
UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

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UNICEF

CPD49 Side Event:

The Data Revolution in Action: national and international
experiences with microdata dissemination and public use

11 April 2016

Since 1995, MICS has worked with 108 countries on 296 surveys

MAP 2.1
MICS IMPLEMENTATION FROM 1995–2015

Notes: Countries with at least one MICS survey

Including sub-national surveys
Including ongoing surveys

This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined.

MICS – Basic Features

- Face to face interviews, observations, measurements
- Representative data based on probabilistic samples
- Modular structure of questionnaires, easily customized to country needs
- 5 rounds so far; increased periodicity from 5 to 3 years; now an ongoing program
- **Country led survey program with UNICEF's technical support**
- **Full government ownership**

MICS - Since 1995

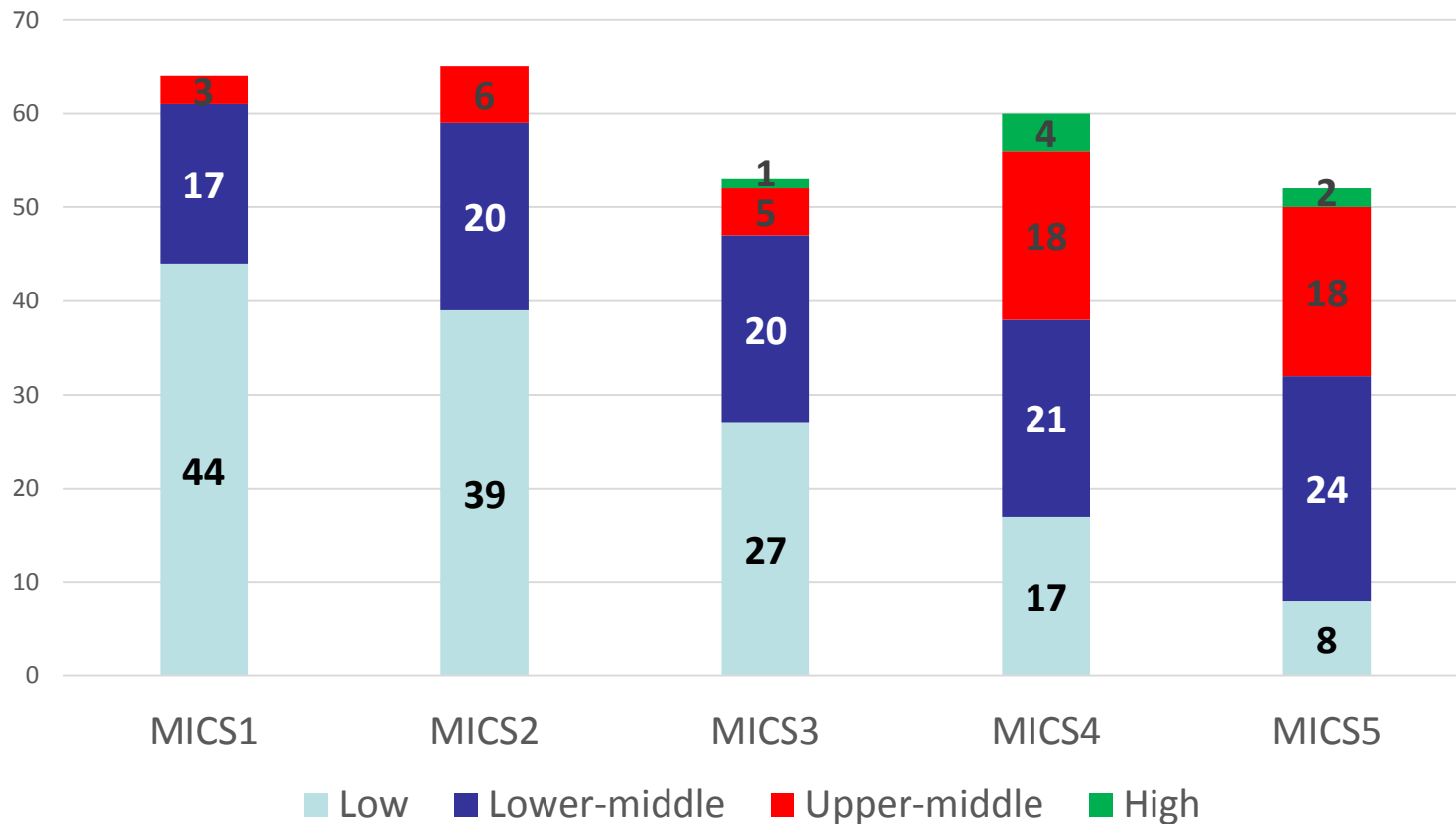
Round	Year/Period	Emphasis	# of Surveys
MICS1	1995	World Summit for Children Goals	60
MICS2	2000	World Summit for Children Goals	65
MICS3	2005-09	World Fit For Children Goals, MDGs, Other Global Monitoring Frameworks (e.g. HIV, Malaria)	53
MICS4	2009-13	MDGs, Other Global Monitoring Frameworks (e.g. HIV, Malaria)	60
MICS5	2012-16	Final MDG Assessment, A Promise Renewed, Other Global Monitoring Frameworks (e.g. HIV, Malaria), baseline for SDGs	52

