

## ANNEX II

### COMPOSITION OF THE INDEX OF MATERIAL WELL-BEING

The index of material well-being as used in the present publication is based on the presence or absence of each of seven household amenities. Table A.II.1 presents the scheme for obtaining the material well-being

index, which was calculated by adding up the scores assigned to each of the selected household amenities. Data used for the calculation were drawn exclusively from the Demographic and Health Surveys.

TABLE A.II.1. SCHEME FOR CALCULATING THE HOUSEHOLD-BASED INDEX OF MATERIAL WELL-BEING

<i>Household amenity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Score</i>
1. Water source	Surface water, rainwater, tanker truck, other	0
	Shared or public pipe or well, borehole	1
	Piped inside housing unit	2
2. Toilet or Sewerage	No facility/bush/field, other	0
	Shared flush toilet, pit toilet/latrine	1
	Flush toilet inside housing unit	2
3. Floor material	Natural or rudimentary floor	0
	Finished floor	1
4. Electricity	Does not have	0
	Has	1
5. Radio	Does not have	0
	Has	1
6. Television	Does not have	0
	Has	1
7. Refrigerator	Does not have	0
	Has	1

The classification of items 4 to 7 on the presence of certain household goods in the dwelling was straightforward. The classification of items 1 to 3 regarding the water source, the toilet facilities and the floor material, however, posed some difficulties, as the peculiarities relative to these characteristics at the local level often resulted in the use of different categories

among the countries. According to the DHS manual of instructions, coding categories for these variables are country-specific and should be developed locally, while the major category groupings should remain standard across countries. In many cases, therefore, the same code within a major category has distinct meanings in different countries. In addition, there were some

cases in which individual categories that should have been placed in a specific major category were instead assigned a code corresponding to another major category. Thus, this situation demanded a close screening and recoding of the whole set of Demographic and Health Surveys in order to make the above household characteristics as comparable as possible across the different data sets.

Owing to either the lack of information or the impossibility of harmonizing the existent coding with the one used in this publication, the calculation of the material well-being index

for some countries excluded one of the items. This was the case for Colombia, Guatemala, Gabon, Nigeria and Senegal, whose indices excluded the variable regarding the water source; for India and Pakistan, whose indices excluded the variable regarding the floor material; for Ethiopia and Malawi, whose indices excluded the variable regarding the existence of a refrigerator in the household; and Indonesia, whose index excluded the variable regarding the type of toilet. The index was not calculated for some countries, namely, Bangladesh, Nepal, Paraguay and Turkey, for which two or more items were unavailable.