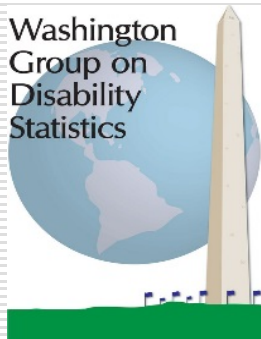


The Washington Group on Disability Statistics



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The Washington Group (WG)

- June 2001: UN International Seminar on the Measurement of Disability
- WG established as a City Group under the aegis of the UN Statistical Commission to:
 - address the need for population based measures of disability
 - foster international cooperation in the area of health and disability statistics
 - produce internationally tested measures to monitor status of persons with disability
 - incorporate disability into national statistical systems

Summary of annual meetings

1. Washington, DC 2/2002
2. Canada 1/2003
3. Belgium 2/2004
4. Thailand 9/2004
5. Brazil 9/2005
6. Uganda 10/2006
7. Ireland 9/2007
8. Philippines 10/2008
9. Tanzania 10/2009
10. Luxembourg 11/2010
11. Bermuda 11/2011
12. Thailand 10/2012
13. Jordan 10/2013
14. Argentina 10/2014
15. Denmark 10/2015
16. South Africa 12/2016

The WG is Country driven




- Countries have ownership
 - Representatives include the national statistical offices of 133 countries and territories, 7 international organizations, 6 organizations that represent persons with disabilities
- The Secretariat for the WG is located at NCHS
- A Steering Committee oversees the WG work plan
- Emphasis on evidence and transparency – extensive testing of data collection tools in multiple countries
- Workgroups carries out the work plan with input from all members

WG: Workgroups / Leaders

- Workgroup on the *Analysis of the Extended Set on Functioning* / NCHS
- Workgroup on *Child Functioning* / NCHS
- Workgroup on *Environmental Factors and Participation* / NCHS
- Workgroup on *Mental Health* / Margie Schneider, South Africa; Elena De Palma, Italy
- Workgroup on *Disability Module for Labor Force Surveys* / Daniel Mont, UCL



WG Data Collection Tools:

- Short set on functioning: [adopted in 2006](#) 
 - measures difficulty functioning in 6 universal, basic activities
- Extended set on functioning for adults: [adopted 2010](#) 
- WG/UNICEF Module on Child Functioning: [for approval](#) 
- WG/UNICEF Module on Inclusive Education: [in testing](#)
- WG/ILO Disability module for inclusion on labor force surveys: [in testing](#)
- Module on Mental Health: [under development](#)
- Modules on environment & participation:
[under development](#)

Short Set questions



Because of a health problem:

1. Do you have difficulty **seeing** even if wearing glasses
2. Do you have difficulty **hearing** even if using a hearing aid?
3. Do you have difficulty **walking** or **climbing** stairs?
4. Do you have difficulty **remembering** or **concentrating**?
5. Do you have difficulty with (**self-care** such as) washing all over or dressing?
6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty **communicating** (for example understanding or being understood by others)?

Response categories:

No - no difficulty

Yes - some difficulty

Yes - a lot of difficulty

Cannot do at all



WG Extended Set:

- includes additional domains of functioning that were not in the Short Set (*upper body functioning, affect, pain, and fatigue*)
- includes more information per domain (for example, use of assistive devices/aids, and functioning with and without assistance)

UNICEF-WG Module child functioning:



- Children/Youth aged 2-17
- **Includes:** Seeing, Hearing, Walking, Communication, Learning, Playing, Relationships, Dexterity, Behavior, Attention, Self-care, Emotions, Coping with change.
- *Not all domains are covered for all age, depending on the accuracy/reliability of collectible data based on child's development stage and cultural factors*

The Washington Group Short Set...

- has been used in censuses or surveys in over 78 countries
- has been promoted by international aid programs, (DFID/UK and DFAT/Australia), as the means to collect disability data in all programs and projects,
- has been introduced as the means for collecting disability data by the UN Statistical Division (UNSD) and the UN Economic Commission for Europe for the 2020 round of censuses.

Collaborations

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

- UN Statistics Division
- UN Secretariat for the CRPD
- UNICEF
- UN ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)
- World Bank
- ILO
- World Health Organization

as well as many National Statistical Offices and both Non-Governmental and Disabled Person's Organizations

Workshops and Expert Consultations:

		Mumbai, India*	09/2012
Nairobi, Kenya	06/2005	Belmopan, Belize*	01/2013
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic		Amman, Jordan	05/2013
	12/2006	Podgorica, Montenegro*	07/2013
Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina		Apia, Samoa*	06/2014
	02/2008	Hammamet, Tunisia*	02/2015
Bangkok, Thailand	04/2008	Geneva, Switzerland*	07/2015
Ohrid, Macedonia	11/2008	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	05/2016
Dhaka, Bangladesh	08/2009	NY, New York*	06/2016
Muscat, Oman	10/'10 & 04/'13	Nadi, Fiji	07/2016
Damascus, Syria	12/2010	Westchester, NY*	10/16
Sharjah, UAE	05/2011		
Bogotá, Colombia	07/'12 & 08/'13		

