

PRISMA 2020 CHECKLIST – Supplementary File

Section & Topic	Item	Checklist Description	Reported in Manuscript
Title	1	Identify report as a trend analysis using secondary datasets.	Title Page
Abstract	2	Provide structured summary (Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions).	Abstract
Introduction	3	Describe rationale for assessing inequality trends.	Background
Introduction	4	Provide clear study objectives.	Background (final paragraph)
Methods – Eligibility	5	State dataset inclusion criteria.	Methods – Data Sources
Methods – Info Sources	6	Identify data repositories (DHS, MICS).	Methods – Data Sources
Methods – Search	7	Describe dataset identification process.	Methods – Dataset Selection
Methods – Selection	8	Explain how datasets were screened for relevance/completeness.	Methods – Dataset Selection
Methods – Data Items	9	Describe procedures for data extraction.	Methods – Measures
Methods – Variables	10	List extracted variables.	Methods + Supplementary Tables
Methods – Bias	11	Address potential data-level biases.	Methods – Bias Considerations
Methods – Analysis	12	Specify effect measures (ECI).	Methods – Inequality Measurement
Methods – Synthesis	13	Describe harmonization and trend analysis steps.	Methods – Statistical Analysis
Methods – Reporting Bias	14	State no selective reporting occurred.	Methods – Limitations
Results – Selection	15	Provide dataset flow and reasons for inclusion.	Results – Dataset Overview
Results – Characteristics	16	Describe dataset attributes.	Results + Supplementary Tables
Results – Synthesis	17	Present results for each dataset year.	Results – Table + Figure 1
Results – Interpretation	18	Describe inequality trends.	Results – Narrative
Discussion – Summary	19	Discuss main findings.	Discussion
Discussion – Limitations	20	Discuss study limitations.	Discussion – Limitations
Discussion – Implications	21	Discuss policy & research implications.	Discussion – Implications
Other – Registration	22	State registration not applicable.	Declarations
Other – Funding	23	Describe funding sources.	Funding Statement
Other – Competing Interests	24	Declare conflicts of interest.	Competing Interests
Other – Data Availability	25	Provide data and code availability.	Data Availability Statement
Other – Ethics	26	Provide ethics approval details.	Ethics Statement