

25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Virtual Meeting
29 October 2025

Interpretation

ENGLISH	ESPAÑOL	اللغة العربية	FRANÇAIS
LANGUAGE OF THE MEETING	IDIOMA DE LA REUNIÓN	لغة الاجتماع	LANGUE DE LA RÉUNION
To listen to this meeting in English using the simultaneous interpretation function: On a PC, click on the Globe icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen, and select English. On a cell phone, click on the 3 horizontal dots at the bottom of your Zoom screen; click on "Language Interpretation"; click on English; click on "Done".	Para escuchar esta reunión en español usando la función de interpretación simultánea: En una PC, haga clic en el icono del globo terráqueo en la parte inferior de la pantalla de Zoom y seleccione español. En un teléfono celular, haga clic en los 3 puntos horizontales en la parte inferior de su pantalla Zoom; haga clic en "Interpretación de idiomas"; haga clic en Inglés; haga clic en "Listo" (<i>Done</i>)	للاستماع إلى هذا الاجتماع باللغة العربية عن طريق الترجمة الفورية على جهاز الكمبيوتر ، انقر فوق رمز الكرة الأرضية في الجزء السفلي من شاشة التكبير وحدد اللغة العربية على الهاتف المحمول ، انقر على النقاط الأفقية الثلاث ؛ انقر "ترجمة اللغة" أسفل شاشة التكبير ؛ انقر فوق فوق اللغة العربية ؛ تم:انقر على (<i>Done</i>)	Pour écouter cette réunion en français en utilisant la fonction d'interprétation simultanée : Sur un PC, cliquez sur l'icône Globe en bas de votre écran Zoom et sélectionnez Français . Sur un téléphone portable, cliquez sur les 3 points horizontaux en bas de votre écran Zoom ; cliquez sur « Interprétation » ; cliquez sur Français ; cliquez sur "Terminé". (<i>Done</i>)
REMINDER	AUDIO	الصوت	L'AUDIO
Audio quality is best with a wired headset with integrated microphone on a boom,	La calidad de audio es mejor con un auricular con cable con micrófono integrado.	جودة الصوت تكون أعلى باستخدام سماعات سلكية ومصحح مدمج	La qualité audio est meilleure avec un casque filaire avec microphone intégré.

Recording

This meeting is being recorded.

The recording will be made available.

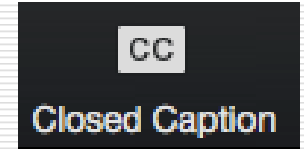
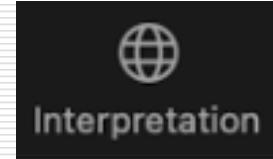
25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Welcome

Jennifer Madans
WG Chairperson

Accessibility



- Interpretation is being offered in Spanish, Arabic, and French.
- Please select the language channel of your choice.

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- Captioning is also available.
- Thank you to Kalama Events / Kalama Traducciones!

Housekeeping Items

- ★ Please introduce yourself in the chat:
 - name, organization, country
 - Please mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
 - Speaking slowly helps the interpreters.
 - Feel free to make use of the chat box:
 - we invite and appreciate questions and discussion
 - chat is especially important given tight schedule
 - This meeting is being recorded.
-

Interpretation Support

The WG sincerely thanks:

- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, German Development Corporation (BMZ/GIZ)
 - Kalama Events LLC –
Tamara Dayoub and María Belén Castro
-

Meeting Support

- The WG Secretariat
 - The WG Steering Committee
 - The WG25 Planning Committee
 - Elena De Palma (ISTAT, Italy)
 - Riyaza Fathimath (NBS, Maldives)
 - Moderators, presenters, participants
 - Thank you for your contributions to WG25!
-

Objectives of the WG25 Meeting

- The WG Annual meeting is a working meeting to:
 1. Share WG accomplishments since WG24.
 2. Hear from our Regional Disability Statistics Groups about their activities and plans.
 3. Hear updates on Work Group activities, including the release of new disability tools.
 4. Hear about disability data-related work from our members and partners.
 5. Present, and agree upon, workplans for the year to come.
- Goals: Determine next year's WG workplan and activities.
- Members contribute to decision-making through our discussions, the chat, and follow-up email communications.

Agenda: Sessions Overview

1. WG Secretariat Updates
2. Work Group Update: Country Disability Reports
3. Release of New Tool:
Child Functioning Module – Humanitarian Version
4. Partner Presentations:
The 2025 Global Disability Summit – Data Forum
The Global Disability Inclusion Report
5. Work Group Update: Mental Health & Psychosocial Functioning
6. Regional Disability Statistics Group Updates
7. Next Steps & Closing

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Session 1: WG Secretariat Updates

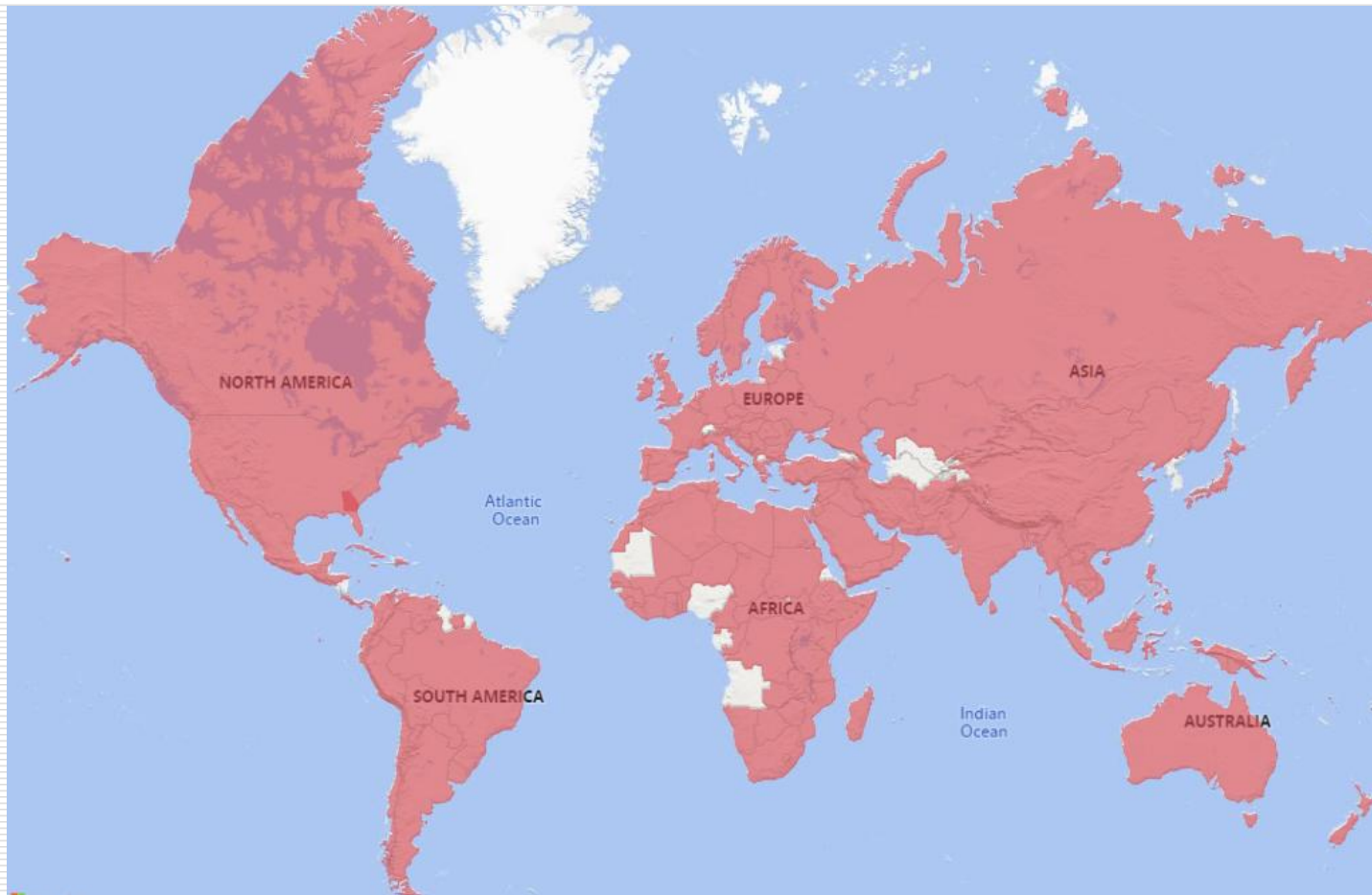
Jennifer Madans
WG Chairperson

Summary of Annual Meetings

1. Washington DC	02/2002	13. Jordan	10/2013
2. Canada	01/2003	14. Argentina	10/2014
3. Belgium	02/2004	15. Denmark	10/2015
4. Thailand	09/2004	16. South Africa	12/2016
5. Brazil	09/2005	17. Australia	10/2017
6. Uganda	10/2006	18. Italy	11/2018
7. Ireland	09/2007	19. Argentina	09/2019
8. Philippines	10/2008	20. Virtual	09/2020
9. Tanzania	10/2009	21. Virtual	11/2021
10. Luxembourg	11/2020	22. Virtual	10/2022
11. Bermuda	11/2011	23. Virtual	10/2023
12. Thailand	10/2012	24. Virtual	10/2024
		25. Virtual	10/2025



WG Membership



Source: Membership determined by cumulative responses to biennial WG invitation for updated representative information.

