

CHILD-FRIENDLY REGIONAL PROFILE

Region Three (3)

Essequibo Islands - West Demerara



Ministry of Communities
Building cohesive, empowered and
sustainable communities

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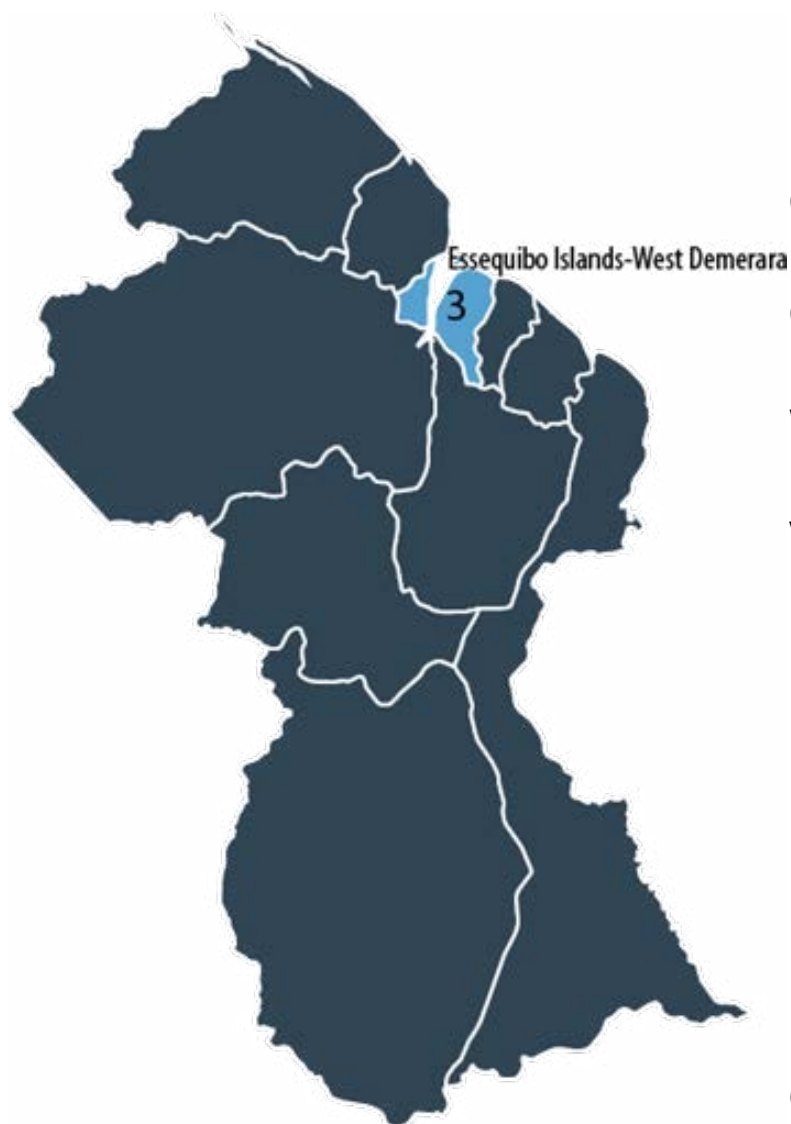
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There is no better investment in this world than investment in children.

— President David Granger, August 21, 2017

Region 3

Essequibo Islands - West Demerara

The Essequibo Islands-West Demerara Region is made up of the islands in the Essequibo River such as Leguan and Wakenaam, and the Western portion of mainland Demerara. It is made up of the Low Coastland, Hilly Sand and Clay and a small portion of the Forested Highland Regions. It is 1,450 square miles.

This Region has a population of 107,785 people who live in villages, many along the coast. Rice farming is predominant, with small amounts of sugar and coconut cultivation. Many residents commute to Georgetown to work. 42,078 persons or 39 percent of the population in Region 3 are below 20 years of age. 34,607 persons are between the ages of 15 to 59 (2012 census report).

The Boerasirie Extension Project converted the Boerasirie Conservancy and the Canals Polder Conservancy into a single reservoir, and reclaimed thousands of hectares of land, suitable for farming. The water from the conservancy is used during the dry seasons for irrigation.

