

Third Meeting Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG)

Proposed World Bank Grant for
Strengthening Disability Statistics
January 9, 2004

As part of the World Bank's contribution to the success of a Global Partnership for Disability and Development, World Bank staff are applying for a \$285,000 grant to support efforts by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and the United Nations Statistics Division to improve the quantity, quality, comparability and availability of data about disability in developing countries. The World Bank is basically a project lender to governments, committing between \$15 and \$20 billion annually. Through its Development Grant Facility (DGF), it also makes about 50 grants each year totaling about \$180 million to external bodies for purposes that complement its lending and advisory services.

Most DGF money goes for ongoing programs, such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Onchocerciasis Control Program (OCP), and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP). In the fiscal year starting July 1, 2004, only \$13 million will be available for new programs. Applications for this money will exceed the amount available, and competition will be fierce.

The proposed grant would support two complementary activities, collection of disability statistics by national statistical organizations (NSO component) and compilation and dissemination of disability statistics via integration into the UN Demographic Yearbook (DYB) system (DYB component).

A grant from the DGF would make it possible to bring additional low-income countries into the fall 2004 meeting of the Washington Group; to hold regional workshops on disability statistics in Africa and South Asia; to expand the set of low-income countries participating in the exercise; to provide small grants for pretesting questions in the field in low-income countries; and to extend technical assistance and advisory services about disability statistics to low-income countries that need this help but can't afford it. A DGF grant would also make it possible to include consultations about the DYB component in the regional workshops in Africa and South Asia as well as Latin America, and would make it possible to include a wider range of low-income countries. Without a DGF grant, there would likely be only one workshop, in Latin America. Country participation in this one regional workshop would be limited to countries that can afford it and a few others funded by UNSD, while pretesting of the disability modules in developing countries would be limited if done at all.