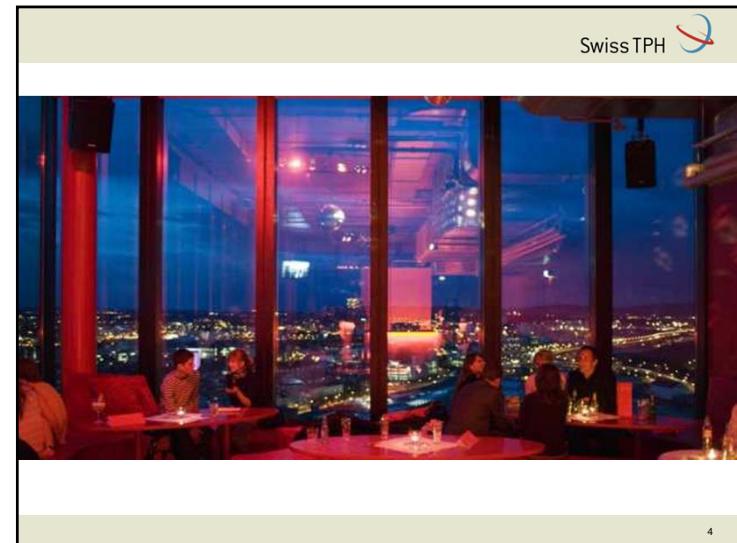
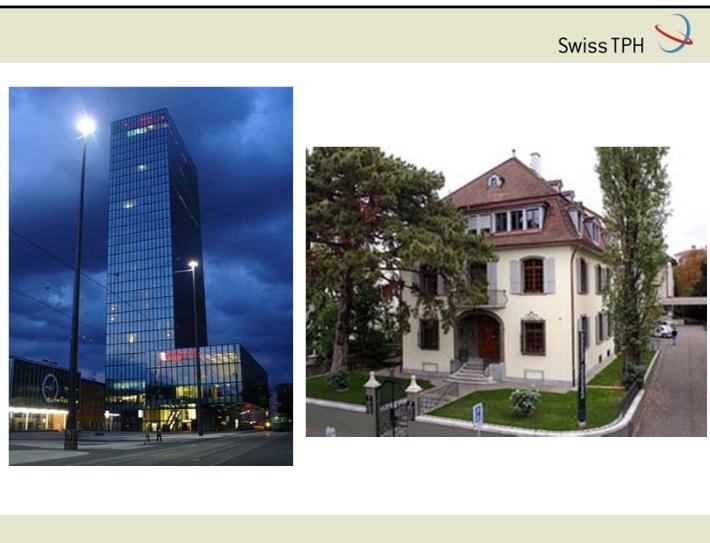


## 2014 Spanish Stata Users Group meeting

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

Barcelona, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014

Xavier Bosch-Capblanch  
Swiss TPH, Basel (Switzerland)



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### THE NEED AND THE PROBLEM



### THE FIRST ATTEMPTS



### THE SOLUTION: HARMONISATION

### WAY FORWARD

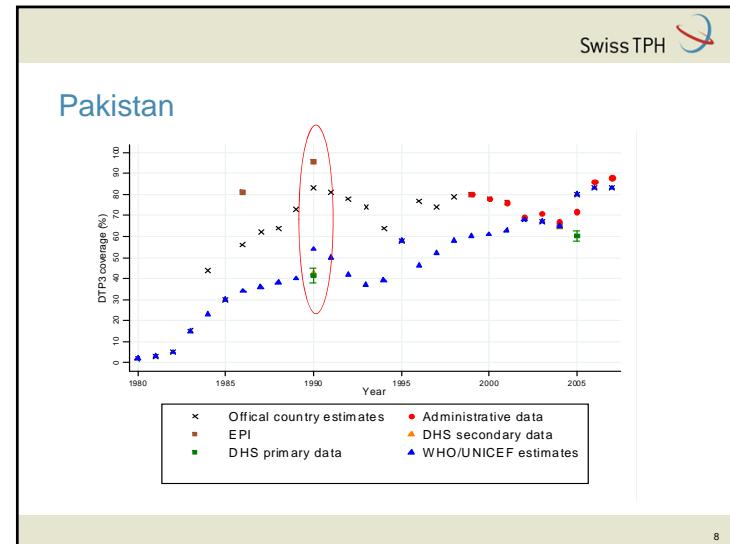
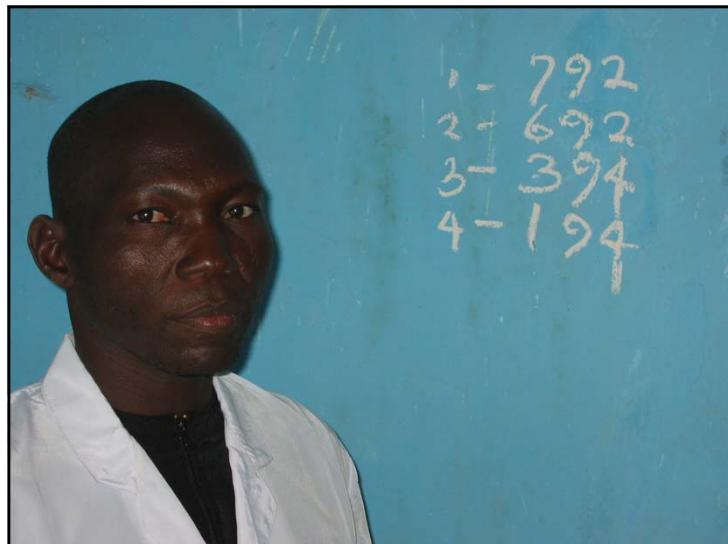