Sugar cane and coconuts are cultivated on a smaller scale and there is also beef and dairy farming. There is one grinding sugar Estate which is located at Uitvlugt Estate.

The oldest Co-op Rice mill is at Vergenoegen; this mill facilitates the milling of paddy planted in the East Bank Essequibo area.



Location of Region 3 (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara)

Background

Context

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) are committed to the wellbeing and development of Guyanese children.

The Government at the national and sub-national levels is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). UNICEF is the custodian or co-custodian of 10 of the SDG indicators (stunting, wasting/overweight, skilled attendance at birth, under five mortality, neonatal mortality, early childhood development, early marriage, FGM/C, child discipline and sexual violence against children). This commitment is demonstrated by their support for the generation and dissemination of evidence to inform the development of plans, policies, projects, and programmes to address equity gaps in areas of survival, lifelong learning, protection and participation of children.

Need for Developmental Data

Building sustainable communities is part of the Ministry of Communities' mandate. An essential component of sustainable communities is being child-friendly. This effort to develop child friendly regional data profiles is a repackaging of existing data from empirical sources, in a way that is specific to a region and can be used by decision makers, to the fullest extent possible, for the realisation of child rights. It can also assist in supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

Disaggregated data on social indicators are an essential component of evidence informed policies, plans, projects and programmes. It enables actors to effectively monitor progress toward the realisation of national and international goals and commitments and helps to measure whether these goals have been achieved and to what extent. Data supports national and sub-national governance structures to focus their interventions on the most deprived thereby reducing inequities and identifying capacity deprivations for corresponding capacity building initiatives.

This child-friendly regional profile compiled by the Government of Guyana through its Ministry of Communities, in collaboration with UNICEF, provides current information for development actors.

Methodology

The process of developing this profile was participatory and involved varied stakeholders. Using the Multiple Cluster Indicators Survey (MICS) 2014 and other national surveys. Consultations were carried out with the Regional Administration and other to present the findings, seek consensus and validate the processes. The data presented and the profile prepared represent a commitment by the Regional Administration and stakeholders to sustainable community development in a child friendly way. The profile indicates areas of achievements and areas of depravations, some of which are the lowest in the country. Undoubtedly the Regional Administration, national government, local actors and international development partners will work to address the issues the data unfolds.

Child Development

Fig. 1.1: Early Childhood Development Indexⁱ

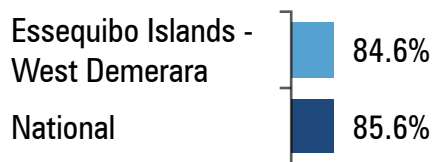


Fig. 1.2: Attendance to Early Childhood Educationⁱⁱ

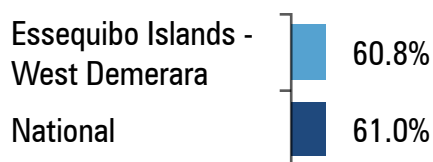


Fig. 1.3: Mother’s Support for Learningⁱⁱⁱ

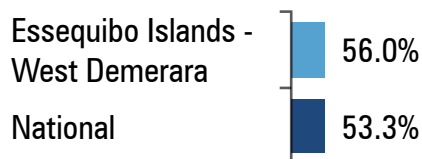


Fig. 1.4: Availability of Children’s Books^{iv}

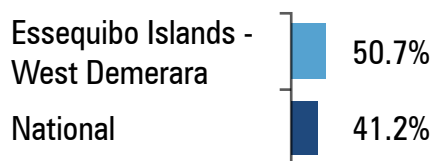
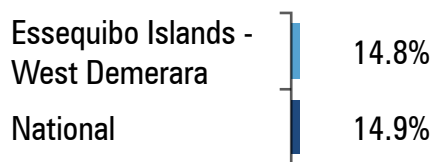


Fig. 1.5: Father’s Support for Learning^v



Achievements /Areas for Attention

- 84.6 percent of the children of the region are developmentally on track.
- 60.8 percent of children age 36-59 months attend an early childhood education programme.
- 56 percent of the mothers supported learning in their children. Though higher than that of men, almost half of the mothers are not providing adequate learning support for their children.
- There is a 50.7 percent availability of children’s books. This indicator is linked to higher IQs, literacy and better performance in schools.
- Father’s support for learning is low at 14.8 and may indicate matrifocal households a phenomenon that needs the region’s attention.

