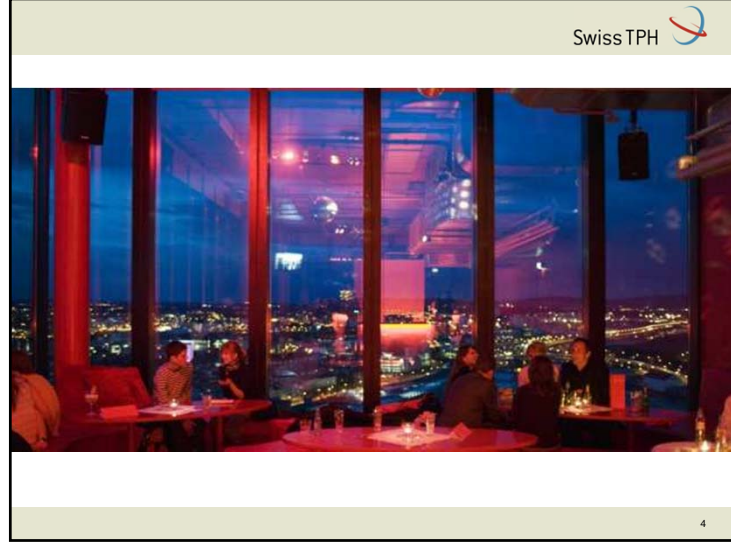
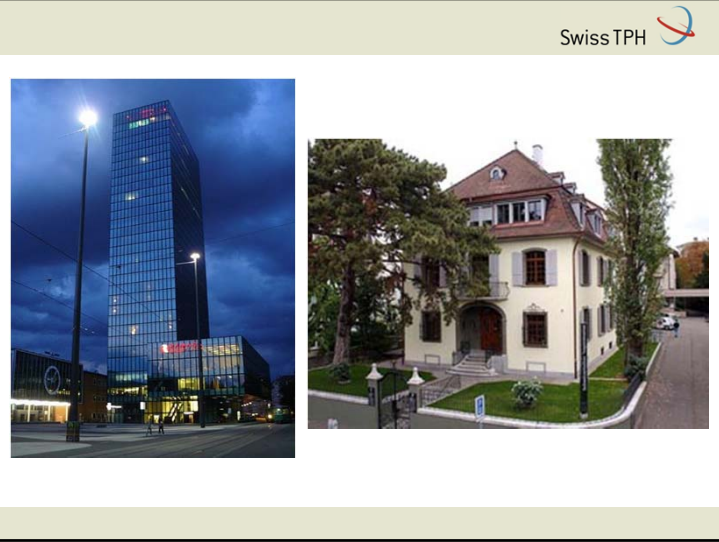


Automated harmonisation of variables names and values from several datasets prior to conducting batch statistical analyses

Barcelona, 23rd October 2014
Xavier Bosch-Capblanch
Swiss TPH, Basel (Switzerland)



