



# Use of AI in the DHS Program

*IUSSP–PAA Webinar on AI and Demography, part 2*

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THE DHS PROGRAM TODAY

# The DHS Program continues and is evolving.

## DHS Program Survey Updates

### Surveys

**Ongoing Surveys**

- Burkina Faso MIS 2026
- Burundi DHS 2026
- Congo DHS 2025
- Guinea DHS 2024-25
- Kenya DHS 2025
- Niger DHS 2027
- Nigeria DHS 2025
- Nigeria (Kano State) DHS 2026
- Philippines DHS 2025
- Sierra Leone DHS 2026
- Timor-Leste DHS 2025
- Togo DHS 2026
- Zimbabwe DHS 2023-24

**Refine survey search**

### Datasets

**Datasets Recently Released**

- Ethiopia DHS 2024-25
- Nigeria Other 2024
- Rwanda DHS 2025
- Rwanda MIS 2023

**View all datasets**

**Datasets Expected Soon**

- Congo DHS 2025
- Guinea DHS 2024-25
- Kenya DHS 2025
- Nigeria DHS 2025
- Nigeria (Kano State) DHS 2026
- Philippines DHS 2025

### Publications

**Publications Recently Released**

**Final Reports**

- Ethiopia DHS, 2024-25 - Final Report
- Mozambique DHS, 2022-23 - Final Report
- Nigeria VASA (Verbal Autopsy Social Autopsy), 2024 - Final Report
- Rwanda MIS, 2023 - MIS Final Report
- Rwanda DHS, 2025 - Final Report

**Other Publications**

- Congo Demographic and Health Survey 2025 - Key Indicators Report
- Ethiopia DHS 2024-25 - Wall Chart
- Ethiopia 2024-25 DHS - National Fact

*dhsprogram.com survey updates, October 2026*

**13**
surveys in progress

**450+**
surveys from 90+ countries in the open archive

**$39M**
3-year Gates Foundation grant

**Jan 2026**
continuation and revitalization announced

INTENTIONAL EVOLUTION

# We are testing AI at three points in the survey cycle

**Goal:** reduce cost and improve timeliness while preserving quality, comparability, accessibility, and country ownership.

PILOT

DATA QUALITY

## Anomaly detection

Flags inconsistencies in field data and proposes fixes; data processing specialists decide.

PILOT

DATA AVAILABILITY

## Report writing

Drafts DHS-style report chapters from standard tables; staff confirm and edit every section.

LIVE, PUBLIC

DATA USE

## DHS AI Assistant (MCP)

Answers DHS data questions in plain language from published estimates, with sources.

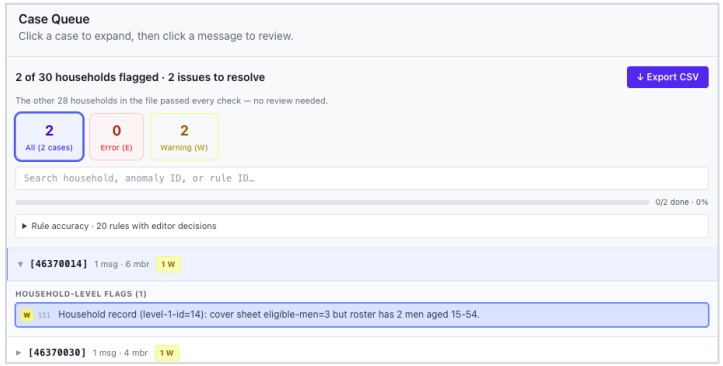
DATA QUALITY · PILOT

# AI flags potential errors during data processing; specialists decide every correction

1 Upload | 2 Sort | **3 Review** | 4 Apply | 5 Export | 6 Revalidate

## How it works

- Reads CSPro field data and, optionally, vaccine-card photos
- Runs DHS consistency checks
- Flags anomalies for data quality specialist review
- Proposes resolutions; a data processing specialist decides
- Logs every change and rechecks knock-on effects on ages, birth intervals and eligibility




*Only flagged cases are queued: 2 of 30 households*

### Example flag

Cover sheet lists 3 eligible men; the roster has only 2 men aged 15–54. The AI recommends fixing the count, and explains why it rejects recoding a 12-year-old's age.