Child Protection

Fig. 2.1: Birth Registration^{vi}

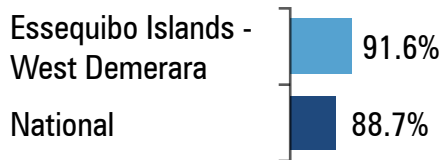


Fig. 2.2: Child Labour^{viii}

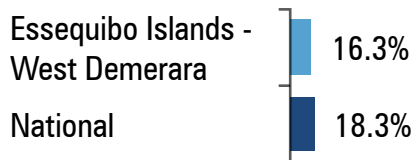


Fig. 2.3: Violent Discipline^{ix}

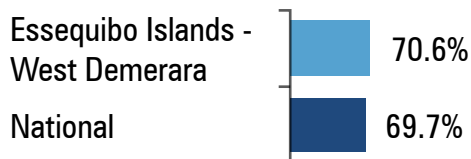
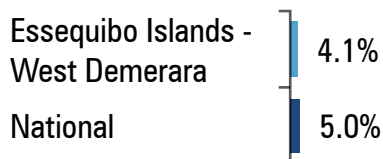


Fig. 2.4: Child Marriage Before Age 15 [Female]^x



Achievements / Areas for Attention

91.6 percent Birth Registration in the region is higher than the national average of 88.7 percent. Efforts should be made to realize 100 percent.

16.3 percent of children in this region are involved in child labour. Though this figure is lower than the national average, no levels of child labour is tolerable.

Violent discipline of children is high at 70.6 percent and presents an area of work for all actors.

4.1 percent of the females in this region get married before age 15. This is marginally lower than the national average of 5 percent and represents an area for intervention. Early child marriages affect the social fabric of the community negatively.

Water and Sanitation

Fig. 3.1: Water Treatment and Access^{xi}

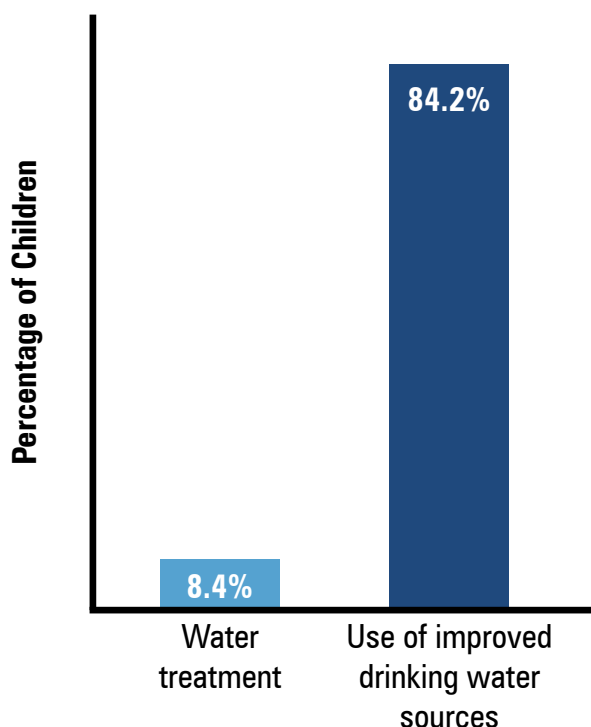


Fig. 3.2: Availability of Soap or Other Cleaning Detergents^{xii}

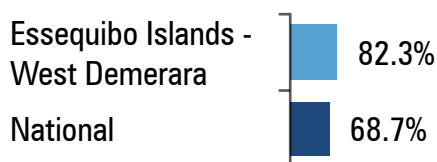


Fig. 3.3: Place for Handwashing^{xiii}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

98.9 percent of the residents of this region use clean and improved drinking water sources.

Only 8.4 percent undertake some form of water treatment, whether through household treatment or through the provision of water purification guidelines as well as potable water by the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI).

