**ANNEX B - Terms of Reference**

**Secondary analysis of the MICS data**

**UNICEF Georgia**

**Background**

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) is an international household survey programme developed and supported by UNICEF. MICS is designed to collect estimates of key indicators that are used to assess the situation of children and women. Over the past 20 years, MICS has evolved to respond to changing data needs, expanding from 28 indicators in the first round to more than 200 indicators in the current sixth round, and becoming a key source of data on child protection, early childhood education, and a major source of data on child health and nutrition. The MICS was a major source of data on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators and will continue to be a major data source during the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to measure Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.

The MICS 2018 in Georgia included over 180 indicators and involved over 14,000 households as a sample size, providing regionally representative data which can be segregated by age, sex, urban/rural, IDP status, ethnicity, disability and wealth allowing precise targeting of development interventions.

For the first time in the history of MICS, a blood lead level module was added to the survey, allowing to calculate the prevalence of lead in the blood of children (2-7 years of age) and pinpoint locations of possible contamination. The MICS 6 also collected the data on the water quality throughout the country.

**Objectives of the ToR**

UNICEF is looking for a research company or companies to carry out secondary, in-depth analysis of the MICS data around the following topics: early childhood development, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child discipline, media using different statistical and econometrical models. The study should identify the factors that are behind the MICS6 results. The research teams are asked:

* + To undertake, to the extent possible, an in-depth descriptive analysis of thematic data/indicators - description, discussion and contextualization.
	+ To conduct trends analysis and provide cross references with the previous MICS studies conducted in Georgia (1999, 2005).
	+ To produce simple cross-tabulation/percentage distribution for thematic indicators to present findings from data analysis including disaggregation(s) by age, gender, marital status, wealth category, education level, place of residence, etc. to add context to MICS data and to interrogate how different groups of women behave or how different factors might affect a single outcome.
	+ To the extent possible, to propose relevant policy recommendations to elucidate missed opportunities and inform future programing priorities.

Participating company(s) may choose to apply for at least two topics.

he sample analytical tasks are listed below, but not limited to them.

**Early Childhood Development and Education**

* Analysis of the Early Childhood Development Index and each development area separately as well as preschool attendance and their correlation with other factors. Analysis of how engagement and early stimulation of children and access to educational resources is related with literacy-numeracy development, learning skills, social-emotional development. (Annex 1)

**General Education**

* Identify factors that prevent children from access and completion of different levels of education, as well as force them to drop out from school. Identify the factors why the national minority children have worse outcomes. (Annex 2)

**Child Discipline:**

* Identify the factors that contribute to the violent upbringing practices of children (e.g. physical and/or phycological violence, severe punishment etc.) (more details in annex 3)

**WASH**

* Identify the correlation between the WASH data, e-coli contamination and diarrhea among young children as well as correlation between malnutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene services for young children. (Annex 4)

**Child Health:**

* Correlation between postnatal care and child health seeking behavior as well as health seeking behavior and diarrhea, acute respiratory infections and fever treatment modalities;
* Correlation between social-emotions status of Georgia’s children and lead level in blood (Annex 4)

**Maternal Health**

* Analysis of the potential factors that contribute to C-section, to post-natal health checks for newborns and mothers, place of delivery as well as factors contributing to still birth and miscarriages (Annex 4)

**Nutrition**

* Analysis of the correlation of the anthropometric results and nutrition practices, anemia prevalence and lead levels. Correlation between breastfeeding, c-section and thermal care. (Annex 4)

**Media**

* Analysis of the usage of smartphones and computers as well as access to the Internet from home by households with young children. ( Annex 5)

The MICS data will be used for this study, yet other existing sources might also be used for this task to make the analysis more solid if needed. Such decisions should be made by the research company together with the UNICEF team.

**Deliverables**

The research company will produce the following deliverables:

1. For each topic finalized research protocols (8 in total) in English language;
2. First drafts of the reports (8 in total) in English language and Excel files (8 in total) with all charts and tables numbered in accordance with the appearance in the reports;
3. Final drafts of the reports (8 in total) in English language, Excel files (8 in total) with all charts and tables numbered in accordance with the appearance in the reports, and self-explanatory STATA Do file or equivalent for all the analyses included in the final reports;
4. A Georgian language translation of all reports with the translated Excel files with all charts and tables numbered in accordance with the appearance in the reports.

