

Indicators

Indicators were included based on the following criteria:

- 1 The data relate to the conceptual framework for early childhood development published in the *Lancet* series. That is, the data provide information on threats to early childhood development, aspects of the facilitating environment, or on support and services in the five components of the Nurturing Care Framework: health, nutrition, early learning, responsive caregiving, and security and safety.
- 2 The data are largely comparable across countries and are compiled from publicly available global indicator databases primarily maintained by UN agencies and, for a small subset of indicators, from peer-reviewed publications with supplementary annexes that include country-level data.

Definitions of the indicators and data sources are provided in the Technical Appendix.

Two household surveys are the main data sources – Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), supported by the United States Agency for International Development, and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), supported by UNICEF. Additional data sources include other nationally representative household surveys, censuses and administrative records, as indicated. While the original intention was to have all data refer to children under the age of 5 years, and even under 3 years where possible, this could not be accomplished for all indicators without significant additional time and resources. Definitions make clear the parameters of the indicators – by year/s and age group.

Many more indicators are needed to track threats to early childhood development, financing, responsive caregiving in the home and coverage of services to improve early childhood development. Some of these are referred to in the indicator list in the Technical Appendix. That said, the data presented on the following pages can help generate the motivation, advocacy and additional resources needed for new comparable cross-country data collection through DHS and MICS, as well as through other national household surveys.

How the profiles are organized

Indicators have been assembled on the country pages as follows:

- Demographics providing basic information about the country.
- Threats to early childhood development indexed by maternal mortality, adolescent birth rate, low birthweight and preterm births, inadequate supervision, violent discipline, stunting, and children under 5 years of age living in poverty.