WG: Disability Data Collection Tools

Primary purpose – develop valid, reliable and cross-nationally comparable data on disability, and methods to improve statistics on persons with disabilities:

- Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)
 - Short Set on Functioning – Enhanced (WG-SS Enhanced)
 - Extended Set on Functioning (WG-ES)
 - Child Functioning Module (CFM)
 - Child Functioning Module – Teacher Version (CFM-TV)
 - Child Functioning Module – Humanitarian Version (CFM-HV)
 - Inclusive Education Module (IEM)
 - Labor Force Module on Disability (LFS-DM)
-

Reports Using WG Tools Since WG24 (Selected)

- [Qatar Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey \(MICS\) 2023 Survey Findings Report](#) – UNICEF & the National Planning Council of the State of Qatar (December 2024)
 - [Punjab Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey \(MICS\) 2024 Key Findings Report](#) – Punjab Bureau of Statistics (December 2024)
 - [The First Use of the Washington Group Short Set in a National Survey of Japan: Characteristics of the New Disability Measure in Comparison to an Existing Disability Measure](#) – *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* (January 2025)
 - [From Knowledge to Practice: How Can Research Results be Leveraged?](#) – Humanity & Inclusion (March 2025)
 - [Labour Market Statistics for Disabled People – June 2025 Quarter](#) – Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled People, New Zealand (June 2025)
 - [Disability in Crisis: Uncovering the Data, Addressing the Gap](#) – IMPACT (August 2025)
-

Reports Using WG Tools Since WG24 (Selected) - Children

- [2024 The State of the World's Children – Statistical Tables](#) (November 2024)
- [Children with Disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Statistical Overview of their Well-Being](#) – UNICEF (December 2024)
- [Exploring the Relationship Between Disability and Children's Household Chores in Selected Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#) – *Disabilities* (February 2025)
- [Children and Youth with Disabilities in Thailand: Findings from the 2022 National Disability Survey](#) – UNICEF Thailand (April 2025)
- [Adaptation and Validation of the Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Module in a Nationally Representative Sample of Canadian Children and Youth](#) – *BMC Public Health* (May 2025)
- [Children and Youth with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific: A Statistical Overview of Their Well-Being](#) – UNICEF (June 2025)
- [Reliability and Feasibility of the Child Functioning Module– Teacher Version: Findings from a pilot test conducted in Somalia](#) – *Disability and the Global South* (September 2025)

WG: Technical Assistance & Interactions

Key component of WG mandate – the promotion and coordination of international cooperation in generating statistics on disability:

- National Statistical Offices
 - UN agencies and organizations
 - Multilateral organizations
 - Organizations of persons with disabilities
 - Development organizations
 - Academia and other public and private entities
 - Regional Disability Statistics Groups
-

Assistance & Collaborations Since WG24 – UN Agencies & Organizations

- UNSD
 - UNDESA
 - UNICEF
 - UNESCWA
 - UN Lebanon
 - UNFPA
 - UNHCR
 - UN Women
 - UNPRPD
-

Assistance & Collaborations Since WG24 – NSOs (1)

- Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics
 - Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong
 - Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
 - Czech Statistical Office
 - Finish Institute for Health and Welfare
 - Hungarian Central Statistical Office
 - Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
 - Maldives Bureau of Statistics
 - National Institute of Statistics & Geography of Mexico
 - National Institute of Statistics & Census of Panama
 - National Statistical Office of Malawi
-

Assistance & Collaborations Since WG24 – NSOs (2)

- National Statistical Office of Thailand
 - National Office of Statistics of the Dominican Republic
 - National Institute of Statistics of Cape Verde
 - Samoa Bureau of Statistics
 - Statistics New Zealand
 - Statistics Portugal
 - Statistics South Africa
 - Statistics Sweden
 - The Gambia Bureau of Statistics
 - Uganda Bureau of Statistics
 - Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
-

Assistance & Collaborations Since WG24 – Other Entities (Selected)

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deoghar
- Athena Health
- Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights Campus
- CBM Global
- Disability Migration Network on Governance Statistics
- Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network
 - GLAD Inclusive Health Work Group
 - GLAD Inclusive Education Work Group
 - GLAD Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education
- Fordham University
- Humanity & Inclusion
- The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences
- Turpanjian College of Health Sciences of the American University of Armenia
- Millenium Cohort Study, Naval Health Research Center
- Praia Group

Requests for Information or Translation of WG Tools Since WG24

- ActionAid UK (Khmer)
- CAMFED International (Tanzania Swahili; Kenya Swahili; Chichewa; Nyanja; Ndebele; Shona)
- CAFOD Sierra Leone and Liberia (Mende; Krio; Tenme)
- Catholic Relief Services Laos (Lao)
- CBM UK (Nepali)
- Engineers without Borders (Kiribati)
- Handicap International (German)
- Inclusion Advisory Group – Australia (Fijian Hindi)
- Morobe Disabled Agency (Tok Pisin)
- NGO in Ethiopia (Amharic)
- Operation Mercy (Dari; Pashto)
- Pacific Labour Mobility Support Program (Kiribati; Tok Pisin; Samoa; Tetun; Tonga: Tuvalu)
- Statistics Netherlands (Dutch)
- The Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities (Swedish)
- The Hunger Project Uganda (Luo; Uganda Swahili)
- University of Birmingham (Indonesian)
- UNHCR (Uganda Swahili; Tanzania Swahili; Kenya Kiswahili)
- UN House, Beirut (Arabic)

WG Regional Group Support

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ/GIZ) –

- Support for two Regional Disability Statistics Groups in Africa
 - Brazzaville Group
 - Southern and Eastern Africa Group
 - Administered by UCL
 - Grant 1: January 2021 – June 2023
 - Grant 2: July 2023 – June 2025
 - Grant 3: October 2025 – November 2025
-

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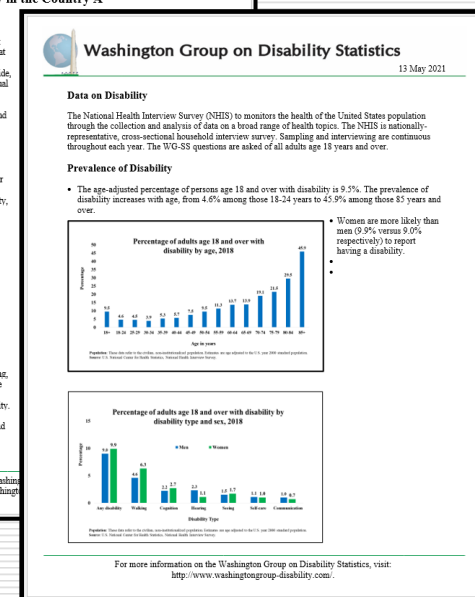
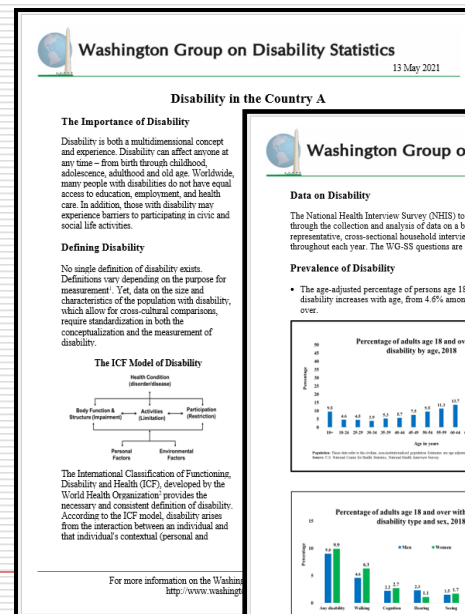
Session 2: WG Country Disability Reports Update

Jennifer Madans
WG Chairperson

Dissemination of WG-SS Data using Country Disability Reports

Decisions made at WG19:

- WG mandate supports dissemination of data
- Data collected most widely using the WG-SS
- Disseminate via a report and place on the WG website
- Report should:
 - Be short, 2-4 pages in length
 - Use standard language
 - Use standard figures
 - Allow for country-specific figures



Support for Production of Reports

Guidance documents:

- Analysis guidance, syntax, worksheets, FAQs
- Age-adjustment guidance, world population charts

Technical Assistance:

- One-on-one meetings
- Email correspondence

Webinars hosted by WG Secretariat:

- “Introduction to Creating a Country Report on Disability”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlXWpxn3mgs>
- “Questions and Answers: Assistance in Preparing Country Reports on Disability”

Other sources of assistance:

- WG Regional Disability Statistics Groups
- Daniel Mont (Daniel.Mont@inclusive-policy.org)

Unanticipated Challenges

- Many national statistical agencies do not age-adjust published data (age-adjustment not always standard practice)
 - Less consistency across countries in how standard indicators are defined than was anticipated (e.g., educational attainment)
 - Not all measures needed for reports always available in a single data source
 - Formatting challenges
 - Title page
 - Variation in what countries wanted to include in the report
 - Need to address possible confusion that might arise due to differences between disability estimates published on NSO website and disability estimates reported in WG standard country disability report
-

Note to Address Challenges

“Estimates presented in the reports may differ from related estimates reported by countries’ national statistical offices or other government agencies. Differences can arise due to several factors, including the use of different definitions of disability or age groupings, use of different terminology, and changes introduced during the process of standardizing the text and figures used in the final reports.

In addition, the estimates reported in this report series are age-adjusted, using the 2020 world population as a standard, to allow for cross-country comparisons. Unadjusted estimates or age-adjusted estimates that use a different standard will differ from those presented here.”

Reports Released on WG Website!



Washington Group
on Disability Statistics

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WG Country Disability Reports

[View the WG Country Disability Reports](#)

About

In 2020, the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) membership endorsed the development of a standardized series of reports on disability. Produced by member countries, the series highlights member countries' progress in advancing disability statistics, showcases the availability and utility of high-quality disability data, and documents best practices for reporting prevalence and disaggregating key indicators of participation in society.

