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Subject: Re: Unique identifier in pooled DHS (countries and years)  
Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Wed, 11 Dec 2013 19:41:27 GMT  
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Hi Marion,

I don't have a great answer for how to use those variables to create a unique id number, but if all you want is a unique id (and don't want to use part of that ID to somehow group the obs by, say, country and round) then one easy way would just be:

```
gen id = _n
```

Then you'll get unique IDs of 1-N. If you have to match this to other data somehow, you could always sort it:

```
sort country wave something  
gen id = _n
```

Or, if you want to check your intuition on what isn't unique, you could create a number of each "wave" within each "phase" and then add .01\*wave (or 10000000\*wave, however many 0s you need) to each identifier, and see if you have unique ID's.

Now, if there is some reason you need some more specific kind of ID number, then these might not work and you might need to wait for a DHS person to help.