**MICS 4 in Argentina**

The Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.ARG.CO.3-4.doc>) states that Argentina needs to make additional efforts to improve the reliability and transparency of official statistical data. Moreover, it asks for the development of an integrated national information system that can disaggregate key indicators on children and adolescents to the provincial level.

The country’s two main sources of information are the National Census (carried out every 10 years) and the Permanent Household Survey (PHS, carried out twice a year only in urban clusters). In general this information requires additional effort to link statistics to public policy monitoring and evaluation, specifically when periodical update and disaggregation at the local or sector level is required. Even though the Census allows a high degree of disaggregation, it is limited in terms of periodicity and the relatively small number of indicators. On the other hand, the PHS is permanently updated which allows comparisons within one year time, but it limited as it is represents only urban areas.

To complement these sources of information, many studies and surveys are carried out by universities, research centers and government on specific matters, for instance: drug use, sexual and reproductive care in adolescents, among other topics.

The idea of implementing a MICS in Argentina responds to the need to count on accurate data on the situation of children and adolescents at the national and sub national levels. The MICS will make it possible to monitor the goals established in the National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents, and at the same time, provide specific information about disparities affecting children in Argentina.

Considering the data gaps existing in the country, the SENNAF (Social Development Ministry), with the support of UNICEF Argentina, TACRO and HQ, will conduct a MICS. At the same time, UNICEF Argentina will continue its efforts to achieve more dynamic approaches to work in the area of information and knowledge management, with the aim of strengthening the national and provincial public sector as well as civil society groups. Also, it will ensure that a rights-based approach is an integral part of government planning, and strengthen national capacity to evaluate trends and gaps.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey will provide information on key issues affecting children in Argentina such as child labour, reproductive and sexual health, child disciplinary practices and adequate child care.

**When did Argentina officially decide to implement a MICS?**

Conversations with the Secretary on Children, Adolescents and Families (SENAF) started early in 2010 and a cooperation agreement to implement the MICS was signed in May 2010. Training and fieldwork are planned for the end of 2010/beginning of 2011.