Women

Fertility/Birth History
Desire for Last Birth
Maternal and Newborn Health
Post-Natal Health Checks
Contraception
Unmet Need
Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence
Victimisation
Marriage/Union
Adult Functioning
HIV/Aids

Men

Fertility
Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence
Victimisation
Marriage/Union
Adult Functioning
Hiv/Aids

Children age 5-17

Child Labour
Child Discipline
Child Functioning
Parental Involvement
Foundational Learning Skills

Children under five

Birth Registration
Early Childhood Development
Child Discipline
Child Functioning
Breastfeeding and Dietary Intake
Immunisation

Disaggregation

- Area of residence
- Sex
- Age
- Education
- Wealth quintiles
- Ethnicity
- Migration status
- Disability status

others

Data collection

- Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI)



- Nine (9) teams:
 - 4 interviewers (3 female and 1 male)
 - a measurer (anthropometry and water quality testing)
 - a supervisor



MICS process for Kosovo

- ◆ Sample design
- ◆ Update of enumeration areas (*listing training and pilot*)
- ◆ Pre-test of questionnaires (*2 weeks*)
- ◆ CAPI test (*2 weeks*)
- ◆ Fieldwork training (*1 month*)
- ◆ Field practice/pilot (*1 week*)
- ◆ Fieldwork (*3.5 months*)
- ◆ Data processing, quality check and report compilation

Quality assurance

- MICS team field monitoring
- Monitoring from institutions
- Real-time quality check
- UNICEF Regional MICS experts
- UNICEF Global MICS experts



Survey population

Interviews

Kosovo

Roma, Ashkali and
Egyptian communities

Households	Women	Men	Mothers/ caretakers of children under 5	Children age 5–17 years
5,124	5,275	2,102	1,539	2,381
1,221	1,493	645	737	771



91%

94%

Survey findings

Child population

1 in 3

throughout Kosovo

almost half

among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

1 in 4 children under 5 years lives in poorest households



Child functioning difficulty

8% of children age 2–17 years in Kosovo were reported to have functional difficulty in at least one domain;

14% among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

- Seeing
- Hearing
- Walking
- Fine motor
- Communication
- Learning
- Playing
- Controlling behaviour
- Self care
- Remembering
- Concentrating
- Accepting change
- Making friends
- Anxiety
- Depression

Being a child in Kosovo – early years

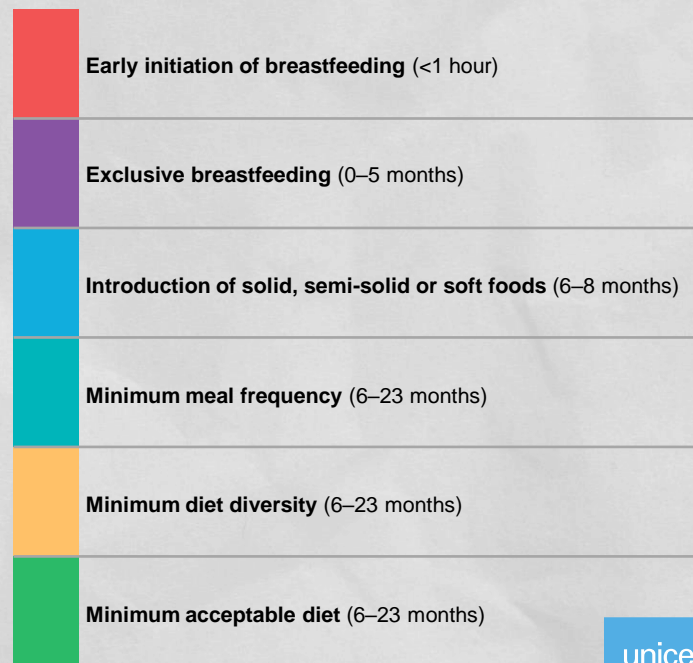
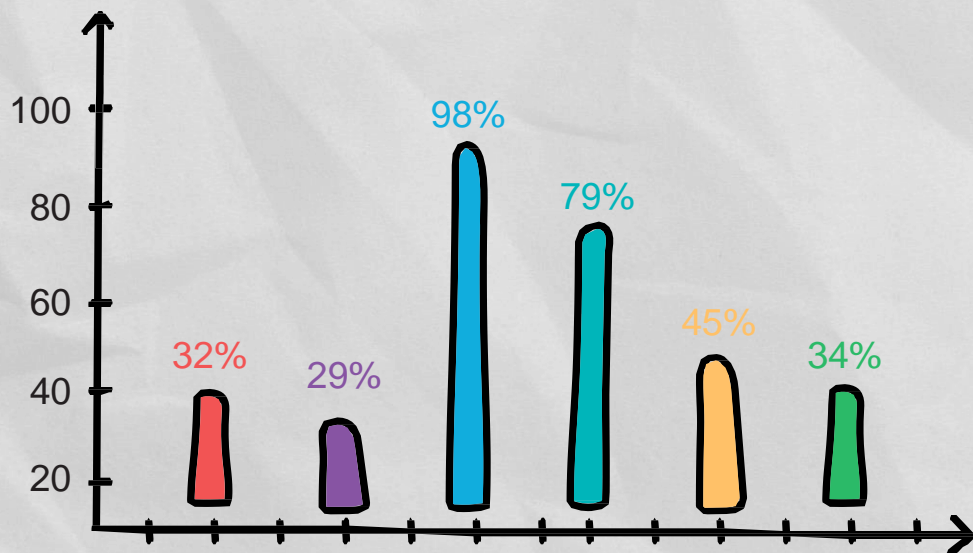


