Subject: Re: Merging rounds of survey
Posted by user-rhs on Wed, 29 Jan 2014 22:44:58 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi N,
I have run into this problem before with housing materials (the vbls I looked at) when I tried to stack data from multiple waves into a single dataset. As with your datasets, the vbls were not coded consistently across survey years.

The way I would go about this is to create a variable that standardises the coding of the regions for each wave before doing the merge. Check with the codebook (the FRQ or FRW file that comes in the zip file w/ the dataset) for coding.

For example, for Bangladesh 2004, wall material is coded as follows:

. label list v128
v128:
        10 natural
        11 jute/bamboo/mud (katcha)
        20 rudimentary
        21 wood
        30 finished
        31 brick/cement
        32 tin
        96 other

In Bangladesh 2007, same vbl is coded as:

. label list v128
v128:
        11 no walls
        12 cane / palm / trunks
        13 dirt
        22 bamboo with mud
        23 stone with mud
        24 plywood
        25 cardboard
        31 tin
        32 cement
        33 stone with lime / cement
        34 bricks
        35 wood planks / shingles
        96 other
        97 non de jure resident

In each of the datasets (2004 and 2007), I would create a new variable called "wall" (or v128_2, or whatever you want) from v128 coded as:

1 - no walls
2 - Jute/bamboo
...
7 - Tin
etc.

Of course, you may have to make some executive decisions (i.e., is jute/bamboo/mud equivalent to bamboo with mud?), but administrative regions, particularly if they're at higher levels (e.g. provinces), are probably pretty stable over time. If the administrative regions have changed over time (e.g. a large province is divided into 2 provinces), I personally would recode the relatively new provinces into the old province's name.

HTH,
rhs