**Template for Requests for Revisions to the DHS Model Questionnaires, Optional Modules, and Biomarkers for DHS-8 (2018-2023)**

# **Section I. Information about the requesting party**

1. Is this request being submitted on behalf of a group? If so, please provide the name of the group and the participating parties.

**The request is submitted by HelpAge International.**

# **Section II. Indicator definition and rationale**

2. Please define the indicator or indicators you are requesting The DHS Program to incorporate. *Multiple indicators derived from a single set of questions should be included in the same submission.* (Response required)

**Percentage of unregistered deaths by sex and age.**

3. What is the rationale for measuring this indicator (each of these indicators) in DHS surveys? (Response required)

**Accurate data on mortality and causes of death across all ages is required to guide national policies in relation to demography, and provision of health and care services for current and future population. However, death registrations remain rare in low- and middle-income countries as only 9 per cent of deaths are registered, and only 34 countries have high-quality data on causes of deaths.[[1]](#footnote-1) There is a need to improve availability and coverage of national data on mortality.**

**The module on Adult health and maternal mortality currently collects information about deaths of respondents’ siblings. Therefore HelpAge International requests that the module collects information about:**

1. **Deaths of any member of the household, and**
2. **Whether each death was registered**

# **Section III. Proposed additions/revisions to the questionnaires or biomarkers**

4. Please describe the requested addition or revision.

*If the requested change is the addition of new questions to the DHS questionnaires or modules, complete questions 4.1 and 4.1.1. If the requested change is a revision to existing questions, complete question 4.2. If the change relates to anthropometry or a biomarker, please complete question 4.3.*

4.1. **For additions**: If you have developed a question or set of questions to measure the indicator(s), please provide them in the space below or in a separate file attached with your submission.

**Has any member of the household died in the past 12 months?**

**If yes, confirm individual’s sex and age.**

**Was a death certificate issued?**

4.1.1 If requesting multiple questions, please specify the relative priority of each new question.

4.2. **For revisions to existing questions**: Please specify the DHS-7 question number, the proposed revision to the question, and the rationale.

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| **DHS-7 question number** | **DHS-7 question text** | **Proposed new question** | **Rationale** |
| MM13,  MM14  MM15 | Name of brother or sister.  Is (NAME) male or female?  Is (NAME) still alive? | **Has any member of the household died in the past 12 months?**  **If yes, confirm individual’s sex and age.** | **Accurate data on mortality and causes of death across all ages and family members is required to guide national policies, priorities, and response in relation to demography, health and care, and service provision.** |
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4.3. **For anthropometry and biomarkers**: Please describe the measurement procedures or specimen collection procedures, point-of-care or laboratory testing procedures (as relevant), and any recommendations for return of results.

5. Can any related questions be deleted from the questionnaire to make room for the proposed new content? If so please specify which questions using the DHS-7 question numbers.

6. What are the implications of these requested changes on measurement of trends using DHS data?

**Collected data will fill a gap on death registration and will provide a more accurate picture on underreported deaths. Additionally, it will contribute to measuring progress on SDG target 17.19 that calls for countries to achieve 80% of death registration.**

# **Section IV. Indicator calculation**

7. Indicate how to calculate the indicator(s). Include detailed definitions of the numerator and denominator of each individual indicator. If you have developed a tabulation plan for the indicator(s), please attach a file including the suggested table(s) with your submission.

**As a minimum, it should be possible to disaggregate the indicator by sex and age.**

8. Is the indicator useful when measured at the national level, or is it useful only when disaggregated to specific subnational areas, such as endemicity zones or project intervention regions?

*For each indicator, select one of the three options by clicking in the appropriate box.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator | Useful only for subnational endemicity zones or project intervention regions. A single estimate at the national level is not meaningful. | Useful at both national and subnational regions, as sample size allows. | Useful only at the national level. Subnational estimates are not needed. |
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# **Section V. Prior testing of the proposed question(s)**

9. Have the proposed questions undergone any formal validation; i.e., have the questions been tested against a “gold standard” to assess their accuracy? If yes, please describe how well or poorly the questions performed and/or provide a publication or report of the validation exercise (or a link).

10. Have the questions undergone any other kind of testing; e.g., cognitive testing, pilot testing. If so, please describe the results of the testing and/or provide a publication or report of the findings (or a link).

# **Section VI. Other considerations**

11. Please provide information relevant to the kinds of questions below, and/or anything else you wish to share with us about this indicator (these indicators).

* Describe how the data for this indicator are being used (or will be used).
  + Are the data produced by this indicator actionable?
  + Who will use the data?
  + What kinds of decisions will be made using these data?
* For what kinds of countries would the indicator(s) be most useful?
* Does the DHS survey offer any particular advantage over other available data sources for measuring this indicator? If so, what?

1. WHO, 2012, World Health Statistics. https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world\_health\_statistics/2012/en/;

   Data2X, CRVS. https://www.data2x.org/partnerships/crvs/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)