Swiss TPH 


THE NEED AND THE PROBLEM

THE FIRST ATTEMPTS 

THE SOLUTION: HARMONISATION 

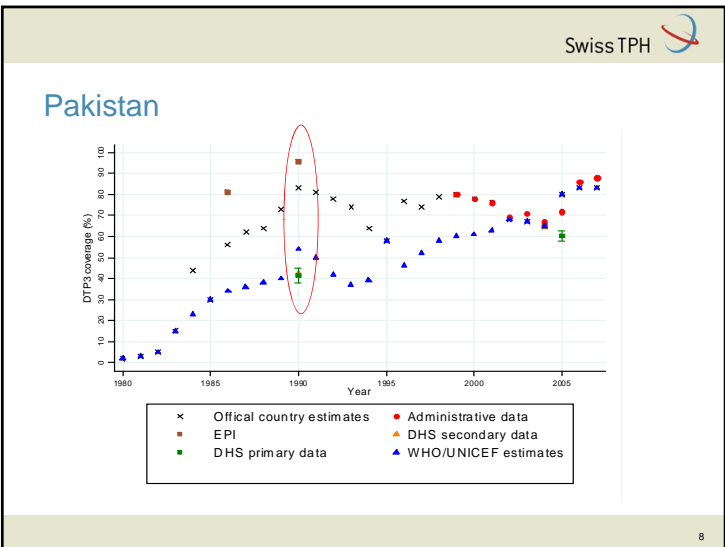
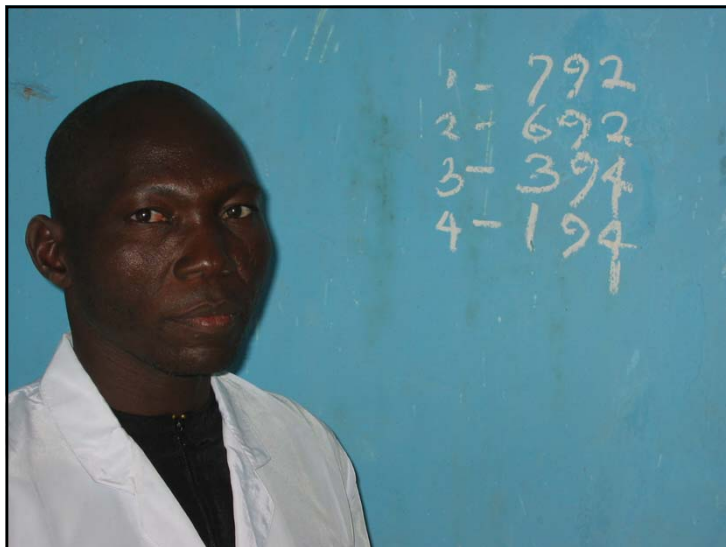
WAY FORWARD 

Bosch-Capblanch X. Harmonisation of variables names prior to conducting statistical analyses with multiple datasets: an automated approach. BMC Med Inform Decis Mak. 2011 May 19;11:33. doi: 10.1186/1472-6947-11-33. PubMed PMID: 21595905; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3123542.

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THE NEED AND THE PROBLEM

Coverage = $\frac{\text{Number of children age A vaccinated with V}}{\text{Number of children age A targeted by V}}$



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Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\PA2\Research\Data_Data1_Survey\WHO inter 2\inter 2_001.vcd.dta [EXCLUDED-2] (ch.dta) - Results

```

Command
-----
use "C:\Documents\PA2\..._01.dta"
lookfor dpt
lookfor dpt
lookfor vac
lookfor vac
lookfor mm
lookfor child
lookfor dpt
lookfor mm
lookfor vac

```

Variables

Variable	Label
h1	Cluster number
h2	Household number
ln	Line number
u1	Cluster number
u2	Household number
u3	Child line number
u4	Mother's Center...
u5	Interview number
u6	Day of interview
u7	Month of interview
u8	Year of interview
u9	Result of interview...
u10	Field editor
u11	Data entry clerk
u12	Start of interview...

Properties

Filename: inter_mcc_4.ch.dta

Label: inter_mcc_4.ch.dta

Notes:

Variables: 232

Observations: 3,786

Size: 1.15M

Memory: 22M

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Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\Transaction\Desktop\regression_3.ch.dta - Results

```

Command
-----
use "C:\Documents\Transac..._3.ch.dta"
lookfor dpt
lookfor vac
lookfor mm
lookfor vac
lookfor dpt
lookfor mm
lookfor vac

```

Variables

Variable	Label
h1	UFI Cluster num...
h2	HHO hh number
ln	HHO Line no.
u1	UFI Line number
u2	UFI mother/adult...
u3	UFI (parent) male...
u4	UFI Child no.
u5	UFI Interviewer no...
u6	Day
u7	Month
u8	Year
u9	UFI Interviewer...
u10	Day
u11	Month

