

# Past Annual Meetings of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

To date the WG has had 19 annual meetings:

	SITE	DATE
01.	Washington DC	02/2002
02.	Canada	01/2003
03.	Belgium	02/2004
04.	Thailand	09/2004
05.	Brazil	09/2005
06.	Uganda	10/2006
07.	Ireland	09/2007
08.	Philippines	10/2008
09.	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
17.	Australia	10/2017
18.	Rome, Italy	11/2018
19.	Argentina	09/2019

## WG Meeting Summaries:

### [Eighteenth meeting: November 6-9, 2018 in Rome, Italy.](#)

WG-18 was co-hosted by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank.

The meeting was attended by 97 participants, representing over 52 countries as well as representatives from several international, regional and non-governmental organizations.

The key outcomes of the meeting include:

- The continuation of the Workgroup on Analysis with a focus on more general analytic topics
- The continuation of the Workgroup on Child Functioning with a focus on plans for further testing of the Module for Inclusive Education

- The continuation of the Workgroup on Psychosocial Functioning and Mental Health
- The continuation of the Workgroup on Inclusive Employment (Labor Force) with a focus on plans for further cognitive and eventual field testing of the module
- The continuation of the Workgroup on Administrative Data

There were also discussions on establishing several new workgroups focusing on the following topic areas:

- WG Website Updates & Enhancements
- Data Dissemination
- Humanitarian Uses & Experiences
- Built Environment & Participation

### **Seventeenth meeting: October 30 – November 2, 2017 in Sydney, Australia.**

WG-17 was co-hosted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The meeting was attended by 60 participants, representing over 20 countries. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the announcement of a joint statement issued by the Washington Group and United Nations Statistics Division reaffirming the commitment of both groups to collaborate closely and effectively to achieve further improvements in disability statistics.

Other key outcomes include:

- The continuation of the Workgroup on Analysis (formerly the Workgroup on the Analysis of the Extended Set on Functioning) with a focus on more general analytic topics
- The continuation of the Workgroup on Child Functioning with a focus on plans for further testing of the Inclusive Education Module
- The continuation of the Workgroup on Psychosocial Functioning (formerly the Workgroup on Mental Health)
- The continuation of Workgroup on Inclusive Employment (Labor Force) with a focus on plans for further cognitive and eventual field testing of the module
- The establishment of a workgroup on the use of administrative systems for the collection of disability information
- The approval of work plan and discussion of preparations for the 18<sup>th</sup> WG meeting

### **Sixteenth meeting: December 6-9, 2016 in Pretoria, South Africa.**

WG-16 was hosted by Statistics South Africa and attended by 65 persons.

The formal WG meeting was preceded by two pre-meeting sessions, including :

- a brief orientation for new WG members providing background on the history and the development of the WG's data collection tools
- a session directed to representatives from national statistical offices (NSOs) during which issues related to the implementation of the WG questions and the analysis of the resulting data will be discussed. NSOs currently planning or embarking on data collection or analyses are encouraged to attend to share experiences or seek more directed guidance.

The meeting sessions included:

- a review and the approval of guidelines for analyzing data obtained using the WG Extended Set of disability questions on Functioning (WG ES-F)
- the adoption of the final version of the WG/UNICEF Child Functioning Module (CFM)
- a discussion of the further development of modules on barriers and facilitators to school participation (children) and to employment (adults)
- a discussion of issues pertaining to measuring mental health
- special sessions devoted to the use of WG tools for disaggregation of the Sustainable Development Goals by disability status, and Disability Measurement in Africa

### **Fifteenth meeting: 27-29 October 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark**

WG-15 was hosted by the Statistics Denmark. The meeting was attended by 72 persons. Objectives for WG-15 were to:

- Provide an update on the analysis of the WG short and extended sets of questions and approve guidelines for analyzing data obtained from the WG extended set on functioning (ES-F)
- Present additional work on the UNICEF/WG Module on Child Functioning and Disability
- Review progress in the development of module on inclusive education
- Present work on the development of disability modules on labor force surveys
- Review progress in developing an extended set of questions on environmental factors and participation
- Present progress in work on measures specific to mental health
- Review recent international activities in disability statistics, including the use of outcome indicators for monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and attainment of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Approve work plan