Did you Know That MICS....

- Surveys include a separate Under-5 Questionnaire
- Over-sample households with under-5s in some countries
- Surveys are not always at the national level
- Includes regional and global workshops as major technical capacity building exercises – 17 workshops in MICS5
- Surveys are coordinated and technically supported by a small group of global MICS team members

MICS works with diverse countries

MICS surveys by income level and round



Current MICS Topics

HOUSEHOLD Social and demographic characteristics Children's living arrangements/orphans Education Water and sanitation Household assets, dwelling characteristics Mosquito nets Child labour Child discipline Place for hand washing Salt iodization	WOMEN (15-49) Fertility Child mortality Antenatal, delivery and postnatal care Contraception, unmet need FGM/C Maternal mortality	21 MDG indicators
UNDER – 5s Birth registration Early childhood development Diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria Breastfeeding and dietary recall Immunization Anthropometry	WOMEN (15-49) & MEN (15-49) Marriage Attitudes towards domestic violence Sexual behavior HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitudes Access to mass media and ICT Tobacco and alcohol use Life satisfaction Literacy and education	

Through household surveys, we have been able to....

- Generate official statistics and fill the gaps
- Validate and complement administrative data
- Understand knowledge, attitude, behavior in all contexts
- Generate evidence on equity: who is left behind, where, and what are the gaps?

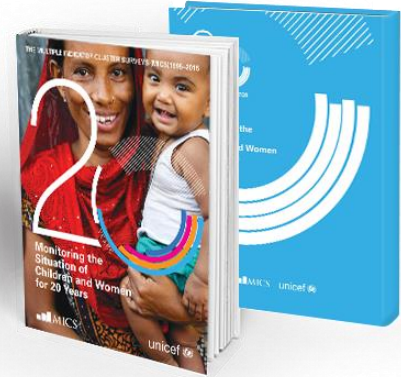


Sustainable Development Goals



New Directions

- New areas of measurement
- Coordination and collaboration
- MICS for different purposes
- Disaggregation
- Use of technology
- Dissemination, utilization and accessibility



New Directions: New Areas of Measurement

- The **SDGs** are extending to new issues key to children's wellbeing, emphasize equity- focused, country-led, country-specific target setting and implementation.
- We have already started testing and validating some of the SDG indicators and will continue to test as necessary
 - Field testing of individual topics in various settings
 - Field Testing of MICS Questionnaires with new topics (Belize, Nov-Dec 2015)
 - MICS6 pilot is planned in July 2016

Sustainable Development Goals

- **~60** SDG indicators that can be obtained through household surveys
 - ~30 already in MICS core or have been added to a previous MICS
 - ~20 not seem to suitable for MICS
 - ~10 that we could explore adding to MICS

New Directions:

Development of improved and new measurement tools for SDGs and other child-related emerging issues

Recently developed measurement tools

- Child discipline
- Early childhood development
- Children left behind
- Child labour
- Dietary recall
- Post-natal care
- Emergency C-section

