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Subject: Problem Generating A\_h; M\_h & M  
Posted by [Yawo](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2023 05:35:05 GMT  
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Hello:

I continue to make good progress on approximating level 1 & 2 weights for my datasets. However, I have encountered two main challenges

1. Unable to Generate M: The following datasets did not report the number of households in sampling frame:

- Burkina Faso 2010
- Cameroon 2018
- Congo Democratic Republic 2013
- Chad 2014
- Cote d'Ivoire 2011
- Gabon 2019
- Kenya 2008
- Liberia 2013
- Mali 2012
- Niger 2012
- Eswatini/Swaziland 2006
- Togo 2013

2. Missing A\_h & M\_h: The following countries did not report number of EA and/or the average size of households needed to calculate M\_h and/or A\_h. :

- Congo Democratic Republic 2013
- Kenya 2008
- Mali 2012
- Eswatini/Swaziland 2008

I combed through the reports and unable to find the appropriate values, and therefore unable to generate M, A\_h and M\_h as required for the approximation.

Are there some other sources for these values, or a different way of generating them. Thanks in advance for your assistance and advice on how to proceed.

cheers, cY

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Subject: Re: Problem Generating A\_h; M\_h & M  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2023 12:27:37 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

Good to hear that you are making progress, but DHS no longer has staff who can respond to questions about calculating multi-level weights. For some specific surveys, the information is simply not available. Keep in mind that the procedure described in Methodological Report #27 only gives estimates of the true level weights, because it never happens that all the information needed to calculate the true weights is available. When some types of data required by the procedure are not available, it should be possible to simplify the procedure further to adapt to less and less complete data.

It is inefficient for users to have to calculate the level weights independently. I hope that later in 2023 the DHS analysis team will be able to coordinate the compilation of these estimates and make them centrally available.

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Subject: Re: Problem Generating A\_h; M\_h & M  
Posted by [Yawo](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2023 15:04:07 GMT  
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Thanks so much, Tom and Bridgette: I appreciate your quick response. Given that we are approximating level weights here, which would be a better option? Should I just assume a weight $2=1$  for those countries missing complete information? Or substitute the "number of selected households" for "the number of households in the sampling frame"?

Thanks - CY

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Subject: Re: Problem Generating A\_h; M\_h & M  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 27 Jul 2023 12:16:12 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

I do not feel comfortable recommending either of those options at this time. I suggest that you run some analyses with one option. Then repeat with the other option and see whether the results are different. Select the option which gives more conservative results, that is, coefficients that are closer to zero and less significant. Please stay tuned because I hope we can come up with some better defaults soon.