

TABLE 1: Request for revisions to the DHS Optional Module on Domestic Violence, March 2019

Submitted on behalf of the World Health Organization (including consultant from LSHTM) and the Pan American Health Organization

HIGHEST PRIORITY			
DHS-7 question number	DHS-7 question text	Rationale for revision	Proposed revision
DV02	<p>CHECK 701 AND 702:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CURRENTLY MARRIED/LIVING WITH A MAN • FORMERLY MARRIED/LIVED WITH A MAN (READ IN PAST STENSE AND USE 'LAST' WITH 'HUSBAND/PARTNER') • NEVER MARRIED/NEVER LIVED WITH A MAN 	<p>Survey item only includes women who are or have ever been in a <i>co-habiting</i> relationship. This may often lead to an under-estimation of IPV prevalence as in different cultural/societal contexts partnerships/relationships may not always be co-habitation, especially adolescents</p>	<p>The wording of this question could be flagged as country-specific. In countries where non-cohabiting partnerships are common an asterisk could be used to indicate to NSOs that question wording would need adapting to include non-cohabiting partners.</p>
DV04 A.(b)	<p>DV04. Now I need to ask some more questions about your relationship with your (last) (husband/partner).</p> <p>A. Did your (last) (husband/partner) ever:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> say or do something to humiliate you in front of others? threaten to hurt or harm you or someone you care about? insult you or make you feel bad about yourself? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semantic overlap with DV05g (threats with a weapon) categorized as physical violence. This raises two concerns: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The conceptual validity of both measures 2. Impacts the ability to understand the overlap between types of violence. 	<p>Solution A: Addition of the word 'verbally' to distinguish it from threats of violence</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OR</i></p> <p>Solution B: Create a separate, more detailed survey item on threats and intimidation (e.g. verbal threats, threats with a weapon, etc).</p>

DV04
A.(b)

DV04. Now I need to ask some more questions about your relationship with your (last) (husband/partner).

- B. Did your (last) (husband/partner) ever:
- a. say or do something to humiliate you in front of others?
 - b. threaten to hurt or harm you or someone you care about?
 - c. insult you or make you feel bad about yourself?

- The current wording focuses on perpetrator intent rather than women's experiences.

We suggest the following revision to the question wording In line with the 2017 WHO Morges TAG (Please see Annex included as an attachment with this submission):

Solution 1: Re-wording of current DHS question as follows Does your (last) husband/partner ever:

- Insult you or make you feel bad about yourself? (this item moved from 3rd to 1st question)
- Say or something to humiliate you in front of others?
- Threaten you or someone you care about with harm?

OR

Solution 2: Inclusion of the WHO MCS question and items to ensure comparability across population-based surveys:

If your current husband/partner or any other partner has ever done any of the following things:

- Insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself?
- Say or do something that made you feel humiliated in front of other people
- Destroyed things that are important to you?
- Threatened to harm you or someone you care about?
- Did things that made you feel scared or intimidated?

<p>DV04 B</p> <p>DV05 B</p>	<p>DV04. Now I need to ask some more questions about your relationship with your (last) (husband/partner).</p> <p>B. How often did this happen during the last 12 months: often, only sometimes, or not at all?</p> <p>DV05.</p> <p>C. How often did this happen during the last 12 months: often, only sometimes, or not at all?</p>	<p>Insufficient options for frequency of violence.</p>	<p>Drawing on the 2017 WHO Morges TAG Recommendations the option of 'ONCE' needs to be included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OFTEN 2. SOMETIMES 3. ONCE 4. NOT AT ALL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wording of the stem could be changed to: Did this happen once, a few times, or many times.
<p>DV17</p> <p>DV21</p> <p>DV23</p>	<p>DV17. Who has hurt you in this way? Anyone else? RECORD ALL MENTIONED.</p> <p>A. MOTHER/STEP MOTHER B. FATHER/STEP FATHER C. SISTER/BROTHER D. DAUGHTER/SON E. OTHER RELATIVE F. CURRENT BOYFRIEND G. FORMER BOYFRIEND H. MOTHER-IN-LAW I. FATHER-IN-LAW J. OTHER IN-LAW K. TEACHER L. EMPLOYER/SOMEONE AT WORK M. POLICE/SOLDIER X. OTHER (SPECIFY)</p> <p>DV21: Who has done any of these things while you were pregnant? Anyone else?</p>	<p>The list of persons who have "hurt you in this way" have omitted main groups</p>	<p>The following categories need to be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEIGHBORS • FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES • STRANGERS

RECORD ALL MENTIONED.

- A. CURRENT HUSBAND/PARTNER
- B. MOTHER/STEP MOTHER
- C. FATHER/STEP FATHER
- D. SISTER/BROTHER
- E. DAUGHTER/SON
- F. OTHER RELATIVE
- G. FORMER HUSBAND/PARTNER
- H. CURRENT BOYFRIEND
- I. FORMER BOYFRIEND
- J. MOTHER-IN-LAW
- K. FATHER-IN-LAW
- L. OTHER IN-LAW
- M. TEACHER
- N. EMPLOYER/SOMEONE AT WORK
- O. POLICE/SOLDIER
- X. OTHER (SPECIFY)

DV23: Who was the person who was forcing you the very first time this happened?

