

**UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND D2-32
FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM 29.04.2010 TO 31.12.2012**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Support to the Government of Iraq's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4 (MICS-4) • Programme Number (if applicable): D2-32 • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 75002 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p align="center">Iraq, nationwide (All Governorates, All Districts)</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF 	<p align="center"><i>Health and Nutrition</i></p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <p>UNDG ITF: \$1,480,000 UNICEF : \$698,300</p> <hr/> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)</p> <p>TOTAL: \$2,178,300</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p align="center">Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation/ COSIT and KRSO.</p>
<p align="center">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Evaluation Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: 01-04-2012 (Annual Review) Evaluation Report - Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (months) 32 (20 + 12) Start Date⁵ 29-04-2010</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (dd.mm.yyyy) 29-01-2012 Actual End date⁷(dd.mm.yyyy) 31-12-2012</p> <p>Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Expected Financial Closure date⁸: 30-06-2013</p>
	<p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Subhash Misra ○ Title: Chief of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNICEF ○ Email address: sumisra@unicef.org

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

⁴ The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

⁸ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Abbreviations and Acronyms

COSIT	Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology
CSO	Central Statistics Organization (former COSIT)
GoI	Government of Iraq
KRSO	Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoE	Ministry of Education
NDP	National Development Plan
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNICEF assists countries in collecting and analyzing data in order to fill data gaps for monitoring the situation of children and women through its international household survey initiative the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). MICS is one of the key tools used to monitor ongoing progress in the realization of children's and women's rights as enunciated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The survey is conducted globally on a three year (previously five year) cycle. To date, there have been three MICS surveys conducted in Iraq; the last (MICS3) was carried out at governorate level in 2006. The majority of the indicators measured are related to health and nutrition but the data collected also include information on education, water and sanitation, demographics, child protection, HIV/AIDS, and gender.

UNICEF supports governments conducting this survey globally every three years in order to have comparative data on the situation of women and children across regions and continents. As such, the tools are developed and tested by UNICEF's Headquarters and are globally recognized. The survey is intended to furnish data needed for monitoring progress toward goals established by the MDGs and the goals set by World Fit for Children as a basis for future action and to contribute to the improvement of data and monitoring systems in Iraq and to strengthen technical expertise in the design, implementation and analysis of such systems.

This programme has supported the Government of Iraq generating information from the MICS4 to influence resource allocation and improved planning for the social sector and assist in monitoring social sector delivery to improve the well-being of children and women. The results have been disseminated through analytical reports, advocacy and communications products, and technical presentations for policy makers, donors, and other stakeholders. Any development agency can use them for monitoring country development indicators. The revised National Development Plan 2013-2017 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2012 have both made extensive use of the results of MICS4. The survey will also be extremely timely to support the United Nations Country Team, and other development partners to measure progress and revise the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS 2010-2014) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2011-2014).

I. PURPOSE

a. Brief introduction to the programme/ project

The purpose of this programme is to augment the ability of the GoI, UNCT, donors, and other development partners to strategically plan interventions benefiting women and children across Iraq. This programme particularly intends to expand on the measurement of disparities across Iraq and improve planning at the local level, through MICS4 survey, to provide data that will be statistically relevant at the district level covering 36,580 households. The information gathered through MICS4 is expected to support national capacities of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) and concerned line ministries, and to update monitoring of their national Millennium

Development Goals. Furthermore, NDP, PRS, and UNDAF. MICS4 data will set the stage for trend data and updated information for policy formulation, better planning, and prioritized and targeted efforts to protect and promote the wellbeing of children and women in Iraq. The programme is structured in three phases: planning and implementation.

b. *The expected Outputs are:*

Output 1: COSIT, KRSO and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, implement and supervise large surveys, such as MICS4, to obtain quality household data.

And dissemination and advocacy, which are to be achieved as the second output:

Output 2: Policy makers and planners, at national and governorate levels, are better informed on the status and needs of the children and women.

c. *The Programme as it related to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework*

The programme is adjusted to national priorities and goals, covering the following:

National priority or goals (NDS 2007-2010)

1. Pillar Three: Improving the quality of life
2. Goal (3): Enhancing Gender Equity and Strengthening Women Issues (page 61 of the NDS)
3. Goal (5): Reduce maternity deaths (page 62 of the NDS)
4. Goal (6): Full access to water and health services

ICI:

- Strengthening Institutions and Improving Governance.
- Human Development and Human Security:
 - 2.1: Improving Health and Nutrition of all Iraqis as a cornerstone of welfare and economic development.
 - 2.2: Reduce gender Discrimination, increase participation of women in public life and labour market.

