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PRESS RELEASE
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NEW ROUND OF MICS SURVEY IN MONTENEGRO

Statistical Office of Montenegro and UNICEF jointly implement the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) on the situation of children and families

Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT) held a press conference today on the occasion of starting the implementation of a new round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) on the situation of children and women. The survey is being implemented within UNICEF's global initiative, in partnership with numerous relevant national institutions.

At the conference, representatives presented objectives, significance, and implementation plan of the survey, as well as the crucial role of citizens in ensuring reliable data on the living conditions of children, women, and families in Montenegro.

This is the seventh cycle of the MICS survey, conducted worldwide since the 1990s, which represents one of the most important sources of data on the position of children, women, and families – both nationally and globally.

“At a time when data are key to making responsible and sustainable decisions, MICS allows us to obtain reliable, comparable, and comprehensive information about the most vulnerable segments of our society. The data collected through this survey will be used to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, for the creation and evaluation of public policies, and – most importantly – for improving the daily lives of children and families in our country,” said director of the Statistical Office, Mr. Miroslav Pejovic, during his speech at the conference.

Some findings from the previous MICS round in 2018 highlight why updating the data is urgently needed. Only 23% of children aged 3–4 attended early childhood education programmes. 16% of children under 5 were at risk of developmental delay. Two-thirds (66%) of children aged 1–14 were exposed to physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by adult household members during the month preceding the survey. The rate of malnutrition among children under 5 was three times higher among Roma children than in the general population. Only 1 in 4 mothers (24%) started breastfeeding within the first hour after birth, and only 1 in 5 continued exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. These figures were even lower among the Roma population. One in three (33%) Roma girls aged 15–19 were married or living in an informal union. Only 20% of Roma children aged 7–14 attended school regularly.

“The MICS survey, which begins on October 20, represents a key milestone and a clear indicator of how much progress Montenegro has made in realizing the rights of children and women. Since the last survey in 2018, a significant progress has been achieved; however, this new round will

clearly show whether progress has been sustainable, and in which areas Montenegro needs to invest more effort to promote, protect, and improve the well-being of all children – especially the most vulnerable, such as children with disabilities and those from the Roma community,” said UNICEF Representative to Montenegro, Mr. Michele Servadei.

The survey will last for several months, with MONSTAT enumerators visiting around 8 000 households across Montenegro. All data collected are strictly confidential, and will be only used for statistical purposes, in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System, and in line with the highest ethical standards in the survey.

The data obtained through MICS will be used to monitor Montenegro’s progress in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, key benchmarks for Montenegro’s EU accession process, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as for the creation and evaluation of public policies and the improvement of the daily lives of children and families.

Statistical Office invites citizens to participate in the survey and thus contribute to collecting reliable information important for improving the position of children and women in Montenegro.

Statistical Office expresses its gratitude to all citizens who will take part in the survey, to UNICEF for its long-term partnership and support, and to all institutions contributing to the implementation of this important project. Special thanks are also extended to media representatives for informing the public about the importance of the MICS survey.

“The beginning of the new MICS round represents an important step forward – not only in the development of statistics, but also in the overall social development. I am confident that the results of this survey will be of great importance – both for decision-makers and for all citizens for whom these decisions are intended – for families, for children, for all of us,” concluded Mr. Pejovic.

Please, find below the link with video:

Video: <https://fromsmash.com/aavEP5ixC0-dt?e=bmlrb2xpbmEucmFkb3ZpY0BtZWRpYWJpcm8udHY=>

For additional information, citizens, media, and all interested parties can contact Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT):

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