Methodological work in progress

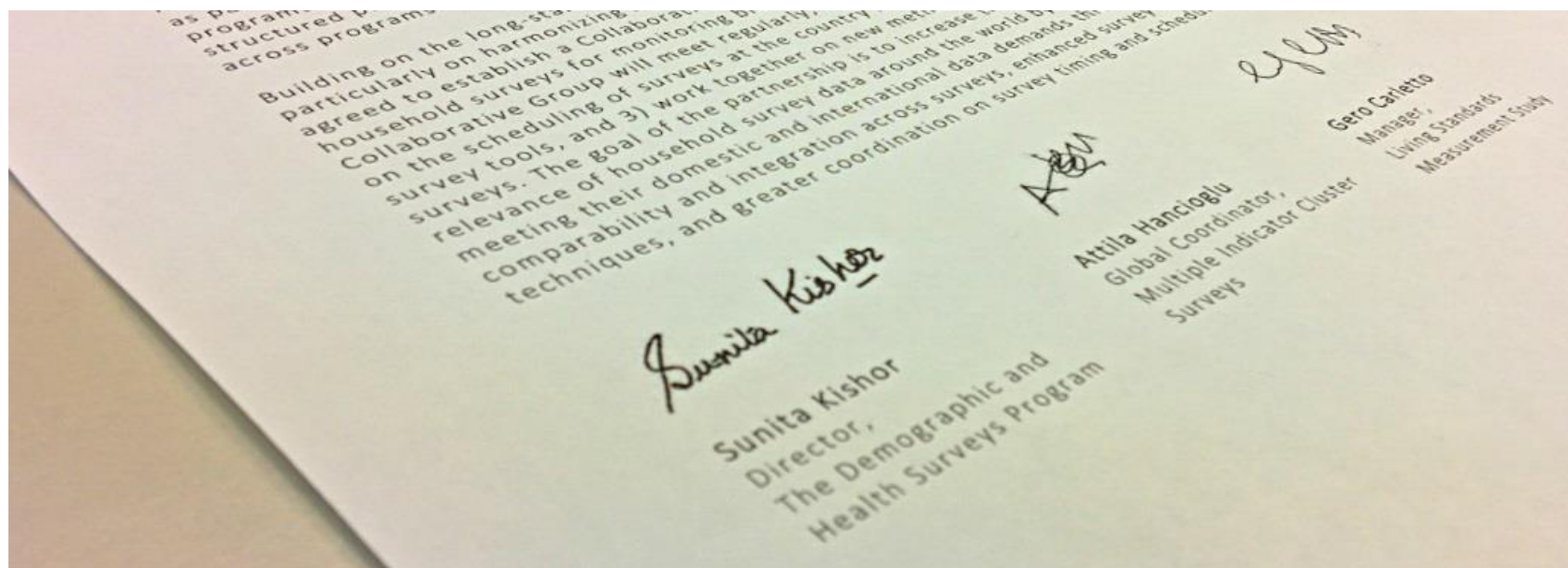
- **Child disability,**
- **Social protection,**
- **Victimization,**
- **Water quality assessment,**
- **Literacy-numeracy tests,**
- **Verbal autopsy,**
- **Post-emergency assessments**



Water Quality Testing

New Directions: Collaboration

- Establishment of the **MICS-DHS-LSMS Collaborative Group**
- MICS part of Inter-secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys led by Statistical Commission



New Directions: MICS for different purposes

- If and when systems that generate other types of robust and non-robust data (such as big data) develop sufficiently to deliver good-quality data with known limitations, MICS will serve purposes other than generating official data:
- MICS will be able to
 - validate official data,
 - provide types of robust data that cannot be generated by other data sources – such as data on attitudes, behaviors and knowledge, and
 - generate the type of robust equity/disparity data that can only be generated by household surveys
 - create more space to focus on topics not captured in other systems

MICS – Disaggregation

Data collection through MICS (and DHS) are the primary source of disaggregated data

MICS currently provides data for 126 indicators which can be disaggregated by:

- Regions, provinces, districts
- Residence (urban, urban-poor, rural)
- Gender
- Wealth
- Education
- Age
- Ethnicity/religion/language
- Other stratifiers
- Combinations of the above
- *Forthcoming*
 - *Migratory status*
 - *Disability*

New Directions: CAPI



New Directions: Use of Technology

- Increased use of technology, including tablet assisted data collection, collection of GIS information
- Close to half of the MICS surveys with **CAPI** in MICS5
- In next round, we expect that majority of the MICS surveys will no longer be using paper questionnaires, but will all be relying on mobile instruments, such as tablets, to collect data

New Directions: Dissemination

- Enlarge the scope of dissemination tools to cater to varied audiences, i.e. child friendly MICS reports
- Continue advances in improving effective dissemination, including
 - the reduction of time required to release the results,
 - transforming survey findings into formats accessible by a broader audience,
 - ensuring that secondary analysis of MICS data is increased and that data and results are more accessible
- Compile papers and reports using MICS datasets and disseminate at MICS website

Revamped MICS website

[Go to unicef.org](#) [Go to data.unicef.org](#) [Support UNICEF](#)

To access datasets: [Log In](#) [Register](#)

HOME ABOUT TOOLS SURVEYS

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

Over two decades, MICS has become the largest single source of statistical information on women and children worldwide

[Latest surveys](#)



 **Tools**
Documentation to guide survey teams through every step of the MICS process

 **Surveys**
Access the full list of MICS surveys, view survey status, download reports and datasets

 **Methodological Papers**

 **Year 20**

 **Workshops**

 **News**

Highlights

UNICEF CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF MICS

On 8 September 2015, the UNICEF Executive Director, Anthony Lake, hosted a reception at UNICEF House in New York to celebrate the 20th anniversary of MICS.