Properties

Filename: kyngutan_mcc_3.ch.dta

Label: kyngutan_mcc_3.ch.dta

Notes: NDIStar generated file

Variables: 297

Observations: 2,287

Size: 1.13M

Memory: 22M

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Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\PA2\Research\Data_Data1_Survey\Repository_Norham_228.ch.dta [1] (ch.dta) - Results

```

Command
-----
use "C:\Documents\PA2\..._01.dta"
lookfor dpt
lookfor h1

```

Variables

Variable	Label
case_id	case identification
country	country code
cluster	cluster number
household	household number
line	line number
enumeration	enumeration area
weight	sample weight
month	month of interview
year	year of interview
date	date of interview (C...
respondent	respondent's month...
year	respondent's year...
date	date of birth (cmo)
age	current age - resp...

Properties

Filename: br-dtu_31.ch.dta

Label: br-dtu_31.ch.dta

Notes:

Variables: 473

Observations: 3,573

Size: 1.89M

Memory: 22M

Swiss TPH

Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\PA2\Research\Data_Data1_Survey\Repository_Norham_228.ch.dta [1] (ch.dta) - Results

```

Command
-----
use "C:\Documents\PA2\..._01.dta"
lookfor dpt
lookfor h1

```

Variables

Variable	Label
case_id	case identification
country	country code
cluster	cluster number
household	household number
line	line number
enumeration	enumeration area
weight	sample weight
month	month of interview
year	year of interview
date	date of interview (C...
respondent	respondent's month...
year	respondent's year...
date	date of birth (cmo)
age	current age - resp...

Properties

Filename: br-dtu_31.ch.dta

Label: br-dtu_31.ch.dta


Notes:

Variables: 755

Observations: 5,045

Size: 4.20M

Memory: 22M

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INCONVENIENCES

- Errors
- Code with hundreds of lines:
 - surveys x variables + surveys x variables x values


If survey = Afghanistan 2000 AND OldVar = h7


```
rename h7 to DPT3
recode DTP3 1=2, 2=3, 3=0
...
```

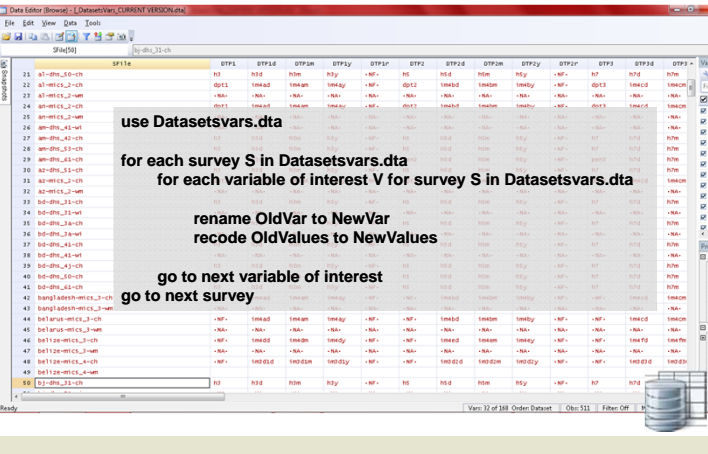
- At survey 68: complains from collaborators
- At survey 174: nonsense, who am I? what is life?
- At survey 362: additions

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THE SOLUTION: HARMONISATION



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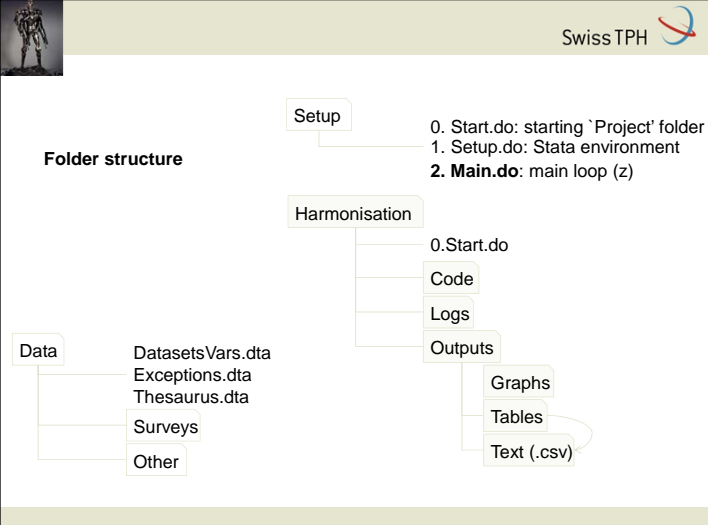
use Datasetsvars.dta

