Dear Bridgette,

Thank you again for providing us with the updated DHS strata .do file and recommendation to follow it. We have applied the strata coding from the .do file as recommended to our 112 surveys.

Once we had applied these strata, we reviewed the number of strata survey-by-survey and identified 4 'outliers' with >100 strata. For these we again reviewed the reports to understand if the high number of strata were correct and documented. Knowing that we previously identified strata for one survey that needed to be corrected (Egypt 2008) from the earlier iteration of the .do file we would like to ask about the following surveys as well:

1) Benin DHS-VI - per the .do file we would apply v022 for 135 strata

Per the Benin report: "Les principaux domaines d'étude retenus sont les douze départements du pays. Hormis le département du Littoral qui se limite à la commune de Cotonou, essentiellement urbaine, chaque département ou domaine d'études a été ensuite stratifié en urbain et rural ; ce qui a donné 23 strates." And "Pour l'ensemble du pays, 17 982 ménages ont été sélectionnés pour l'enquête ménage dans les 750 zones de dénombrement ou grappes de l'échantillon."

Based on the report, should we not use v023 for 23 strata?

2) Eswatini DHS-V - per the .do file we would apply v022 for 135 strata

Per the Eswatini report "The 2006-07 SDHS was designed to provide estimates of health and demographic indicators at the national level, for urban-rural areas, and for the four regions of Manzini, Hhohho, Lubombo, and Shiselweni" and "A total of 275 clusters were drawn from the census sample frame, 111 in the urban areas and 164 in the rural areas."

Based on the report, should we not use v024/v025 for 8 strata?

3) Liberia DHS-V - per the .do file we would apply v022 for 145 strata

Per the Liberia report "Therefore the 15 counties plus Greater Monrovia which has only urban areas were stratified into 31 sampling strata, 15 rural strata and 16 urban strata" and "the survey covered a total of 298 clusters--114 urban and 184 rural" and "The second stage of selection involved the systematic sampling of 25 of the households listed in each cluster"

Based on the report, it sounds as if there should be 31 strata, but there was not a variable or combination of variables that would create this number of strata. Kindly advise.

4) Rwanda DHS-VI - per the .do file we would apply v022 for 246 strata

Per the Rwanda report: "The sample was selected in two stages. In the first stage, 492 villages

(also known as clusters or enumeration areas) were selected with probability proportional to the village size" and "In total, 30 sampling strata had been created."

Based on the report, should we not use v023 for 30 strata?

Many thanks in advance,
Alexa