**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 people with birth certificates or other recognised forms of legal identification by sex and age.**

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

**Lack of legal identity and erroneous information such as incorrect date of birth on a document restrict an individual's access to services including financial services and social protection and participation including civic participation, including electoral participation.**

**In 2016 in Zanzibar 30 per cent of older people didn’t have a birth certificate and 25 per cent had incorrect birth date on their ID card. These were the two main reasons given by older persons for not receiving the universal pension to which they had an entitlement at the time.[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**It is important to identify population groups who are denied access to a legal identity and, consequently to services due to lack of adequate identification.**

**Therefore HelpAge International requests that:**

1. **Existing question 20 on birth registration of children aged 0-4 (Household schedule) is revised to include any form of identification such as ID card, passport, social security card, digital ID, etc., and**
2. **Information on access to proof of legal identity is collected for of all members of household regardless of age as inability of one member of the household to claim his/her rights has wider implications for the household.**

# **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.

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** |
| Q20 | Birth registration of aged 0-4 years  Does (Name) have a birth certificate?  IF NO, PROBE: Has (Name)’s birth ever been registered with the civil authority? | Does (Name) have a birth certificate?  IF NO, PROBE: Does (Name) have any other form of identification?  IF NO, PROBE: Has (Name)’s birth ever been registered with the civil authority?  Responses:  1 = has birth certificate  2 = has other form of ID  3 = neither  8 = don’t know | Please, see response to question 3 above. |
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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?

**The collection of this information will help measure trends in access to legal identity and provide policymakers with evidence on barriers to access to social protection and other key services and supports**

**SDG Target 16.9 strives to ‘provide legal identity for all, including birth registration’. Achievement of this target is directly linked to the achievement of a number of health-related targets through unique ID for health insurance (e.g. 3.8) and biometric tracking of TB and HIV/AIDS treatment (e.g. 3.3).**

**Additionally, access to legal identity has wider implications for access to finance (e.g. 1.4), access to basic services (e.g. SDG 4), gender equality and empowerment (SDG 5), labour market opportunities (e.g. 10.7), social protection (e.g. 1.3), tax collection (e.g. 17.1), and clean elections (e.g. 16.7).[[2]](#footnote-2)**

# **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, age, urban/rural location, and disability.**

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. HelpAge International, 2018. Voice and accountability in the Zanzibar Universal Pension Scheme. http://www.helpage.org/download/5acf38fa39bd2 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Alan Gelb and Anna Diofasi Metz, 2017. Identification Revolution: Can digital ID be harnessed for development? https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/identification-revolution-can-digital-id-be-harnessed-development-brief.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)