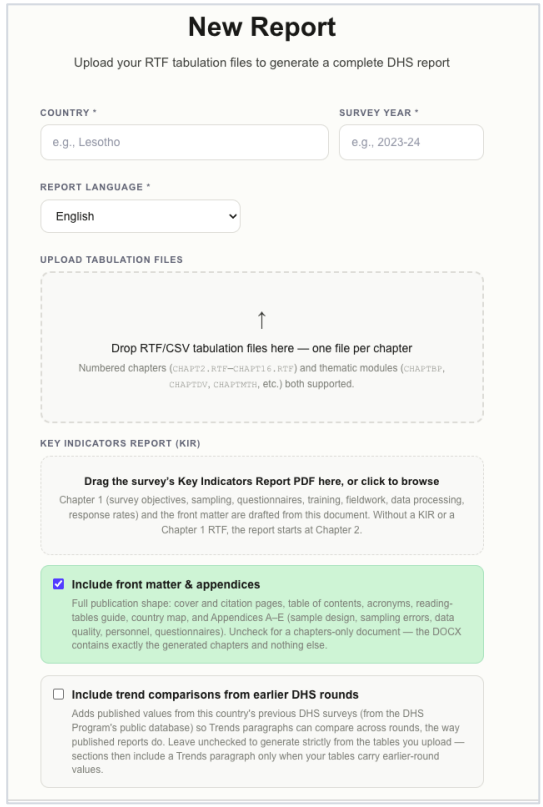



*Ranked recommendations with a written rationale; the specialist chooses, edits or leaves as is*

DATA AVAILABILITY · PILOT

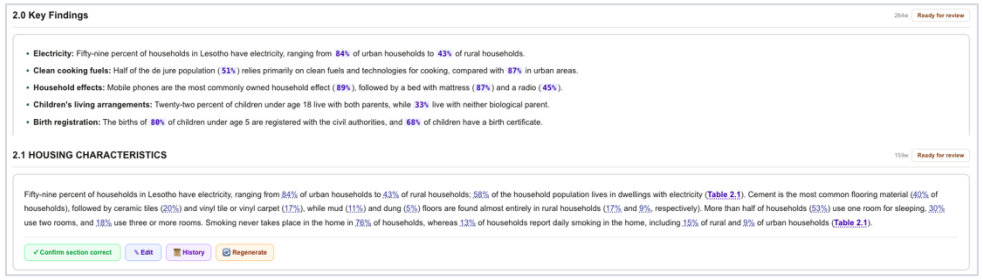
# AI drafts DHS report text from standard tables; staff review every section before the chapter is assembled