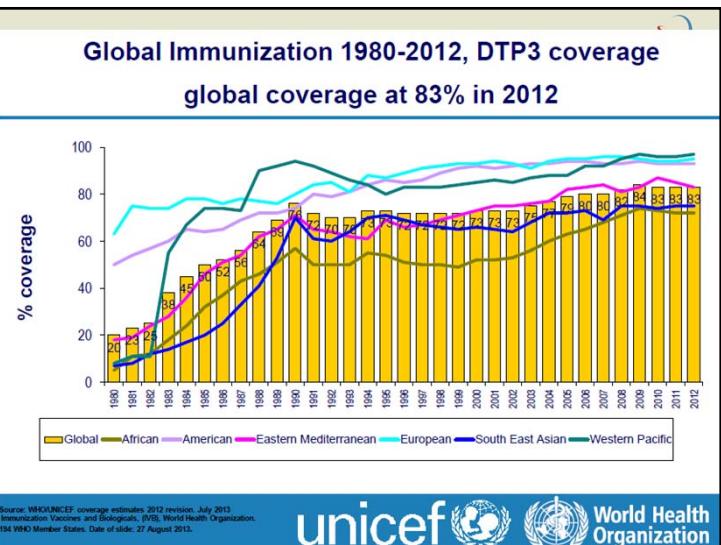
Bosch-Capblanch X. Harmonisation of variables names prior to conducting statistical analyses with multiple datasets: an automated approach. BMC Med Inform Decis Mak. 2011 May 19;11:33. doi: 10.1186/1472-6947-11-33. PubMed PMID: 21595905; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3123542.

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### THE NEED AND THE PROBLEM

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





Source: WHO/UNICEF coverage estimates: 2012 revision. July 2013.  
Immunization Vaccines and Biologicals, (IVB), World Health Organization.  
194 WHO Member States. Date of slide: 27 August 2013.



Bangladesh 2000 (337 variables)