*in collaboration with UNICEF

Planned workshops:

- UNSD: regional 'stock-taking' workshops
- UNICEF: regional workshops on the measurement of disability
- WG: regional implementation workshops
 - Pacific (Fiji) – 2016
 - Middle East – early 2017
 - Caribbean – spring 2017
 - Asia or Africa – late 2017
 - Open meeting – place and date to be determined

Selected joint activities:

- Handicap International: initiatives in the Andean region, east Africa, in emergency response situations; and training (development of e-learning modules)
- US AID: development of a disability module to include the WG Short Set in the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
- UNICEF: deployment of the Module on Child Functioning in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)



Selected joint activities:

- ITU: participation at the 4th Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators 7th Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators
- Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network: to provide support and coordination in enhancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action.



Monitoring the UN CRPD and SDGs through data disaggregation

WG question sets are developed

- to collect internationally comparable data based on the ICF model
- that fulfill the monitoring requirements established by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Defining a disability continuum and a disability dichotomy

WG questions fulfil two specific data needs:

- to describe disability data as a continuum of functioning based on graded responses to questions in the functional domains, and
- to define a cut-off (or a set of cut-offs) that can be agreed upon internationally in order to disaggregate outcome indicators (e.g. access to education, employment) by disability status

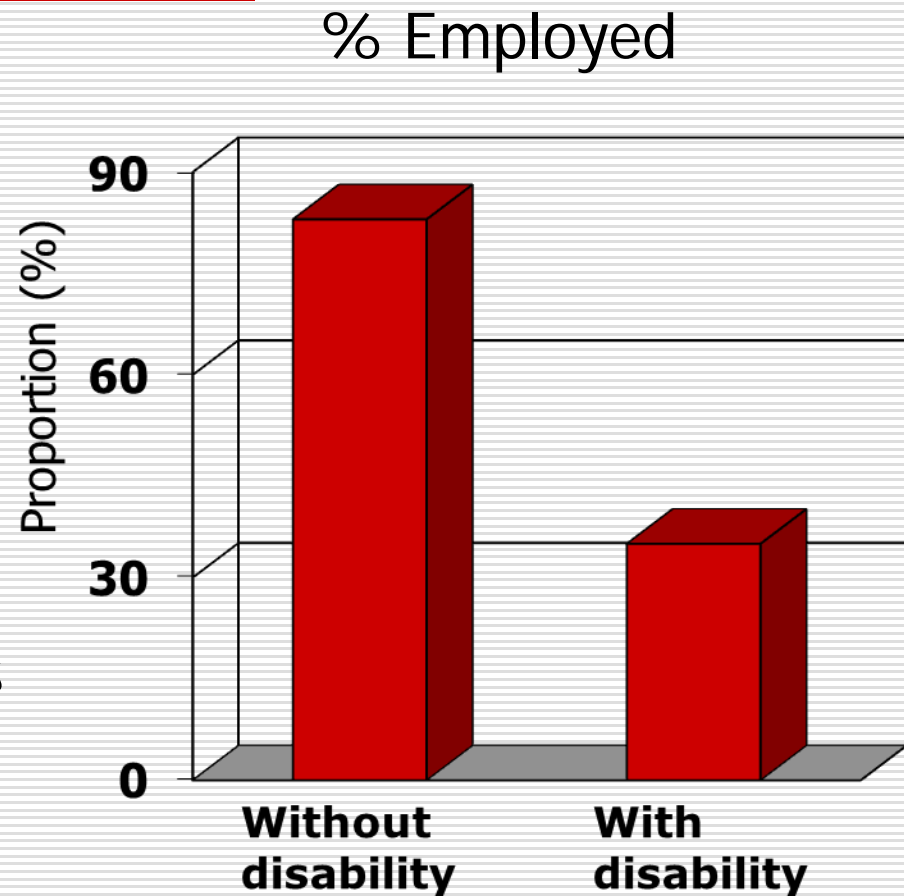
This allows for the calculation of prevalence rates and disaggregation.

Disaggregation requirements

- Need a straightforward and simple way to identify persons with disabilities: the WG questions identify those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.
- Need indicator/outcome data (education, employment, income, health care access) from data collections (census/surveys) that also include the above disability identifier.

Focus on Equalization of Opportunities

- Seeks to identify all those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.
- Disability used as a dissagregation variable.



Mainstreaming disability statistics

- WG questions can be added to any on-going data collections;
 - Can be used in any national or subnational survey (health, labor force, income & expenditure, DHS, MICS etc.)
- Once the WG questions become integrated into core statistical systems – disaggregating outcomes (education, employment etc.) by disability status becomes routine

Volume on the history and accomplishments of the WG:



International Measurement of Disability:

Purpose, Method and Application
The Work of the Washington
Group

B. M. Altman (Editor)
Springer (Publisher)

Publication: June, 2016

The Road Ahead

Capacity building through 2018

- 5-7 regional workshops
- 6-8 implementation and other technical workshops

Development of guidance documents

- Implementation protocols for data collection
- Data analysis
- Dissemination of results



For more information about the WG **visit our new website:**

<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

Questions:

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