Purpose

The main purpose of the country disability reports is to disseminate basic, comparable disability statistics for as many countries as possible. The template,

Reports Finalized or In Review

- Brazil
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- Hong Kong SAR
- Hungary
- Kenya
- Latvia
- Malawi
- Maldives
- Mexico
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Thailand
- United States

- Burkina Faso (French)
- Cameroon (French)
- Central African Republic (French)
- Cote d'Ivoire (French)
- Djibouti (French)
- Dominican Republic
- Mali (French)
- Niger (French)
- Capo Verde
- Kiribati
- Panama
- Samoa
- Senegal (French)
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

Questions for the Chat: Country Disability Reports

Please share with us:

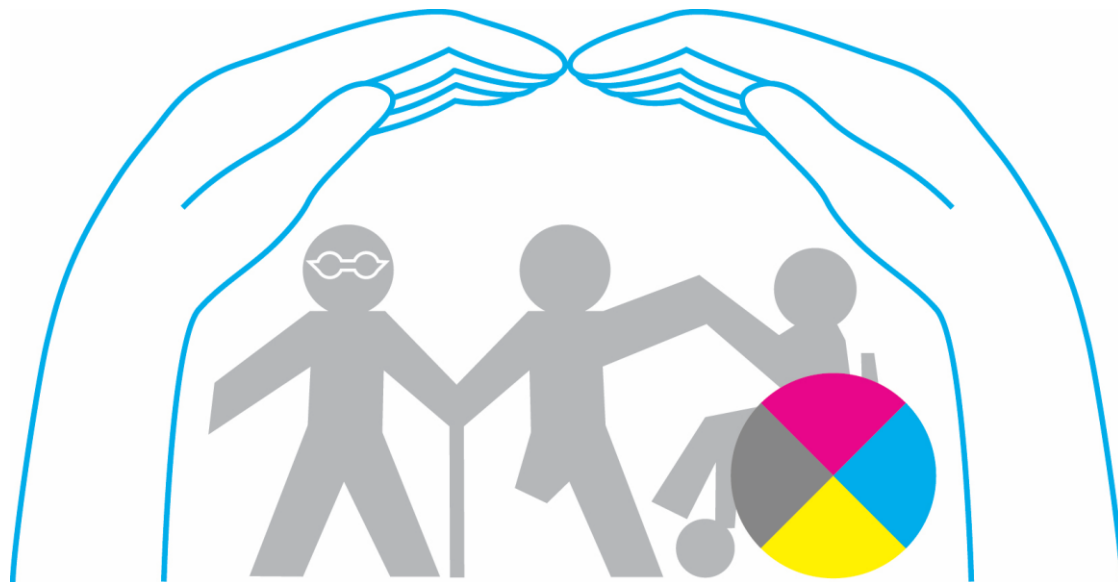
1. Do you intend to develop a Country Disability Report?
 2. Would you like to receive the guidance documents?
 3. Your name, email address, and organization name so that we may contact you.
-

25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Session 3: WG/UNICEF Tools Update – Child Functioning Module – Humanitarian Version (CFM-HV)

Claudia Cappa
Senior Advisor
Data & Analytics Section
Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring
UNICEF



Child Functioning Module – Humanitarian Version (CFM-HV)



Objectives of the Child Functioning Module (CFM)

- Primary purpose: to identify children with functional difficulties.
- Questions ask about difficulties the child may have in doing certain activities.
- The questions are meant to be addressed to the child's mother or primary caregiver (in cases where the mother is not alive or is not living in the household).
 - If this is not possible, the quality of the data is likely to be so low that data collection should not be pursued.
- The standard CFM is comprised of two questionnaires, one with 16 questions for children aged 2-4 years and another with 24 questions for children aged 5 -17 years.

Criteria for developing the CFM-HV from the CFM

- Reduce data collection burden in a way that is fit for purpose – to retain information of most use to the humanitarian response.
- Constraints related to data collection will change overtime.
- CFM and CFM-HV – both obtain information on functional limitation that is used to identify a population of children with disabilities. They do not provide direct information on the services needed or could be provided.
- Any reduction of the CFM will result in lost information on functioning. Loss of information needs to be weighed against the cost and logistical challenges of data collection in the humanitarian situation.

Domains of the standard CFM

Children aged 2 to 4	Children aged 5 to 17
Seeing	Seeing
Hearing	Hearing
Mobility	Mobility
	Self-care
Fine motor	
Communication/Comprehension	Communication/Comprehension
Learning	Learning
	Remembering
	Focusing attention and concentrating
	Relationships
	Copying with change
Controlling behaviour	Controlling behaviour
	Emotions : anxiety and depression
Playing	

Two versions of the CFM-HV: CFM- HV-1

- **Tier 1**, the shortest set, would be used at the onset of the humanitarian situation. It is at this time that data collection challenges are usually most severe and when priority is given to data needs related to the immediate and most critical humanitarian response.
- **Tier 1** includes 10 questions for children aged 2-4 years and aged 5-17 years covering **4 domains** of functioning. Because of these skip patterns, only **7 questions** will be asked about each child, and not all 10.

Children aged 2-4 – Domains of functioning	Children aged 5 to 17 – Domains of functioning
Seeing	Seeing
Hearing	Hearing
Mobility	Mobility (no distance)
Fine motor	Fine motor

Two version of the CFM-HV:

CFM- HV 2

- **Tier 2** would be used when resources and time permit a more comprehensive data collection effort.
- **Tier 2** for children aged 2-4 years has 12 questions (**6 domains**). Some questions are part of skip patterns, so only **9 questions** will be asked about each child. Tier 2 for children aged 5-17 years has 14 questions (**8 domains**). Some questions are part of skip patterns, so only **11 questions** will be asked about each child.

Children aged 2-4 – Domains of functioning	Children aged 5-17 – Domains of functioning
Seeing	Seeing
Hearing	Hearing
Mobility	Mobility (no distance)
Fine motor	Fine Motor
Communication/Comprehension	Communication/Comprehension
	Focusing attention and concentrating
Controlling behaviour	Controlling behaviour
	Emotions : anxiety

Impact on prevalence depending on the different versions of the CFM

Table 1. Percentage of children aged 2 to 17 years with functional difficulties

		CFM-HV Tier 1	CFM-HV Tier 2	Standard CFM
Afghanistan	Children aged 2 to 4 years	3.3	6.5	10.7
	Children aged 5 to 17 years	5.0	30.0	35.2
Central African Republic	Children aged 2 to 4 years	3.0	8.7	14.7
	Children aged 5 to 17 years	2.7	22.0	31.4
Chad	Children aged 2 to 4 years	3.3	6.6	10.2
	Children aged 5 to 17 years	2.7	23.4	28.7
Iraq	Children aged 2 to 4 years	1.1	2.1	2.8
	Children aged 5 to 17 years	2.8	19.0	22.1
Yemen	Children aged 2 to 4 years	2.9	5.2	6.4
	Children aged 5 to 17 years	4.4	18.7	21.2

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, 2016–2023.

Where to find the CFM and CFM-HV

The screenshot shows the UNICEF Data website interface. The header includes the UNICEF logo and navigation tabs: DATA BY TOPIC, DATA BY COUNTRY, RESOURCES, BLOG, QUERY DATA, and ABOUT US. The main content area is titled 'Module on Child Functioning' with a sub-header 'December 2021'. Below this, there is a section 'A new way to measure child functioning' which describes the module's purpose and availability. A 'Resources' section at the bottom displays a grid of various documents and guides related to the module, including a guide for integrating the module into surveys, a step-by-step guide for data collection, and a manual for interviewers.

<https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-disability/data-collection-tools/module-on-child-functioning/>

The screenshot shows the UNICEF Data website interface for the 'Module on Child Functioning - Humanitarian Version'. The header is similar to the first page, but the navigation tabs include an additional 'DATA INITIATIVES' tab. The main content area is titled 'Module on Child Functioning - Humanitarian Version' with a sub-header 'June 2022'. Below this, there is a section 'Resources' which describes the humanitarian version of the module and its use in emergency situations. A 'Resources' section at the bottom displays a grid of documents related to the humanitarian version, including a guide for integrating the module into surveys, a step-by-step guide for data collection, and a manual for interviewers.

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-functioning-module-humanitarian-version/>



THANK YOU

Claudia Cappa,
Data & Analytics, UNICEF

unicef 
for every child



Discussion & Questions

25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Session 4A: The 2025 Global Disability Summit Data Forum

Elizabeth Lockwood
CBM Global Disability Inclusion
Representative to the United Nations



Global Disability Summit
Data Forum

Dr. Elizabeth Lockwood
CBM Global Disability Inclusion

The Vision



- First time GDS held a dedicated thematic forum.
- OPDs, government bodies, statisticians, and researchers comprised the forum.
- A unique opportunity to highlight disability data.
- Reflected on building better data systems, connecting data systems, and building capacity on analysis and use of data.

Organizers



The Structure



- The Forum spotlighted investments and efforts realized or required to strengthen data on persons with disabilities in global, regional and country data systems in terms of capacity building, data production, use and impact.
- Included three consecutive side event sessions on 3 April 2025.
- OPDs strongly represented throughout the Forum.
- Ministerial and decision-makers and NSOs meaningfully presented.

Session I

Harnessing local narratives and diverse data sources:

Spotlighted country level efforts for disability disaggregated data, with the aim to discuss the diversity and richness of data sources including citizen-led data, and participatory data collection, analysis, and use.

Panel

- Sally Nduta, CEO, United Disabled Persons of Kenya
- **Steve Mboko Ibara, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo**
- Hercules Paradiang, Director, CBM Global Philippines
- Sann Ratana, Director, Department of Disability Welfare for People with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia
- Pamela Molina, Executive Director, World Federation of the Deaf

Session 2

Investments and Partnerships to Strengthen Data Systems:

Brought together different types of data stakeholders to highlight pathways to strengthening inclusive data systems. Presenters showcased case studies of investments in data systems and resources to collate and share disability disaggregated data at a global level including the Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities and two new Disability Statistics Databases by the Disability Data Initiative.