- A. CURRENT HUSBAND/PARTNER
- B. FORMER HUSBAND/PARTNER
- C. FATHER/STEP FATHER
- D. BROTHER/STEP-BROTHER
- E. OTHER RELATIVE
- F. IN-LAW
- G. OWN FRIEND/ACQUAINTANCE
- H. FAMILY FRIEND
- I. TEACHER
- J. EMPLOYER/SOMEONE AT WORK
- K. POLICE/SOLDIER
- L. PRIEST/RELIGIOUS LEADER
- M. STRANGER
- X. OTHER (SPECIFY)

<p>DV18</p>	<p>In the last 12 months, how often has (this person/have these persons) physically hurt you: often, only sometimes, or not at all?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OFTEN 2. SOMETIMES 3. NOT AT ALL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If respondent reports physical violence by multiple perpetrators, then this question will not capture WHICH perpetrator attacked her physically in the past year. • Insufficient options for frequency of violence. 	<p>Integrate the question on past year frequency into the previous question DV17 so that it is asked for each perpetrator.</p> <p>Drawing on the 2017 WHO Morges TAG Recommendations the option of 'ONCE' needs to be included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OFTEN 2. SOMETIMES 3. ONCE 4. NOT AT ALL
<p>DV23</p>	<p>Who was the person who was forcing you the very first time this happened?</p>	<p>Placement of this question on any sexual violence within the module does not logically flow from the previous question set on physical violence by any <i>non-partner</i></p>	<p>This question should replicate the format of DV21 and follow the pattern of questioning used with non-partner physical violence.</p> <p>As this question also includes sexual violence from a husband/partner, this question set could be moved before the non-partner physical violence question set (DV16 – DV18) OR be integrated with DV22B OR moved after DV25</p>
<p>DV20</p>	<p>Has any one ever hit, slapped, kicked, or done anything else to hurt you physically while you were pregnant?</p>	<p>These questions on physical violence during pregnancy do not collect information on during <i>which</i> pregnancy the violence occurred. Lack of this data makes it difficult to investigate the impact of violence during pregnancy and the wide range of maternal health behavior and child outcomes that are already included within the DHS.</p>	<p>Solution 1: During which pregnancy/pregnancies were these things done to you? Answer Categories (multiple response possible): Pregnancy number 1 – 12, all, pregnancy, including those that ended in miscarriage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>Solution 2: Apply the format of Questions 210-221 of the women' questionnaire</p>

			Note to interviewers: Record ALL the pregnancies during which the respondent reported experiencing violence including for children not alive.
MEDIUM PRIORITY			
Indicator	Question	Rationale for revision	Proposed revision/solution
DV03	<p>First, I am going to ask you about some situations which happen to some women. Please tell me if these apply to your relationship with your (last) (husband/partner)?</p> <p>a) He (insists/insisted) on knowing where you (are/were) at all times? b) He (tries/tried) to limit your contact with your family? c) He (does/did) not permit you to meet your female friends? d) He frequently (accuses/accused) you of being unfaithful? e) He (is/was) jealous or angry if you (talk/talked) to other men?</p>	<p>Whilst psychometric testing has indicated that measures of controlling behaviours constitute a different domain to psychological/emotional violence it is recommended that psychological violence items, including controlling behavior items, a standardized frequency measure, as well as similar sentence stems.</p> <p>One of the methodological challenges that has limited the comparability of population-based surveys is the use of different sentence stems and response categories and frequency measures for psychological abuse and controlling behaviour questions.</p>	<p>Drawing on the most recent version of the WHO Multi-Country Survey we suggest the following question wording that would enhance comparability across surveys :</p> <p>Thinking about your (current or more recent) husband/partner, would you say it is generally true that he:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stops you from seeing female friends? • Restricts contact with your family? • Insist on knowing where you are in a way that made you feel controlled/afraid? • Stops you from getting health care if you need it? <p><i>(Please see attached 2017 WHO Morges TAG Report and Annex for further details)</i></p>
DV07	<p>How long after you first (got married/started living together) with your (last) (husband/partner) did (this/any of these things) first happen?</p>	<p>The current survey item presumes that violence began after co-habitation which is not always the case (as documented in DHS reports and inclusion of an interviewer code for 'Before marriage/Before living together)</p>	<p>Acknowledging the possibility that the violence began before they started living together, the question, as read to the respondent, could be worded as follows:</p> <p>Solution A (<i>preferable to Solution B</i>): Did the following first happen to you before you started</p>