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hh1; br8co; va1; ca9o; im4by; im8bd; hh16; hc1a; hc11bcg; hc15g; hh2; br8cn; va2; ca9p; im4cd; im8bm; ws1; hc1; hc11bbd; hc15h; ln; hr8dm; va3; ca9q; im4cm; im8by; ws2; hc2; hc11bdg; hc15h; uf1; br8df; bf1; ca9t; im4cy; ws3; hc3; hc11beb; hc15h; uf2; br8df; ba1f; ca9s; im21ad; im10; ws4; hc4; hc11beg; hc15h; uf4; br8df; ba1f; ca9x; im21am; im11; ws5; hc5; hc11bbf; hc15h; uf3; br8em; bf1bn; ca10; im21ay; im1; ws6a; ho6; hc11bbg; hc15h; uf7; br8ef; ba2; ca11a; im21bd; im13; ws6b; hc7; hc11bbg; hc15h; uf8; br8eo; bf3a; ca11p; im21bm; im14; ws6c; hc7; hc11bgg; hc15h; uf8m; br8en; bf3b; ca11g; im21by; im15; ws6d; ho7; hc11bx; hc15ia; uf8y; br8fm; bf3c; ca11n; im21cd; im16; ws6f; hc9a; hc11bxg; hc15if; uf9; br8ff; bf3d; ca11x; im21cm; im17; ws6g; hc9b; hc11hc; hc15c; uf10d; br8fo; bf3e; ca11z; im21cy; im19a; ws6x; hc9c; hc11cag; hc15id; uf10m; br8f; bf3f; ca13; im3ad; im19b; ws6z; hc9d; hc11ccb; hc15ie; uf10y; br9; bf3g; ca14a; im3am; hc15j; ws6e; hc9e; hc11cgb; hc15f; uf11; br10a; bf3h; ca14b; im3ay; hl4; ws6- 2a; hc9f; hc11ccb; hc15ig; uf11a; br10b; bf5; ca14c; im3bd; ed3a; ws6- 2b; hc9g; hc11ccg; hc15i; brf; br10c; ca1; ca14d; im3bd; ed3b; ws6- 2c; hc9h; hc11d; hc15ja; br2; br10d; ca2a; ca14e; im3by; hs3; ws6- 2d; hc9j; hc15; hc15jb; br2; br10e; ca2b; ca14f; im3cd; hh4; ws6- 2e; hc9; hc15a; hc15y; br4; br10f; ca2c; ca14g; im3cm; hh5d; ws6- 2f; hc10a; hc15; chweight; br4a; br10g; ca3; ca14h; im3cy; hh5f; ws6- 2z; hc10b; hc15ca; wthscr; ho6; br10h; ca4; ca14i; im3dd; hh5y; ws6- 3a; hc10c; hc15b; whlind5; br7; br10x; ca5; ca14j; im3dm; hh6; ws6- 3b; hc10d; hc15cc; cmcdoci; br8am; br11; ca6; ca14x; im3dy; hh7; ws6- 3c; hc10e; hc15cx; cdb; br8f; br12a; ca7; im1; im3ed; hh7a; ws6- 3d; hc10f; hc15cy; cage; br8ao; br12b; ca8; im2d; im3em; hh7b; ws6- 3e; hc10g; hc15d; cage\_ 6; br8an; br12c; ca9a; im2m; im3ey; hh9; ws6- 3x; hc10h; hc15ea; cage\_ 11; br8bm; br12d; ca9d; im2y; im6d; hh10; ws6- 3z; hc11; hc15eb; melev2; br8bf; br12e; ca9e; im4ad; im6h; hh11; ws6- 3z; hc11bab; hc15c; melev; br8b; br12f; ca9h; im4am; im6y; hh12; ws7; hc11bag; hc15ed; br8bn; br12g; ca9i; im4ay; im8ad; hh13; ws8; hc11bb; hc15ex; br8cm; br12h; ca9; im4bd; im8am; hh14; ws9; hc11bbb; hc15ey; br8cf; br12x; ca9k; im4bm; im8ay; hh15; ws9a; hc11bbc; hc15f;

511 household surveys (DHS, MICS)  
(N from 1,000 Trinidad and Tobago to 51,000 India)

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Variable: day vaccination DTP3 (month, year...)

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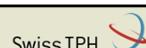
Value = 3 for variable DTP3 vaccination



FIRST ATTEMPTS

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

A small, stylized cartoon character with yellow skin and blue hair, wearing a red bow tie, positioned at the bottom right corner.



**Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\PAU Research\Stata\_1\Survey\WHO series 2\Series 2\_no\_vacc\_data\EXCLUDED\swiss-mics\_4-ch.xls - [Results]**

Swiss TPH

**Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\Transactions\Desktop\kyngytan-mics\_3-ch.xls - [Results]**

Swiss TPH

**Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\PAU Research\Stata\_1\Survey\Repository\Northern\_22\br-dhs\_01-ch.xls - [Results]**

