



Government of Nepal
Central Bureau of Statistics



Nepal Multiple Indicator Survey (NMICS) 2014

Press Release

KATHMANDU, 25 February 2016 - The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) today released the findings of the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS) 2014. The findings included data on child mortality, nutrition, child health, water and sanitation, reproductive health, early childhood development, education and literacy, child protection, HIV and AIDS, access to mass media and used of information and technology, well-being and tobacco and alcohol use.

MICS is an internationally agreed household survey programme developed by UNICEF and constitutes one of the world's largest sources of statistical information on children and women. It assists countries in filling data gaps for monitoring human development in general and the situation of children and women in particular.

The round 5 of MICS was conducted by CBS in all 75 districts of Nepal from January to June 2014 with technical and financial support from UNICEF. The previous round of NMICS implemented in 2010 covered only the mid and far western regions (24 districts) of Nepal.

During the current round, NMICS tested water quality from sampled households (the second country globally to test water quality in MICS) and also measured children's weight and height for the first time to estimate the nutritional status of children below five.

NMICS 2014 provides valuable information and evidence on the situation of children and women in Nepal before the country was hit by 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April 2015. The findings of the survey also fed into the Government's Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to identify the financial needs of post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction. The NMICS survey findings will also contribute to the UN Secretary-General's report to the UN General Assembly on the achievements of Millennium Development Goals.

The survey presents the data from an equity perspective by showcasing disparities concerning sex, region, area, education, household wealth, and other characteristics. The national survey of 12,405 households included interviews with 14,162 women aged 15-49 and 5,349 mothers/caretakers of children under five years. In addition, water testing was also performed in 1,492 households.

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NMICS-5 Findings Summary

Child Mortality

- The infant mortality rate in Nepal is 33 deaths per 1,000 live births, the under-five mortality rate is 38 deaths per 1,000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate is 23 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- There are substantial disparities in terms of urban/rural location, mother's education and household wealth status as well as between regions. Children in the poorest households are twice as likely to die before reaching one and five years of age compared to children living in the richest households.

Nutrition

- One in three (30 per cent) children under five in Nepal were moderately or severely underweight, with 9 per cent classified as severely underweight.
- More than one-third (37 per cent) were moderately or severely stunted, with 16 per cent severely stunted, and 11 per cent were moderately or severely wasted, with 3 per cent severely wasted.
- Only 2 per cent of children were moderately or severely overweight.
- Some 57 per cent of infants under six months of age were exclusively breastfed. Mother's education level was negatively associated with exclusive breastfeeding.
- Overall, 74 per cent of infants aged 6-8 months had received solid, semi-solid or soft foods at least once during the previous day. Boys were more likely than girls to receive solid, semi-solid or soft foods.
- Adequately iodized salt, defined as containing 15 or more parts per million (15+ ppm), is used in 82 per cent of households, with considerably higher consumption in urban areas (96 per cent) and among the richest households (98 per cent) than in rural areas (78 per cent) and among the poorest households (64 per cent).

Child health

- Although immunization coverage in Nepal has improved over the past decade, only 67 per cent of children aged 12-23 months had received all recommended vaccinations by their first birthday.
- Some 18 per cent were treated with oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc. Children aged 0-11 months (11 per cent) were the least likely to receive ORS and zinc.
- Four in every five mothers were adequately protected against neonatal tetanus (77 per cent). Only 61 per cent of women living in the poorest households were protected compared to 88 per cent of women living in the richest households.

Water and sanitation

- Drinking water was used from an improved drinking water source almost universally (93 per cent of the population).
- Among those who did not have access to an improved drinking water source, only 14 per cent used an appropriate water treatment method.
- However, more than four-fifths (82 per cent) of household members were at the risk of *E. coli* concentration ≥ 1 cfu/100 ml in their household water. In total, almost three-quarters



(71 per cent) of the household population were at risk of *E. coli* due to its concentration in their source of drinking water. The poorest households were more likely than the richest households to have *E. coli* in their source of drinking water (88 per cent cf. 58 per cent).

