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Subject: Ethiopian Wealth Index

Posted by [Daniel Pérez](#) on Wed, 03 Aug 2022 20:54:52 GMT

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Hi there,

I am working with the Ethiopian DHS (2000, 2005, 2011) and I have just realized that the wealth index was not constructed in the same way throughout the years. For instance, the WI of DHS 2000 ranges from -1 to 4 while DHS 2005 and DHS 2011 have a much broader range of values. How can I compare them? Are the WI of DHS 2005 and DHS 2011 comparable/constructed following the same method?

Thanks!

Daniel.

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Subject: Re: Ethiopian Wealth Index

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 10 Aug 2022 20:32:17 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

For the 2000 survey there is a file (ETWI41FL.dta) that has the wealth index. Maybe you have already used that and merged it with the other ET41 files. In the WI file, "wlthindf" is the continuous index (the first principal component of a principal component analysis) and is equivalent to v191 or hv271. "wlthind5" is the 5-category index, with values 1,2,3,4,5, and is equivalent to v190 or hv270. I see that the standard indexes are included in the 2005 (ET51) and 2011 (ET61) data.

Data files with the wealth index include both the continuous version and the 5-category version. The 5-category version is derived from the continuous version by identifying 4 cut points on the continuous version that lead to 5 categories with equal numbers of de jure household members (see the Guide to DHS Statistics for more). The continuous version is included so users can try alternative constructions, for example terciles (3 categories), but otherwise the continuous version is hardly ever used.

The procedures to construct the wealth index are very similar across surveys, but are not exactly the same. The indicators of household assets can vary slightly and the loadings will vary. Details for each survey can be accessed from the website.

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