The Importance & Feasibility of Disaggregation by Disability Status

Monitoring the UNCRPD and SDGs

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Once again, the WG-SS…

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

What can the WG SS produce?

Domain specific outputs:

- different categorizations on each domain
- a summary score for individual domains of functioning
- continuum of functioning on each of the 6 domains

Overall outputs:

- a set of disability scores (based on different cut-offs) suitable for disaggregation
- a recommended disability indicator for disaggregation and international comparisons

Prevalence (weighted %) by domain and degree of difficulty

		At least:	
Core Domain	**Some difficulty**	**A lot of difficulty**	**Unable To do it**
Vision	17.1	2.0	0.2
Hearing	17.2	1.8	0.1
Mobility	17.0	5.7	1.8
Cognition	16.8	2.1	0.1
Self-Care	3.8	0.9	0.3
Communicating	4.8	0.7	0.2

Defining an overall disability continuum and a disability dichotomy

The WG questions fulfil two specific data needs:

1. to describe disability data as a continuum of functioning from no difficulty to some difficulty, a lot of difficulty and unable to do at all, and

2. to define a cut-off (or a set of cut-offs) that can be agreed upon internationally in order to disaggregate other information (e.g. access to education, employment) by disability status

Disability Prevalence U.S.A.

Person with disability has:	**n**	**%**
at least 1 Domain is ‘some difficulty’	7511	41.9
at least 2 Domains are ‘some difficulty’	3672	19.6
at least 1 Domain is ‘a lot of difficulty’	1872	9.5
at least 1 Domain is ‘unable to do it’	465	2.2

WG Recommendation

For purposes of reporting and generating internationally comparable data, the WG has recommended the following cutoff be used to define the population of persons with disabilities.

- The sub-population identified as *with disability* includes those:
  - with difficulty in *at least one domain*
  - that is coded as *a lot of difficulty* or *cannot do it at all*.

Disability and the SDGs

The SDGs are built on the principle of “leaving no one behind”

- People with disabilities are the most disadvantaged and the most at risk of being left behind.
- Disaggregation by disability status is necessary to ensure the equalization of opportunities and equitable development.
- Due to lack of available and universally acceptable data collection tools, disability was not included in the MDGs.
- Reliable and tested tools are now available.

UNCRPD: Article 31 - Statistics and Data Collection

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention.
2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.
3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.

Requirements to Disaggregate Indicators by Disability Status

Data collection tools are needed to fulfil two specific data requirements:

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

This allows for the calculation of prevalence rates and for disaggregation.

Disaggregation tools developed by the Washington Group

- Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS)
- Washington Group Extended Set for Adults (WG-ES)
- Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Module
- Other topic-specific modules that combine the WG-SS and the WG-ES (for example, employment)

Primary Disaggregation Tool: the WG-SS

Because of a health problem:

1. Do you have difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses
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Response categories:

No - no difficulty

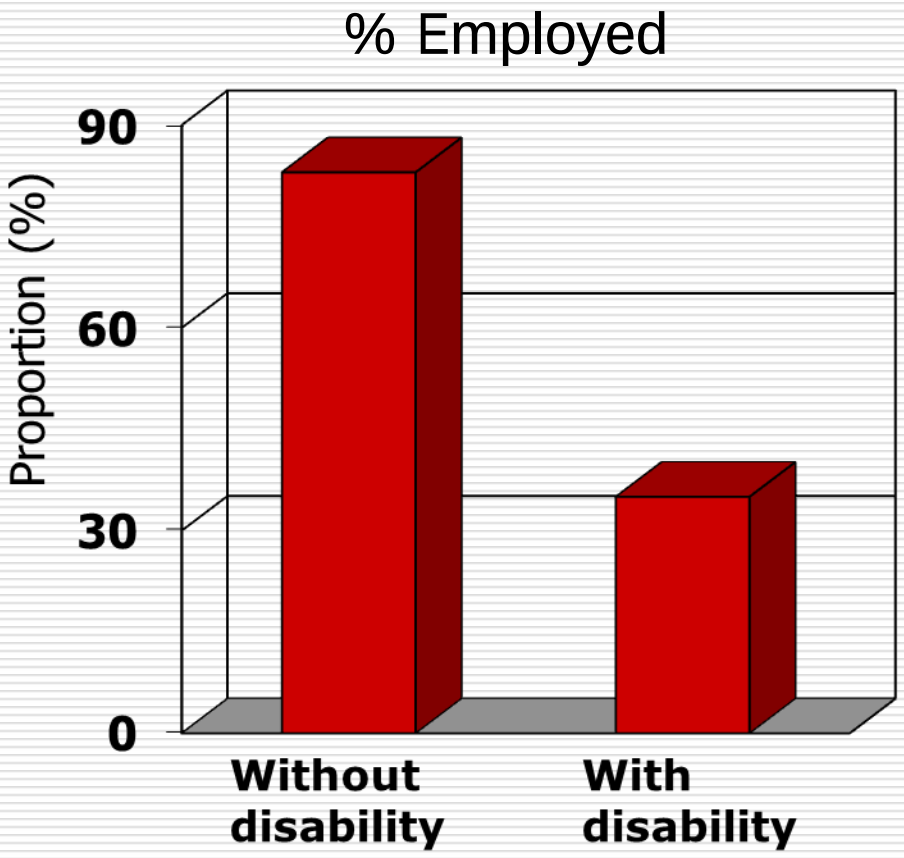
Yes - some difficulty

Yes - a lot of difficulty

Cannot do at all

Disaggregation by disability status

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



Creating the WG Disability Dichotomy

- Responses to the six questions range from:
  1. No - no difficulty
  2. Yes - some difficulty
  3. Yes - a lot of difficulty
  4. Cannot do at all

- If responses at *all* six questions are 1 or 2 (i.e. the person has no difficulty or only some difficulty over the 6 domains), then the individual is considered as *without disability*.

- If any one (or more) of the six domain responses is 3: a lot of difficulty or 4: cannot do at all, then the person is considered as *with disability*.

Disability by Employment

		% working	
Person with disability has at least:	**Overall prevalence**	**Without disability**	**With disability**
1 Domain 'some difficulty'	**35.4**	**76.6**	**60.2**
2 Domains 'some difficulty'	**14.9**	**74.6**	**48.5**
1 Domain 'a lot of difficulty'	**6.6**	**73.5**	**30.8**
1 Domain 'unable to do it'	**1.2**	**71.4**	**14.6**

Standardized Approach to Monitoring

- By standardizing disability data collection instruments it will be possible to provide comparable data cross-nationally for populations living in a variety of cultures;

- Data can be used to assess a country's compliance with development goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, over time, improvement in meeting these goals.

Since its adoption in 2006, 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; and
- both the US AID and UNICEF have developed disability modules that will operationalize the WG-SS for their Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) respectively.

Mainstreaming Disability Statistics: The Path to Disaggregation

- Identify which data collection systems will be used for monitoring population-based SDG indicators.
- Include one of the Washington Group question sets in each of these data collection systems.
- Once the questions become integrated into core statistical systems:
  - Core information on disability becomes available for use by all government agencies and civil society; and
  - Disaggregating outcomes (education, employment etc.) by disability status becomes routine and sustainable.

Where WG Questions Can Be Used…

Censuses
- Overall prevalence and prevalence by subpopulation

Household Income and Expenditure Survey/Living Standards Measurement Survey
- Poverty, social protection, wide variety of social indicators

Demographic Health Survey
- Health indicators

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
- Child indicators

Labor Force Surveys
- Employment indicators

National Disability Surveys
- Environment and participation, assistive devices, and more general indicators

Administrative Data
- Programmatic indicators

What Disaggregation Cannot Do

Tell us what the barriers are that are preventing participation.

Lead us to particular policy responses.

How can we do that?

Two Approaches
(not mutually exclusive)

1. Include environmental modules into existing surveys:
   - WG/ILO module on employment into LFS's
   - WG/UNICEF module on school environment into household surveys
   - Health environment module into DHS, etc.

2. National Disability Survey:

   To address the full range of participation issues
   - SINTEF/SAFOD surveys in Africa
   - Tanzania, South Africa, and Vietnam
   - WHO's Model Disability Survey (Chile)

Advantages

- Neither approach requires yearly data collection.
- Advantage of first approach - Minimal cost and sustainable production of consistent data on disability results from mainstreaming data collection and leveraging existing data collection costs and burden.
- Advantage of second approach - Opportunity for more comprehensive and detailed data.

Discussion