

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) driving transformative programs for lasting change with data.

Situation: A Cycle of Harm Crippling Zimbabwe's Future

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) is a critical data source, collecting over 40 child-related indicators essential for tracking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - many of which are not covered by any other survey. Conducted through a comprehensive household survey, MICS provides vital insights into the well-being of children and women in Zimbabwe, informing evidence-based policymaking. As Zimbabwe develops the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2), the upcoming MICS will provide essential baseline values to guide planning and decision-making. Additionally, it will serve as a key evaluation tool for National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1). Relying solely on 2019 MICS data would be inadequate for effective planning.

A unique feature of the upcoming MICS is the inclusion of disability data, addressing a critical gap since the last disability study was conducted a decade ago. The survey will also update and complement existing data sources, including the Zimbabwe Demographic & Health Survey (ZDHS). Having already been implemented in 2009, 2014 and 2019, MICS remains the only survey that comprehensively covers a wide range of issues directly affecting children - including health, nutrition, education, child protection, social protection, water, sanitation, and gender. Its findings will play a crucial role in ensuring Zimbabwe's progress toward the 2030 Agenda and Vision 2030.

UNICEF's response

UNICEF is spearheading the implementation of a new round of the MICS in Zimbabwe to update and fill critical data gaps on children's well-being. This survey will provide comprehensive, high-quality data to inform policies and programs, ensuring that national strategies are evidence-driven. To address emerging data needs, the upcoming MICS will introduce new modules on:

- Adult and child functioning (enhancing disability data collection, which has been missing for a decade).
- Tech-facilitated gender-based violence (capturing data on a growing concern for child protection).
- Foundational learning skills (assessing early learning outcomes to guide education policies).



Impact: Tangible Evolution, Real Momentum

Zimbabwe's NDS1 was heavily informed by data from the previous MICS, which tracked progress on 40 child-related SDGs. This underscores the survey's critical role in shaping national policies and development priorities. By addressing key data gaps—especially in functioning, disability, and other emerging areas - MICS ensures that decision-makers have the evidence needed to drive effective, targeted, and impactful interventions for children's well-being in Zimbabwe.

Specific gaps & needs

A significant funding gap is delaying the implementation of MICS in Zimbabwe. Of the \$2.3 million required, UNICEF has secured \$1.39 million (56%), leaving a shortfall of \$950,000. At least 85% of the budget must be secured before critical trainings and data collection can commence.



Call to action (How you can help)



With \$500,000: we can train enumerators and carry out fieldwork activities, ensuring the successful completion of data collection. This will leave only a small funding gap for data analysis, report writing, and the survey's official launch.



With \$1 million: we can fully implement the 4th round of MICS, generating high-quality, up-to-date data essential for tracking progress on child-related SDGs and informing evidence-based policies. Additionally, through the MICS-Plus program, we can track key indicators over a six-month period, providing timely, real-time insights to support more responsive and effective decision-making.

9 Downie Avenue Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Zeinab Adam Deputy Representative, Programmes
zeadam@unicef.org
Alexandra Makaroff Partnerships Specialist
amakaroff@unicef.org



@UNICEFZIMBABWE

www.unicef.org/zimbabwe