for each survey S in Datasetsvars.dta
for each variable of interest V for survey S in Datasetsvars.dta

rename OldVar to NewVar
recode OldValues to NewValues


go to next variable of interest
go to next survey

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Folder structure


- Setup
 - 0. Start.do: starting 'Project' folder
 - 1. Setup.do: Stata environment
 - 2. Main.do: main loop (z)
- Harmonisation
 - 0. Start.do
 - Code
 - Logs
 - Outputs
 - Graphs
 - Tables
 - Text (.csv)
- Data
 - DatasetsVars.dta
 - Exceptions.dta
 - Thesaurus.dta
 - Surveys
 - Other

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Initial procedures

- Folders...
- Open logs
- ...

MAIN LOOP



Do Include / exclude datasets and variables (DatasetsVars.dta)

- Folder: code → Code C = 1_abc.do, 2_cde.do..., n_xyz.do

Do Code C once


→

- Folder: datasets → Dataset D = 1_abc.dta, 2_cde.dta..., n_xyz.dta

Do Code C with Dataset D

Final procedures

- Export Outputs / tables -> Outputs / txt (xls)
- Close logs
- ...


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Harmonisation (overview)

- Any available dataset
- Import (and repair country and year) datasets
- Update DatasetsVars


1. Variables

- Search and identify variables
- Decisions on searches outputs
- Produce output for manual checks





2. Value labels

- Search and identify values
- Decisions on searches outputs
- Produce output for manual checks




3. Rename and recode



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1. Harmonisation of variables

STRATEGY B



Old Labels

vs


New key terms

Normalisation Thesaurus

Old labels	Normalised	Thesaurus	CHK [Day DTP 3]	Outcome
day of dpt III	DAY DTP 3	DAY DTP 3	3 = 3	Best match
dia vacinação dtp 3	DIA VACCINACAO DTP 3	DAY vaccinacao DTP 3	4 > 3	Match
dtp 3	DTP 3	DTP 3	2 < 3	OUT

STRATEGY C


Old Variables used in other surveys for New Variable, which exist in current dataset:
abc, def, ghi, jkl...