Although the consumption of improved drinking water is high, the region places third out of the ten administrative regions on improved sanitation within the area with 82.3 percent of its population having soap or any other cleansing agent being available to them for sanitation purposes.

71 percent of the population has made provisions for a place for handwashing. This number, whilst commendable, must increase for the achievement of this SDG.

Vaccinations

Fig. 4.1: Polio Immunisation Coverage^{xiv}

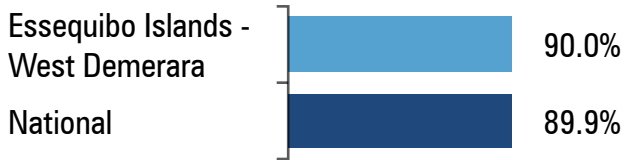


Fig. 4.2: Tuberculosis Immunisation Coverage^{xv}

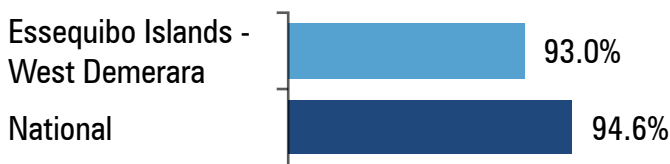


Fig. 4.3: Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) Immunisation Coverage^{xvi}

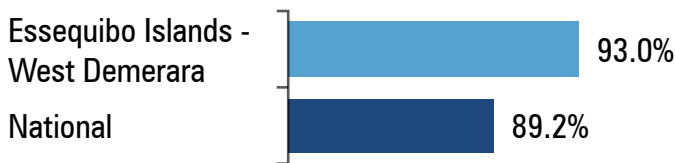


Fig. 4.4: Measles Immunisation Coverage^{xvii}

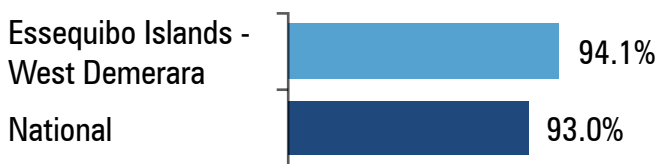


Fig. 4.5: Yellow Fever Immunisation Coverage^{xviii}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

Childhood immunisation for Polio is 90 percent. Efforts should be made to achieve 100 percent.

Tuberculosis immunisation is high at 93 percent and on par with the national average.

DPT and measles have not attained the goal of 100 percent but is 93 percent and 94.1 percent respectively, both higher than the national average. These vaccines are critically important for the health and wellbeing of children and therefore every child, until the last child, should be covered.

Though vaccination against yellow fever is in the 90s (97 percent) 100 percent coverage is required if no one will be left behind.

Breastfeeding

Fig. 5.1: Child Ever Breastfed^{xix}

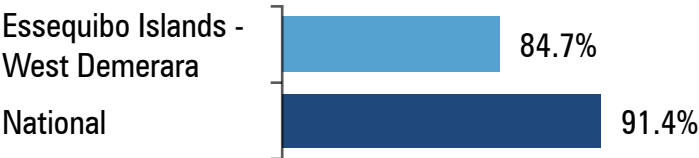


Fig. 5.2: Milk Feeding Frequency for Non-breastfed Children^{xx}



Fig. 5.3: Exclusive Breastfeeding Under Six Months^{xxi}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

84.7 percent of the population of infants in the region were breastfed at least once. However, breastfeeding overall is an area in need of urgent attention.

83.4% of the population have since have been milk fed since removal from breastfeeding, a statistic that should be improved to 100 percent especially since breastfeeding is low and stopped at an early age.

The breastfeeding indicators for the region are low. The goal is 100 percent exclusive breastfeeding under six months. Efforts should be targeted on increasing this indicator since it has an impact on the future health of children and their social development.