## 1 Inputs



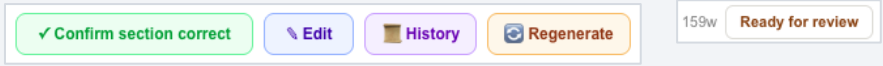

*Tabulation files + Key Indicators Report*

## 2 Draft report text



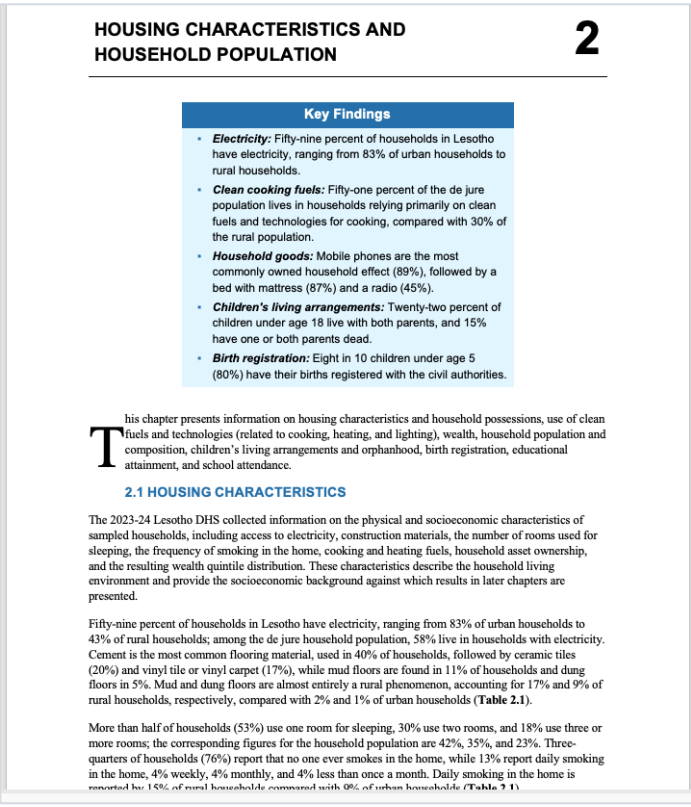

*Each highlighted figure links to its source table*

## 3 Human review




- Staff confirm, edit or regenerate each section
- Version history tracks every change
- Nothing is final until a person confirms it

## 4 Final chapter




*AI assembled chapter [example, not for use]*

DATA USE · LIVE

# The DHS AI Assistant answers DHS data questions in plain language, with sources

| | |
|---|---|
| **You ask** | a question in plain language |
| **Your AI assistant** | Claude, ChatGPT, Copilot or any MCP-enabled tool |
| **DHS MCP connector** | 14 read-only tools find, check and retrieve |
| **DHS API** | the published estimates behind STATcompiler |
| **You get** | A real answer that cites the real data often alongside a table, chart or dashboard |

**4,655** indicators

**477** surveys

**92** countries

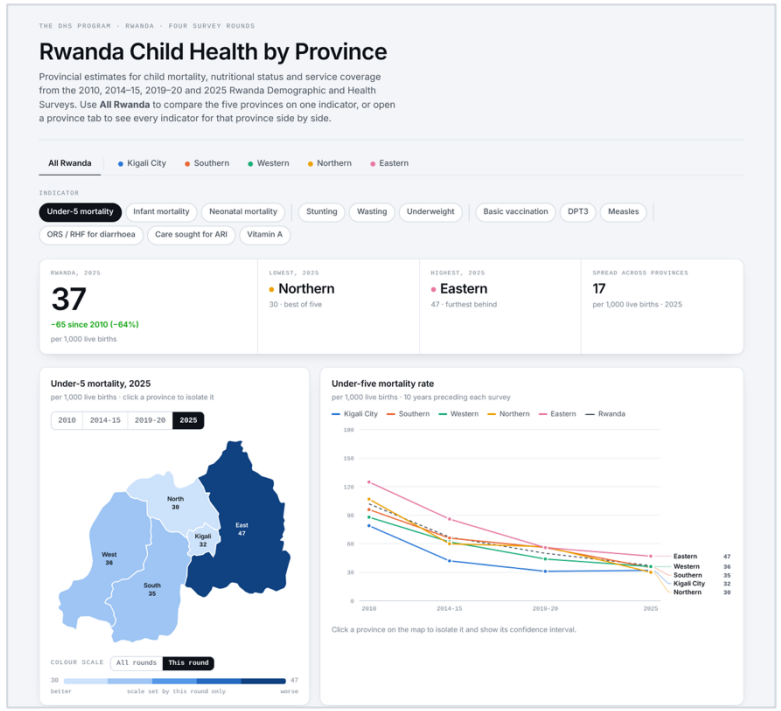
*Counts from the DHS API, September 2026*

- **Not tied to one assistant.** Use in any MCP-enabled tool.
- **Read-only, published estimates.** No microdata; registration for microdata is unchanged.
- **Checkable.** Answers cite indicator and survey IDs, the same numbers as STATcompiler.
- **Works alongside other connectors.** For example, pair it with the PubMed MCP to get more nuanced insight.
- **Launched June 2026.** Built and run by ICF in a technical partnership with Anthropic. Free to use.