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```


local nT = 0
foreach cTerm of local cVarNewKTerms { // for 'dtp', '3', 'year' in 'year dtp3'.
  local nT = `nT' + 1
  quietly ds
  foreach cVar in `r(varlist)' { // dtp1 dtp2 dtp3...
    local cLabel : variable label `cVar' // dtp 3 day vaccinacao
    local nFoundInThisVar = 0
    foreach cSyn of local Synos`nT' { // For each synonymous of cTerm.
      local nFoundInThisVar = cond(strpos("`cLabel' ", "cSyni ") > 0 | `nFoundInThisVar' == 1, 1, 0)
    }
    if `nFoundInThisVar' == 0 drop `cVar' // Drops var if none of the synonymous of the term is found.
  }
}
ds
  
```

I drop existing 'old' variables which do not have term 1 (DTP); from the remaining, I drop those which do not have term 2 (DAY)...

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Search	Type	SData	SVarNew	SLabelNew	SKeyTerms	Clear	SVarOld	SLabelOld
B*	mics	afghanistan-mi	BCGbm	BCG month	bcg month	1	im3bm	month bcg immunization
B*	mics	centralafrique	BCGby	BCG year	bcg year	0	im2y	annee vaccination bcg
B*	mics	cuba-mics_4-ch	BCGby	BCG year	bcg year	0	im3by	ano inmunizacion bcg al nacer
B*	dhs	am-dhs_61-ch	BCGby	BCG year	bcg year	0	h2y	bcg year
B-	dhs	gy-dhs_5i-ch	BCGby	BCG year	bcg year	0	h2y	bcg year combined vacc cards
B-	dhs	gy-dhs_5i-ch	BCGby	BCG year	bcg year	0	s2bcgy	bcg year health facility vacc card
B-	dhs	gy-dhs_5i-ch	BCGby	BCG year	bcg year	0	s1bcgy	bcg year home vacc card
B*	mics	afghanistan-mi	BCGby	BCG year	bcg year	0	im3by	year bcg immunization
C70	mics	mozambique-m	BCGd	BCG day	bcg day	1	im2d	bcg


NO DUPLICATES: N = 2,898

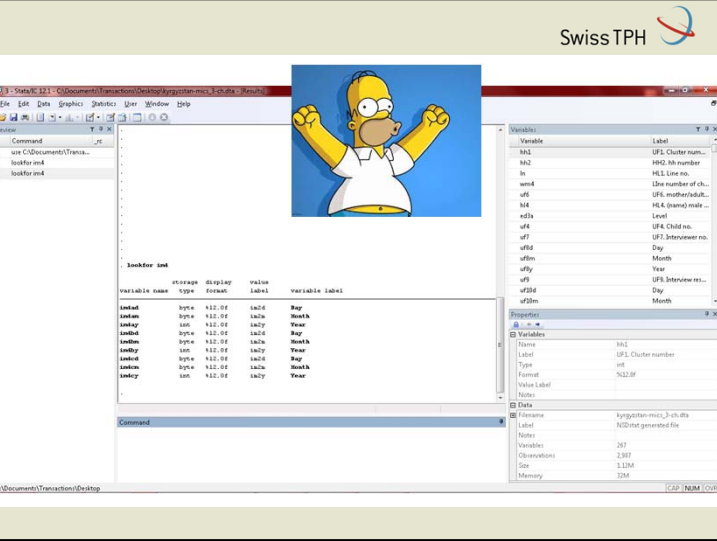
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Search	Type	SData	SVarNew	SLabelNew	SKeyTerms	Clear	SVarOld	SLabelOld	Case	Rationale
B-	mics	mozambique-mics_3-ch	BCG	BCG	bcg	1	im2d	bcg	A.1	bcg(); im2d(bcg); im2m(bcg); im2y(bcg); incomplete label, Var name consistent with other surveys
B-	mics	mozambique-mics_3-ch	BCG	BCG	bcg	1	im2m	bcg	A.1	bcg(); im2d(bcg); im2m(bcg); im2y(bcg); incomplete label, Var name consistent with other surveys
B-	mics	mozambique-mics_3-ch	BCG	BCG	bcg	1	im2y	bcg	A.1	bcg(); im2d(bcg); im2m(bcg); im2y(bcg); incomplete label, Var name consistent with other surveys

ALL RECORDS: N = 15,153




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The screenshot shows the SPSS 'Variables' window with the following table of variable labels:

variable name	storage	display	value	variable label
lookfor_1m4	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Bay
lookfor_1m5	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Month
lookfor_1m6	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Year
lookfor_1m7	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Bay
lookfor_1m8	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Month
lookfor_1m9	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Year
lookfor_1m10	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Bay
lookfor_1m11	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Month
lookfor_1m12	byte	112.0f	1a2f	Year

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2. Harmonisation of values labels




0 = old value label for 0
1 = old value label for 1
...
N = old value label for N

vs

0 = abc
1 = def
...
N = xyz
-6 = no label
-7 = inconsistent
-8 = don't know
-9 = missing

Old value labels	New value label	Outcome
2 = history	4 = recall	Match: 2 -> 4
-	1 = yes	No match; empty 1 = yes
44 = in health centre	-	No match: manual review

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Data Editor (Browse) - [LogSearch.dta]

File Edit View Data Tools

Search(440)

SEARCH	TYPE	SESTA	SVURNEW	SLABELNEW	SKY/TFRM	CTEAP	SVURVID	SLABELVID	
440	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates	meates	0	100M	meates month
446	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates	meates	0	100Y	meates year
467	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates	meates	0	SV0	meates
468	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates	meates	0	SV02	meates day
469	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates	meates	0	SV0M	meates month
470	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates	meates	0	SV0Y	meates year
471	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates day	meates day	0	100	meates day
472	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates day	meates day	0	1002	meates day
473	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates day	meates day	0	SV02	meates day
474	WF	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates ever	meates ever	0	EMPT...	