Panel

- Diane Richler, International Disability Alliance
- Laisa Vereti, Pacific Disability Forum
- Elsie Mehoba, Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community
- Sophie Mitra, Disability Data Initiative, Fordham University
- Elizabeth Lockwood, Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities
- Charles Abani, UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana

Session 3

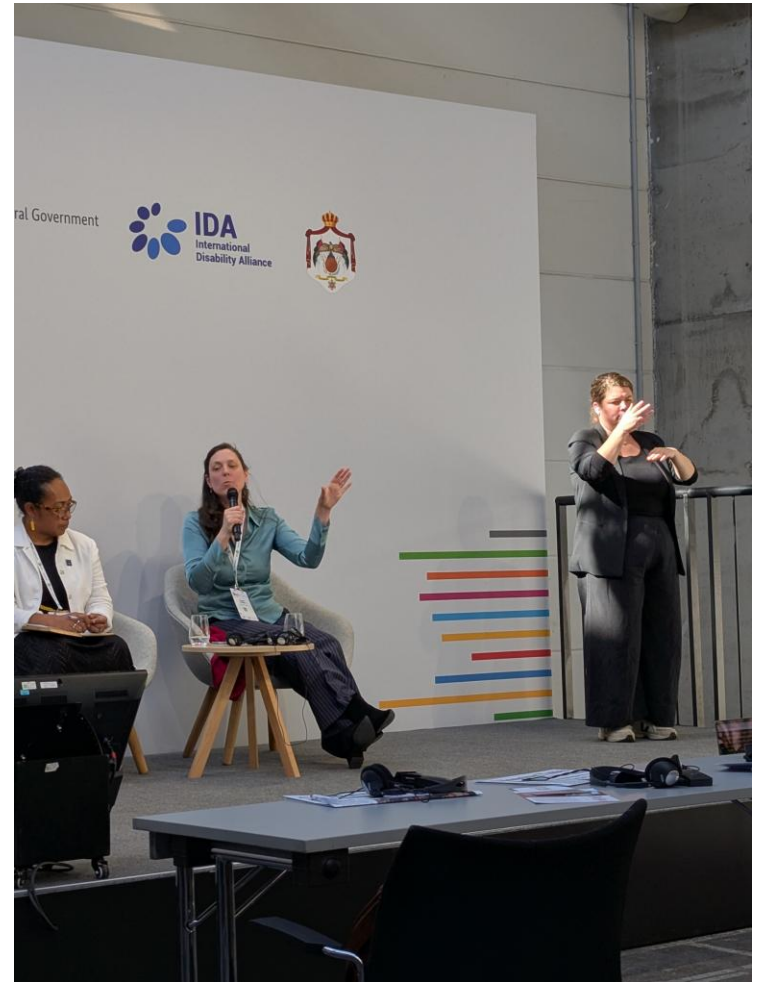
National commitments and global action on disability data: The session celebrated data centered commitments made by country governments, and opened a dialogue on global initiatives to support efforts on disability disaggregated data by multilateral organizations and the private sector. Presenters showcased the World Bank's new Disability Data Hub.

Panel

- Tolhas Damanik, Executive Director, Wahana Inklusif Indonesia
- Kingdom of Jordan, Kenya and Malta made commitments
- Robin Mearns, Global Director for Social Development/Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, Global Disability Advisor, World Bank
- Gopal Mitra, Global Lead on Disability and Development, UNICEF
- Rylin Rodgers, Disability Policy Director, Microsoft

Outcomes

- Countries made high-level commitments and pledges towards investing in improved data systems. Jordan, Kenya, and Malta made commitments.
- The Data Forum showcased a model that can be replicated in future Summits.
- A multi-stakeholder forum on data including OPDs, government bodies, statisticians, and researchers.



25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Session 4B: Highlights of the Global Disability Inclusion Report

Dan Mont
CEO & Co-Founder
Center for Inclusive Policy



A Multistakeholder Report for
the Global Disability Summit

2025

Global Disability Inclusion Report

Accelerating Disability Inclusion in a Changing and Diverse World



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Chapter 1: Diversity of persons with disabilities, inequalities and progress

- Focus is on diversity amongst persons with disabilities
- How different factors affect inclusion
 - Context
 - Diversity of support required
 - Gender
 - Socioeconomic status
 - Other factors
- Exploring inclusion and inequalities across the life-course
- > 300 references

Chapter 2: Structural efforts for UN CRPD implementation

Review of progress and persistent challenges regarding:

- Legal harmonisation
- National coordination and monitoring mechanisms
- Data for inclusion
- Public spending (domestic and international)

Data Section

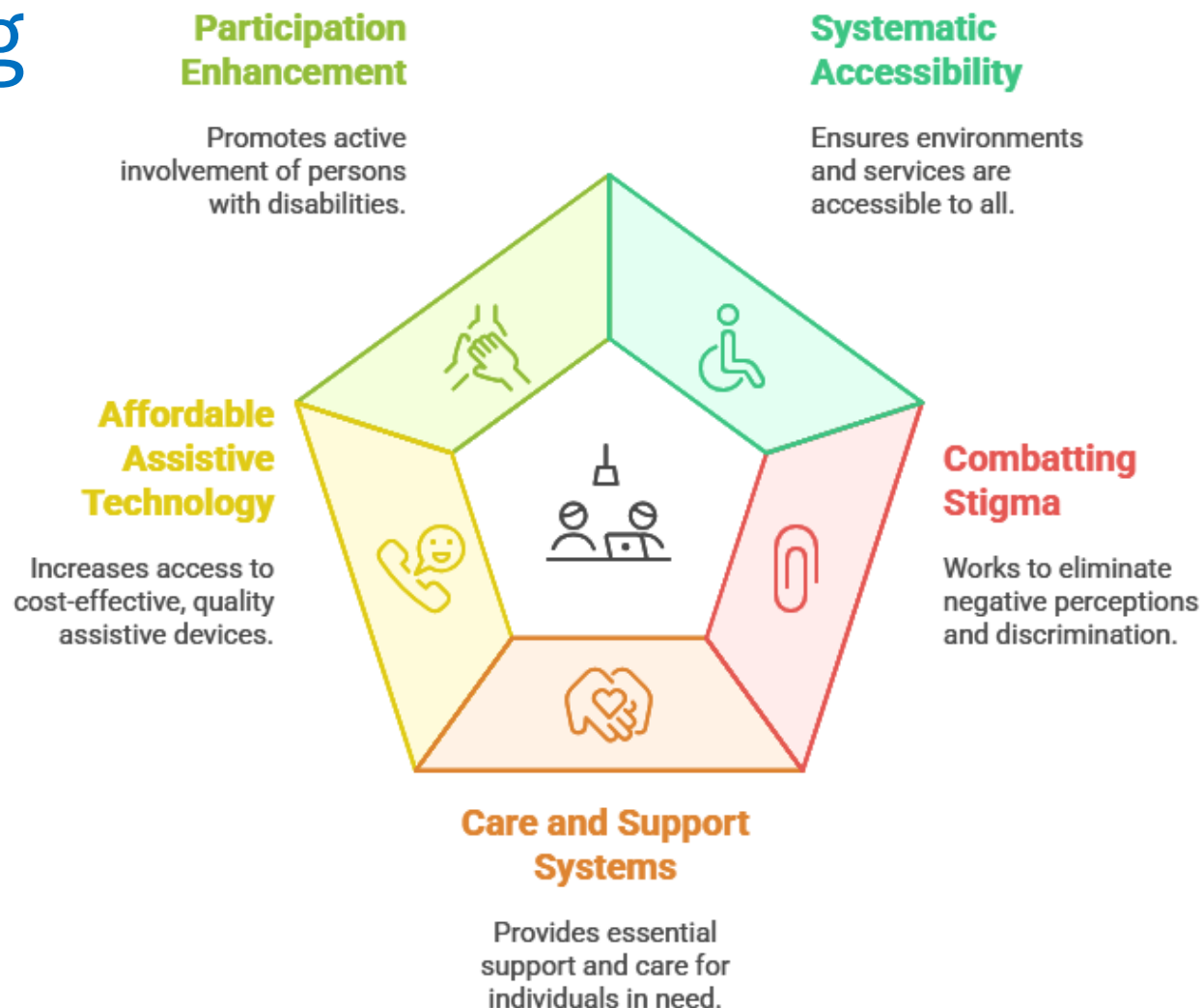
- **Progress** in the inclusion of disability in quantitative data sources (WG), but concerns about the “lot of difficulty” threshold
- Increase collection of data on **environmental barriers**
- Improve **administrative data systems**
- **Harmonization** across all data tools to create a disability management information system
- Improve use of **citizen generated data**, with accompanying challenges of quality, reliability and inclusivity
- Increased and improved use and **analysis** of data
 - Consider that household indicators may not be sufficient
 - Additional or adapted indicators may be needed