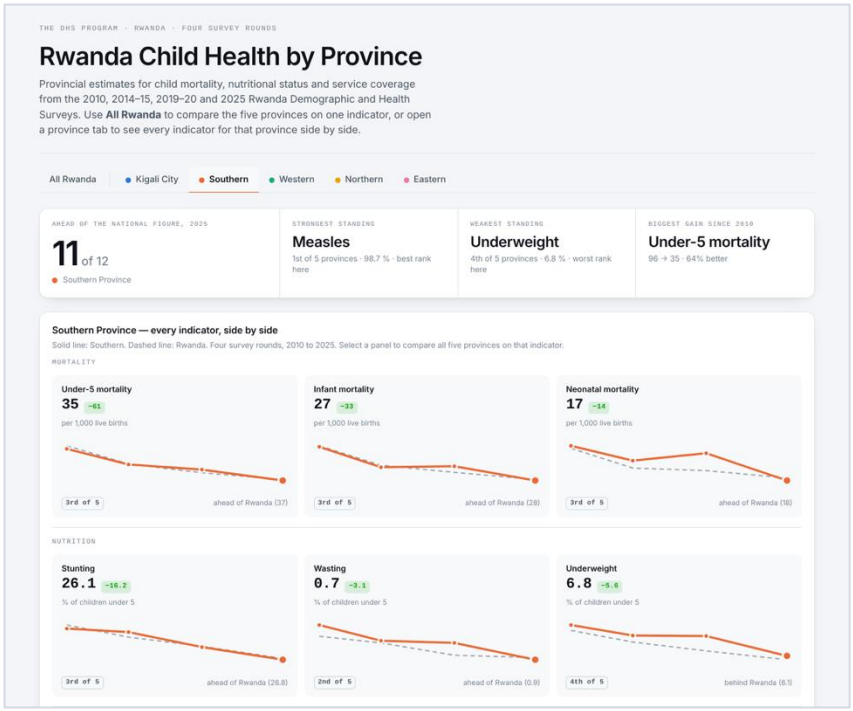
EXAMPLE 1 · RWANDA

# One request built a provincial child health dashboard from four Rwanda DHS rounds

**THE REQUEST** *"Develop an interactive dashboard by province on child health and mortality trends in Rwanda… with special tabs for each province, so if I were working in Southern, I could see my child health indicators side by side."*