The project is relevant to the UNDAF priorities and NDP strategic objectives, in particular the findings of the survey which will enlighten policy makers concerning the gender gaps and provide information tool to enhance improving the quality of life of children and women in Iraq in general and gender equity, reduction of child deaths and full access to health services in particular. MICS4 will be an important data source for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals with 20 MDG indicators collected. MICS4 is expected to generate the same type of data to update the country situation for evidence based planning and monitoring against the UNDAF Priority 4 : Increased access to quality essential services, outcomes:

- 4.1 Policies: The Government of Iraq has participatory and accountable policy framework and implementation mechanisms for the delivery of quality basic services at all levels
- 4.3 Health: Government of Iraq has enabled improved access to and utilization of quality Primary Health Care services for all people in Iraq
- 4.4 Water & Sanitation: People in Iraq have improved access to safe water, sanitation, electricity and municipal services
- 4.6 Food & Nutrition: People in Iraq have improved food and nutrition security, and food safety

And to monitor against the UNDAF Priority 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children:

- Outcome 5.1 Knowledge, Attitude, Practices: The Iraqi state has improved knowledge, attitude and practices regarding the roles and rights of women, youth and children in line with international conventions, the Iraqi Constitution and legislation

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

a. Report on the key outputs achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results.

Output 1: COSIT, KRSO and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, implement and supervise large surveys, such as MICS4, to obtain quality household data.

The project consists of three phases: planning, implementation, dissemination and advocacy. The first two phases embrace all inputs conducive to the achievement of Output 1 (COSIT, KRSO and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, implement and supervise large surveys, such as MICS4, and to obtain quality household data). Output 2 (Policy makers and planners, at national and governorate levels, are better informed on the status and needs of the children and women) should be achieved once the third phase is completed. At the end of December 2011 all the activities in the planning and implementation phases were already completed, and relevant partners had increased capacity to develop, design, and implement large surveys such as MICS4, and to obtain quality household data. The partners' success in developing, designing, and implementing MICS4 in Iraq was acknowledged by the international survey experts and MICS Global Team that met in a workshop in Belgrade, Serbia, in November 2011.

Training of Enumerators, 2011



The completion of activities led by the GoI and supported by UNICEF show the progressive steps towards the achievement of the planned output:

- A Survey Design workshop organized by UNICEF held in Amman in 24-30 October 2009 provided technical support to 3 senior CSO-KRSO staff to draft the country survey plan. The workshop trained the partners in designing, planning and implementing the MICS4 survey.

- The two Project Steering Committees were established and have met regularly to oversight and provide strategic and technical directions.
- On the 16th and 17th of April 2010 UNICEF hosted a Partners Consultation meeting in Amman. 11 senior technical staff from the partners, CSO, KRSO, the MoH and the MoE participated with UNICEF Iraq's Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, UNICEF's regional MICS coordinator and consultant, and UN agencies WHO, UNFPA, and OCHA. The meeting served to analyse the information gaps and the MICS4 standard list of indicators and select the survey modules to be included in the MICS4 questionnaires for Iraq. The modules included are the following:
 - Household Questionnaire
 - Household Listing
 - Education
 - Water and Sanitation
 - Household Characteristics
 - Child Labour
 - Child Discipline
 - Hand Washing
 - Salt Iodization
 - Chlorine Test
 - Questionnaire for Individual Women
 - Marriage
 - Child Mortality
 - Birth History
 - Desired Birth
 - Maternal and New-born Health
 - Illness Symptoms
 - Contraception
 - Unmet Needs
 - Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence
 - Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Questionnaire for Children Under Five
 - Birth Registration
 - Early Childhood Development
 - Breastfeeding
 - Care of Illness
 - Immunization
 - Anthropometry
- During the Partners Consultation meeting, potential duplicities and ways of cross-fertilization with other data collection activities were planned by CSO-KRSO, and UN agencies in Iraq were identified - specifically with the Micronutrients Survey (WHO) and the Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (UNFPA) presented the information. Eventually, details of the whole sample design were presented by the Head of CSO and discussed among the partners.
- UNICEF organized the MICS4 Data Processing training in Amman in May 2010. The four staff in CSO-KRSO responsible for MICS4 data processing that attended the training built and customized

the standard MICS4 data entry and analysis programs in Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro 4.0); they learned how to adapt the standard MICS tabulation programs using SPSS 18.0 and became familiar with how to customize the standard survey archive using the International Household Survey Network toolkit (IHSN).