Chapter 3: The impact of global trends on inclusion of persons with disabilities

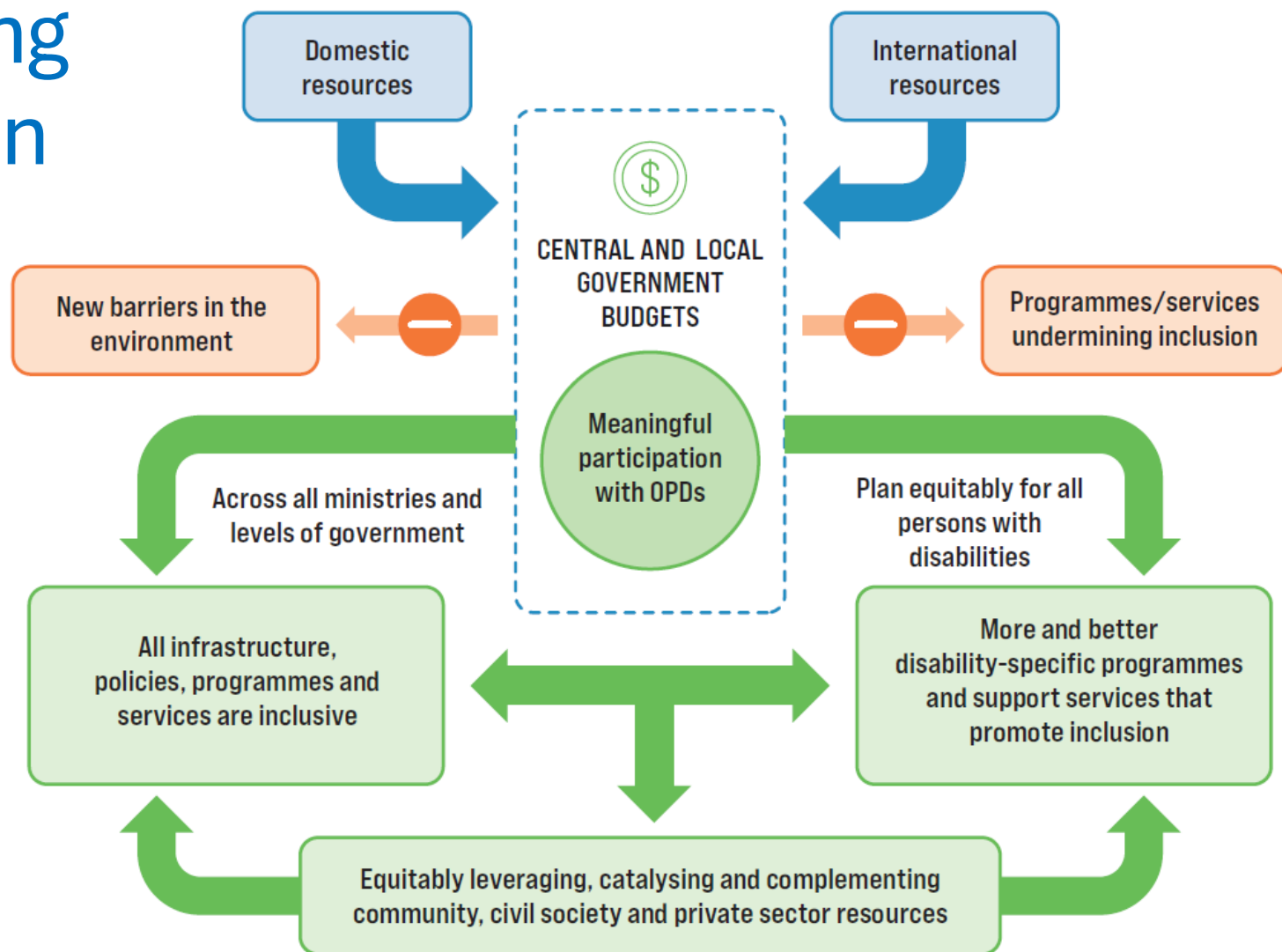
- Technological change
- Urbanization
- Migration and displacement
- Climate change
- Humanitarian crises and emergencies
- An evolving care and support economy
- > 600 references

Chapter 4: Accelerating inclusion across sectors

Key enablers for inclusion



Chapter 5: Financing inclusion



Different recommendations for government OPDs and development agencies

- **Harmonize laws and policies with the CRPD** and in close consultation with OPDs, including in response to global trends (e.g., technology, climate change, migration).
- **Strengthen data systems and activities** to generate and use data and evidence for designing and monitoring inclusive policies and programmes.
- **Mainstream accessibility and inclusion** across all sectors, with dedicated funding and cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms.
- **Identify and address individual support needs** to enable access to a comprehensive package of inclusive, accessible services, including assistive technology, care and support, and social protection.
- **Scale up financing for disability inclusion**, which will involve tracking expenditures, closing funding gaps, and leveraging public, private, domestic and international resources.
- **Ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in their diversity**, with representation of OPDs in decision-making, and engagement in policy monitoring.
- **Promote collaboration and coordination among governments, OPDs, civil society, development agencies, and the private sector** to drive innovation, share best practices, and ensure accountability for disability inclusion.



Discussion & Questions

Let's Take a Break!

Our next session will
begin promptly in
5 minutes.

25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Session 5: Work Group Update – Mental Health & Psychosocial Functioning

Elena De Palma, ISTAT, Italy
Margie Schneider, South Africa



WG Mental Health and Psychosocial Functioning Work Group Update

Elena De Palma

Istat (Italian National Institute of Statistics)

Marguerite Schneider

Cape Town

**25th Annual WG Meeting – Virtual – Session 5
29 October 2025**



Workgroup objective and goal

The **Mental Health & Psychosocial Functioning Work Group** was established at the 13th WG Meeting - Amman (Jordan)

Aim: To ensure adequate coverage of functioning difficulties arising from mental disorders in the Washington Group functioning measures to include people at risk of participation restrictions resulting from psychosocial disability.



Goal: To develop a minimum set of questions for population surveys that measure psychosocial functioning related to psychosocial disability, enabling cross-national data comparability.

Main Activities Selecting and developing questions on psychosocial functioning

- **A literature review:** to determine the most common activity limitations (AL) associated with people with mental health problems and yet captured by WG tools
- **Review of survey tools** and other measurement instruments to select an initial set of questions
- **Design a training course** on how to conduct the Cognitive tests on psychosocial questions.
- **Conducting cognitive tests** in South Africa (2019-20), Costa Rica (2022), Hungary (2023) and Kenya (2023).

Selecting and developing questions on psychosocial functioning

1. Self-care
2. Interpersonal interactions
3. Communication
4. Remembering and thinking
5. Controlling behaviour
6. Mobility

Do you have difficulty getting along with **people who are close to you?**

Do you have difficulty dealing with **people you do not know?**

Do you have difficulty **making new friends?**

Do you have difficulty **maintaining friendships?**

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

Do you have difficulty **controlling your emotions** when you are around people?

Do you have difficulty **controlling your behaviour** when you are around people?



Cognitive test

Country	When	Sample			Language
		MH C*	No MHC	Total	
South Africa	2019	21	15	36	English
Costa Rica	2022	8	15	23	Spanish
Kenya	2023	21	6	27	English Kiswahili
Hungary	2023	12	8	20	Hungarian
Total		62	44	106	

Patterns of interpretations to determine if the questions were understood and interpreted as intended (in scope) or not (out of scope)
Congruency of the response given with the **narratives**

To determine the number of respondents with a mental health (MH) condition *identified by PS questions versus the Affect Qs*

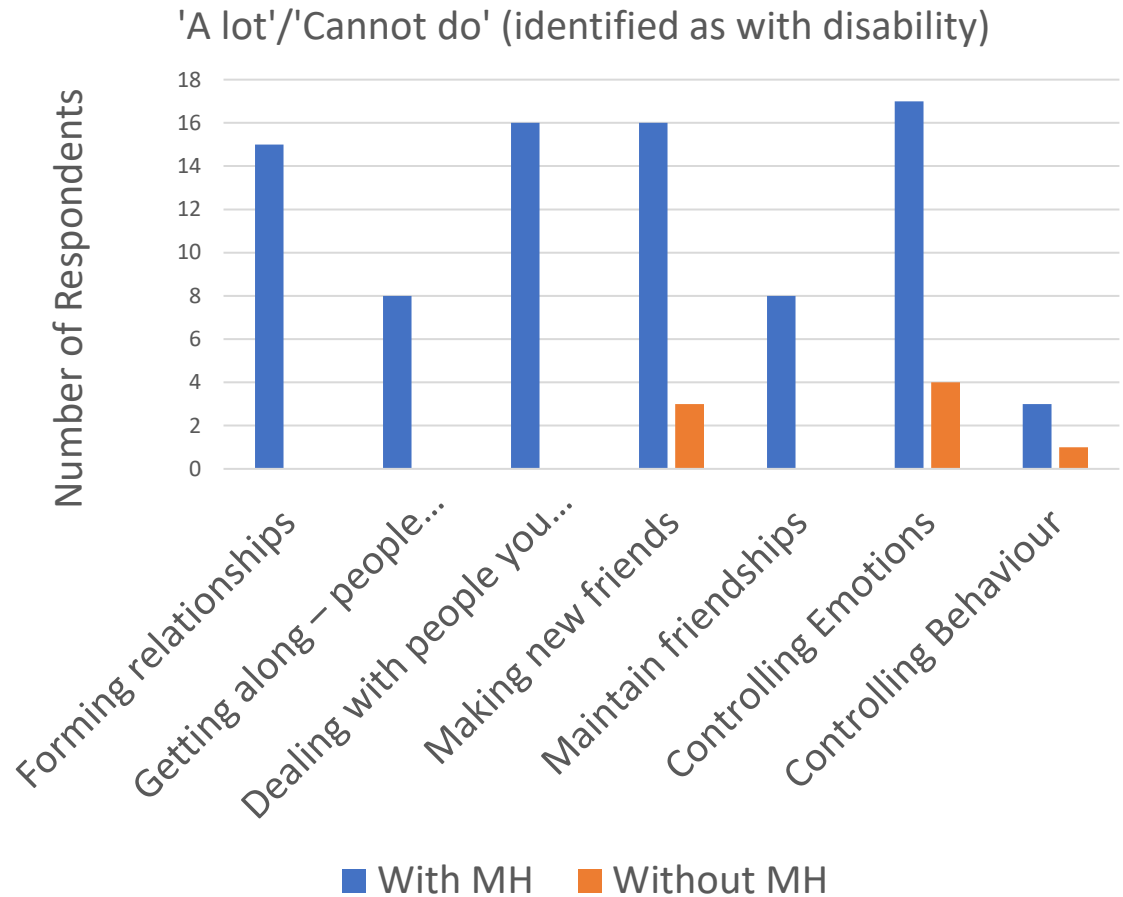
To determine whether people with a MH condition show *typical response profiles* (and if these are different to those without a MH condition).