Swiss TPH

**Stata/IC 12.1 - C:\Documents\PAU Research\Stata\_1\Survey\Repository\Northern\_22\br-dhs\_21-ch.xls - [Results]**

Swiss TPH



SwissTPH

## INCONVENIENCES

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

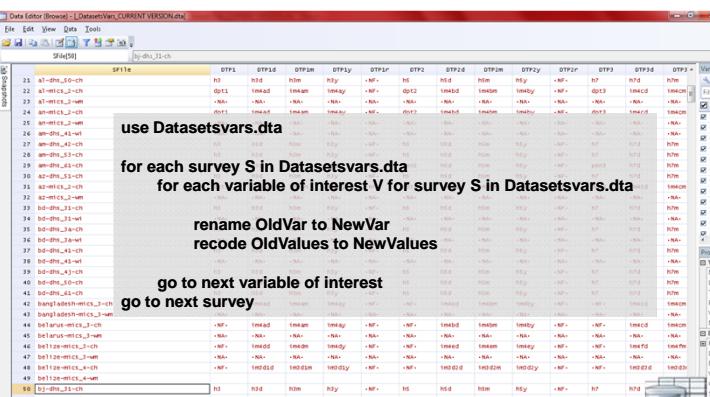
```
If survey = Afghanistan 2000 AND OldVar = h7
    rename h7 to DPT3
    recode DPT3 1=2, 2=3, 3=0
    ...

```

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



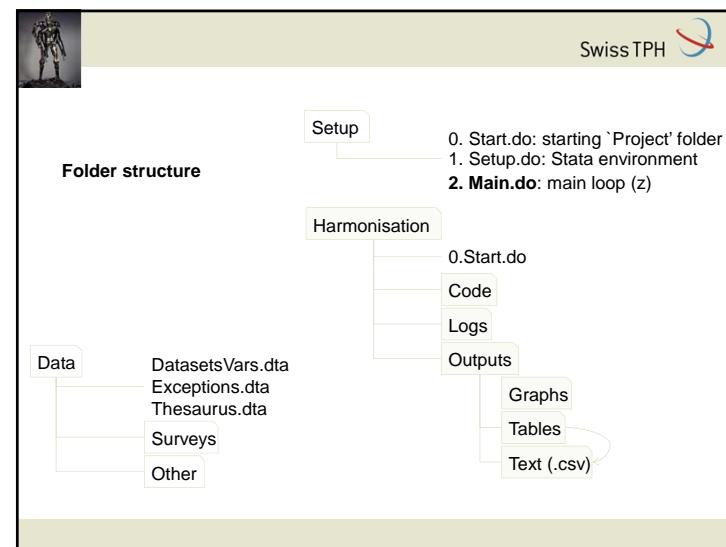
THE SOLUTION: HARMONISATION

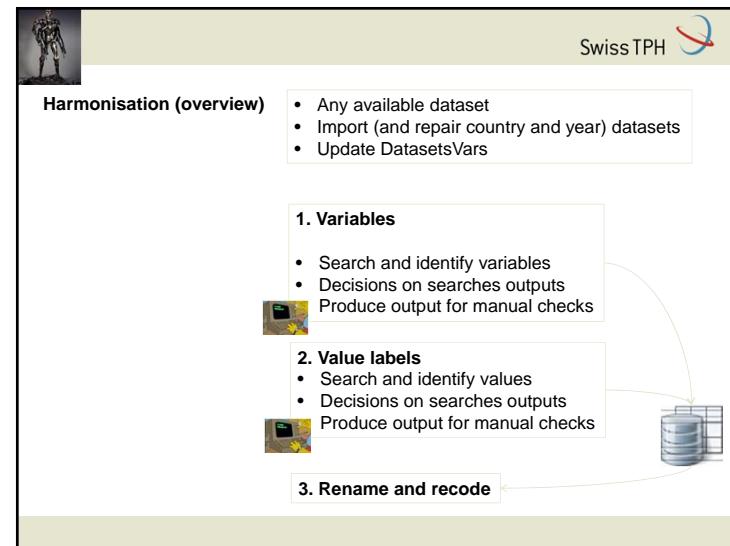
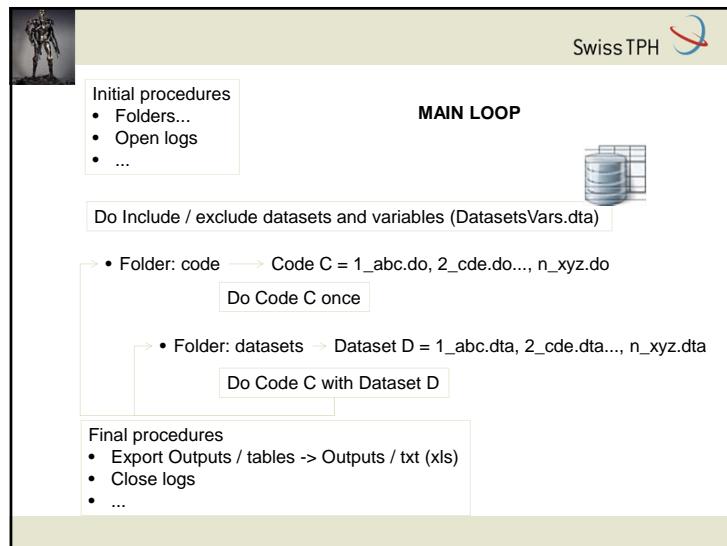



