QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following are the questions received during the live webinar and their answers. For more user support, email IPUMS at ipums@umn.edu

1. Why might you choose a cross-sectional sample over a longitudinal sample from the same country, and where would you find cross-sectional samples on the website?

If the goal of your analysis is to calculate indicators, observe change, or compare countries at a population level over time, you would choose to select cross-sectional samples for IPUMS PMA, which go back to 2013 for some countries. The longitudinal design was launched in 2019, and this is the first cohort of family planning panel participants. Both the cross-sectional and longitudinal panel data are available on the website within the Person unit of analysis and the Family Planning topic.
On the Samples Selection screen, you choose whether you want to download cross-sectional or longitudinal data – you cannot combine them into a single file.

See our [tutorial video](#) on the longitudinal data for more details on how to access cross sectional or panel data from the online data dissemination system.

2. When will additional longitudinal data be available from PMA and IPUMS PMA? What countries will be included?

Ethiopia Maternal and Newborn panel data for the 2019-2021 cohort will be available in IPUMS by December 2022. Phase 2 surveys from Cote d’Ivoire, Rajasthan (India), and Uganda will also be available in cross-sectional and linked longitudinal versions by the end of 2022, contingent on their public release by PMA in the summer of 2022. Phase 1 data from Niger will also likely be available on IPUMS PMA within a few months. Phase 3 data from Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Nigeria can be expected to be released on IPUMS PMA in early 2023.

3. What are the PMA COVID-19 follow-up surveys? Can you merge them together with a panel data extract?

The PMA COVID-19 follow-up surveys were phone interviews conducted in the summer of 2020 of female participants of the longitudinal panel surveys in four countries. Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Nigeria had fielded their baseline survey in late 2019 and had collected participant’s phone numbers in order to follow up with them in future surveys. The COVID-19 questionnaires included topics such as information sources, trust of information sources, social distancing measures, economic impacts of pandemic restrictions, and family planning access. You can link the COVID-19 surveys to baseline (Phase 1) and follow-up survey (Phase 2) data using the variable FQINSTID. See also our [user notes](#) on using these surveys together.
4. If I’m interested in countries that are not participating in IPUMS PMA, are there comparable topics covered by other IPUMS survey projects?

We recommend that you explore the [IPUMS DHS](https://ipums.dhsprogram.com) data collection, which is the integrated version of the Demographic and Health Surveys. IPUMS DHS currently includes 170 samples across 41 countries. Coming soon is the IPUMS MICS data collection, which is the harmonized version of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys from UNICEF. Lastly, you might also be interested in [IPUMS Health Surveys](https://ipums.ipums.org/health), which harmonize health interview and medical expenditure data in the United States.