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Subject: Re: Merging IR and HR files for Bangladesh  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2023 16:10:02 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

I recommend that you do the merging first, and then the appending. Note that some variables are survey-specific, for example region. When you append surveys, you will lose the labels, or the labels in the last survey in the append will over-write the earlier labels. You can keep survey-specific variables separate by giving them a new name that identifies the country and survey. In pooled files there can also be discrepancies, from one survey to another, in codes that you may think are standard, such as type or birth attendant or type of health facility. It's a good idea to do a lot of checking for comparability.

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