Reproductive Health

Fig. 6.1: Adolescent Birth Rate^{xxiii}

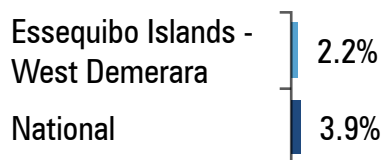


Fig. 6.2: Early Child Bearing^{xxiv}

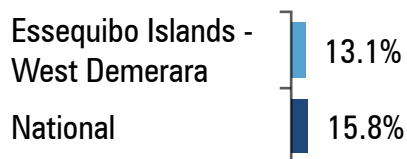


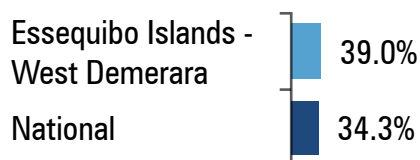
Fig. 6.3: Antenatal Care Coverage^{xxv}



Fig. 6.4: Postnatal Health Check for New-borns^{xxvi}



Fig. 6.5: Contraceptive Prevalence Rate^{xxvii}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

- / The indicators show the region is on track with its reproductive health capacities in both its prenatal and postnatal care of children. Adolescent birth rate at 2.2 percent which is below the national average of 3.9 percent.
- / Early child bearing is associated with school drop out and a number of health and social challenges. Early child bearing in this region stands at 13.1 percent and therefore needs attention.
- / Antenatal care coverage, which has an impact on both the health of the woman and child is both high 98.1 percent and above the national average.
- / Postnatal health check for newborns is also high at 100 percent and above the national average.
- / There is room for improvement in the prevalence of contraceptives in the region (with 39 percent being observed).

Education

Fig. 7.1: Net Intake in Primary Education^{xxviii}

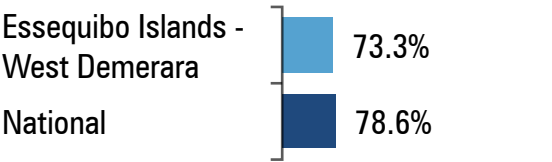


Fig. 7.2: School Readiness^{xxix}

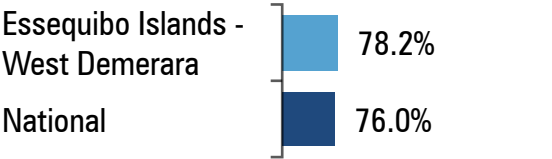
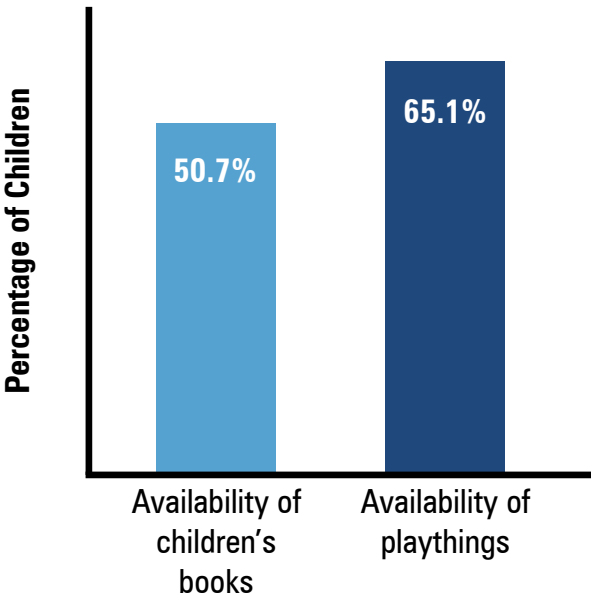


Fig. 7.3: Availability of Learning Materials^{xxx}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

The indicators of education observed in the region overall is high indicating that the region is on track in meeting the exclusive goal of 100 percent. There is a high net intake in primary education at 73.3 percent but this is slightly below the national average.

School readiness rate is at 78.2 percent which is just over 2 percentage points above the national average. 100 percent is some ways off..

The availability of learning materials and resources needed for a successful and fulfilling school life can be increased. Almost 50 percent of the children in the region lacked books. This indicator is associated with higher IQs in children and higher levels of academic performance in school.

Almost 35 percent of the region's children lacked playthings. Playthings are associated with the positive social and cognitive development of children.