*All-Rwanda view: map, trend and comparison by province*




*Southern tab: every indicator vs. Rwanda*

**12**
indicators

**5**
provinces, one tab each

**4**
survey rounds, 2010–2025

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EXAMPLE 2 · AFRICA

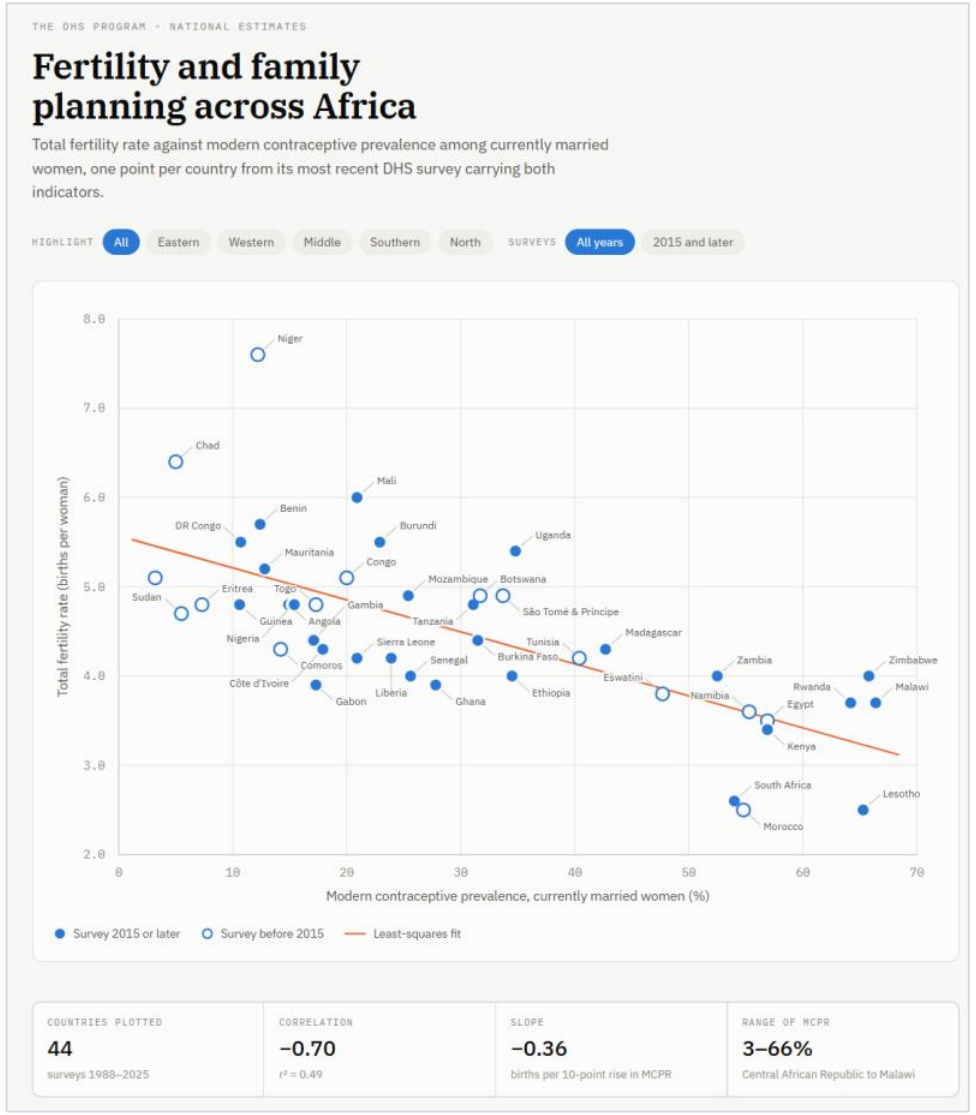
# One question returned a 44-country analysis of fertility and contraceptive use

**THE QUESTION**

*"Among DHS partner countries in Africa, would you please make me a scatter chart showing the relationship between TFR and MCPR?"*

| 44 | −0.70 | −0.36 |
|---|---|---|
| countries | correlation | births per 10-pt rise in mCPR |

- Each point labeled with country and survey year; older surveys marked
- Indicator IDs cited, so any value can be checked in STATcompiler
- Interpretation is still ours: the relationship is ecological and surveys span decades



LESSONS LEARNED

# Across all three tools, AI works because the DHS foundation was already built

1

## Solid foundations

Documented, standardized tools and expert-built rules: codebooks, tabulation plans, a public API

2

## Human review by design

Specialists choose fixes, staff confirm each section, users check cited IDs

3

## Traceability builds trust

Every figure links to its source; every change is logged

4

## Test against known answers

83 real analyst queries for the MCP; drafts checked against published reports

5

## Boundaries set first

Before building each tool, we decided exactly what the AI is allowed to access and do, and built those limits in from the start

**For national statistical offices and researchers:** invest in documentation, standards and governance first. Then AI tools can quickly be developed and deployed to add value– enhanced data quality, faster data availability, expanded data access and use.

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CLOSING

# The DHS Program lives, and AI is helping it evolve

### Data quality
AI flags and proposes; specialists decide.

### Data availability
AI drafts reports; staff confirm and edit every section.

### Data use
Anyone can ask DHS a question in plain language and get a sourced answer.

**Same goal as always:** rigorous, comparable, country-owned data that people use, reached faster and at lower cost.

TRY THE DHS AI ASSISTANT

dhsprogram.com/data/DHS-AI-Assistant.cfm

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