The screenshot shows a Stata Data Editor window with the title 'Data Editor (Browse) | DatasetsVars.CURRENT VERSION.dta'. The do-file content is as follows:

```
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
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates: 'Vart: 32 of 168 Order Dataset' and 'Obs: 511 Filter Off'.





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...

```

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)` { // dtpt1 dtpt2 dtpt3...
        local cLabel : variable label `cVar` // dtpt 3 day vaccination
        local nFoundInThisVar = 0
        foreach cSyn of local Synos`nT` { // For each synonymous of cTerm.
            local nFoundInThisVar = cond(strpos(`cLabel`, `cSyn`) > 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)...



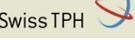
NO DUPLICATES: N = 2,898

Search	Type	SData	SVarNew	SLabelNew	SKeyTerms	Clear	SVarOld	SLabelOld
B*	mics	afghanistan-mic BCGbm	BCG month	bcg month	1	im3bm	month bcg immunization	
B*	mics	centralafricanre 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-mic BCGbm	BCG year	bcg year	0	im3by	year bcg immunization	
C70	mics	mozambique-m BCgd	BCG day	bcg day	1	im2d	bcg	



ALL RECORDS: N = 15,153

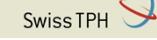
Search	Type	SData	SVarNew	SLabelNew	SKeyTerms	Clear	SVarOld	SLabelOld	Case	Rationale
B-	mics	mozambique-mics_3-ch	BCG	BCG	bcg	1	im2d	bcg	A.1	bcg(); im2d(bcgg); im2m(bcgg); im2y(bcgg); incomplete label, Var name consistent with other surveys
B-	mics	mozambique-mics_3-ch	BCG	BCG	bcg	1	im2m	bcg	A.1	bcg();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

Normalisation Thesaurus

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



## 2. Harmonisation of values labels

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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```
// MATCHING VALUE LABELS. For each Value label (old), check whether there is an equivalent in any of the Value label (new).
foreach cValLblOld_i of local lValLblOld { // Test each value label old... e.g. 'caretaker recall'
    // Each one of the value label new i to be tested against the old one above.
    foreach cValLblNew_i of local lValLblNew {
        if !missing(mValLblNew[rownumb(mValLblNew,"cValLblNew_i"),2]) continue // Has already been found.

        local cValLblNew_i2 = substr(r(r(R)), " ", " ", .)

        // E.g. 'mother' against 'caregiver', then 'recall'; and 'recall' against 'caregiver', then 'recall'.
        fNormTxt "cValLblNew_i"
        local cValLblNew_i2 = substr(r(xR), " ", " ", .)

        local nTermsFound = 0
        foreach cValLblNew_i_t of local cValLblNew_i2 { // All terms of value label new i have to be in an old one; e.g. 'mother'
            do "cDoSynonymous" cValLblNew_i_t
            local cValLblNew_i_ts = r(xR)
            local cValLblOld_i2 = substr(r(cValLblOld_i), " ", " ", .)

