

WG Mental Health and Psychosocial Functioning Work Group Update



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Presentation Outline

- Workgroup goals
- Work done so far
- Cognitive test in South Africa
- Next steps

Workgroup aim and main objectives

The WG was established at the 13th WG meeting in Amman (Jordan)

AIM

- Ensure adequate coverage of *common and severe mental disorders* in the WG functioning measures to include people at risk of participation restrictions resulting from psychosocial disability

Main objectives

- Conduct further analysis of WG ES Affect questions to maximize the use of these for including people with varying degrees of anxiety and depression (**completed**)
 - Add further measures to the WG Extended set if coverage is not adequate for functional consequences (**in progress**)
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Main activities of the working group

1. Review the performance of the WG Affect: anxiety and depression. (**completed** - see slides presented in WG2016, WG2017 and document included in WG 2018)
2. Scoping literature review on activity limitations, participation restrictions and environmental barriers commonly associated with common and severe mental disorders (**completed, paper in progress**) (see slides presented in WG2017, WG2018)
3. Psychosocial disability profile analysis (**completed**). (see slides presented in WG2017, WG2018, WG2019)
4. Conduct cognitive test on suggested new questions (**in progress**)

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Cognitive testing of questions
on psychosocial functioning

Cognitive testing: Goals

- ❑ **Assess respondents' interpretation of the questions**
- ❑ **Identify potential response problems that could impact on data quality**
- ❑ Evaluate the cross-cultural equivalence of the questions
- ❑ Conclude on the performance of the selected questions and their suitability in including people with psychosocial disability. Some of these people could have already been counted in (included) with the existing questions and others not.

Selected questions:

(adapted from WHODAS)/ WG answer categories

- Do you have difficulty getting along with people who are close to you?
- Do you have difficulty dealing with people you do not know well?
- Do you have difficulty maintaining friendships?
- Do you have difficulty making new friends?
- Do you have difficulty controlling your emotions when you are around people?

Selected questions

French survey (Disabilities and health survey, 2008)

- In everyday life, do you have difficulty forming relationships with other people?

Additional question

- Do you have difficulty controlling your behaviour?
 - All the time
 - Most of the time
 - Sometimes
 - Rarely
 - Never

Cognitive testing: South Africa

- ❑ Only in English
- ❑ Added WG SS and AFFECT Qs (Anxiety and depression) (not tested – just asked)
- ❑ 36 interviews were conducted:
 - 17 males and 19 females
 - all over 18 years of age (mean age = 42 years)
 - 21 people **with** a known mental health (MH) condition
 - 15 people **without** a known MH condition
- ❑ Each interview lasted 25 – 40 minutes

Interpretations, repetitions and clarifications

- All questions interpreted within the scope of the intended meaning.
- 4 out of scope responses for questions – 1 each for 4 questions
 - Q2 (someone don't know well)
 - Q3 (maintaining friendships)
 - Q4 (making new friends)
 - Q7 (controlling behaviour).
- 3 clarifications requested for 'someone close'

High level findings

- People **with** a MH condition:
 - Report more severe difficulties on the questions
 - Made reference to the impact of their condition both because of the actual condition, but also because of stigma from others making it difficult to get along and control emotions/behaviour
 - Have learnt ways to manage emotions and behaviour
 - When describing control of behaviours mostly referred to emotional behaviours

Responses to Psychosocial (PS) Qs + AFFECT: with and without a MH condition (1)

□ Criteria for identification:

- 'A lot of difficulty' or 'Cannot do at all' on PS Qs;
- moderate or severe anxiety and/or depression – WG Affect

□ Of 21 people **with** MH condition:

- 6 identified by AFFECT Qs only – usually both ANX and DEP
- 3 identified by PS Qs only – 1 or more of the Qs
- 9 identified by both – AFFECT and PS Qs
- 3 not identified by either ('no difficulty' or just 'some difficulty')

Responses to Psychosocial Qs + AFFECT: with and without a MH condition (2)

□ Criteria for identification:

- 'A lot of difficulty' or 'Cannot do at all' on PS Qs;
- moderate or severe anxiety and/or depression – WG Affect

□ Of 15 people **without** MH condition:

- 1 identified by PS Qs only – 'a lot of difficulty' on 2 Qs (*maintain friend/making new friends*)
- 8 identified by Anxiety Qs only
- 1 identified by Anxiety + PS Qs (*behaviour*)
- 5 were ('correctly') not identified as reported 'no difficulties'

Next steps

- ❑ Finalize report of the South Africa CT results
- ❑ Revise testing protocol and Q X Q specifications
- ❑ Conduct further cognitive testing
 - Translations and other countries
 - Training in doing CT interviews
- ❑ Countries who have expressed interest:
Brazil, Russia, Israel, Costa Rica, H&I (Tunisia)
- ❑ Conduct field testing
- ❑ Develop methodological guide on how to use the questions

Conclusion

- ❑ AFFECT questions are a good start for including people with psychosocial disability but need PS Qs as well
- ❑ All this work will lead to the selection of a minimum set of questions that will be able to include people with psychosocial difficulties who are at risk of participation restrictions.
- ❑ Focus is primarily on people with severe mental disorders as those experiencing psychosocial difficulties rather than common mental disorders (mild to moderate anxiety and depression)