Any *difficulty with the questions* such as need for repetition or clarifications or with the answer options (quantitative data)

*Severe psychiatric disorders: e.g. Depression, Anxiety, Bipolar disorders, Schizophrenia, Psychoses, Autism spectrum Disorder, Panic disorder, Paranoia
 Cases with co-morbidity; and with cognition difficulties.

Results overview (1)

- Majority of interpretations were in-scope
- A few narrow interpretations
- Out-of-scope interpretations to be tested in other cognitive tests and field testing



Results overview (2)

Identified by:	<u>With</u> MH Condition (62)	<u>Without</u> MH Condition (44)	Total
Affect Qs only	14 (23%)	9 (16%)	23
PS Qs only	15 (24%)	4 (9%)	19
Affect + PS Qs	21 (34%)	2 (9%)	23
Identified by Affect + PS Qs	50 (81%)	15 (32%)	65
Not identified using 2 sets	12 (missed) (19%)	29 (Correct) (66%)	41
TOTAL	62	44	106



Proposed revisions – to be tested

Do you have difficulty getting along with **people who are close to you?**

Do you have difficulty dealing with **people you do not know?**

Do you have difficulty **making new friends?**

Do you have difficulty **maintaining friendships?**

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

Do you have difficulty **controlling your emotions** when you are around people?

Do you have difficulty **controlling your behaviour** when you are around people?

Do you have difficulty **getting along** with people who are **close to you?**

Do you have difficulty dealing with **people you do not know?**

Do you have difficulty **making new friends?**

~~Do you have difficulty **maintaining friendships?**~~

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

Do you have difficulty **controlling your emotions or behaviour** when you are around people?



Activities in 2025 and beyond

1. Activities in 2025:

- Discussions with various groups:
 - CBM/IDA – potential collaboration to find funding to complete process - ongoing
 - TCI Global – Transforming Communities for Inclusion (via CIP) - ongoing
 - Jordan – survey in one area that included PS Functioning questions and waiting for results
 - Brazzaville Francophone Regional Group
 - Interest from other countries but difficult to find funding to conduct any testing
- Paper publication:
 - Schneider & DePalma (in press) Including people with psychosocial disability in statistics: Self-report measures for surveys; African Journal on Disability (AJOD).

2. Beyond 2025:

- Further cognitive interviewing and field testing
- Second publication
- Drafting a manual to support the implementation of the question set and the analysis, interpretation and reporting.



Contact us if:

- ✓ you would like more information about the WG Mental Health and Psychosocial Functioning working group
- ✓ **your country is willing to conduct cognitive interviews and/or field testing**

THANK YOU!!

Elena De Palma - depalma@istat.it

Marguerite Schneider - marguerite.schneider@uct.ac.za

Washington Group - WG_Secretariat@cdc.gov



Discussion & Questions

25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Session 6:
Updates from the
Regional Disability Statistics
Groups

Regional Group Updates

Brazzaville Group
South and East Africa Group
Buenos Aires Group
Pacific Group
UN ESCWA

Brazzaville Group

Ousseini Lamou Youssoufa

Interim Director

Social and Demographic Statistics & Studies Management

National Bureau of Statistics, Niger

The Washington Group Annual Meeting



Presentation of the Brazzaville Group Action Plan 2025-2027

By

OUSSEINI LAMOU YOUSSEOUFA

Chair of the Brazzaville Group on Disability Statistics

29 October 2025

Brazzaville Group Overview

- The BG currently has 25 member countries
- Its Secretariat is composed of representatives of the National Statistical Offices and two regional institutions (AFRISTAT and IFORD).
- Its activities focus on:
 - (i) *promoting research on people living with disabilities with a particular focus on comparable disability statistics adapted to censuses and surveys;*
 - (ii) *sharing knowledge and practices between member countries on the collection and analysis of data on disability;*
 - (iii) *strengthening the capacities of NSO staffs on the collection and analysis of data on disability; and*
 - (iv) *promoting the use of research results on disability for better inclusion of people with disabilities in policies and programs aimed at improving the well-being of populations.*



Brazzaville Group Work Plan 2026-2027: Disability Data Collection

AXE 1 : Improving data collection on disability

Objectif : To obtain reliable, disaggregated and comparable data on people with disabilities.

Actions	Due date	Responsables	LIVRABLES
1.1. Update the list of focal points	T3 2025	WG Secrétariat	WG Secretariat List of focal points
1.2. Carry out a diagnosis of existing data (surveys, censuses, administrative databases) to produce indicators and analyses on disability	T4 2025	BG Secrétariat	WG Secretariat Diagnostic report produced
1.3. Train focal points on WG tools	T4 2025	BG Secrétariat	BG Secretariat Focal points master WG tools
1.4 Encourage the inclusion of disability modules in national surveys and regional surveys (DHS, EHCVM and other household surveys)	T2 2025	AFRISTAT	Number of surveys including the module
1.5. Strengthen the operational capacities of the BG secretariat (computers and tablets)	T3 2025	GIZ	Number of computers and tablets acquired for the BG secretariat

Brazzaville Group Work Plan 2026-2027: Data Analysis

AXE 2 : Improving data analysis and enhancement

Objectif : Produce analyses useful for public decision-making and raising awareness.

Actions	Échéance	Responsables	Indicateurs
2.1. Participate in EHCVM survey data analysis workshops	T2 2026	WG Secrétariat	Secretariat Number of disability indicators produced
2.2. Organise an annual WG workshop (Training, data analysis, country report production)	Annuel (2025, 2026, 2027)	Focal points	Number of country reports produced
2.3. Continue to support countries without a report in producing their national report	2026–2027	BG Secrétariat	Number of new country reports produced
2.4. Organise a workshop to produce the regional disability analysis report	2026–2027	BG Secrétariat	Regional report
2.5. Create an interactive online database, accessible to the public	T3 2026	Secretariat of the BG/ Disability data Hub	Functional online platform

Brazzaville Group Work Plan 2026-2027: Data Dissemination & Use

AXE 3 : Disseminating data and increasing its use

Objectif : Promoting the use of data by decision-makers, associations and citizens.

Actions	Échéance	Responsables	Indicateurs
3.1. Participate in the Global Disability Summit	Annuel (2025, 2026, 2027)	Secrétariat BG/ Secrétariat WG	Number of participants in the Summit
3.1 Organise a meeting between the African Federation of Disabled People and the WG Secretariat on the use of disability data	T1 2027	Secrétariat du BG	Number of recommendations resulting from the meeting
3.2. Involve people with disabilities in the development of indicators	T2 2027	Secrétariat BG/ FAPH	Workshop report
3.3. Include a module on disability statistics in the training of demographers from 22 French-speaking countries	T3 2027	Secrétariat BG/ IFORD	Training module
3.4. Renew the BG secretariat on disability statistics	T4 2027	BG and WG Secrétariat	List of secretariat member

For more information about the WG visit our new
website:

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

Questions:

WG_Secretariat@cdc.gov



South and East Africa Group

Neo Nghenavo

Director

Gender and Marginalized Groups

Statistics South Africa

Regional Group Objectives

To develop and improve disability data and related statistics in the Southern and Eastern African Region for English speaking countries.

- Advocate the use of WG data collection instruments
- Build capacity through conducting training on:
 - WG data collection instruments,
 - Training on data analysis and dissemination,
 - Review WG data collection tools, with the aim of incorporating issues that are pertinent to Africa,
 - Ensure cross-national comparability of disability data and related statistics, and
 - Build technical expertise within the regional group.

Progress to Date

- Inaugurated in July 2022
 - Three in-person training meetings in South Africa, Kenya and Malawi and Several webinars online
 - Continuous uptake of WG-SS in surveys among countries
 - Technical support to countries from the Secretariat in the analysis of WG questions
 - Continued submission of annual Country reporting templates to the Secretariat
 - Standardised Country Reports completed with technical support of the Secretariat (Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa)
-

Plans Going Forward

Collaborate on a regular basis as the Regional Group

- Monthly online meetings
- Ideally physical meetings at least 2x a year
- Documenting best practices
- Sharing of the calendar of events
- Sharing WG implementation and country challenges

Build the statistical capacity of countries

- Promote the inclusion of the standard disability measures (WG-SS) into national statistical survey systems
- Analysis and dissemination of Disability reports
- Build and maintain the regional technical expertise that would be able to support Regional activities
- Inter country study tours

Sustainable funding

- Need to look for alternative funding to compliment the existing funding
- To sustain the work program
- To fund the activities of the Regional Technical Expertise
- To provide technical support to countries
- To support physical meetings
- Capacity building programs

Buenos Aires Group

Rita Velázquez Lerma

Deputy Director of Conceptual Process Standards
National Institute of Statistics and Geography
México



Buenos Aires Group on Disability Statistics. Advances in 2025

Participating countries: 17

3 meetings in 2025 (The last one will be on November 5th)

Summary of completed WG requests

WG Annual Country Survey Form (10 countries)	WG Country Disability Report (5 countries)
Argentina	Colombia
Brazil	Brazil
Colombia	Mexico
Costa Rica	Panama
Ecuador	Peru
El Salvador	Dominican Republic
Mexico	
Panama	
Peru	
Dominican Republic	



Lines of work 2025-2026

WG Country Disability Report

- Assistance for the country report (e.g. Dominican Republic)
- Participation in cognitive testing of the tools in development.