News

NEPAL 2014 MICS FINAL REPORT RELEASED

The Central Bureau of Statistics in Nepal released the Final Report of the Nepal 2014 MICS conducted as part of the fifth round of the Global MICS Programme.

News

ACCESS THE FIRST ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first issue of the MICS newsletter

[Read more](#)

More news

PAKISTAN (PUNJAB) 2014 MICS FINAL REPORT AND DATASETS RELEASED

CONCLUSION OF THE MICS FIELD TEST IN BELIZE AND THE WAY FORWARD: MICS6

SUDAN 2014 MICS FINAL REPORT RELEASED

MICS TOOLS

TOOLS BY ROUND

[MICS5](#) | [MICS4](#) | [MICS3](#) | [MICS2](#) | [MICS1](#)

A comprehensive set of tools guide survey teams through every step of the MICS process – from overall planning, design and data collection in the field to data processing, analysis, interpretation, documentation and dissemination.

Survey design

Data collection

Data processing

Analysis

Report writing

Dissemination



Guidelines and templates facilitate planning and design of surveys and help avoid pitfalls in implementation

The design of a MICS survey will depend on an initial assessment of data needed for national and subnational monitoring priorities. The Global MICS Team, together with UNICEF's country offices, support governments to undertake a meticulous data gap assessment, especially with respect to the type of data a MICS survey could produce. During the planning and design stages, a governing structure is established, including the formation of steering and technical committees that oversee implementation. Once the preparation of the country survey plan and survey budget are completed, fundraising activities can be carried out in a more formal manner.

The global MICS programme provides templates to support implementing agencies in identifying needed personnel, supplies and equipment and to draw up a timetable. Other tools are intended to support the customization of standard questionnaires to a national context, estimation of an appropriate sample design and size that will be representative, and listing and mapping of households in the sample.

Planning the survey

MICS5 Survey Planning Tools

Survey Plan Template

[English](#) [French](#) [Spanish](#) [Russian](#) [Arabic](#)

Supply Procurement Instructions

Memorandum of Understanding Template

[English](#) [French](#) [Spanish](#) [Russian](#) [Arabic](#)

Terms of Reference for Steering Committee Template

SURVEYS

[View contents by survey](#)

Download reports of MICS surveys and request access to available datasets. Archives can also be downloaded for select surveys. Use filters to find surveys of interest.

MICS5

Any region

Any country

Any year

Apply filters

Clear filters

Export

Listing **52** of **302** surveys

Survey	Region	Round	Year of survey	Status	Report	Datasets
Bangladesh	SA	MICS5	2012-13	Completed	Final Key findings	Available
Belize	LAC	MICS5	2015-16	Data processing / analysis		
Benin	WCA	MICS5	2014	Report writing	Key findings	Not yet available
Cameroon	WCA	MICS5	2014	Report writing	Key findings	Not yet available
Congo	WCA	MICS5	2014-15	Report writing	Key findings	Not yet available
Cuba	LAC	MICS5	2014	Completed	Final Key findings	Available
Côte d'Ivoire	WCA	MICS5	2016	Survey design		

MICS microdata

[Go to unicef.org](#) [Go to data.unicef.org](#) [Support UNICEF](#)

To access datasets: [Log In](#) [Register](#)

Google™ Custom Search



[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [TOOLS](#) [SURVEYS](#)

LOG IN

We are pleased to announce the redesign of the new MICS website to provide you with a better user experience. We ask that all existing users re-register with us and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

If you have already been granted access, please log in here:

Email

Password



[Privacy & Terms](#)

Log in

Before you can download MICS datasets, please [register as a MICS data user](#). Dataset access is only granted for legitimate research purposes. For questions or comments, please contact: [mics \(@\) unicef.org](#)

[Retrieve your password](#)

REGISTER

To access available datasets, please provide us with the following information and a short description of your research objectives.