Health

Fig. 8.1: Neonatal Mortality Rate^{xxx}



Fig. 8.2: Use of Tobacco [Male]^{xxxii}

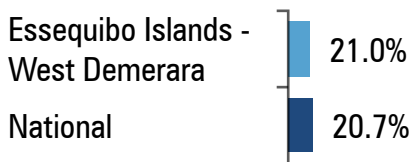


Fig. 8.3: Smoking Before Age 15 [Male]^{xxxiii}

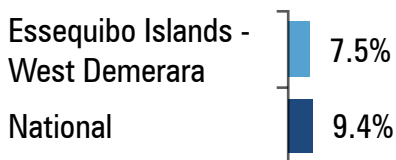
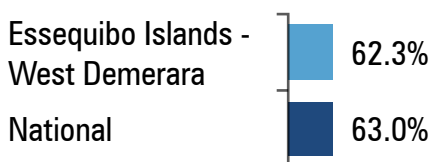


Fig. 8.4: Use of Alcohol [Male]^{xxxiv}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

/ Indicator of health of neonatal mortality rate at 17 percent is relatively lower than the national average of 23 percent.

/ 31.3 percent of males in this region use Tobacco and is above the national average. This has implications for the overall health of the region.

/ Smoking before age 15 among males is high at 7.5 percent but less than national average which is 9.4 percent.

/ The high incidence rates of alcohol use among the males in the area (62.3 percent) is a cause of concern as it can lead to unwanted social consequences including violence against women and children.

Other

Fig. 9.1: Life Satisfaction^{xxxv}

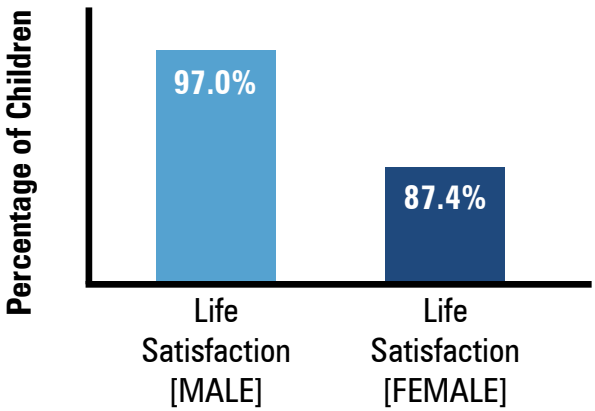
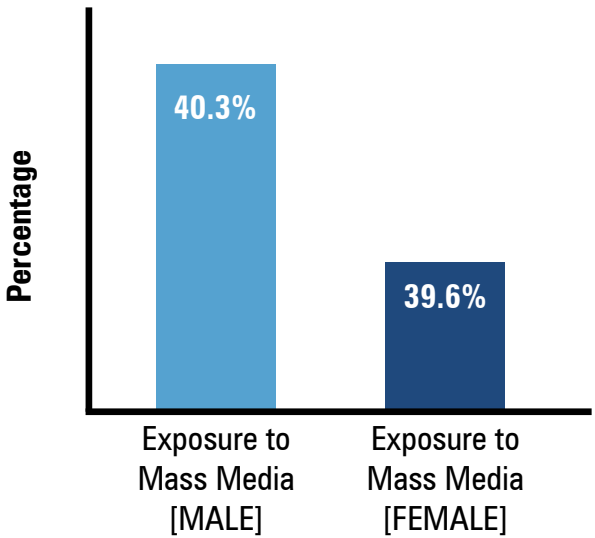


Fig. 9.2: Exposure to Mass Media^{xxxvi}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

The general sense of communal well-being residents is highlighted by the relatively high levels of happiness at 97 percent satisfaction, above the national average.

More than 60 percent of the females and slight less than 60 percent of the males in the region had exposure to mass-media. Mass media is an important medium in the dissemination of public information in health, disaster warnings and education.

Conclusions

This child-friendly profile represents an important first step in the presentation of regional aggregated indicators of women and children.

It can be an important addition to the resources on the achievement of national goals and policies.

It is hoped that the resource will be used by all actors and other stakeholders in the achievement of a more child-friendly society.

As this is a first step, the Ministry of Communities welcomes your feedback and response to the document. Feedback will allow us to improve future editions.