Human capital development

- Application of the different WG tools
- Data governance
- Preparation of dissemination materials

Regional report based on the 2020 census round

- Defining disability indicators
- Product design
- Dissemination

Strategic partnerships with international organizations



GRUPO DE BUENOS AIRES
SOBRE ESTADÍSTICAS
DE DISCAPACIDAD

Design of the group's official logo



**GRUPO DE BUENOS AIRES
SOBRE ESTADÍSTICAS
DE DISCAPACIDAD**

Next steps

- Appoint the countries to coordinate some line of work.
 - Define a schedule by line or subline of work and the final product.
-

Pacific Group

Elsie Mehoba

Statistics Analyst

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

Statistics for Development

Pacific Community (SPC)



Pacific Group on Disability Statistics

Washington Group Annual Meeting

Online, 29 October 2025



PGDS PROJECT OVERVIEW

OUTCOME, GOAL, COMPONENTS AND RESULTS

Vision

An inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based society for men, women and children with disabilities, which embraces the diversity of all Pacific people

(Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

All Pacific peoples, economies and environments benefit from better data and evidence-based decision-making for sustainable development

(Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics)

Outcome

Quality, relevant, and timely Pacific Island disability statistics are available and used to advance social inclusion of persons with disability

Goal

Strong Pacific Island statistics systems that produce disability data that meet local and global needs for evidence-based policy, planning and monitoring

Components

1. Pacific Disability Statistics governance and coordination

2. Production and dissemination of disability statistics publications and technical guidance

3. Member countries capacity building and engagements

Results

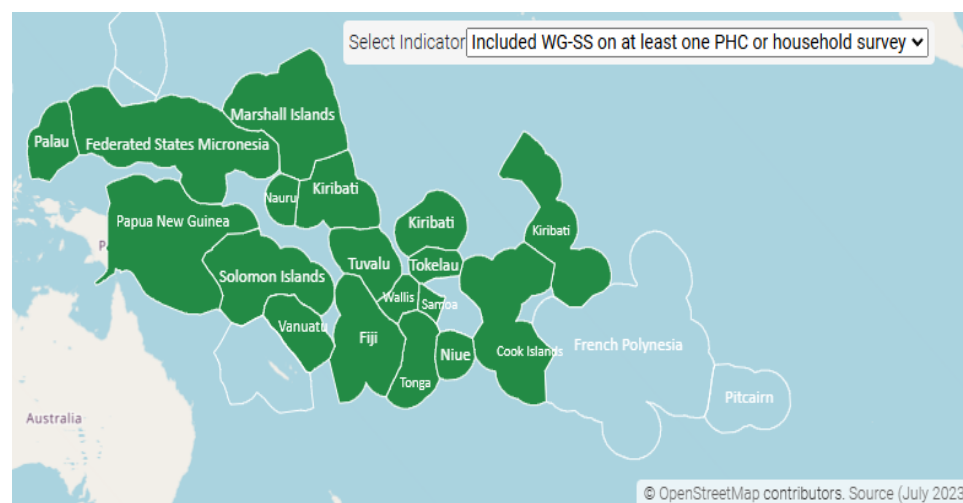
1. PGDS has full membership and is active and meeting regularly
2. We know each country's current capacity and priorities for support.
3. WG questions included in all surveys and censuses

1. Regional Disability Statistics Guidebook published
2. Regional Disability Monograph published
3. National disability monographs or other knowledge products published for 6+ countries

1. All countries have benefitted from targeted capacity building activities
2. PWDs are included consistently in capacity building activities
3. Relationships are strong between NSOs, PDOs and partners

Progress made across the Pacific

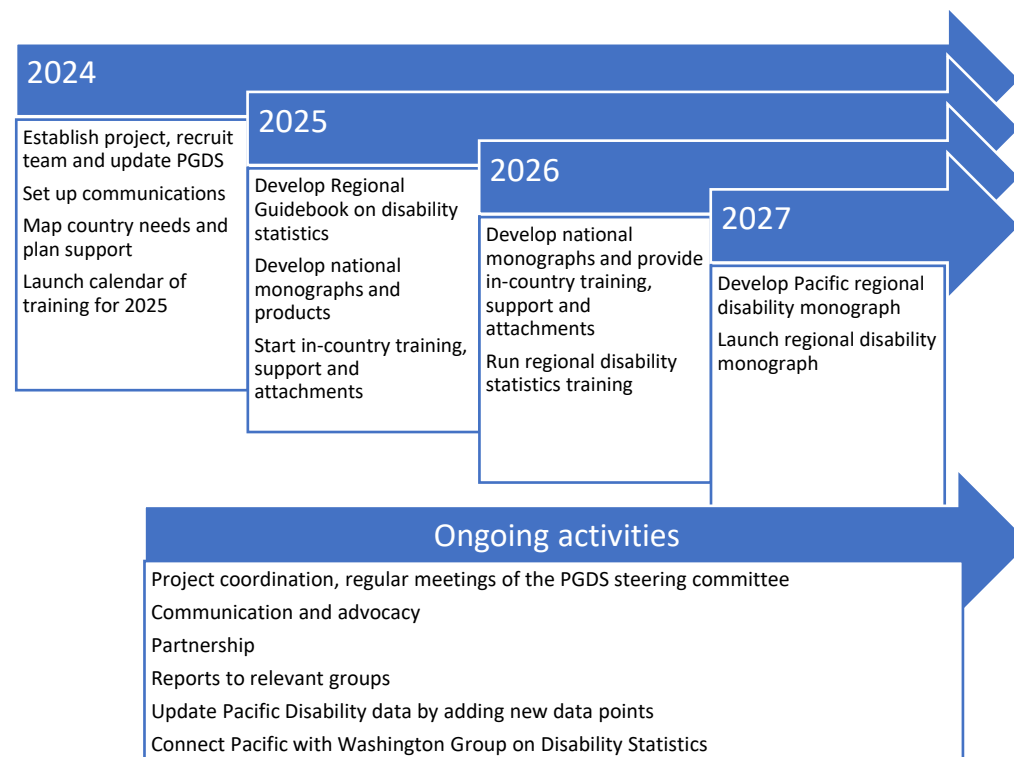
- 17 Pacific Islands Countries and Territories included the WG-SS on at least one population census or household survey
- 6 countries have published at least one disability monograph/report
- Regional disability dashboard has been launched on the Pacific Data Hub, supported by a harmonised dataset in pdh.stat



2025 : key achievements

Component	Achievements and Activities
1. Governance and Coordination	- Strong partnership and collaboration between countries and development partners - Additional countries engaged in PGDS - Increased project oversight capacity - Enhancing visibility and engagement through the PGDS website
2. Guidebook and Monographs	Pacific regional guidebook on disability statistics - Indicators and monograph template approved - First regional guidebook to improve disability data collection, analysis and use developed and circulated to countries, PDGS-SC members, WG Monographs and statistics products: - Launch of Kiribati Monograph and of first Disability Factsheet. Development and launch of the first easy read version from Disability monograph - Tuvalu Disability monograph finalized (using 2017 & 2022 census data), to be published soon - Solomon Islands monograph in development - Update of disability data and indicator page on Pacific data Hub .Stat Data Explorer (Due to be completed by year-end) WG short report template for Kiribati and Samoa
3. Country capacity Building and Engagement	- Participation at the Global Disability Summit by 3 PGDS Steering Committee members - Regional guidebook design workshop held in Fiji : 10 PICTs -22 participants- Pacific Disability Forum – UNICEF – Consultants – SPC - Participation at regional policy dialogue with Pacific Organisations for Persons with Disabilities - Kiribati Monograph and Fact Sheet launch - Solomon Islands engagement mission

2026-2027 : next year plan



Already scheduled in 2026

- In-country disability data analysis workshop in Solomon Islands
- Finalization and launch of Solomon Islands disability monograph and relatives product
- Disability monographs for :
 - Samoa (2021 and 2026 censuses data)
 - Cook Islands
 - Palau
- Implementation and training on the Regional Guidebook on Disability Statistics
- Statistics session at the Pacific regional conference on disabilities led by the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)



Thank you!

[More information available on the PGDS page](#)

UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia

Mustafa Y.M. Khawaja

Head of the Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit
Statistics, Information Society, and Technology Cluster
United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for West Asia

