Regional training for SDG4 monitoring using MICS survey data

Concept note

I. Introduction

The United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific (UNSIAP), together with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) will organize a regional training on education data capacity building from 15 to 19 May 2023, in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

The training plans to improve countries' capacity to carry out situation analyses of the education sector using both administrative and household data, as well as to promote evidence-based policy discussion.

II. Objectives/ Outcomes

The **overriding goal** of this training component is to help participants better **understand education data and indicators, and how to interpret them**. Although there is a great deal of education data available, including the SDG4 indicators, it will have little impact unless it is properly understood, interpreted and subsequently used to inform decision making. This training will help to promote data-driven policy making and facilitate being more data savvy. More specifically, by the end of the training, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the SDG 4 indicators;
2. Explain how some key education indicators, in particular those relevant to SDG 4 monitoring, are calculated using Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) data;
3. Understand and interpret education indicators, specifically those relevant for monitoring SDG 4, using household data, with a focus on MICS data;
4. Analyze these education indicators; Discuss the advantages and limitations of various types of education data (EMIS data, school-based data, household data, etc.) in the calculation of education indicators relevant to SDG 4 monitoring; and
5. Explain how these indicators are useful in informing education policy decisions and policy formulation.

III. Participants

The main requirement for country participation is to have already collected, processed and analyzed MICS 6 data by the time of the training. In total, about 9 countries and regions will be able to participate: Fiji, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Viet Nam, and Pakistan Balochistan. Pakistan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) may participate on a self-financing basis.

Each country will send a delegation of two participants: one from the National Statistics Office and one from the Ministry of Education. If UNICEF country offices find it useful, one UNICEF member of staff from the education section may participate. One expert from SIAP will join as the lecturer and a main organizer. From UNICEF NY, two experts will join as lecturers. KOSTAT will also provide substantive support to the training by assigning a trainer who will assist as a lecturer.

IV.   Curriculum and Training Methodology

The program will focus on understanding education indicators based on household survey data, as well as administrative sources with a focus on SDG4 and other relevant SDG targets related to education such as child labour. Most of the indicators, however, will come from MICS 6 data, which should be available for all participating countries. In addition to the training, the capacity building activity will also serve as an opportunity for participating countries to share their experiences in terms of data use, including both Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) and household data.

The outline of the program will be the following:

- The introduction will cover a general presentation of basic concepts on household data for education and special focus on MICS and particularly MICS 6.
- The training will have ten (10) sessions, covering (1) learning outcomes (foundational learning skills), (2) Early Childhood Development (ECD) and preprimary education, (3) completion rates, (4) access (e.g., net attendance rate), (5) Equity with a focus on disability, (6) ICT skills, (7) dealing with multiple data sources, (8) internal efficiency (e.g., dropout, repetition and over-age students), (9) Cross-sectoral indicators, and (10) data tools (e.g., UNICEF and UNESCO's education data tools).
- Each session will cover the theory, calculation methods and application (examples of real analysis). Data tools that will be covered include UNICEF's pathway analysis dashboard and EduView, UIS's database, Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR)'s WIDE among others.
- The information on how to calculate and who to use all the indicators present in the analyses will be available in UNICEF's Manual for statistical data analysis using MICS. The Manual also contains a valuable annex including SPSS and STATA codes for the calculation of those indicators.

Experience sharing

- As much as possible the discussion on data analysis will be linked to policy implications. For this, every participating country will be required to prepare a presentation beforehand that highlights better data use for education policy. Participants are encouraged to use examples from EMIS, MICS or other household or administrative sources.

Tentative agenda

- See Annex 1

The training will be delivered over a period of 4 days. The fifth day will be allocated for a study tour to be organized by KOSTAT, which will entail a visit to the KOSTAT branch office followed by a traditional cultural experience. The training will consist of lectures, hands-on exercises, country presentations and discussion sessions (small group and/ or Q&A).

V.   Evaluation

This training will include several assessments. A pre-assessment will be administered to participants 2–3 weeks prior to the training for the purpose of measuring participants' knowledge and understanding of the topics to be covered in the training. The results of the pre-assessment will also be instructive for facilitators and will guide the preparation of the training materials. Quizzes will be used during the training to encourage participation and for reinforcement.   A final assessment will be administered to all participants at the end of the training. Participants must attain a passing grade of at least 70% in a maximum of 3 attempts to be eligible for a completion certificate. Both the pre-assessment and the final assessment will be administered via the SIAP Learning Management System (LMS).

VI.   Organization

The training is jointly organized by various partners, which will all actively participate in supporting countries during the event, namely: Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), UNICEF headquarters, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP).

VII.   Language

The working language for this training is English.

VIII.   Pre-course requirements

Participants must have a good working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and are required to bring with them a laptop (fitted with Microsoft Excel) so they can complete the practical exercises and access the SIAP Learning Management System for the final assessment.

Participants are also expected to be familiar with:
1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. The latest national Education Sector Plan, and associated indicators
3. National education data and statistics and education policies

Annex 1: Provisional Training Agenda

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
9:00	**Introduction** - opening statements, objectives, agenda, sharing the pre-test results	Session 3 Completion rates: Theory	Session 5 Equity: Disability (Theory)	Session 9: Dealing with multiple data sources (EMIS and HH survey) (a) Strength and weakness (b) sampling error/C.I.	Study tour: Visiting KOSTAT branch office
9:30		Session 3 Completion rates: Group work	Session 5 Equity: Disability Group work 1	
10:00	SDG4 and Global Education issues (COVID, learning poverty, climate)	Session 3 Completion rates: Group work 2	Session 5 Equity: Disability Group work 2	Session 10 Tools: WIDE database + EduView exercise
10:30	How to use UIS data website (by UIS)	Session 4 Access: Theory (Enrolment vs attendance, ANAR, 4.2.2., OOSC)	Session 6 ICT skills (Theory)	Group work
11:00	Tea break				
11:30	Session 1 learning outcomes: Theory	Session 4 Access: Group work 1	Session 6 ICT skills: Group Work 1	Group work
12:00	Session 1 learning outcomes: Group work 1	Session 4 Access: Group work 2	Session 6 ICT skills: Group Work 2	Final exam
12:30	Lunch break				
13:00					
13:30	Session 1 learning outcomes: Group work 2	Session 4 Access: Group work 3	Session 6 ICT skills: Group Work	Session 11: Pathway analysis	Study tour: Traditional cultural experience
14:00	Session 2 Early Childhood Education (ECD) and Preprimary education: Theory	Session 4 Access: Group work 4	Cross-sectoral indicators: Parental involvement, child labour, child marriage (Theory and applications)	Session 11: Pathway analysis	

	Day 1	**Day 2**	**Day 3**	**Day 4**	**Day 5**
14:30	Session 2 ECD and Preprimary education: Group work 1	Session 5: Disparity (Gender, SES, etc)	Session 8: Dropout, repetition and overage	KOSTAT presentation on SDGs	
15:00	Session 2 ECD and Preprimary education: Group work 2	Session 5: Group work 1	Session 8: groupwork	KOSTAT presentation on SDGs	
15:30	Tea break				
16:00	Session 2 ECD and Preprimary education: Group work 2	Session 5: Group work 2	*Session 8 group work*	*Country experience sharing*	
16:30	*End of day feedback*	Session 5: Group work 2	*Country experience sharing*	Handing over the certificates	
17:00	*Review Session*	*Country experience sharing*	*End of day and review session*	Closing	---