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Subject: Re: Consistency of variable categories  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2024 21:32:15 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

Changes in the category labels for water source (and also for toilet facilities) have been made because of changes in the WHO classifications of certain types with respect to whether they are improved or unimproved. Bottled water has also shifted, because at some point it was determined that in some settings, at least, bottled water cannot be assumed to be pure.

I think if you look at surveys in other countries at about the same time as the Malawi surveys you will see the same kind of intentional shifting of codes. I'm pretty sure they are correct--this is actually one of the most important indicators. If you still have doubts about this, please ask again and I will check further.

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