Survival

For **1,000** live births, **16** children die before reaching their fifth birthday in Kosovo (**70%** of them die within the first month of life)

27 children among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities (**80%** within the first month of life)

A healthy start in life



Immunization

Children fully immunized

Kosovo



73%

Roma, Ashkali
and Egyptian
communities

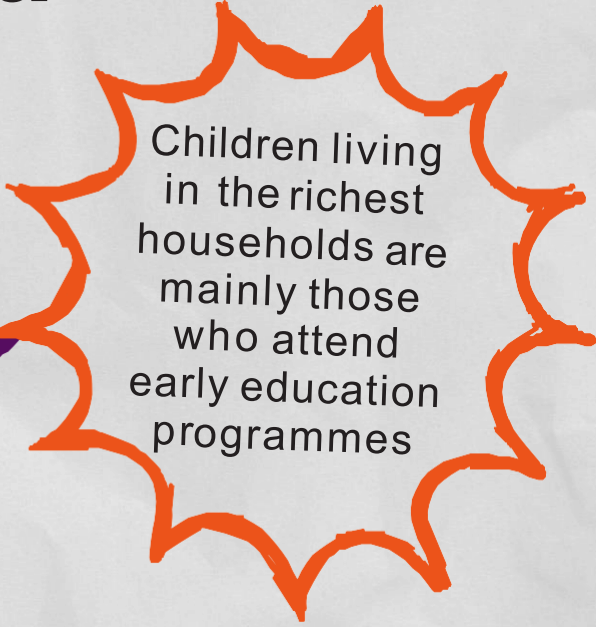


38%

• Early childhood development



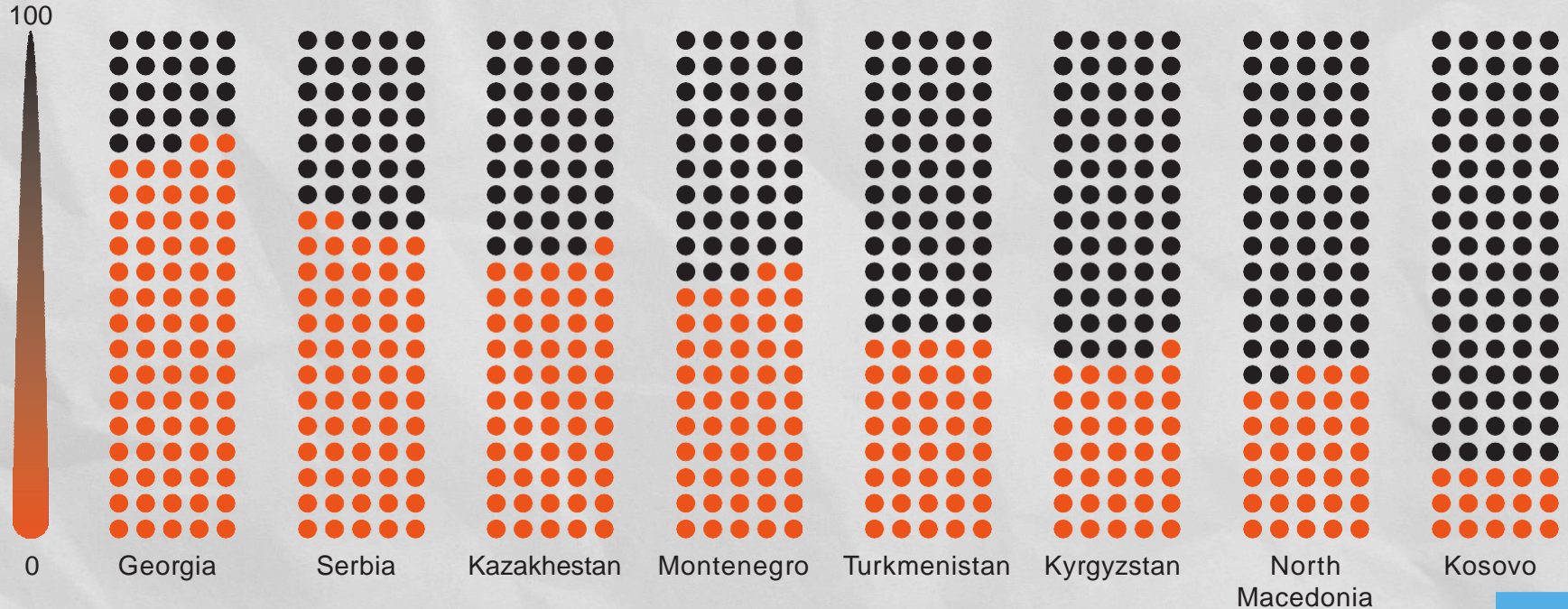
15%



Children living in the richest households are mainly those who attend early education programmes