			<p>living with your husband/partner or after? If after, how many years after?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OR</i></p> <p>Solution B: Did (this/any of these things) first happen before you first started living with your husband/partner, within two years of living together, within 2-5 years, 5-10 years or 10+</p>
DV14	<p>CHECK 709:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE • MARRIED ONLY ONCE 	The wording seems to include only MARRIED women	Would need to be changed to “MARRIED OR LIVED WITH MORE THAN ONE PARTNER” and “MARRIED OR LIVED WITH ONLY ONE PARTNER”
DV15	<p>A. Do far we have been talking about the behavior of your (current/last) (husband/partner).</p> <p>a. Did any previous (husband/partner) ever hit, slap, kick, or do anything else to hurt you physically?</p> <p>b. Did any previous (husband/partner) physically force you to have intercourse or perform any other sexual acts against your will?</p> <p>c. Did any previous (husband/partner) humiliate you in front of others, threaten to hurt you or someone you care about, or insult you or make you feel bad about yourself?</p> <p>B. How long ago did this last happen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-11 MONTHS AGO 	<p>These measures and codes are not harmonized with those for the current/most recent partner.</p> <p>Time-frame of 0-11 months inconsistent with the time-frame of other questions in the module</p>	<p>Solution A (<i>preferable to Solution B</i>): Revise measures to be consistent with those for current/most recent partner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OR</i></p> <p>Solution B: Include at least two items each for moderate and severe physical IPV.</p> <p>Change timeframe to 0-12 months in order to standardize</p>

- 12+ MONTHS AGO
- DON'T REMEMBER

LOW PRIORITY

Indicator	Question	Rationale for revision	Proposed revision/solution
DV05 A.(j)	<p>A. Did your (last) (husband/partner) ever do any of the following things to you:</p> <p>h. Physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him when you did not want to?</p> <p>i. Physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to?</p> <p>j. force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to do?</p>	<p>Inconsistent with wordings of items h) and i)</p> <p>Rewording this item to mirror the indicator in the WHO Multi-Country Survey will enhance comparability across surveys and enable more effective SDG reporting and global monitoring</p>	<p>Could be reworded as: “physically force you with coercion, threats, intimidation or in any other way to perform sexual intercourse or any other sexual acts”</p>
DV09	<p>Have you ever hit, slapped, kicked, or done anything else to physically hurt your (last) (husband/partner) at times when he was not already beating or physically hurting you?</p>	<p>‘beating or physically hurting you’ is too narrow to capture defensive acts. For example, it does not include threats with a weapon, raping, beating the children, etc.</p>	<p>Consider deleting this question</p>
DV10	<p>In the last 12 months, how often have you done this to your (last) (husband/partner): often, only sometimes, or not at all?</p>	<p>As with DV09, ‘beating or physically hurting you’ is too narrow to capture defensive acts.</p>	<p>Consider deleting this question</p>
DV27	<p>Thinking about what you yourself have experienced among the different things we have been talking about, have you ever tried to seek help?</p>	<p>This filter question and the next open-ended question are too unspecific (DV28) - raising questions about reliability.</p>	<p>1. Get rid of the filter + open ended question. Use the WHO institutional help-seeking question instead (see it inserted) that names specific institutions.</p>

		<p>These questions blur the line between seeking help from services/institutions and seeking help from family and friends - which are VERY different. Not only is there a risk that respondents will under-report institutional help seeking, but this combination poses challenges to analyzing an estimate of institutional help seeking (it is possible but harder).</p>	<p>2. Then ask about disclosure to friends/family.</p> <p>3. Consider a follow up question about whether they received (not just sought) services.</p>
DV28	<p>From whom have you sought help? Anyone else? RECORD ALL MENTIONED.</p>	<p>‘From <i>whom</i> have you sought help?’ implies a person and not institution, and this confusion may be exacerbated by the open-ended nature of the question.</p>	<p>Drawing from the WHO survey instrument that mentions specific services/institutions, it would be advisable for these categories to be included in the question read to respondents.</p> <p>It would also be good to include a placeholder for country specific options.</p>
-	<p><i>Request for an addition of questions on economic abuse</i></p>	<p>Absence of a measure on Economic Abuse</p> <p>A measure of economic abuse will enable researchers to examine the nature and extent of this form of abuse; and the impact that it has on women’s economic, physical, and mental health. Generating this evidence would help develop interventions and tailor existing programming to the experiences and needs of women who have or are experiencing economic abuse.</p>	<p>We recommend the addition of a set of questions on the experience of economic/financial abuse that draw on the WHO questionnaire as follows:</p> <p>Does your current or most recent husband/partner generally do any of the following?</p> <p>a) Prohibits you from getting a job, going to work, trading, earning money or participating in income generation projects?</p> <p>b) Takes your earnings from you against your will?</p> <p>c) Refuses to give you money you needed for household expenses even when he has money for other things (such as alcohol and cigarettes)?</p> <p>Suggested response options: Yes No. If Yes, has this happened in the last 12 months?</p>

Include a placeholder for country specific options: *'ADAPT TO LOCALLY USEFUL ECONOMIC ABUSIVE ACTS'*

***** IMPORTANT NOTE OF CAUTION *****

Measurement of economic/financial abuse is still nascent, and often context specific. Given this, individual items within the composite measure often differ. This, however, is often overlooked when aggregate estimates are computed and presented. We therefore recommend including a cautionary note highlighting that statistical analyses need to account for differences in the overall measure as this would change denominators and affect estimates.