The MICS secondary analysis aims to answer new research questions, to examine an alternative perspective on the original questions of the MICS survey and to generate more information on children’s well-being in Georgia. The analysis will be used to improve or start new partnerships, collaborations and cooperation with the goal of joining forces to improve data for improving children’s wellbeing. Audience of the study is UNICEF itself, respective Government agencies, non-governmental organizations concerned with child rights, UN sister agencies and other interested parties. UNICEF will use the MICS secondary data analysis also to inform implementation of its new Country Programme for 2021-2025. At the same time, it is expected that the respective Government agencies and non-governmental organizations equally use the findings of the MICS secondary analysis in their policy and decision making, the development of programmes, their advocacy work and other activities. The MICS secondary analysis will be publicized through UNICEF online resources as well as disseminated through thematic workshops involving all respective stakeholders where also potential policy responses will be discussed.

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| **Timeline** |  |
| **Mid March, 2020** | Submission of first drafts of the reports.The draft reports will then be reviewed by UNICEF, commented and sent back to the service provider for finalization. |
| **Mid April 2020** | Submission of final drafts of the reports.Final reports will be checked against the quality criteria and approved after confirmation of their full compliance with all quality criteria.  |

**Payments**

* 30% after delivering all the first drafts of the reports in English language;
* 50% after delivering the final reports in English language;
* 20% after delivering the final reports in Georgian language.

**Selection criteria**

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|  | **Selection Criteria** | **Selection Criteria Description** | **Score Percentage** |
| **1.** | **Company’s experience** | * Minimum five years of experience in depth research
* At least five years of experience in data analysis
* Experience of working with Household Surveys, Panel Surveys, large datasets
* Documented knowledge of research directions mentioned in the objectives of the ToR (e.g. health, education, violence, early childhood development and WASH) **for which the company is applying**

The tenderer must provide references for at least five projectsdelivered in the last five years  | Max. 30% |
| **2.** | **Research team qualifications** | Qualification of the lead researchers: 1. Advanced university degree in Social Sciences, Policy Analysis, Economics, or related field
2. Minimum five years of experience in the respective area of expertise
3. Excellent writing skills
4. Excellent knowledge of English language
5. Ability to work in a team with tight deadlines

Qualification of the data analyst/statistician: 1. Advanced university degree in economics, applied mathematics, statistics, or related field
2. At least five years of experience in data analysis
3. Outstanding knowledge of data processing programmes (Stata, SPSS, etc)
4. Experience of working with large scale household survey data
5. Ability to work in a team with tight deadlines

Curriculum vitae and annexes, academic and professional qualifications, publications, certificates and/or past relevantdocumented experiences must be submitted.  | Max. 40% |
| **3.** | **Budget** | The budget is relevant and realistic. The cost breakdown is presented by each selected topic and covers all the costs including the translation of the reports.  | Max. 30% |
| Tenderers must score minimum 50% for each criterion and sub-criterion, and minimum 60% in total. Tenders that do not reach the minimum quality levels will be rejected and will not be ranked. |
| **TOTAL** | **Max. 100%** |

**Supervision**

Direct supervision of the contract will be carried out by the Social and Economic Policy Specialist under the general supervision of the UNICEF Representative in Georgia. The performance of each team is supervised by the respective specialist of UNICEF Georgia’s thematic sections (education, child protection, health).

**Indicators for evaluation**

Performance indicators for evaluation:

* Quality and timeliness of deliverables;
* Implementation of the research activities according to the plan and methodology;
* Accuracy of the language and data;
* Integrity, communication, building effective relationships.

**Contract arrangements**

* Participating company(s) should choose to apply for minimum two topics and should consent on the selection decision of UNICEF regarding the chosen topic. The provided financial proposal for each topic will not be subject to increase in case not all the proposed topics are accepted.
* UNICEF will provide the company research teams with the necessary background information.
* UNICEF will agree on the research questions on individual basis with the research team leads.

**Copyright**

* UNICEF will retain the copyright to the final products.

**How to apply**

Interested parties must provide:

* Applicant should form topic-based research teams and should provide information on the team compositions and team member roles. Each team should have a lead researcher and a data analyst/statistician. The research teams may share team members.
* Documents certifying the team member qualification requirements (curriculum vitae and annexes, academic and professional qualifications, publications, certificates, project/assignment reports.
* Documents certifying the legal registration of the organization in Georgia;
* Documents providing information on the annual financial turnover in the form of accountability statement;
* Research budget per each topic (in GEL).

All the documents listed in this TOR should be submitted in one closed envelope with the reference to the request for bid number ITB-XXXX For Details, please refer to the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

Further information can be obtained from Tinatin Baum, Social and Economic Policy Specialist, UNICEF Georgia, at: tbaum@unicef.org , Tel: (995 32) 23 23 88, ext.217. Contact hours: from 9 AM to 6 PM local time. For Details, please refer to the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS