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Subject: Re: DHS-8-PGSSC-Men\_and\_Women-Template  
Posted by [Ulrick Sidney](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 20:47:41 GMT  
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Surgery is part and parcel of healthcare yet more than two thirds of the world's population does not have access to safe and affordable surgical care. Many obstacles to safe surgical care have been identified like out-of-pocket expenditure, low surgical volume and low surgical workforce density. What is tragic is that of the very small percentage that has access to surgical care, a considerable proportion either die, become poor or become poorer. This means that access to surgery alone is not enough but it equally needs to be safe and affordable. In order to make this possible we need to collect more data. This data can help us better comprehend the situation on a global, continental, regional, national and provincial level. This is important because we now have proof from Brazil and India that access to safe and affordable surgical care can vary tremendously even at the national level. Getting this data will equally help us evaluate the impact of national and international public health policies. Why is this important? It is important because you cannot evaluate what you do not measure.

For these reasons, I believe that it is capital for the DHS program to incorporate global surgery related indicators. Fortunately, the Lancet Commission on Global surgery did an amazing job defining six indicators that equally have the benefit of falling in line with the sustainable development goals.

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