First name

Last name

Email

Email confirmation

Password *(8 characters minimum, must include at least one letter, one digit, and one symbol)*

Password confirmation

Affiliation

Country of residence

Research objective

MICS Dataset Use

March 2015-2016

Dataset downloads
week over week

Registered users
keep on growing

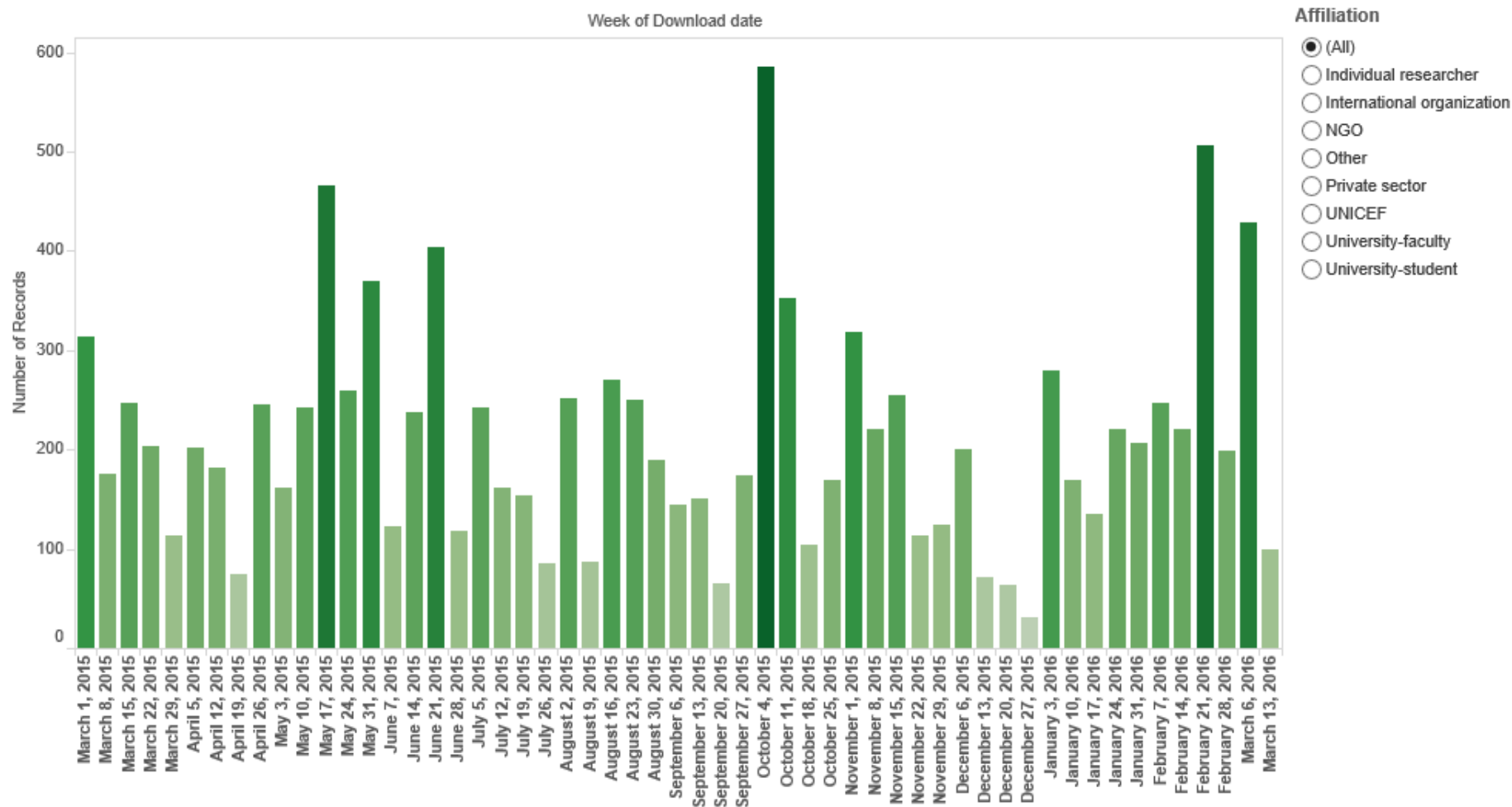
Affiliations of dataset
