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Subject: Re: Dealing with country-specific codes with panel data across 10 countries

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 26 Jul 2016 14:46:21 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

What you are describing is indeed very time consuming. We had to do much the same thing for Methodological Report 15 in 2014 (<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/MR15/MR15.pdf>). There are probably many ways to approach it, but we did it as follows.

The first attachment is an excel file with one sheet for each country. The sheets have columns for the successive surveys and panels for the variables. The final column of the sheet is a "harmonized" coding. We were working with the HR files, with one record per household. You would probably be using the IR or KR files, but that would make little difference in the steps..

The second attachment is a Stata program I wrote to do the recoding. Basically it converts the excel sheets into recode instructions for every variable and every file. It's not a simple program but there are lots of comments. Hope you can figure out the logic--I can't provide much support beyond this. Good luck!

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#### File Attachments

- 1) [Copy of Harmonizing data-20140424.xlsx](#), downloaded 765 times
  - 2) [CWI\\_recoding\\_do\\_3June2014.txt](#), downloaded 1097 times
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