WG25 Annual Meeting

WG Regional Disability Statistics Group



UNITED NATIONS

الاسكوا
ESCWA

Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



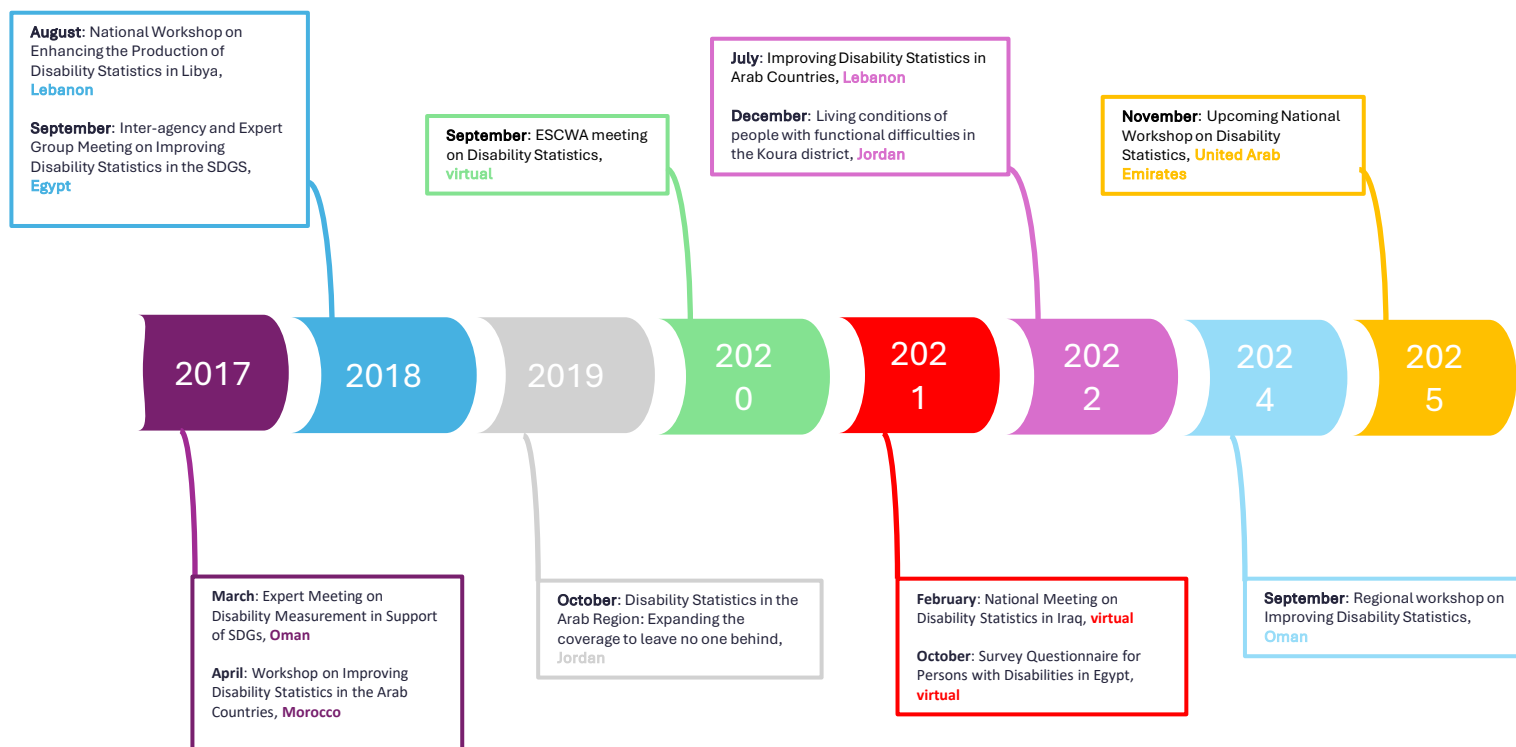
Disability Statistics: ESCWA's Key Achievements

- ESCWA has conducted a series of **regional capacity-building workshops on disability statistics** for its member states in collaboration with WG Secretariat and UNICEF and partnership with regional partners, mainly GCC STAT, AITRS and LAS statistical Department.
- National training on disability statistics: As follow up of the 2024 regional workshops on disability statistics, ESCWA responded to GCC STAT request to organize plans **specialized training in the UAE**, in partnership with national institutions, to serve as a scalable model for the GCC.
- ESCWA has developed crucial **knowledge products on disability statistics**, including:
 - Harmonized regional data contributions to the UN Secretary-General's Report on Disability and Development (2018, 2023, 2026 “drafted”).
 - Regional Disability Statistics Guidebooks (2018, 2024).
- ESCWA has developed a **Disability Glossary of Terms** to ensure conceptual alignment and methodological consistency,
- ESCWA updates its **database and disaggregated data on persons with disabilities** from household surveys, including MICS.



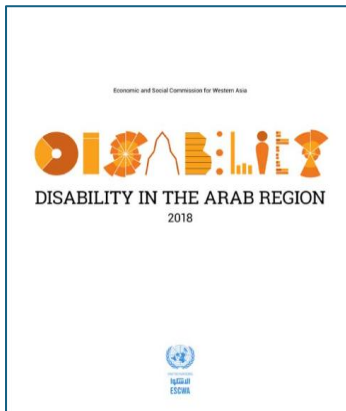
Regional Workshops on Disability Statistics

<https://www.unescwa.org/ar/disability-statistics?>

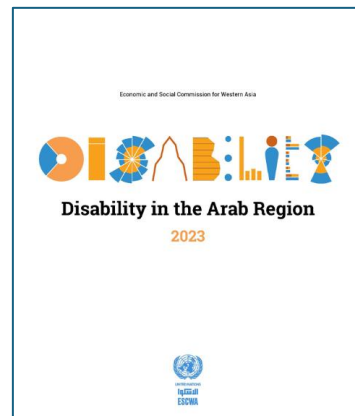


Knowledge Products on Disability Statistics

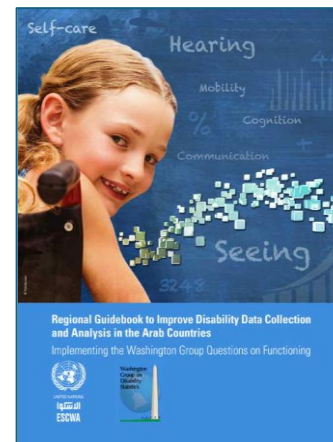
<https://www.unescwa.org/ar/disability-statistics?>



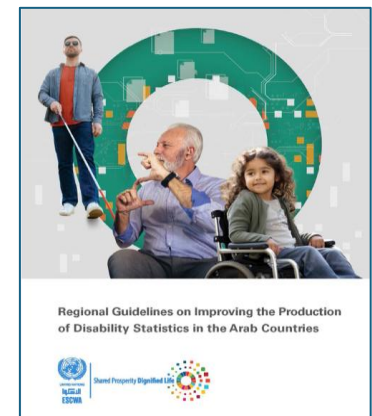
**Disability in the Arab Region
2018**



Disability in the Arab Region 2023



**Regional Guidebook to Improve Disability
Data Collection and Analysis in
the Arab Countries 2018**



**Regional Guidelines on Improving the
Production of Disability Statistics
in the Arab Countries 2024**

Disability Statistical Terms Glossary

<https://www.unescwa.org/sd-glossary?combine=&domain=8709>

Term	Definition	التعريف	المصطلح
Access icon	It refers to the wheelchair symbol (in blue and white) that is used in public places to denote that the vehicle, building or its facilities (such as lavatories) are accessible. Domain: Disability Source: McAvery Kare 2018	تشير إلى رمز الكرسي المتحرك (باللون الأزرق والأبيض) المستخدم في الأماكن العامة والإشارة إلى أن السيارة أو المبنى أو المرافق (مثل المراحيض) يمكن الوصول إليها. المجال: الإعاقات المصدر: الإسكوا	رمز الوصول
Accessibility	Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. Domain: الإعاقات Source: CRPD, Article 9	ضمان وصول الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة، على قدم المساواة مع الآخرين، إلى بيئة المحيطة، والنقل، ونظم المعلومات والاتصالات، بما في ذلك تكنولوجيا ت ونظم المعلومات والاتصالات، والمرافق والخدمات الأخرى المتاحة لعامة الجمهور أو المقدمة إليه، في المناطق الحضرية والريفية على السواء. المجال: الإعاقات المصدر: الإسكوا - المرجع: الاتفاقية الدولية لحقوق الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة، المادة 9	إمكانية الوصول

- The glossary **standardizes regional terminology** by providing unified Arabic-English definitions aligned with international standards, enabling consistent data collection and reporting across the region.
- It serves as an **authoritative, user-friendly resource** for statistical offices and policymakers, facilitating accurate analysis and strengthening evidence-based decision-making for disability-inclusive policies.

ESCWA Disability Statistics Database Development

On going:

- The initiative aims to build a comprehensive statistical overview related to persons with disabilities, specifically highlighting the inequalities between this group and persons without disabilities.
- The analysis incorporates a total of 140 indicators. Data is collected from household surveys, including MICS.
- The work has been formally presented on the United Nations Regional Collaboration Platform for the Arab States.
- The data covers critical thematic domains, including population and living conditions, education, employment and unemployment, as well as health and well-being.
- The consistent data contributes to the preparation of the Arab Disability Report, published by ESCWA, and the UN Secretary-General's Report on Disability.



ازدهار البلدان كرامة الإنسان



شكراً



25th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics



Session 7: Meeting Accomplishments and Next Steps

Jennifer Madans
WG Chairperson

WG25 Accomplishments

Disability Tools Released

- Child Functioning Module – Humanitarian Version
 - [Resources](#): questionnaires, question specifications, guidance note

Country Disability Reports Released

- Website release: for finalized reports

Progress Updates

- Mental Health & Psychosocial Work Group
- Regional Disability Statistics Groups
- Pacific Community (SPC)
- UN ESCWA

Partner Updates

- CBM Global
 - Center for Inclusive Policy
-

Looking Ahead

Country Disability Reports Work Group

Development of additional reports

- Guidance documents and webinar recording
- One-on-one support for development of new reports

Mental Health & Psychosocial Functioning Work Group

Testing and development of the Psychosocial Functioning Module

- Interactions with interested NSOs and organizations
- Resources: Questionnaire, Interviewer Guidance, Training on Cognitive Interviewing

WG Translations Work Group

- Request for translations and associated documentation
 - Continue work to develop database and library
-

Looking Ahead

Webinars

- Develop, in collaboration with WG members and partners
 - Topics of interest
 - History of WG
 - Sources of variation in disability prevalences
 - Other ideas?
 - New releases, reports
-

Looking Ahead: Secretariat

Reporting for UNSC57

- “Joint Report of the Secretary-General, the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and International Agencies on Disability Statistics”

Technical Assistance

- Inquiries: collection, analysis, dissemination of disability data; best practices; definitions; translations; documentation
- Requests for contributions to reports, meetings, webinars

Regional Disability Statistics Groups

- Facilitate membership, liaise with chairs and steering committees
- Support regional activities and initiatives

Technical Assistance Support

- Partner with organizations seeking to obtain funding to support disability data collection
-

Discussion and Questions

Please feel free to email the Secretariat:

- Feedback and questions on today's meeting content
- Ideas for next WG work plan items
- Suggestions for webinar topics
- Submissions of:
 - News and events
 - New releases, reports
 - Uses of WG tools
 - Other accomplishments

Email: WG_Secretariat@cdc.gov

Happy 25th Anniversary WG!

Thank You

WG Steering Committee

Work Group Chairs & Members

Regional Group Chairs & Members

WG Partners

University College London
