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Subject: Different calendar

Posted by [lillo?S](#) on Tue, 01 Nov 2016 11:17:14 GMT

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I realised that Ethiopia and Nepal have a different calendar and the dates variables follow that calendar and not the Gregorian. I was wondering if you could tell me which other countries have a calendar different from the Gregorian in the DHS.

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Subject: Re: Different calendar

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 11 Nov 2016 15:14:42 GMT

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Just Ethiopia and Nepal. All others use the Western calendar for the dates in the datasets.

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Subject: Re: Different calendar

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 01 Dec 2017 23:12:37 GMT

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I have to amend this comment now as Afghanistan also uses a local calendar and not the Western calendar.

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Subject: Re: Different calendar

Posted by [cportner](#) on Tue, 10 Apr 2018 14:44:56 GMT

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I am wondering why the dates are not changed as part of the recode? Maybe I am looking at this the wrong way, but I thought that the idea was to make the data as comparable as possible, and having all the dates in the same format would help. What is especially confusing is that all the CMC dates are based on the local calendar and not the Gregorian. The recode manual says that those are based on the number of months since the start of the century, and then only shows Gregorian examples.

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Subject: Re: Different calendar

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Tue, 10 Apr 2018 21:20:34 GMT

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Dates recorded in the surveys are generally kept in the calendar used to collect the survey. The CMC system was originally developed just to facilitate calculations relative to other dates in the same survey (e.g. relative to date of interview or date of birth of the respondent), there was no need to adjust dates to the Gregorian calendar. Additionally, as dates are generally recorded with just month and year (except dates of birth of children in more recent surveys) and the local calendars do not start at the beginning of particular months in the Gregorian calendar it was not

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possible to convert dates exactly to the Gregorian calendar. It is possible to approximate the CMCs for the Gregorian calendar by adding or subtracting (depending on the survey) a fixed number of months.

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