15th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

Accomplishments, Objectives and Agenda

Jennifer Madans (U.S.A.)
National Center for Health Statistics/
Washington Group on Disability Statistics
WG History and Milestones:

1. Agreement to develop short and long sets of internationally comparable disability measures using the ICF as a framework; census questions a priority
2. Equalization of opportunities selected as purpose of short measure
3. Developed a comparable testing methodology
4. Short set adopted 2006
5. Extended set on functioning adopted 2010
6. Module on Child Functioning and Disability developed with UNICEF – awaiting final field testing
7. Module on Inclusive education under development
8. Extended set on the environment and participation currently under development.
## Summary of annual meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City, Country</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Ottawa, Canada</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Southampton, Bermuda</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td><strong>14.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Buenos Aires, Argentina</strong></td>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
<td><strong>2014</strong></td>
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WG-14 in Buenos Aires Oct, 2014:

The meeting was attended by 103 persons:

- 53 representing national statistical authorities from 14 countries;
- 43 representatives from universities or national institutes of public health or other national research bodies or ministries;
- 4 representatives from the National Center for Health Statistics (WG Secretariat);
- 1 representatives from organizations representing persons with disabilities; and
- 2 representatives from international organizations (Eurostat, UNFPA)
WG-14 Main Objectives:

• Present final analyses of results of country data collection using the WG Short Set
• Review and approve guidelines for analyzing data obtained from the WG Extended Set on Functioning
• Present progress with WG/UNICEF modules on child functioning and disability & inclusive education
• Review progress of new WG initiatives
• Review recent international activities in disability statistics

All these items (and more) will be discussed in detail during WG-15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>June 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td>Dec 2006</td>
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<td>Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Feb 2008</td>
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<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>April 2008</td>
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<td>Ohrid, Macedonia</td>
<td>Nov 2008</td>
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<td>Dhaka, Bangladesh</td>
<td>Aug 2009</td>
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<td>Muscat, Oman</td>
<td>Oct 2010 / April 2013,</td>
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<td>Damascus, Syria</td>
<td>Dec 2010</td>
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<td>Sharjah, UAE</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bogotá, Colombia</td>
<td>July 2012 / August 2013,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mumbai, India</td>
<td>Sept 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belmopan, Belize</td>
<td>Jan 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podgorica, Montenegro</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
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<td>Apia, Samoa</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<td><strong>Hammamet, Tunisia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Feb 2015</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Geneva, Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>July 2015</strong></td>
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Comparable testing methodology:

- Developed a procedure for question evaluation that includes guidelines for translation and cognitive testing in order to ensure cross-cultural and cross-national comparability
- **Q-Notes** software developed for data entry and analysis of qualitative cognitive interviews
- **Q-Bank** launched as an online repository for reports of question evaluation studies – to ensure transparency
Report Series of WG activities:

- Disability Information from Censuses, prepared for DPOs
- Development of an Internationally Comparable Disability Measure for Censuses, prepared for NSOs
- Monitoring the UN CRPD
- Understanding and Interpreting Disability as Measured using the WG Short Set of Questions
- The Measurement of Disability: Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Censuses
- Development of Extended Sets of Disability Measures for Surveys
- Disaggregation by Disability - A way forward (forthcoming)

All reports are available on the web: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group.htm
Publications:


Volume on the history and accomplishments of the WG:

Title: International Measurement of Disability: Purpose, Method and Application

B. Altman (Editor)
Springer (Publisher)

Work on this volume began in 2012.

Publication forthcoming in 2016
Collaborations:

The WG has a long history of collaboration with other international organizations:

- UNSD (Statistical Division)
- UN DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
- UNICEF (Children’s Fund)
- UN ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)
- World Bank
- World Health Organization

as well as many National Statistical Offices and both Non-Governmental and Disabled Person’s Organizations.
Some specific outside activities:

- **Cognitive testing:**

- International Labor Organization (ILO): disability module in labor force surveys

- UN-One (a UN partnership with ILO, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA): to develop a common approach to measuring disability for the purposes of monitoring – and international comparison
Some specific outside activities:

- Handicap International: initiatives in the Andean region, east Africa, in emergency response situations; and training
- with UN DESA: contribution to a Toolkit on Disability in Africa
Accountability:

United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC):

- at the 45th Session of the UNSC (2014), the work of the WG was included as a *discussion item*;
- over 20 countries expressed their support for the work of the WG;
- several indicated that they had used or intended to use the WG SS of questions in their census;
- the commission commended the work of the WG and endorsed its the work program for 2014-2015,
- encouraging continued work on the extended question set on functioning for adult and children; and
- **suggested expanding the scope of work to include data analysis and the dissemination of disability statistics.**

The WG will be again included as a discussion item at the 2016 meeting of the UNSC.
WG SS: International Initiatives

Recommendations for monitoring:
- UN DESA/UNESCO Expert Group Meeting, Paris, July ‘14
- Follow-up conference on disability data, London, Oct ‘14

Adoption in International aid programs:
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)

The 2020 round of censuses:
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
The Road Ahead

• We will continue to work on question development for sub-populations (children), and specific areas (mental health, environment & participation)

• We will discuss:
  • Capacity building,
  • Training & Technical assistance,
  • Analysis,
  • Implementation, and
  • Dissemination.
Main Objectives for 15th meeting

- Provide an up-date on the WG short and extended sets of questions and approve guidelines for analyzing data obtained from the WG extended set on functioning;
- present additional work on the WG/UNICEF modules on child functioning and disability & inclusive education;
- Development of disability modules on labor force surveys;
- Methodological issues concerning environmental factors and participation;
- Status on development of questions to measure mental health;
- review recent international activities in disability statistics: outcome indicators for monitoring
Agenda: Sessions Overview

1. Opening
2. WG short and extended set on functioning – proposed guidelines for analysis
3. Methodological issues: modules on child functioning and disability, and the measurement of inclusive education
4. Development of disability modules for labor force surveys
5. Methodological issues: environmental factors and participation
Agenda: Sessions Overview

6. Methodological issues: measuring mental health
7. Outcome indicators to monitor UN CRPD and post-2015 SDGs
8. Country activities
9. Updates on WG governance issues; summarizing the accomplishments of the 15th meeting and next steps and objectives for the 16th meeting

Post-meeting sessions
10. Meeting of the Global Network on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development
11. Planning meetings for Workgroups (if desired)