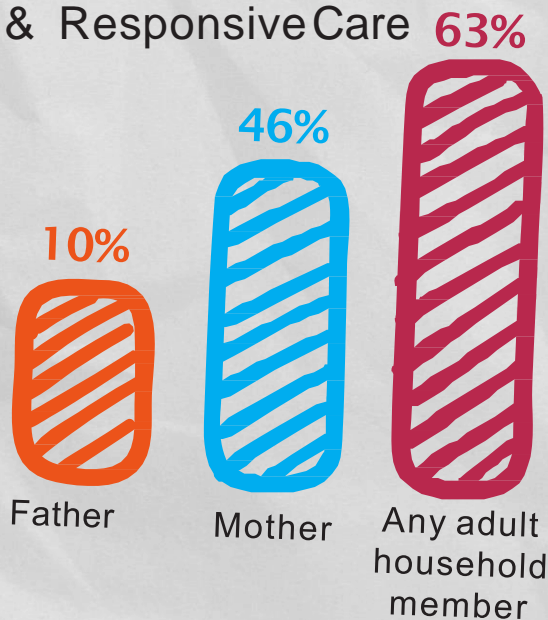
of children attend any childhood education programme (age 3-4 years)

Early childhood education: where Kosovo stands compared to others in the region?



But are children stimulated enough at home?

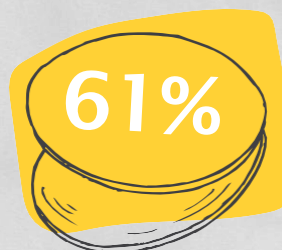
Early Stimulation
& Responsive Care



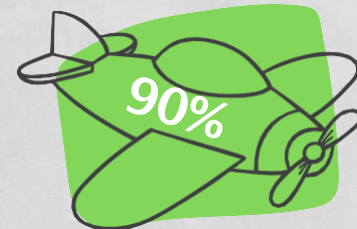
Access to Play & Learning Materials



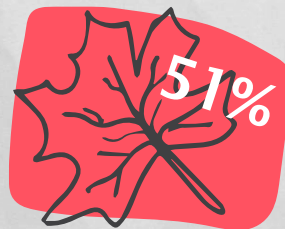
3 or more children's books



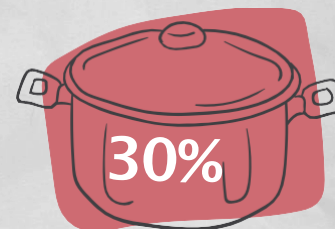
2 or more types
of playthings



Toys from a shop/
manufactured toys



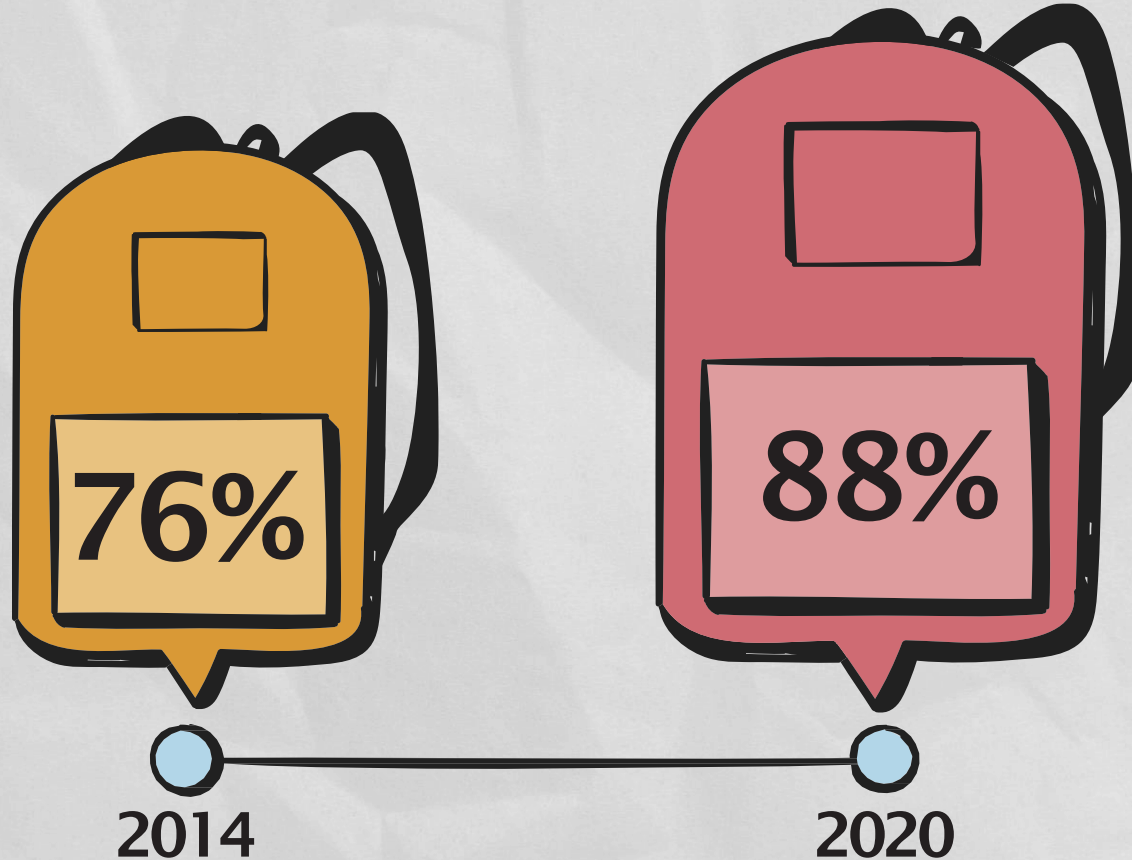
Household objects/
objects found outside



