

A New Tool to Measure SDG Indicator 4.2.1

Early Childhood Development

RATIONALE

Early moments matter. The best possible combination of nutrition, protection and stimulation is critical for optimal brain development. It also creates the conditions for health, happiness and progress throughout childhood and beyond.

Confronted with compelling evidence and sustained advocacy, the world has come to recognize that investing in early childhood development is an essential component of national and global prosperity. In 2015, early childhood development became part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These global goals include a commitment to ensure that, by the year 2030, all children will have equitable access to quality early childhood development and early learning opportunities.

SDG indicator 4.2.1 was chosen to specifically monitor the impact of government action towards this target, and UNICEF was tasked to lead the development of a measure to track progress.



Target 4.2

Ensure that, by 2030, all girls and boys have access to quality **early childhood development**, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Indicator 4.2.1

Proportion of children aged 24 to 59 months who are **developmentally on track** in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

PROCESS

In 2015, UNICEF initiated a process of methodological development that involved extensive consultations with experts, partner agencies and national statistical authorities. Over the following five years, a sequence of carefully planned technical steps were executed, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods to identify the best items to measure indicator 4.2.1. This process led to the development of the Early Childhood Development Index 2030 (ECDI2030).

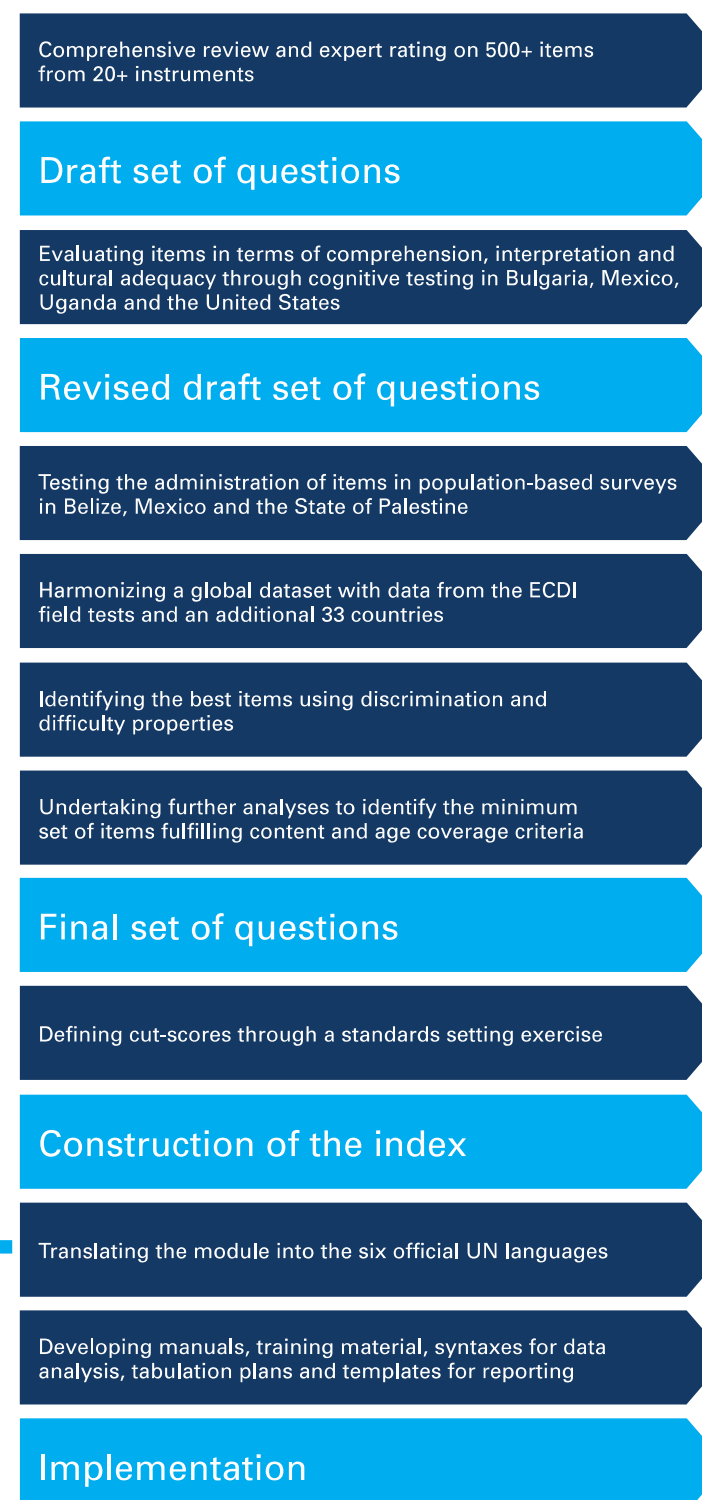
The ECDI2030 addresses the need for nationally representative and internationally comparable data on early childhood development, collected in a standardized way.

The ECDI2030 can be integrated into existing national data collection efforts. It is accompanied by standard guidance and a framework for technical assistance to support implementation. And because the data can be disaggregated by key demographics and subnational areas, the use of this measure can also help advance the SDG commitment to leave no one behind.



ECDI2030
Early Childhood Development Index

Work process behind the ECDI2030



The ECDI2030 captures the achievement of key developmental milestones by children aged 24 to 59 months. Mothers or primary caregivers are asked 20 questions about the way their children behave in certain everyday situations, and the skills and knowledge they have acquired.

Content of the ECDI2030