Read more about the Fifteenth meeting

#### **Fourteenth meeting: 29-31 October 2014 in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

- Final results from the analysis of data provided by countries using the WG short set in recent national data collections (censuses and surveys) showed that although countries continue to report disparate disability prevalence rates; with some exceptions, those that use the WG as intended, using a cut-off of least one domain that is coded as a lot of difficulty or cannot do it at all, have reported disability prevalence rates that are comparable – in the range 7 – 10%. Using 2010 and 2011 NHIS data, algorithms for combining multiple domain questions into single domain indicators of disability and developing standards for determination of cut-points using the WG extended set of questions on functioning (ES-F) were presented. A small workgroup was formed to finalize the analysis. The WG/UNICEF workgroup on disability among children and inclusive education and the workgroup on mental health presented the work accomplished in the previous. Two representatives from the Saudi Disability Registry Group (SDRG) presented on their experience developing a national disability registry. The delegates agreed that the workgroup should continue its efforts and provide a status update at the next meeting.

#### **Thirteenth meeting: Amman, 29-31 October 2013**

- Results from the continued analysis of data provided by countries using the WG Short Set in recent national data collections (censuses and surveys) and analyses using data from the 2010 and 2011 US NHIS addressing how best to combine information from several questions per domain on the WG extended set on functioning and develop standards for determination of cut-points were presented. The WG/UNICEF workgroup on the development of specific question modules designed to measure disability among children presented the results of cognitive testing that was completed in Oman, Belize, India, Montenegro and USA and the revised Module on Child Functioning and Disability. The presentation on whether and how issues related to mental health could be incorporated into the work of the WG resulted in the creation of a workgroup to further address this. Interest was also expressed in having the WG look into the use of data registers in the compilation of disability statistics.

#### **Twelfth meeting: Bangkok, 23-25 October 2012**

- Results from further analysis of data provided by countries using the WG Short Set in recent national data collections (censuses and

surveys) were presented. Using data from the 2011 NHIS, results from further analysis of the WG extended set of questions on functioning (ES-F) were also presented. Representatives from NCHS provided a presentation focusing on the use of a mixed-method approach to assess validity and cross-subgroup comparability. Results from the 2010 NHIS using the ES-F questions related to pain were presented. The workgroup investigating environmental factors and participation provided an update on their work. The workgroup (in collaboration with UNICEF) on the development of specific question modules designed to measure disability among children presented a review of the conceptual framework for question development and a proposed set of questions. An update on the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) was presented on behalf of UNICEF, as well as, a presentation by a representative from ADAPT (formerly the Spastics Society of India) on the cognitive testing of the module on child functioning and disability in India.

#### **Eleventh meeting: Southampton, 14-16 November 2011**

- The Washington Group began to monitor the use of the WG Short Set in national data collections (censuses and surveys). Preliminary analyses of data provided by countries using the WG Short Set were presented. Preliminary findings from analyses of the WG extended set of questions on functioning using data obtained from the US National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) were also presented at the meeting. The children's workgroup presented a well-received proposal for the development of the extended set for children including a conceptual framework and examples of how the framework could be operationalized. A formal collaboration was arranged between the Washington Group and UNICEF to work on the development of specific question modules designed to measure disability among children. The workgroup investigating environmental factors also presented their work consisting of a conceptual framework and related questions sets.

#### **Tenth meeting: Luxembourg, 3-5 November 2010**

- The 10th meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) was held in conjunction with the Budapest Initiative Task Force on Measuring Health Status (BI). The primary focus of the meeting was to review results obtained from the 2010 round of cognitive and field testing of the extended set of disability questions that took place in Europe (Granada Group) and South-East Asia (UN ESCAP). In collaboration with the BI, a final version of a question set on health state (a subset of the extended set on functioning) was submitted to

Eurostat for inclusion on the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS). It was determined that the workgroups were ready to begin developing question sets designed to measure disability for children and environmental factors.