Homemade toys

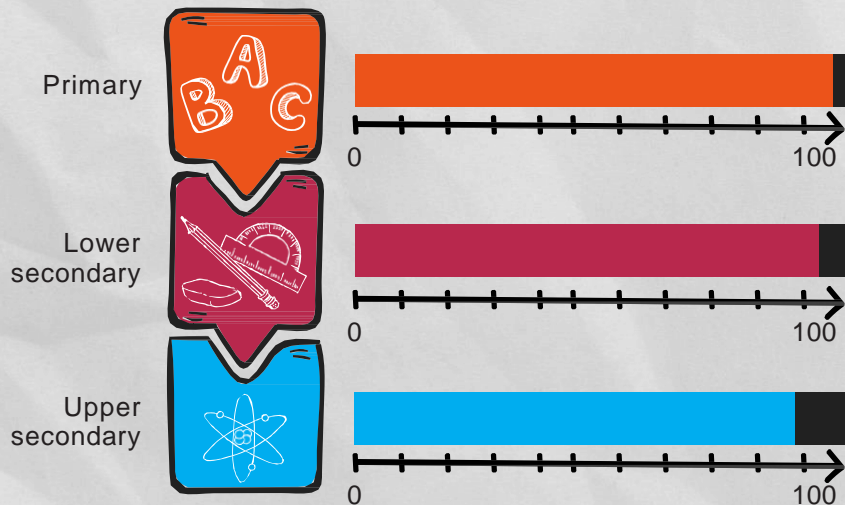
**And as the child grows up –
the middle years and
adolescence**

