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Subject: Re: Calculating a Representative Wealth Index for Clusters Using DHS Sample Weights

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Tue, 21 Jan 2025 21:06:32 GMT

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

I'm not sure that I understand the difference between your two calculations, but I will suggest a requirement or criterion: the weighted mean of the RWI should be the same as the weighted mean of hv270, in each cluster and in the sample of households as a whole. Here are the Stata commands I would use, illustrated for the Kenya 2022 survey, and within that, for cluster #1.

```
use "...KEHR8CFL.DTA" , clear
keep hv001 hv002 hv005 hv270
```

```
* Construct RWI
egen RWI=mean(hv270), by(hv001)
list if hv001==1, table clean nolabel
```

```
* compare the weighted means of hv270 and RWI within a specific cluster
summarize hv270 RWI [iweight=hv005/1000000] if hv001==1
```

```
* compare the weighted means of hv270 and RWI in the entire sample
summarize hv270 RWI [iweight=hv005/1000000]
```

If you are doing something other than this, I wonder what it is. If you are just comparing weighted and unweighted estimates, then it is not surprising that there will be some differences in any analysis. My preference would be for weighted estimates. Here I do not use weights to calculate RWI but DO use weights in any statistical analysis, exactly as I would do with hv270.

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