- The translated questionnaires and manuals were reviewed, and listers were trained in May 2010.
- From June 1st to 10th, 2010 a Training of Trainers was held in Amman. The two MICS4 coordinators in CSO and KRISO, plus 21 supervisors attended this training aiming to prepare them to further train the enumerators. The training assisted them to fully understand and administer the MICS4 questionnaires; gaining familiarity on the survey methodology and the field operations; acquiring familiarity and developing skills with participatory training methodologies and interviewing skills; gaining the ability to organize the training of enumerators; and, to develop and use standard tools to train enumerators.
- In June 2010 all MICS4 activities were suspended due to the Census fieldwork. As a consequence the field household samples had to be updated when the project resumed in December 2010: the questionnaires were translated Arabic-English and Kurdish-English and they were reviewed again.
- Training of Trainers refresher had to be scheduled to refresh the Trainers' skills, which was held in Amman from January 8th to 14th, 2011. Immediately after the training, two days were taken to pretest the questionnaires and adjust where necessary by CSO and KRISO.
- The Training of Enumerators was held in KRISO from January 29th to February 10th, 2011 and in the CSO during March 13th to 25th, 2011. A pilot survey was conducted the last two days of the training.
- Training of editors and data entry clerks was undertaken by KRISO February 13th to 18th, 2011, and data collection was completed in the three KRG governorates from February 13th to March 19th, 2011. Data processing (verification, editing, and entry) and cleaning has been completed by KRISO from March 27th to July 10th, 2011. CSO initiated the data processing for the 15 governorates in central-south Iraq by June 19th and finalized in August 25th, 2011.
- Data exporting to SPSS format datasets was completed in 21st September 2011. Data cleaning using SPSS datasets to identify inconsistencies and going back to CsPro datasets and filled questionnaires, initiated in September 22nd, 2011.

Training of Trainers Refresher, 2011



Chlorine testing during interview, 2011



Household Interview, 2011



Pilot Survey, 2011



Salt iodization test during interview, 2011



Measuring child during an interview, 2011



Output 2: Policy makers and planners at both national and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of children and women

In 31 December 2012 this result has been achieved as proven by the fact that the 2012 MDG Report launched by the MoPDC and the National Development Plan 2013-2017 (in the final stages of endorsement by the Iraqi institutions) make extensive explicit use of the MICS4 results to describe the situation of children and women in Iraq and planning strategic priorities accordingly.

The successful participation of CSO, KRSO, and UNICEF Iraq at the MICS Global Workshop on Data Dissemination and Further Analysis, in November 2011, Belgrade, Serbia, to assess overall data quality and identify potential dissemination messages and tools, cleared the way to analyze and report the survey results, and hence initiating activities conducive to achieve output 2.

The dissemination plan had been readjusted so that the delay in the completion of the Preliminary Findings Report would not imply a postponement of evidence-based advocacy efforts: in this sense, specific visits to the Governorate Councils to communicate MICS4 results were conducted in the south of the country, in Ninewa, Salahaddin, and Kirkuk; presentations to the EU Iraq commission in Brussels and the Iraq Partners Forum; Embassies of USA, Italy, Japan, and the UNCT.

A presentation of the main findings was also given jointly with KRG in July 1st 2012, Erbil. The Final Report was updated with the latest reviewed and validated data, and validation of the report with the Government was completed in October 2012. The report was launched in Baghdad in December 12, 2012, in the MoP conference room with presence of representatives from most line ministries and international community and development organizations. Copies of the Final Report have been distributed among all stakeholders and duty bearers (from Federal government level to Directorates at Governorate level), and more yet to be distributed in the first quarter of 2013.

The materials and media advocacy events prepared to the date can be accessed through the following links:

Printed materials

[Highlights from MICS4](#); [Frequently Asked Questions](#); [Poster](#); [Table Calendar](#); [Wall Calendar](#); [Factsheet](#); [Equity concept paper](#)

Mass media

[MICS4 Report Launch Press Release](#); [Speech by UNICEF Representative to Iraq, at the launch of MICS4](#); [Initial findings of major survey](#)

Promotional video in Youtube, exhibited at the launch sessions of the Preliminary Findings Report and the Final Report.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YabRNmdZ3TM>

Presentations of Results

[MICS4 Highlights](#); [Launch of the final report](#); [Equity analysis](#)

b. Qualitative Assessment of the level of overall achievement of the Programme

The Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation's Central Statistics Office (CSO, formerly COSIT), and Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office are the major partners of the project. They implemented the project and coordinated the PSC members to provide overall guidance to the project. Both have staffed field workers (statisticians), data clerks, supervisors. They adapted the MICS global standards into the country context, maintaining the quality levels established in the standards.