            local nlsTermFound = 0
            foreach cValLblOld_i_t of local cValLblOld_i2 { // e.g. 'mother' 'recall'
                if strpos("cValLblNew_i_ts", "cValLblOld_i_t") > 0 {
                    local nlsTermFound = nlsTermFound + 1
                    continue, break
                }
            }
            local nTermsFound = nTermsFound + nlsTermFound
        }
    }
} // If this point is reached, there are value labels to handle (cValLbl is not missing)
```



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NewVal	NewLab	OldVal	OldLab	Dataset	OldVar	NewVar
1	Female	2	feminino	mozambique-mics_3-ch	hl4	Sex
1	Female	2	female	afghanistan-mics_4-ch	hl4	Sex
1	Female	2	femenino	cuba-mics_4-ch	hl4	Sex
1	Female	2	feminin	centralafricanrepublic-mics_3-ch	hl4	Sex

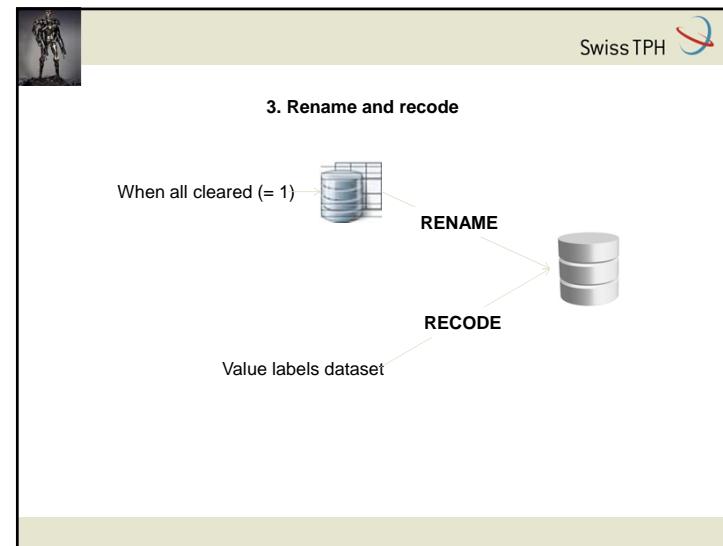
NO DUPLICATES: N = 1,101



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Dataset	OldVar	OldVal	OldLab	NewVar	NewVal	NewLab
2158 democraticrepublicof	lm3d3d	0	pas recue	DTF3d	0	No
2159 ke-dhs_51-ch	h7d	98	dk	DTF3d	-7	DK
2160 s1-dhs_51-ch	h7d	97	inconsistent	DTF3d	-8	Inconsistent
2161 djibouti-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	44	marquée sur la carte	DTF3d	44	Mark
2162 democraticrepublicof	lm3d3d	66	reportée par la mère	DTF3d	66	Recall
2163 togomics_4-ch	lm3d3d	44	marquée sur le carte	DTF3d	44	Mark
2164 sn-dhs_60-ch	h7d	98	don't know_dk	DTF3d	-7	DK
2165 nigeria-mics_4-ch	lm3d3d	0	not given	DTF3d	0	No
2166 bd-dhs_61-ch	h7d	97	inconsistent	DTF3d	-8	Inconsistent
2167 zimbabwe-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	0	not given	DTF3d	0	No
2168 gy-dhs_51-ch	h7d	0	not given	DTF3d	0	No
2169 nigeria-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	44	marked on card _ no	DTF3d	44	Mark
2170 suriname-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	66	reported by mother	DTF3d	66	Recall
2171 afghanistan-mics_4-ch	lm3d3d	66	reported by mother	DTF3d	66	Recall
2172 zimbabwe-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	98	dk	DTF3d	-7	DK
2173 suriname-mics_4-ch	lm3d3d	44	marked on card _ no	DTF3d	44	Mark
2174 suriname-mics_4-ch	lm3d3d	99	missing	DTF3d	-9	Missing
2175 vanuatu-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	66	reported by mother	DTF3d	66	Recall
2176 vietnam-mics_4-ch	lm3d3d	66	reported by mother	DTF3d	66	Recall
2177 am-dhs_61-ch	h7d	98	don't know_dk	DTF3d	-7	DK
2178 ng-dhs_52-ch	h7d	98	dk	DTF3d	-7	DK
2179 kh-dhs_51-ch	h7d	98	don't know_dk	DTF3d	-7	DK
2180 cm-dhs_60-ch	h7d	97	inconsistent	DTF3d	-8	Inconsistent
2181 bu-dhs_61-ch	h7d	97	inconsistent	DTF3d	-8	Inconsistent
2182 vanuatu-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	99	missing	DTF3d	-9	Missing
2183 t1-dhs_61-ch	h7d	98	dk	DTF3d	-7	DK
2184 democraticrepublicof	lm3d3d	44	marquée sur le carte	DTF3d	44	Mark
2185 zimbabwe-mics_3-ch	lm4cd	44	marked on card _ no	DTF3d	44	Mark

ALL RECORDS: N = 7,891

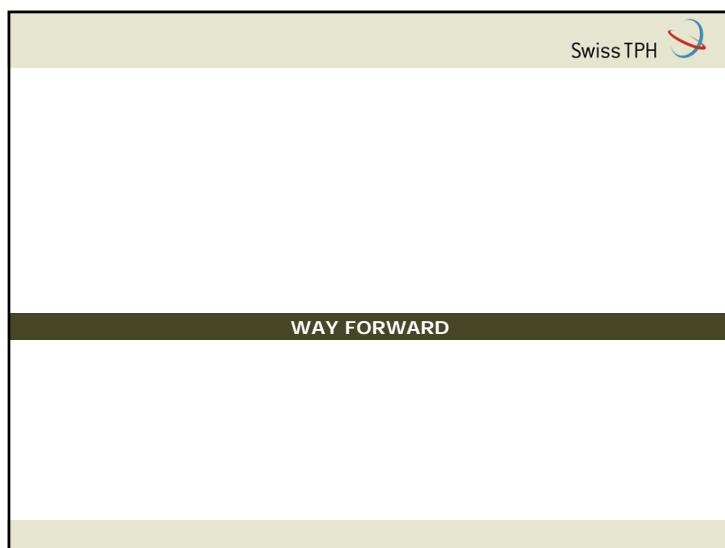


**LogSearch.dta**

id	dataset	source	labelnew	labelnew	labelform	clear	emptyid	slablabel	
466	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles	measles	0	shoy	measles month
467	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles	measles	0	svd	measles year
468	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles	measles	0	svd	measles day
469	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles	measles	0	svd	measles month
470	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles	measles	0	svd	measles year
471	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles day	measles day	0	nnn	measles day
472	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles day	measles day	0	nnn	measles day
473	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles day	measles day	0	nnn	measles day
474	NF	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles ever	measles ever	0	EMPTY...	
475	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles m...	measles m...	0	nnn	measles month