School readiness

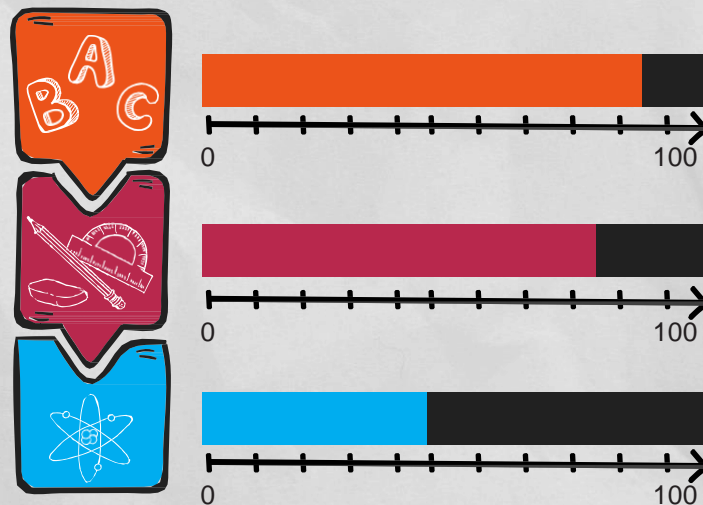


School participation

Kosovo



Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities



Quality learning

Reads 90% of words correctly in story



Answers literal comprehension questions correctly



Answers inferential comprehension questions correctly



Has foundational reading skills

41%

Number reading



Number discrimination



Addition



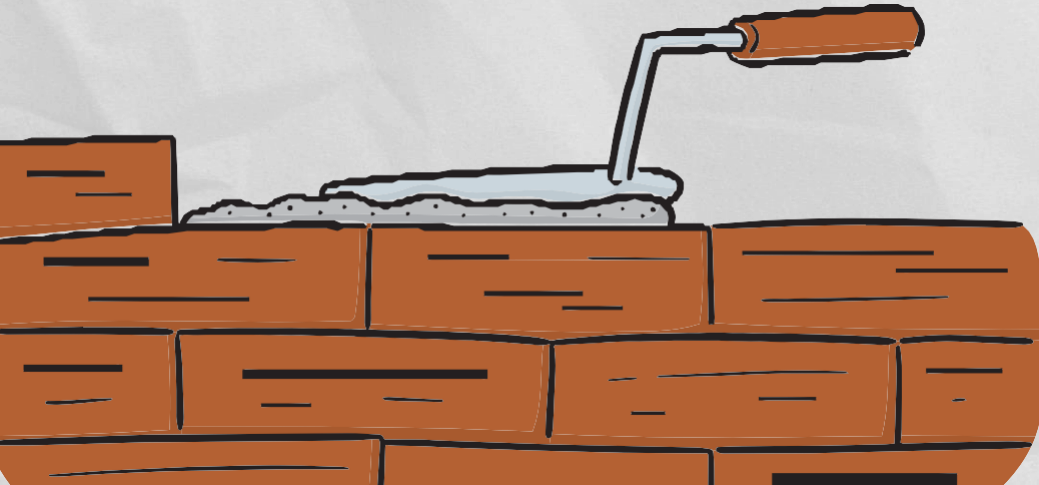
Pattern recognition
And completion



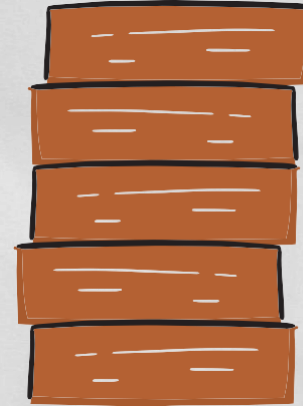
Has foundational numeracy skills

42%

Child labour

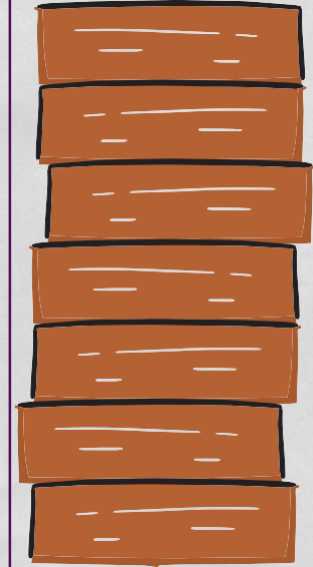


5



Kosovo

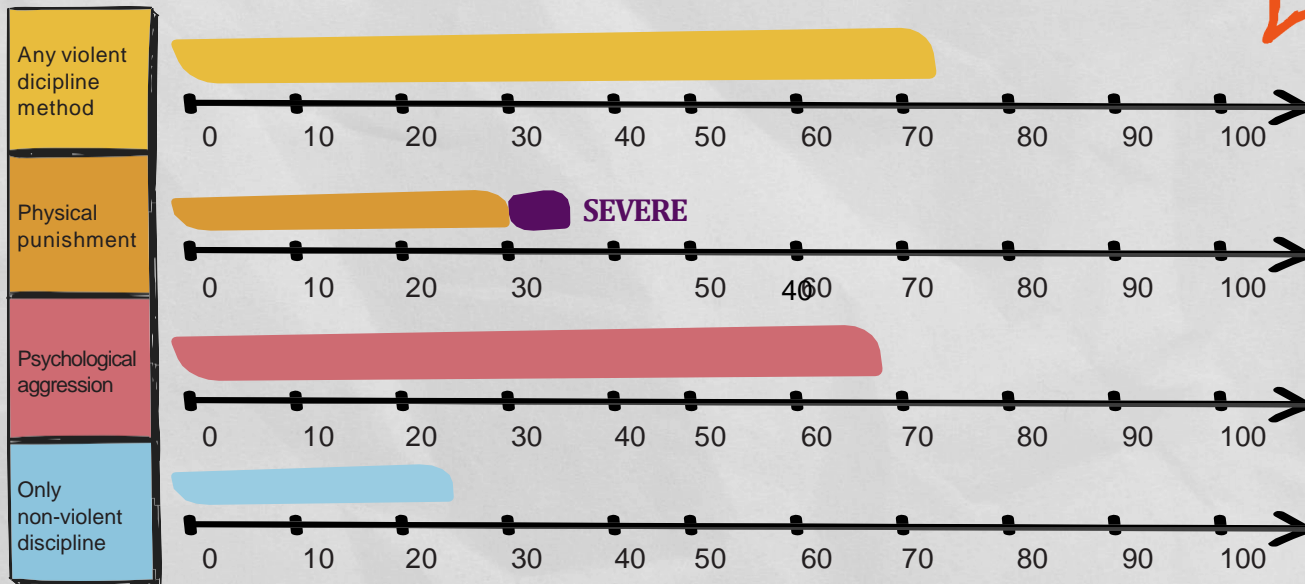