users

Where dataset
downloads are
initiated

Who are the
powerusers and what
are their research

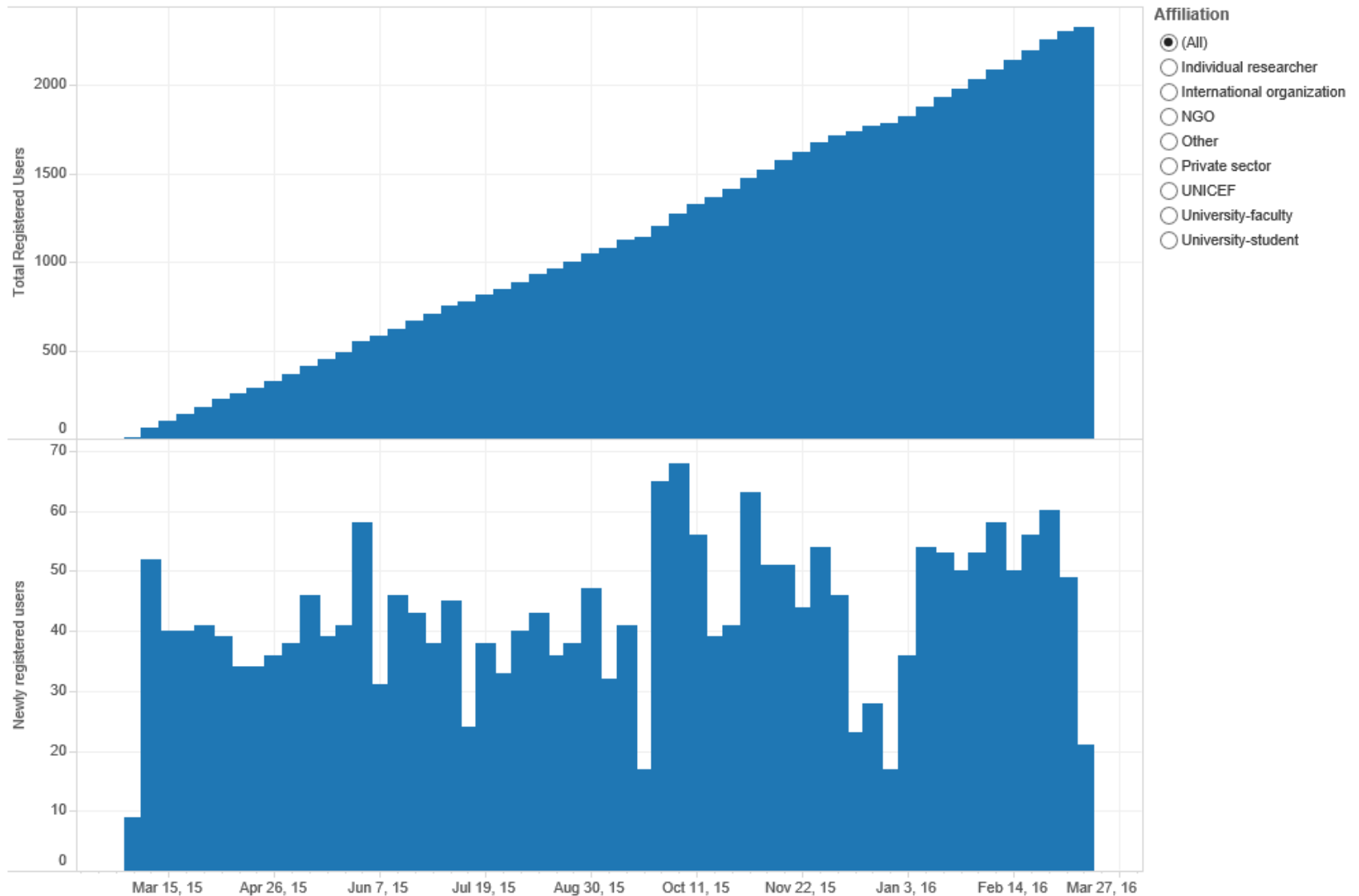
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MICS Dataset Use

March 2015-2016



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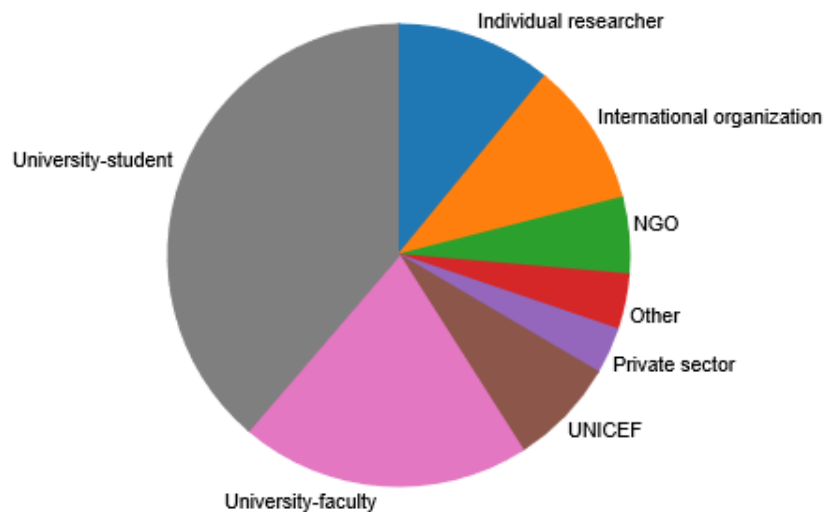
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Affiliation

