



ECDI2030

Early Childhood Development Index

QUICK IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

The Early Childhood Development Index 2030 (ECDI2030) is a population-level data collection instrument that is suitable for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 4.2.1. The indicator was chosen to monitor the impact of government action to ensure that, by 2030, all children have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education. It measures the proportion of children aged 24 to 59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being.

The ECDI2030 captures the achievement of key developmental milestones by children of this age. Mothers or primary caregivers are asked 20 questions about their children's behaviour, skills and knowledge.

The ECDI2030 is accompanied by a package of implementation tools to facilitate its integration into existing national household surveys. When used in surveys that are adequately designed and implemented, it allows for the generation of data that are comparable across countries. The following recommendations summarize important guidelines for countries to follow so they meet the necessary conditions for obtaining high-quality, comparable data.

SURVEY DESIGN

- The ECDI2030 is a population-level instrument, thus it should be used in the context of surveys relying on probabilistic representative samples.
- Because it focuses on children aged 24 to 59 months, data collection using the ECDI2030 may benefit from sampling designs that oversample children under 5 years of age, especially in countries with low fertility rates.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

- The ECDI2030 is intended to be included in a questionnaire that collects information on children aged 24 to 59 months. The questionnaire should be administered exclusively to the child's mother. As a standard procedure, an alternative primary caregiver could be eligible as a respondent only if the mother is deceased or lives outside the household.
- The ECDI2030 comprises 20 questions and should be used in its standardized form. As part of the translation and customization process for each country, a few predetermined words can be changed to better reflect the country's context. Otherwise, no questions should be added or removed, nor should there be changes to question phrasing and order, or to the response options.

TRAINING

- The ECDI2030 takes about three minutes to administer under regular conditions. Additional time may be needed if, for example, the respondent requires specific interviewing assistance.
- The administration of the ECDI2030 requires dedicated training to ensure that enumerators use adequate interviewing techniques, which include asking questions and registering responses in a standardized way.
- Training on using the ECDI2030 includes a careful review of the questionnaire, interviewer manual and training materials, with sufficient practice sessions and mock interviews. All these materials are part of the ECDI2030 implementation tools.
- For surveys using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI), it is recommended that separate training be provided for paper questionnaires and for practice in using the CAPI application system.

SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION AND DATA QUALITY

- General survey implementation guidelines should be observed to ensure data quality including continuous supervision of fieldwork activities and monitoring through the use of data-check protocols.

DATA PROCESSING AND REPORTING

- The ECDI2030 is not intended to generate data for reporting on individual development domains or individual children. Rather, it is meant to produce one population-level indicator based on a single summary score that captures the developmental interlinkages among health, learning and psychosocial well-being.
- The ECDI2030 implementation tools include standard data processing syntaxes that can easily be used to generate the indicator to report on SDG 4.2.1.
- Sample weights reflecting selection probabilities and non-response are required to generate the ECDI2030 indicator.
- When collected alongside other information, the ECDI2030 indicator can be disaggregated by a child's sex, area of residence, household wealth and other key variables. Doing so will reveal disparities in developmental outcomes among children with different socioeconomic and family backgrounds.