The proportion of children with a functional difficulty in at least one domain did not vary based on the gender of the child (11% for boys and 11% for girls).

Yet children with disabilities continue facing various discriminations in social and economic settings. Absence of effective policies and legislations enable an environment where children with disabilities are effectively barred from realizing their human rights. 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, 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.

MICS data provide insight into the situation of children with disabilities and unearth issues which should be addressed in policies and advocacy to promote their equal rights and deliver equitable outcomes.

Key Messages

- Amongst children aged 2-17 years, 11% have a functional difficulty in at least one domain. The proportion of children with functional difficulties increases with age, from 2% for children aged 2-4 years to 13% for children aged 5-17 years.
- Anxiety and depression are the most common functional difficulties reported amongst children aged 5-17 years (10.5% and 2.4% respectively).
- Children whose mother/caretaker had a higher level of education were less likely to have a functional difficulty in at least one domain (6%) than were children whose mother/caretaker had no education (13%).
- The proportion of children with a functional difficulty in at least one domain did not vary based on the gender of the child (11% for boys and girls).
Child Functioning (2-17 years): Inequalities

The Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2019 by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF and Government of Nepal provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Nepal MICS 2019 related to Child Functioning. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables EQ.1.1, EQ.1.2, and EQ.1.3, EQ.1.4 in the Survey Findings Report.

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