7



Roma, Ashkali and
Egyptian communities

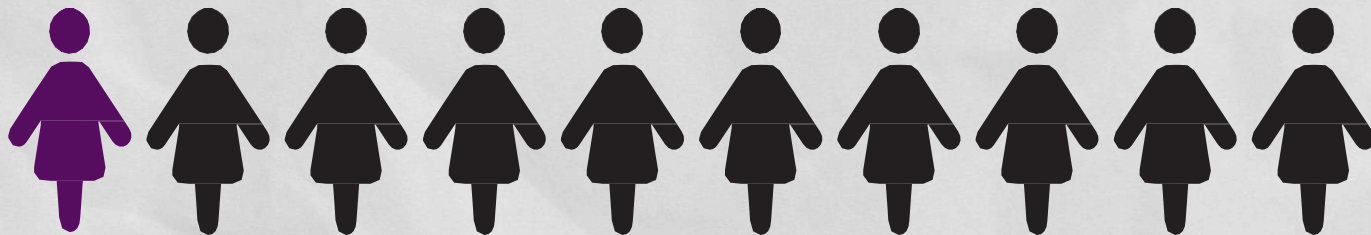
Child disciplining methods

Children with functional difficulty

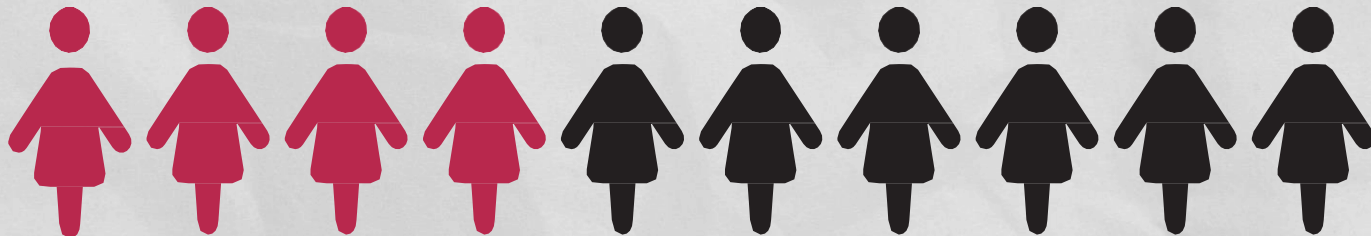


Married before age 18

1 in 10 women age 20–49 years are married before age 18 in Kosovo



4 in 10 among women from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities



Reproductive health and family planning



Women age **15–49 years** currently married or in union are using contraceptive methods *but* only **9 percent** using modern methods

Total fertility rate



KOSOVO



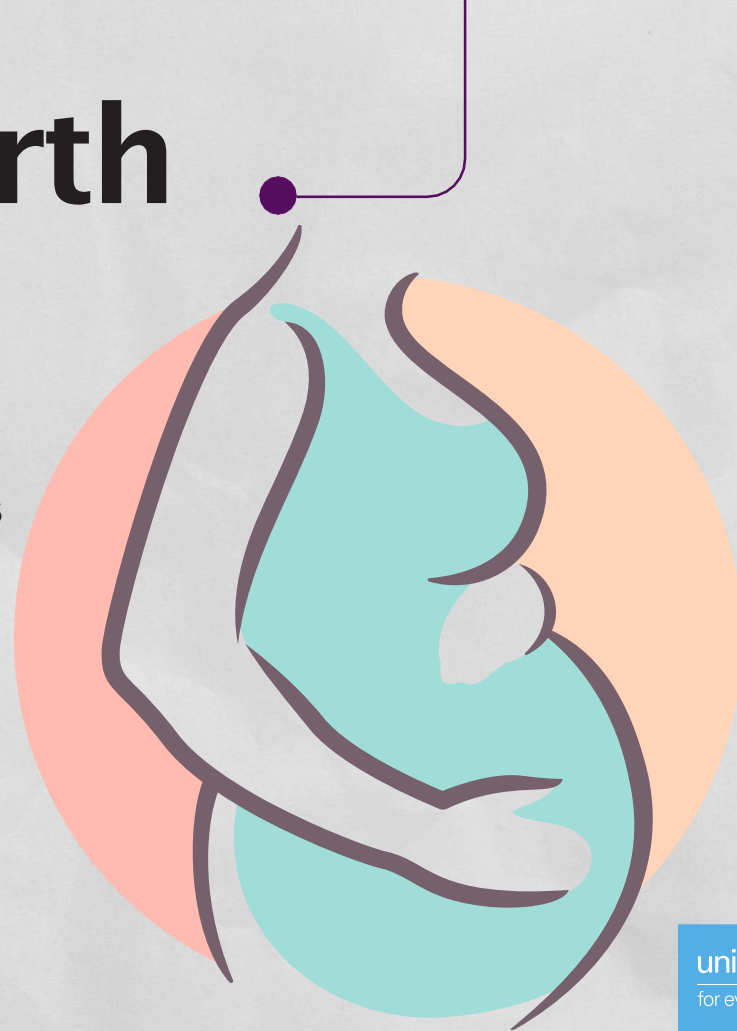
**ROMA, ASHKALI
AND EGYPTIAN
COMMUNITIES**