475	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates m...	meates m...	0	100M	meates month
476	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates m...	meates m...	0	100M	meates month
477	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates m...	meates m...	0	SV0M	meates month
478	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates year	meates year	0	100Y	meates year
479	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates year	meates year	0	100Y	meates year
480	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates year	meates year	0	SV0Y	meates year
481	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates day	meates day	1	100	meates day
482	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates day	meates day	0	1002	meates day
483	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates day	meates day	0	SV02	meates day
484	WF	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates ever	meates ever	0	EMPT...	
485	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates m...	meates m...	1	100M	meates month
486	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates m...	meates m...	0	100M	meates month
487	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates m...	meates m...	0	SV0M	meates month
488	WF	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates r...	meates r...	0	EMPT...	
489	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates year	meates year	1	100Y	meates year
490	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates year	meates year	0	100Y	meates year
491	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	MCIB	meates year	meates year	0	SV0Y	meates year
492	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	OPUS	opus	opus 1	1	10	opus 1
493	E	010	al-dm-10-ch	OPUS	opus	opus 1	0	104	opus 1 day

Vars: 14 Order: Dataset Obs: 15193 Filter: Off Mode: Browse CAP: NUM

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Data Editor (Browse) - [ValueLabels.dta]

File Edit View Data Tools


Dataset(3133)

Dataset	OT0VAR	OT0VAL	OT0LAB	NEWVAR	NEWVAL	NEWLAB	
3133	bel120-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3134	vietnam-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3135	kh-dm-12-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3136	ind-dm-11-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3137	afghantam-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3138	ru-dm-11-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3139	sriname-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3140	ind-dm-11-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3141	lagos-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3142	kh-dm-12-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3143	bosniandherzegovina-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3144	mzambique-mc-1-ch	114	1	masculin	Sex	2	male
3145	democraticepublricpogo-mc-1-ch	114	1	masculin	Sex	2	male
3146	gambia-1-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3147	mm-mc-1-ch	113	1	male	Sex	2	male
3148	kh-dm-11-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3149	kh-dm-10-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3150	kh-dm-12-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3151	vanuatu-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3152	sterrace-mc-1-ch	114	1	male	Sex	2	male
3153	ru-dm-11-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3154	gh-dm-10-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3155	ind-dm-11-ch	84	1	male	Sex	2	male
3156	centralafricrepubl-mc-1-ch	114	1	masculin	Sex	2	male
3157	np-dm-10-ch	106	11	chakra	MOD	3	March
3158	np-dm-10-ch	106	11	chakra	OPUS	3	March
3159	np-dm-10-ch	106	11	chakra	OPUS	3	March
3160	np-dm-10-ch	106	11	chakra	OPUS	3	March
3161	np-dm-10-ch	106	11	chakra	MOD	3	March

Vars: 9 Order: Dataset Obs: 7081 Filter: Off Mode: Browse CAP: NUM

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WAY FORWARD

- Swiss TPH 
1. Database of surveys
 2. Database of coverage from survey reports and web-based estimates
 3. Harmonisation platform integrated into WUEIC engine
 4. Use variables distribution
 5. Availability to third parties / cross-platforms

WHO and UNICEF working group on monitoring national immunization coverage development session

Xavier BOSCH-CAPBLANCH, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Location: Basel, Switzerland

Date: 12-14 November 2013

Participants: United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.



Thanks for your infinite patience!