- 72 per cent of the population of Nepal is living in households using improved sanitation facilities. However, only 60 per cent are using improved sanitation facilities that are not shared.
- Some 26 per cent still practiced open defecation.

Reproductive health

- The total fertility rate in Nepal is 2.3, meaning that a Nepali woman, by the end of her reproductive years, will have given birth to an average of 2.3 children.
- The adolescent birth rate is 71 births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years. Early childbearing is relatively common, with about one in six (16 per cent) women aged 20–24 years having had a live birth before the age of 18.
- About 50 per cent of women aged 15–49 years and currently married or in a marital union were using some form of contraception, with 47 per cent using a modern method and 3 per cent using a traditional method.
- Contraceptive prevalence was relatively low among women aged 15–19 years (19 per cent). Interestingly, women's education level was negatively associated with contraceptive use.
- About 68 per cent of women aged 15–49 years received antenatal care from skilled health personnel at least once, and 60 per cent had the recommended four antenatal care visits by any provider.
- Around 55 per cent of women aged 15–49 years delivered at a health facility and 56 per cent were attended by a skilled health provider.

Early Childhood Development

- Half of all children (51 per cent) aged 36–59 months were attending early childhood education programmes.
- Only 5 per cent of children aged 0–59 months lived in a household where at least three children's books were present, and less than 1 per cent lived in a household with 10 or more children's books.
- Mother's education level and household wealth status were both negatively associated with a child being left.
- Overall, 64 per cent of children aged 36–59 months were developmentally on track according to the early child development index (ECDI).

Education and literacy

- The net intake rate in primary education, i.e., the percentage of children of school-entry age who enter the first grade of primary school, was low at 42 per cent.
- The primary school adjusted net attendance ratio was 76 per cent. Younger children had lower primary school net attendance ratios than older children, and were more likely to be in preschool or out of school.
- Some 62 per cent of children of secondary-school age were currently attending secondary school or higher, 27 per cent were still attending primary school, and 11 per cent were out of school.



- Older children were more likely than younger counterparts to be out of school, with some 22 per cent of children who started the school year at age 16 out of school.
- The gender parity index (GPI) for both primary and secondary school was 1.00, indicating virtually no difference in the attendance of girls and boys at primary and secondary school.

Child Protection

- Although a high proportion of mothers or caretakers of children under five (86 per cent) know how to register a birth in Nepal, registration is still not widely practiced, with only 58 per cent of births registered.
- In total, 37 per cent of children aged 5–17 years were involved in child labour, with 30 per cent working under hazardous condition.
- Children from rural areas were much more likely than children from urban areas to be involved in child labour (41 per cent cf. 16 per cent).
- Overall, 43 per cent of women felt that a husband was justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one of five situations (wife neglects the children, wife goes out without telling husband, wife argues with husband, wife refuses to have sex with husband, wife burns the food). Such agreement was more likely in rural areas than urban areas (46 per cent cf. 29 per cent).

HIV and AIDS

- More than three in four (78 per cent) women aged 15–49 years in Nepal had heard of AIDS, but only one in four (26 per cent) had comprehensive knowledge and two in five (38 per cent) women correctly identified all three means of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.
- Some 36 per cent of young women had comprehensive knowledge, 45 per cent knew all three means of HIV transmission from mother to child, and 68 per cent knew of a place to get tested for HIV.

Access to mass media and use of information/communication technology

- Of all women aged 15–49 years in Nepal, one-fifth (19 per cent) read a newspaper or magazine at least once a week, 41 per cent listened to the radio, and 57 per cent watched television.
- In total, 11 per cent were exposed to all three types of media on a weekly basis.

Well-being

- Overall, 81 per cent of young women expressed satisfaction with their life.
- 82 per cent of young women said they were very or somewhat happy.

Tobacco and alcohol use

- In Nepal, 9 per cent of women aged 15–49 years reported that they had smoked cigarettes or used other tobacco products on one or more days.
- Some 4 per cent of women had smoked a whole cigarette before the age of 15 years.
- Some 10 per cent of women aged 15–49 years had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during last month, and 7 per cent reported that they had first drunk alcohol before the age of 15.