- Individual researcher
- International organization
- NGO
- Other
- Private sector
- UNICEF
- University-faculty
- University-student

Number of Records

11,681

MICS Dataset Use

March 2015-2016



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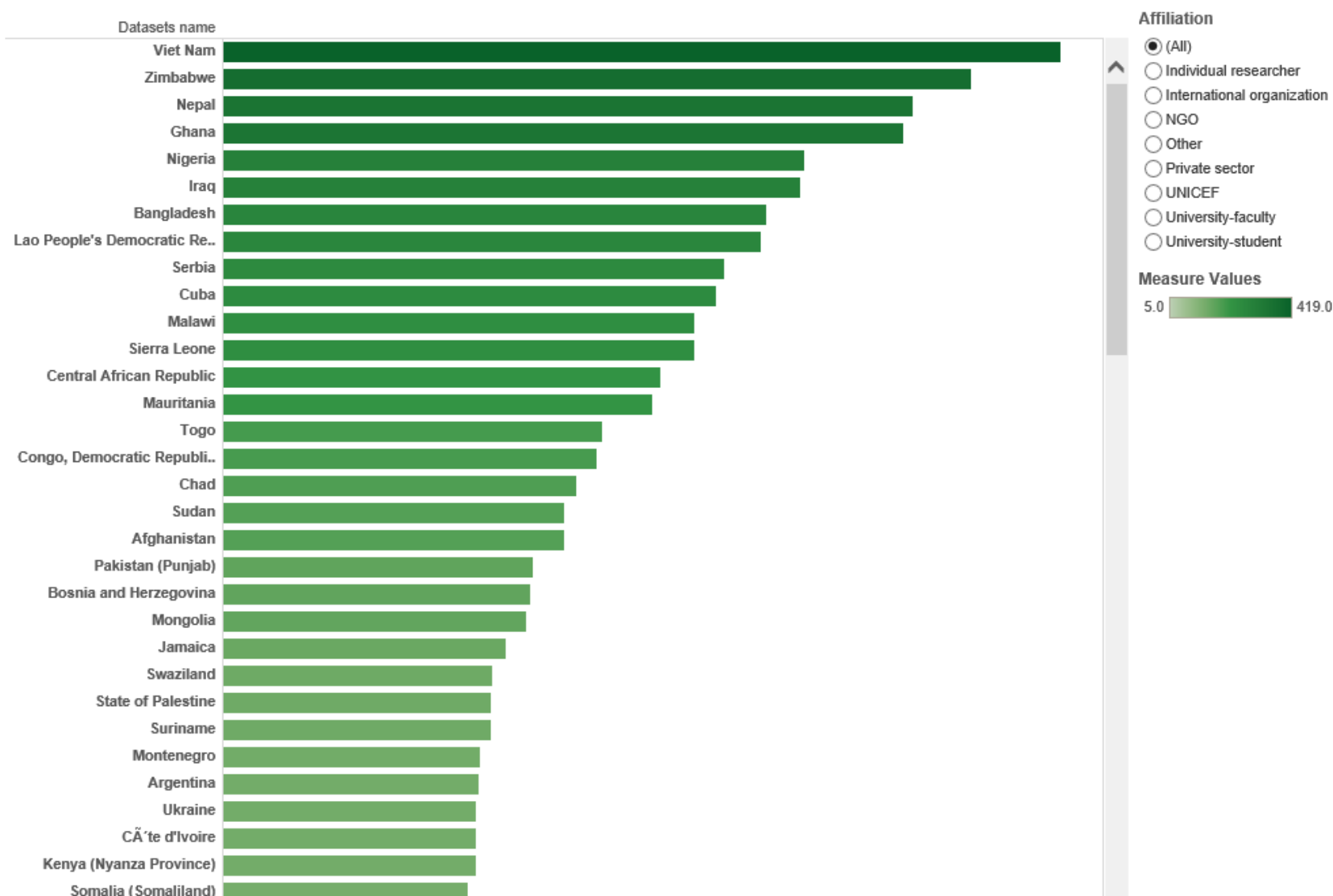
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MICS Dataset Use

March 2015-2016



MICS Dataset Use

March 2015-2016



Affiliations of dataset users

Where dataset downloads are initiated

Who are the powerusers and what are their research

Which datasets are downloaded most

Which datasets are downloaded (map view)

