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Subject: Missing 'language of interview' variable in African surveys

Posted by [obarbiero](#) on Thu, 20 Nov 2014 06:19:00 GMT

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I am trying to assess the language used by the individuals in their daily life and their tribe/ethnic group. In the DHS Model Woman's and Man's questionnaire I have seen that some data is gathered on the language of the questionnaire, the language of the interview, the native language of respondent and whether a translator was needed or not. However, by reading the Coded Manual listing all the variables present in the surveys, this information about language does not seem to be available. Could you please clarify this point to me? I would really benefit from any information about the language in which the interview was held or about which languages the interviewed people could speak.

Thank you!

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Subject: Re: Missing 'language of interview' variable in African surveys

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Tue, 25 Nov 2014 16:24:19 GMT

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Dear User,

The language variables you have seen in prior surveys have been country specific. However, in the new phase of DHS surveys, these language variables are part of the core and will have standard recode variables assigned to them. If a country does not need to use them, in the recode file they will be marked as Not Applicable. I hope this answers your questions regarding language.

Thank you!

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Subject: Language of interview/survey instrument in multi-lingual countries

Posted by [amaustin](#) on Mon, 28 Dec 2015 14:01:49 GMT

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Hello,

When DHS surveys are implemented, in countries with multiple language groups, how does the DHS ensure that the questions are understood correctly by all? i.e. are the surveys in English and the questions translated, and answers recorded in English? Are the surveys translated into the local language?

Thank you,

Anne

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Subject: Re: Language of interview/survey instrument in multi-lingual countries

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Tue, 29 Dec 2015 21:58:41 GMT

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Dear User,

Here is a response from one of our subject experts, Dr. Kia Reinis:

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Quote:When needed, questionnaires are translated into local languages. Chapter 1 of each final report discusses into which languages the questionnaires have been translated. Final reports are available for download from our website. The cover page of each questionnaire also records which language questionnaire was used for the interview. The questionnaires are printed in one language in an Appendix in each final report. Language codes are included in DHS data.  
Thank you!

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