## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2030 (ECDI2030)

Early childhood development is a multidimensional process that involves an ordered progression of motor, cognitive, language, socio-emotional and regulatory skills and capacities across the first few years of life.[[1]](#footnote-1) While these are distinct domains of early childhood development, they are interconnected. Nurturing and supporting all these dimensions in a holistic manner is key to ensuring children have the best chance to reach their full potential. Physical growth, literacy and numeracy skills, socio-emotional development and learning readiness set the trajectory for lifelong health, learning and well-being.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The Early Childhood Development Index 2030 (ECDI2030) module captures the achievement of key developmental milestones by children between the ages of 24 and 59 months. The data generated by the ECDI2030 can be used for monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 4.2.1, and to inform government efforts to improve developmental outcomes among children.

The measure includes 20 questions about the way children behave in certain everyday situations, and the skills and knowledge they have acquired, reflecting the increasing difficulty of the skills children acquire as they grow. The 20 items are organized according to the three general domains of health, learning and psychosocial well-being. Children are considered to be developmentally on track if they have achieved the minimum number of milestones expected for their age group. Each of the three general domains is composed of a set of core sub-domains:

* Health sub-domains: gross motor development, fine motor development and self-care.
* Learning sub-domains: expressive language, literacy, numeracy, pre-writing, and executive functioning.
* Psychosocial well-being sub-domains: emotional skills, social skills, internalizing behavior, and externalizing behavior.

The ECDI2030 module is not designed to report on individual domains separately. Rather, it is meant to produce a single summary score that captures the interlinked developmental concepts embedded in the three domains mentioned in SDG 4.2.1.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The indicator derived from the ECDI2030 module is the percentage of children aged 24 to 59 months who have achieved the minimum number of milestones expected for their age group.[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. UNICEF et al. *Advancing Early Childhood Development: From Science to Scale.* Executive Summary, The Lancet, 2016. <https://www.thelancet.com/pb-assets/Lancet/stories/series/ecd/Lancet_ECD_Executive_Summary.pdf.> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Shonkoff, J. and D. Phillips. *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 2000.; United Nations Children’s Fund, *Early Moments Matter*, New York: UNICEF, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For details about the development of the ECDI2030 module and related indicator, see ‘ECDI2030-Frequently-Asked-Questions’: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/early-childhood-development-index-2030-ecdi2030/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The indicator generated by the ECDI2030 module is not entirely comparable to the one generated by the ECDI module that was introduced in the MICS surveys in 2009. For more information see ‘ECDI2030-Frequently-Asked-Questions’. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)