476	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles m...	measles m...	0	shoy	measles month
477	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles m...	measles m...	0	svd	measles month
478	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles year	0	nnn	measles year
479	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles year	0	shoy	measles year
480	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles year	0	svd	measles year
481	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles day	1	nnn	measles day
482	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles day	0	nnn	measles day
483	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles day	measles day	0	svd	measles day
484	NF	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles ever	measles ever	0	EMPTY...	
485	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles m...	measles m...	1	nnn	measles month
486	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles m...	measles m...	0	nnn	measles month
487	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles m...	measles m...	0	svde	measles month
488	NF	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles r...	measles r...	0	EMPTY...	
489	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles year	1	nnn	measles year
490	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles year	0	nnn	measles year
491	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	WCbd	Measles year	measles year	0	svdy	measles year
492	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	OPV1	OPV1	opv 1	1	nnn	polio 1
493	B-	dhs	a1-dhs_10-ch	OPV1	OPV1	opv 1	0	ned	polio 1 day

**belize-mics\_4-ch**

dataset	idbr	oldval	oldlab	newval	newval	newlab	tr
3134	vietnam-mics_4-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3135	ke-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3136	pd-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3137	afghanistan-mics_4-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3138	mr-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3139	suriname-mics_4-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3140	mo-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3141	taqqa-mics_2-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3142	srn-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3143	bosniaandherzegovina-mics_4-ch	n/a	1	masculino	Sex	2	Male
3144	mozambique-mics_2-ch	n/a	1	masculin	Sex	2	Male
3145	democraticrepublicofcongo-mics_4-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3146	sierra-leone-mics_4-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3147	rn-mics_2-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3148	th-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3149	tn-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3150	tr-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3151	venezuela-mics_3-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3152	sierraleone-mics_4-ch	n/a	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3153	rn-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3154	gr-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3155	pr-dhs_12-ch	b4	1	male	Sex	2	Male
3156	centralafricanrepublic-mics_3-ch	n/a	1	masculin	Sex	2	Male
3157	np-dhs_12-ch	vn0	12	chattira	MOI	3	March
3158	np-dhs_12-ch	vn0	12	chattira	Opn0m	3	March
3159	np-dhs_12-ch	vn0	12	chattira	Opnm	3	March
3160	np-dhs_12-ch	vn0	12	chattira	Opnm	3	March
3161	np-dhs_12-ch	vn0	12	chattira	Opnm	3	March



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

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World Health Organization

Global Immunization News (GIN)

January 2014

**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.



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**Thanks for your infinite patience!**

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