Downloads by MICS rounds and region



MICS Dataset Use

March 2015-2016



Affiliations of dataset users

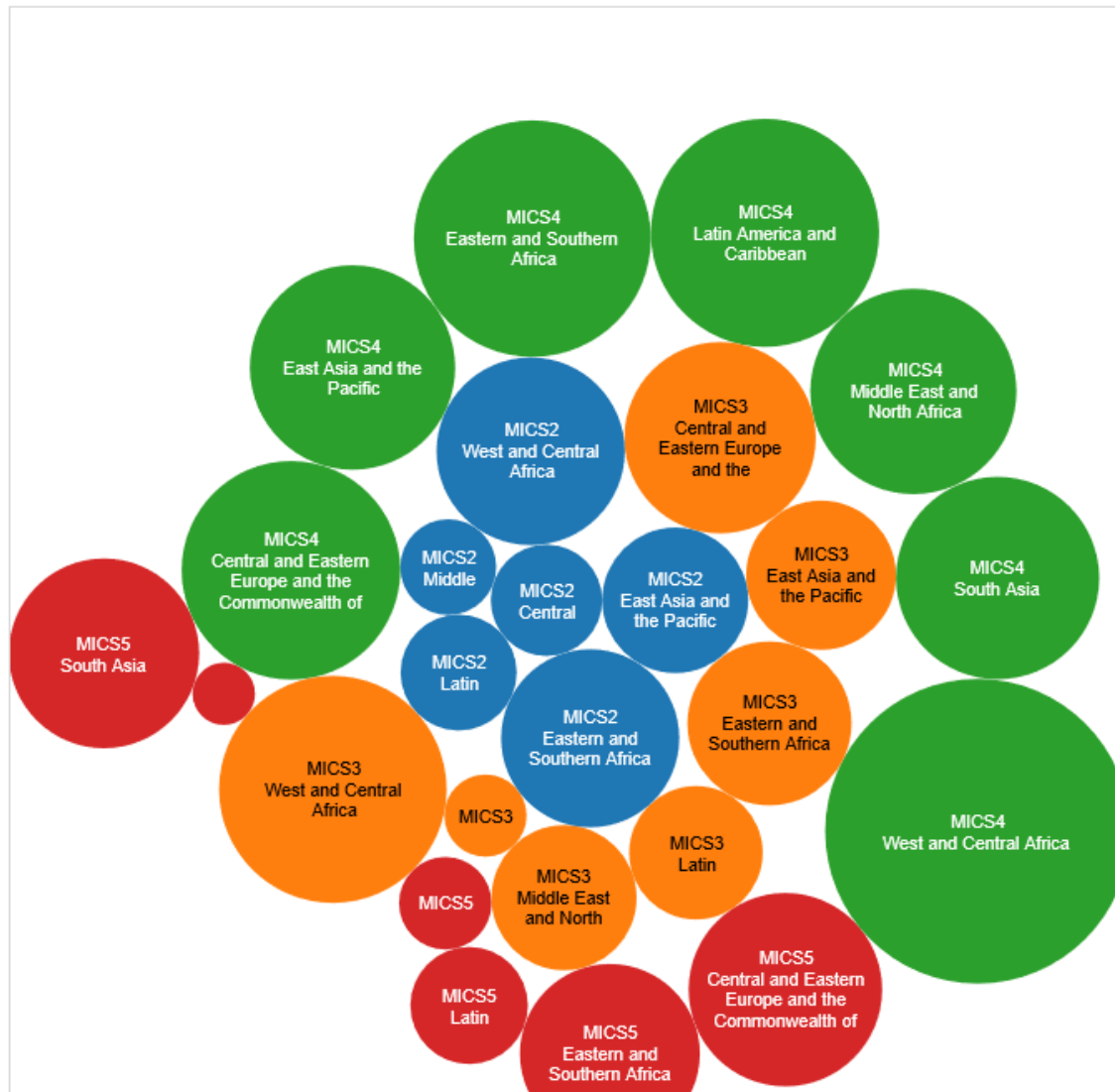
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Downloads by MICS rounds and region



Round

- MICS2
- MICS3
- MICS4
- MICS5



New Directions:

Microdata use and accessibility

- Further standardize datasets
- Produce improved survey specific documentation for each survey and/or detailed MICS archives
- Encourage the download and use of datasets, especially at local/country level
 - webinars
 - improved documentation and guidelines
 - compilation of papers/research using MICS datasets, etc.
 - methodological and research papers supported by MICS team as good examples
- Periodically produce and analyze dataset user statistics
- Develop internet interfaces to make possible the online access of non-statistical audiences to data to perform analysis in real time (MICS Tabulator)