Annexes - Description of Indicators

- i. Number of children age 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning. Total number of children aged 36-59 months.
- ii. Number of children age 36-59 months who are attending an early childhood education programme. Total number of children aged 36-59 months.
- iii. Number of children age 36-59 months whose biological mother has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last 3 days. Total number of children aged 36-59 months.
- iv. Number of children under age 5 who have three or more children's books. Total number of children under age 5.
- v. Number of children age 36-59 months whose biological father has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last 3 days. Total number of children aged 36-59 months.
- vi. Number of children under age 5 whose births are reported registered. Total number of children under age 5.
- vii. Number of men age 15-49 years who were first married or in union before age 15. Total number of men age 15-49 years.
- viii. Number of children age 5-17 years who are involved in child labour. Total number of children age 5-17 years.
- ix. Number of children age 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month. Total number of children age 1-14 years.
- x. Number of women age 15-49 years who were first married or in union before age 15. Total number of women age 15-49 years.
- xi. Number of household members in households using unimproved drinking water who use an appropriate treatment method. Total number of household members in households using unimproved drinking water sources.
- xii. Number of households with soap or other cleansing agent. Total number of households.
- xiii. Number of households with a specific place for hand washing where water and soap or other cleansing agent are present. Total number of households.
- xiv. Number of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of OPV vaccine (OPV3) by their first birthday. Total number of children aged 12-23 months.
- xv. Number of children age 12-23 months who received BCG vaccine by their first birthday. Total number of children aged 12-23 months.
- xvi. Number of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of DPT vaccine (DPT3) by their first birthday. Total number of children aged 12-23 months.
- xvii. Number of children age 24-35 months who received measles vaccine by their second birthday. Total number of children aged 24-35 months.
- xviii. Number of children age 24-35 months who received yellow fever vaccine by their second birthday. Total number of children aged 24-35 months.
- xix. Number of women with a live birth in the last 2 years who breastfed their last live-born child at any time. The number of women with a live birth in the last 2 years.
- xx. Number of non-breastfed children age 6-23 months who received at least 2 milk feedings during the previous day. Total number of non-breastfed children age 6-23 months.
- xxi. Number of infants under 6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed. Total number of infants under 6 months of age.
- xxii. The age in months when 50 percent of children age 0-35 months did not receive breast milk during the previous day.
- xxiii. Age-specific fertility rate for women age 15-19 years.
- xxiv. Number of women age 20-24 years who had at least one live birth before age 18. Total number of women age 20-24.

xxv. Number of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who were attended during their last pregnancy that led to a live birth

(a) at least once by skilled health personnel and

(b) at least four times by any provider. Total number of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years.

xxvi. Number of last live births in the last 2 years who received a health check while in facility or at home following delivery, or a post-natal care visit within 2 days after delivery. Total number of last live births in the last 2 years.

xxvii. Number of women age 15-49 years currently married or in union who are using (or whose partner is using) a (modern or traditional) contraceptive method. Total number of women age 15-49 years who are currently married or in union.

xxviii. Number of children of school-entry age who enter the first grade of primary school. Total number of children of school entry age.

xxix. Number of children in first grade of primary school who attended pre-school during the previous school year. Total number of children attending the first grade of primary school.

xxx. Number of children under age 5 who have three or more children's books. Number of children under age 5 who play with two or more types of playthings. Total number of children under the age of 5.

xxxi. Probability of dying within the first month of life.

xxxii. Number of men age 15-49 years who smoked cigarettes, or used smoked or smokeless tobacco products at any time during the last one month. Total number of men aged 15-49.

xxxiii. Number of women age 15-49 years who smoked a whole cigarette before age 15. Total number of men aged 15-49.

xxxiv. Number of men age 15-49 years who had at least one alcoholic drink at any time during the last one month. Total number of men aged 15-49.

xxxv. Number of men and women age 15-24 years who are very or somewhat satisfied with their life, overall. Total number of men and women aged 15-24.

xxxvi. Number of men and women age 15-49 years who, at least once a week, read a newspaper or magazine, listen to the radio, and watch television. Total number of men and women aged 15-49.