A close collaboration with the Ministry of Health has been fundamental to identify qualified technical staff (doctors and measurers) for the fieldwork and to support improvement of technical expertise. Its role in articulating the Directorates of Health to provide supplies for the field has been critical.

WHO, UNFPA, WFP: UN agencies participated actively during the initial stages to identify information gaps, to help avoid duplicities and cross-fertilize with other data collection activities. They also provided their expertise to review the questionnaires, and especially to discuss some of the results. An event will be held in April to scrutinize all results in detail.

The collaboration with the Nutrition Research Institute has been critical on logistics, especially to assure that supplies for the field would be available to the implementing partners during the fieldwork.

Engagement with the Ministry of Planning during the processes of revision of the National Development Plan for Iraq and the MDG Report has proven to be of the outmost relevance; MICS4 has been widely used in both documents and hence it may impact on policy decisions and will inform policy makers.

iii. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASESMENT:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1⁹ Health and Nutrition policy makers and service providers at all levels have developed, reviewed and implemented polices, strategies, plans and projects Indicator: N/A¹⁰ Baseline: N/A¹¹ Planned Target: N/A¹²			
Output 1.1: National statistical agencies (COSIT, KRSO) and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, and implement large surveys such as MICS4, to obtain quality household data			
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of supervisors, field workers trained on data collection (disaggregated by sex) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 600	735 trained (more than 50% females), including backup members	A refresher training not planned had to be conducted to resume the project after the 6 months postponement of the project due to the Census	Progress reports
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of supervisors, field workers trained on survey design Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 15	3 supervisors (1 female, 2 males) were trained through a Regional Survey Design workshop. Cascade sessions of training at CSO and KRSO; and hands-on sessions conducted with UNICEF on preparation and discussion of survey plan.		Survey Design workshop report.

⁹ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlines in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

¹⁰ Not specified in the project proposal

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

<p>Indicator 1.1.3: Number of supervisors, field workers trained data processing, data analysis, and reporting (disaggregated by sex) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 60</p>	<p>A Regional Workshop on Data Processing was attended by 4 technical supervisors (2 females, 2 males); who trained 94 data processing operators (more than 50% females). UNICEF conducted four training sessions with the Equity Analysis for Children Team (Equity-ACT) using MICS4 data, the team is formed by 6 members from CSO and KRSO (2 females, 3 males)</p>		<p>Training reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.6: Percentage of staff satisfied with quality of training in terms of relevance and usefulness Baseline: NA Planned Target: 80%</p>	<p>The Regional Workshop produced 100% of satisfied trainees; the remaining trainings were assessed qualitatively.</p>	<p>The different trainings mentioned above were assessed differently: the Regional workshop used a questionnaire while the training of operators had continued and practical feedback from trainees. The equity analysis sessions were being adapted according to the relevance and usefulness of every topic covered according to the participants.</p>	<p>Training reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.7: Iraq customized MICS4 questionnaires in English, Arabic & Kurdish completed Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p>	<p>Completed and with back translation conducted from both Arabic and Kurdish to English.</p>	<p>Versions with the two Kurdish dialects were prepared: Sorani and Baadini</p>	<p>Questionnaires</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.8: Percentage of data entry operators and supervisors trained on CSPro who rated satisfaction, relevance and utility aspects “high” Baseline: No Planned Target: 80%</p>	<p>See boxes under indicator 1.1.6</p>	<p>See boxes under indicator 1.1.6</p>	<p>See boxes under indicator 1.1.6</p>
<p>Output 1.2: Policy makers and planners at both national and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of children and women</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1: MICS4 report finalized in English, Arabic and Kurdish Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p>	<p>Finalization of the Preliminary Findings Report and the Final Report.</p>	<p>The Kurdish version has been substituted by a longitudinal analysis comparing MICS3 and MICS4 in the region, based upon a request from KRSO.</p>	<p>Preliminary Findings Report and Final Report, CSO and UNICEF (Childinfo and Iraq) websites</p>

Indicator 1.2.2: Number of Iraq government and Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives participating at the MENA regional workshop on disseminating survey main findings

Baseline: 0

Planned Target: 40

Indicator 1.2.3: % of workshop participants who find MICS4 informative and useful.

