

Table 2: Characteristics of the surveys required to obtain the M&E indicators

Study	Aim	Frequency	Consideration	Survey quality assessment evidence
National Health Accounts (NHA)	NHA provides answers to the following questions: 1) what is the total expenditure on health in a country? 2) Who pays for health care services? 3) How much is spent on health services? 4) How much is paid to different health service providers? (11)	Annually, since 2000	National Statistics Centre of Iran is responsible body to conduct the survey	Not defined
Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)	The HIES aims to hand in estimates of the average income and expenditure for urban and rural households at provincial and country levels. To investigate the household health expenditures, the data relevant to inpatient and outpatient expenditures from 2012 to 2014, collected by households' Income and Expenditure Survey in rural and urban areas, were analyzed by the NIHR (39).	Annually, since 1990 (with new method)	National Statistics Centre of Iran is the responsible body to conduct the survey	Not defined
Services Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA)	The survey objective is to generate reliable and regular information on service delivery (such as the availability of key human and infrastructure resources), on the availability of basic equipment, basic amenities, essential medicines, and diagnostic capacities, and on the readiness of health facilities to provide basic health-care interventions relating to family planning, child health services, basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care, HIV, TB, malaria, and noncommunicable diseases (40).	Not defined	National Institute of Health Research is the responsible body to conduct the survey	Not defined
Utilization Health Survey (UHS)	The most important aims of the survey are: 1) To measure the need of the population for health services; 2) To find out what steps people take in receiving the health services; 3) To find out what type of services the households receive; 4) To determine how much time and expenses are spent on health services; 5) To address the extent of people's satisfaction with health services (22).	Quadrennial or triennial, since 2002	Four rounds have been performed in I.R. Iran (2002, 2008, 2014 and 2015).	Not defined
Iranian Multiple Indicators of Demographic and Health (IrMIDHS)	The primary objectives of the IrMIDHS are: 1) To provide rigorous data on health and population at the national and provincial levels for assessing a range of social indicators and their influences on health, especially on children and women situation in I.R. Iran; 2) To provide data needed for monitoring progress toward the goals established in national plans and priorities and the MDGs; 3) To assist policy-makers and programme managers in designing effective strategies to promote health outcomes and equity in access to health care (41).	Quadrennial, since 2000	Four rounds have been performed in I.R. Iran (2000, 2010 and 2015)	Not defined
STEPwise approach to surveillance of noncommunicable diseases (STEPS)	The main aim of the survey are: 1) To provide national and provincial reliable and up-to-date information resources on risk factors to map prevalence, trend and distribution of diseases; 2) To prepare a tool for evidence-based public health decision-making with the ultimate aim of containing and reducing the emerging epidemic of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), 3) To prepare a supportive infrastructure for NCDs preventive research; 4) To promote the level of knowledge, reinforcement and enlargement of public health capacity in NCD prevention and PHC services (42).	Annually, since 2005	Seven rounds have been performed in I.R. Iran (2005-2009, 2011 and 2015)	Not defined
Surveys for determining the effective coverage of health services	To provide related effective coverage indicators, a country should conduct several studies. The indicators include prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation services based on global UHC framework recommendation (33).	Not defined	Not defined	Not defined
Satisfaction surveys	The measurement of patient experiences is an important component of health services evaluation.	Not defined	Not defined	Not defined