

---

Subject: Suggestions from Abt Associates

Posted by [KelleyAmbrose](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 17:32:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I am respectfully submitting these comments on behalf of Abt Associates. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

- Countries' data needs are evolving such that they need an accurate and standardized measurement of health systems pillars, such as health financing. Increased focus on Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage means that countries will need to measure and track household health expenditure on a regular basis. (For example, SDG indicator 3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income). In addition, improving family planning, and maternal and child health services requires not just data specific to those services, but also system-related data to give a complete picture. For these reasons, it is becoming imperative to consider inclusion of a few key health financing questions (currently housed in the optional OOP module) as part of the core DHS module. This would complement advocacy efforts at the country level.

- A few DHS modules, such as the out-of-pocket module, provide invaluable information to countries to help understand equity issues in access to health, for example by measuring the extent of catastrophic health spending. To make the optional OOP module as effective as possible, we suggest that MEASURE-DHS make the feedback from countries that have implemented the optional modules publicly available, and/or release key indicators such as time taken to implement the modules, questions that proved particularly troublesome, etc. This type of information will help to inform future feedback on the OOP module.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

---