Adolescent birth rate

13 live births per 1,000 adolescent girls age 15–19 years in Kosovo

and

78 among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities



**A conducive and friendly
environment for all children and
adolescents is critical**

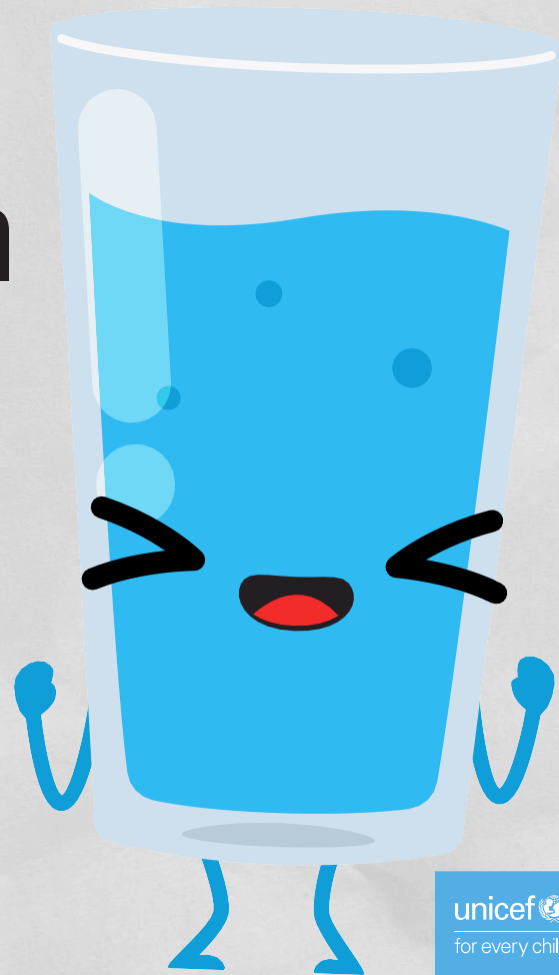
Clean energy



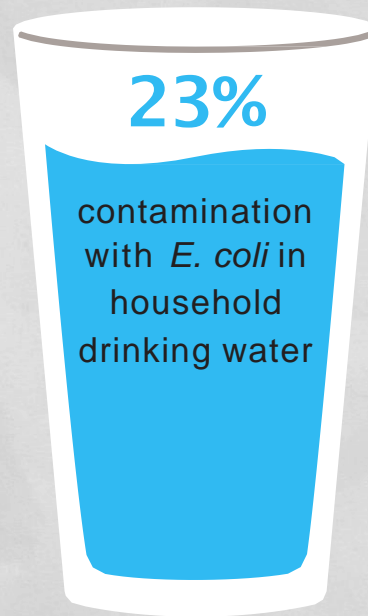
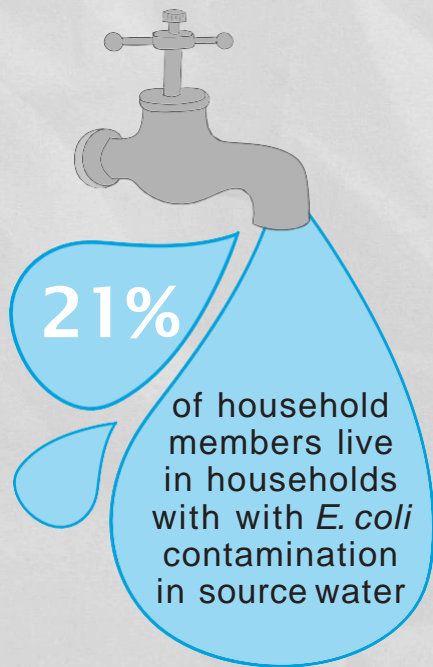
Only 20 percent of household members live in households that primarily rely on clean fuels and technologies for **cooking, space heating and lighting**

• Water and sanitation

The majority of the household population in Kosovo has basic drinking water services and basic sanitation services
(about 90 percent)



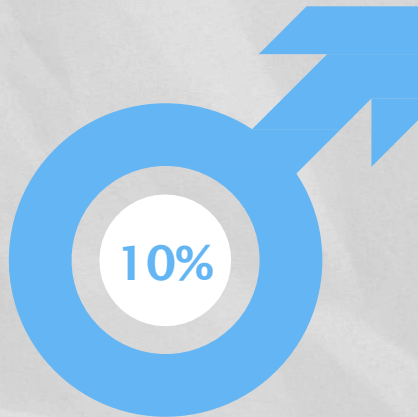
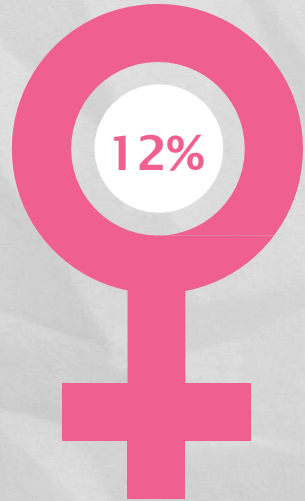
Water quality – *E. coli* contamination