#### **Ninth meeting: Dar es Salaam, 7-9 October 2009**

- The primary focus of the 9th meeting was the presentation and discussion of results from the cognitive tests and preliminary field tests results in South-East Asia. Preliminary results from the field tests in two of the participating UN ESCAP countries (Maldives and Sri Lanka) were presented. The overall conclusion was that further analysis of the field test data was required before a final decision could be made regarding the extended set of questions. It was concluded that it was beyond the scope of the WG to address the issue of dealing with institutionalized populations at that time. Two workgroups were constituted to look more closely at the measurement of child disability and the development of a set of questions on environmental factors as they relate to the measurement of disability. It was strongly recommended by the delegates, particularly those from African countries, that projects similar to the one funded by UN ESCAP in the Asia and Pacific region, also be established in other regions.

#### **Eighth meeting: Manila, 29-31 October 2008**

- Work on the extended set continued by expanding upon the set of domains already covered in the short set, and adding supplementary questions within domains (cause, age at onset, duration). Development of the extended set/s was to be done in collaboration with the Budapest Initiative, Eurostat, and UN ESCAP. Methodological issues were raised during the 8th meeting concerning the development of questions for children and institutionalized populations and the use of proxy respondents. WG representatives from Canada and France volunteered to look at the work being done in the areas of children and institutionalized populations.

#### **Seventh meeting: Dublin, 19-21 September 2007**

- The work group on the short set addressed the use of the short set as a screener and presented an alternative (optional) question on upper body function. The combined work group on data analysis and methodological issues provided further analyses of the pre-test data presented at the 6th meeting. A large part of the 7th meeting was dedicated to a discussion of work being done on the extended set of disability questions for surveys and survey modules. The extended

set work group would coordinate its work with the work of the Budapest Initiative, Eurostat, and UN ESCAP.

#### **Sixth meeting: Kampala, 10-13 October 2006**

- Based on the outcomes of the pre-tests, the WG endorsed the six question set for use in censuses. The set comprises questions on four core functional domains (seeing, hearing, walking, and cognition) as well as two additional domains desired by member countries (self-care and communication). The methodological work group and the data analysis work group merged to continue the detailed analysis of the pre-test data. The work group on extended measures was charged with drafting a position paper on the first extended set.

#### **Fifth meeting: Rio de Janeiro, 21-23 September 2005**

- Revisions were suggested for the short measurement set, the accompanying rationale, and the implementation protocols. A new work group was formed to plan and implement analyses of the WG pre-tests. All results pertaining to the six WG questions will be considered by the new work group including the WG sponsored pre-tests, the WHO/ESCAP test, and other testing activities.

#### **Fourth meeting: Bangkok, 29 September – 1 October 2004**

- Agreement was reached on the following: Conceptual agreement on a draft set of questions for the general disability measure, but wording revisions were required prior to pre-testing; a new workgroup operating in conjunction with a consultant to develop six implementation protocols for pre-testing the short set of disability measures was formed; agreement to start development of the first extended measurement set was reached; and a new workgroup on methodological issues was formed.

#### **Third meeting: Brussels, 19-20 February 2004**

- Since disability is multidimensional, it is not possible to ascertain the single “true” disabled population. Different purposes are related to different dimensions of disability or different conceptual components of disability models. Equalization of opportunities was selected as the purpose for which an internationally comparable short disability measure would be developed. A work group was designated to generate a draft set of questions related to this purpose. In addition, two other work groups were formed to propose methods for implementing the short set and to propose an approach for



developing extended measurement sets related to the short set. Finally, a plan for WG governance was adopted.

### **Second meeting: Ottawa, 9-10 January 2003**

- A link was established between the purpose/s of a short measure on disability and aspects of measurement. A conceptual matrix was developed linking the purpose of a short disability measure with conceptual definitions and question characteristics. An empirical matrix was developed evaluating the characteristics of short set(s) of disability measures currently in use according to the dimensions of the conceptual matrix. Both matrices helped the WG to identify gaps in disability measurement.

### **First meeting: Washington, D.C., 18-20 February 2002**

- Agreement was reached on the following: 1) it is important and possible to craft a short set/s of internationally comparable disability measures; 2) short and long set(s) of measures that are inter-related are needed; 3) the ICF model will be used as a framework in developing disability measures; and 4) census questions are the first priority.