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Subject: USAID Office of Health Systems recommendations for HHE module  
Posted by [jcharles](#) on Fri, 11 Apr 2014 20:25:27 GMT

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## USAID Office of Health Systems recommendations for the DHS HHE Module

There are very few options for robust, routinized data collection for household expenditure data for health, which is necessary for calculating out-of-pocket expenditures for health (OOP). These data are critical indicators of the condition of countries' health financing situations.

In order to ensure accurate and timely measurement of household expenditures (HHE) on health, and to measure trend data, it is important that that data be collected routinely, i.e., every 2-3 years. For example, estimates of OOP, based on primary data collection, should be 3 years old or less in order to be used in a Health Accounts (HA) exercise. While the DHS is generally conducted every 5 years, it provides one of the few standardized and high-quality sources of HHE health data.

The USAID Office of Health Systems in the Bureau for Global Health proposes the following for this iteration of the DHS:

--We recognize the need to gain more experience with the DHS HHE module before assessing the feasibility of including it in the core questionnaire. We, therefore, recommend that the DHS HHE module be maintained as an optional module to the core DHS questionnaire.

--We strongly recommend that the DHS HHE module be included in the DHS for all USAID priority countries under the goals of ending preventable maternal and child deaths (EPCMD) and achieving an AIDS-free generation (AFG) when a DHS is carried out.

--We also strongly recommend that the DHS HHE optional module be included in the DHS for all countries where estimates of OOP, based on primary data collection, is 2 years old or older.