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Subject: Re: Identifying geographic location.

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 09 Nov 2023 17:06:37 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

Clusters are census enumeration areas that are used as primary sampling units in the sample design. Typically about 30 households are sampled from each cluster. Clusters loosely correspond with neighborhoods in urban areas and villages in rural areas, but they may be internally heterogenous. You can construct cluster-level variables such as the proportion of households that are polygamous. There are separate geographic files that give cluster-level characteristics.

The geographic coordinates of clusters are slightly displaced, to maintain anonymity, and it is difficult to combine them into meaningful groups. Many surveys include districts, a generic label for the 2nd administrative level. You could also treat districts as units.

I hope other users will add their thoughts.

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