Baseline: 0

Planned Target: 100

Indicator 1.2.4: Number of final MIC4 reports disseminated

Baseline: 0

Planned Target: 2,500

Indicator 1.2.5: Number of advocacy interventions at governorate and national level (international level as well)

Baseline: 0

Planned Target: 25

<p>Rescheduled due to availability of international consultants and timely completions of the survey (recall six months postponement due to Census and delay in data processing). 6 persons from Iraq participated.</p>	<p>This Regional workshop on dissemination became a Global workshop on Dissemination and Further Analysis, conducted in Belgrade in November 2011. Government of Iraq representatives from CSO and KRISO, UNICEF staff, and representation from other six participating countries attended.</p>	<p>Workshop report, UNICEF childinfo website</p>
<p>The evaluation reports administered at the end of the workshop indicate this result was achieved.</p>		<p>Workshop report.</p>
<p>200 copies of the Preliminary Findings Report distributed, English and Arabic; 1,500 of the Final Report prepared and in dissemination, English and Arabic</p>	<p>The Final Report had to be printed in two separate volumes, which affected the number of copies printed (1,500). Besides, it was agreed with KRISO (see this box in indicator 1.2.1) to prepare a new report.</p>	<p>Preliminary Findings Report and Final Report, CSO and UNICEF (Childinfo and Iraq) websites</p>
<p>The number of meetings and events (including MICS4 presentations) with different GoI line ministries, sub-national levels of government, donors, UN agencies and other Iraq Partners Forum members, and in international forums like the EU Parliament, UNICEF global communications network; with communication products including results of the equity analysis presented in the MICS4 Final Report</p>		<p>Event reports, dissemination products, UNICEF Annual Report 2012</p>

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

The project encountered constraints that resulted delaying its implementation because:

- 1) The Government of Iraq postponed the Census fieldwork and this forced a postponement of all other planned data collection activities or surveys;
- 2) Once the Government of Iraq resumed data collection activities, the accumulation of pending surveys forced additional delays for some of them.
- 3) Modification of Preliminary Findings Results deliverable postponed the launch of Final Report

Censuses are massive regular data collection activities normally conducted every ten years. The latest Census that was conducted in Iraq was fourteen years ago, and the Government of Iraq has made all preparations for a new one since 2008. Nevertheless the political context of the country made it very difficult to predict that the Census would be postponed a few times since 2009 –and yet nowadays it has not been implemented. As a consequence most of the 2009-2010 data collection activities that had been planned by CSO and KRSO were postponed and ended cueing. Moreover of the Fundamental Principles of the United Nations Statistics Division for Official Statistics like Censuses highlights the need to provide safe time before and after the fieldwork of Censuses. All of this resulted in an accumulation of pending data collection activities that when CSO and KRSO resumed work in this area after the Census break, some surveys had to be further postponed because CSO and KRSO faced an overwhelming amount of pending surveys which had to be implemented orderly. Hence MICS4 was implemented once human and technical resources from CSO and KRSO were available.

The uncertainty of the dates to conduct the Census forced a delay of 5 months for this project: from June 2010 until December 2010. The postponement had also an effect in the partners' Action Plans that implied a rescheduling of other data collection activities, and as a consequence the fieldwork for MICS4 had to be conducted in different moments: with KRSO starting in 13th February 2011 and CSO in 31st March 2011. All activities planned just after the fieldwork had to be rescheduled to keep their contribution towards achievement of the planned outputs. The partners CSO and KRSO worked jointly with UNICEF to update the Country Survey Plan to the new timeline. The nature of this project does not allow compressing activities in a shorter time period because producing good quality data on a wide set of internationally comparable indicators requires following a project phasing that is precisely designed to ensure that quality control mechanisms are in place. Consequently the completion of the project was postponed 6 months, time during which official validation of the data collected and dissemination was completed.

Moreover, the action plan for the finalization of this project during the first half of 2012 included major activities going from the completion of data analysis and tabulation, including estimation of precision, to the last activity consisting of the distribution of the Final report. Before the later, the preparation and release of the Preliminary Findings Report was a milestone activity aiming at raising awareness of policy makers and planners on the existence of MICS4 data, and communicating the soon to come Final Report. The Preliminary Findings Report was planned to be launch by February 2012, nevertheless after a revision of CSO internal work plan, MoPDC requested UNICEF's support to organize a wide event to launch the Preliminary Findings Report, and support to prepare a report much more comprehensive than the one initially planned. These tasks went far beyond the ones reflected in the original plan, and even in the previous time extension request; in May 20 when the MoPDC presented the Preliminary Findings Results, both Arabic and English versions to a wide and varied audience composed of GoI, UN agencies, and other international community representatives. This implied additional delay of the activities planned and a subsequent postponement of the finalization of the project.