Discrimination



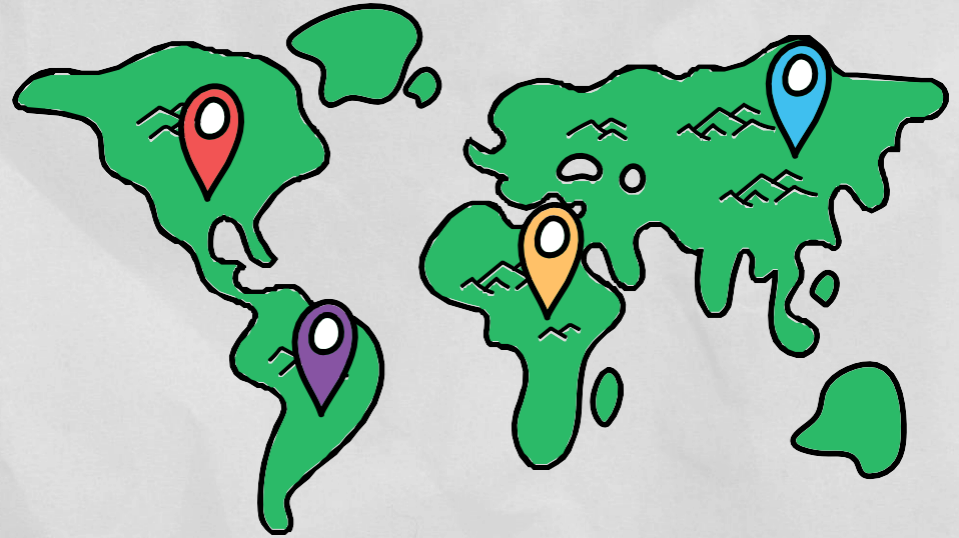
Reported having personally felt discriminated against or harassed on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law



- Ethnic or immigration origin
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Age
- Religion or belief
- Disability

**How does this all translate
in the context of
COVID-19 situation?**

- MICS provides pre-COVID-19 situation baselines
- Global evidence highlights that the COVID-19 pandemic has further impacted the situation of children and families throughout the world – specifically widening the equity gaps, with the poorest hit hardest



Household population



Only **53%** of households have a computer or tablet



Only **7%** of women and **12%** of men have health insurance

Equity gaps: learn

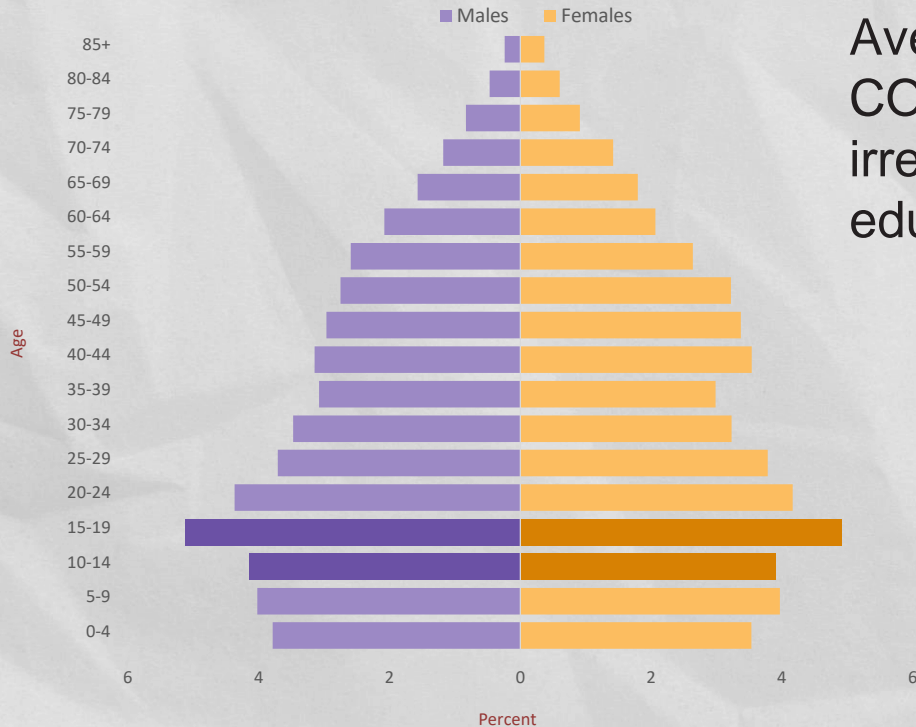
Parity indices: Learn

Net attendance ratio (adjusted) for the poorest quintile / richest quintile	Organized learning (one year before primary school entry age)	0.72
Foundational learning skills for the poorest quintile / richest quintile	Reading age 7–14 years	0.73
	Numeracy age 7–14 years	0.57

Equity gaps: thrive

Thrive	Richest quintile	Poorest quintile
Minimum acceptable diet	42%	29%
Full immunization	80%	63%

Human capital - a window of opportunity for Kosovo



Averting a lost generation as COVID-19 threatens to cause irreversible harm to children's education, nutrition and well-being



Accessing MICS data

- MICS report and statistical snapshots – all available at [MICS](#)
- Raw data all accessible for further analysis at [MICS datasets](#)



**THANK YOU to the MICS fieldwork team and partners who supported MICS implementation:
the Ministry of Finance, the Government of Luxembourg, the Millennium Foundation
Kosovo (MFK), UNKT, UNFPA and UN Women**