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Subject: Are madrasas (and other religious schools) counted as formal education?  
Posted by [Gillian](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2015 18:51:28 GMT

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Hello, I see that the Afghanistan surveys mention madrasas, but I can't find any mention of them or other "alternative schools" in the documentation for surveys in West Africa (e.g., Mali, Nigeria). I'm assuming madrasas are not counted as formal education, but could you please confirm that? Thank you!

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Subject: Re: Are madrasas (and other religious schools) counted as formal education?

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2015 19:48:49 GMT

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Here is a response from one of our technical experts, Dr. Fred Arnold:

Quote: The standard DHS instruction on what types of schooling are included in education is shown below. However, this instruction may be modified in some countries, as was the case in Afghanistan. You can check the education response categories in the questionnaire for a particular country to see what is included.

#### STANDARD DHS INSTRUCTION

The term "school" means formal schooling, which includes pre-primary, primary, secondary, and post-secondary schooling, and any other intermediate levels of schooling in the formal school system.

This definition of school does not include Bible school or Koranic school or short courses like typing or sewing. However, it does include technical or vocational training beyond the primary school level, such as long-term courses in mechanics or secretarial work.

Thank you for your post.

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