



**FOSTERING INCLUSION THROUGH DATA**  
**Summer school course on analysing data on children with disabilities**  
**(Europe and Central Asia)**

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**21 to 24 August 2023**

**Rovereto, Italy**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities mandates that ratifying States Parties “collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention”. This requirement is also embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 17, which focuses on the means of implementing the 2030 Agenda, includes an explicit target on supporting countries to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data.

Valid, reliable and relevant data on children with disabilities are essential for a variety of purposes, including to:

- Understand the situation of children with disabilities
- Assess the role of environmental factors (including societal attitudes and physical barriers) in the experience of disability
- Inform policies and programmes, facilitate the planning of services, and improve participation and quality of life of children with disabilities and their families
- Advocate for the rights of children with disabilities
- Report on progress towards national, regional and international conventions and goals.

To help countries fill these data gaps, UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics developed the [Child Functioning Module](#) for use in censuses and surveys. The module conforms to the biopsychosocial model of disability, focusing on the presence and extent of functional difficulties rather than on body structure or conditions, and is intended to provide a population-level estimate of the number and proportion of children with functional difficulties. Following the release of the Child Functioning Module in 2016, more than 50 countries have used it to collect data on children with disabilities.

To capitalize on the current momentum and enhance the ability of stakeholders to make timely and data-driven decisions affecting children with disabilities, UNICEF launched the [Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities](#) in 2021. The Centre was created to meet the growing need for coordination, quality oversight and technical expertise in the field, drawing on the principles of partnership, innovation and inclusivity. The Centre supports a broad range of activities to build the capacity of data producers and data users, facilitate the development of new methods and tools, and support data collection, data analysis, data interpretation and use.

## **2. TRAINING OBJECTIVES**

In partnership with the [Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science of the University of Trento](#), the Centre is organizing a four-day summer school course on data analysis in August 2023. The training aims to increase participant knowledge on how to analyse and interpret data on children with disabilities obtained through the Child Functioning Module, and will provide participants with the opportunity to use their own country’s dataset to conduct the analysis.



### 3. TARGET AUDIENCE

The training is intended primarily for representatives of national statistical offices and other professionals whose primary work is to conduct data analysis. They include those who work in relevant government ministries, research institutes and academia.

### 4. FORMAT AND CONTENT

The training will be delivered in person.

The main topics to be covered in the training include:

- **Module 1** – *Introduction to the Child Functioning Module*  
This module will explain the rationale and processes behind the development of the Child Functioning Module and explore its content in depth.
- **Module 2** – *Review of the datasets*  
This module will review the datasets, describe how they are structured and explain how to extract relevant variables.
- **Module 3** – *Data analysis and interpretation*  
This module will illustrate how to analyse the data to identify patterns and trends. It will also explain how to effectively communicate the results of such analysis.
- **Module 4** – *Data visualization and presentation of findings: Translating knowledge into action*  
This module will focus on how to turn data into knowledge that can inform evidence-based policy, programming and advocacy. Approaches will also be presented to make study reports accessible and to effectively disseminate findings.

### 5. CERTIFICATE

A certificate will be awarded to all participants who complete the training.

### 6. LOCATION

The training will be held at the Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science of the University of Trento, Italy (corso Bettini, 84 – 38068 Rovereto, Trento).

### 7. DATES

The training will run for four days starting on Monday, 21 August 2023 and ending on Thursday, 24 August 2023.

### 8. REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the daily sessions is mandatory for all participants. Participants are required to have the following credentials:

- Work in a country, in Europe and Central Asia Region, where recent national data collection efforts used the Child Functioning Module and datasets are available
- Work in a national statistical office or as a researcher in a relevant government ministry, research institute or academia
- Have an advanced training in quantitative analysis and a sound grasp of statistical theory and its application to practical policy
- Be able to analyse large datasets using statistical software packages, such as SPSS, STATA or R
- Have a personal laptop with the Child Functioning Module datasets and a valid SPSS license (owned or trial version that can be installed at the beginning of the training).



## 9. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications need to be submitted via this [Application form](#) by **15 May 2023**. A recent CV needs to accompany the application and should be sent to [adwivedi@unicef.org](mailto:adwivedi@unicef.org) by **15 May 2023**.

The applications will be reviewed, and selected participants will be notified by email. Note that there is limited capacity.

## 10. FUNDING SUPPORT

Enrollment in the summer school course is free. However, participants are responsible for covering the costs for travel, lodging and meals.

There is limited funding support available to selected participants from low- and middle-income countries in the Europe and Central Asia region. Funding support will include costs associated with travel, boarding and meals. Eligibility for this funding requires that recent national data collection efforts used the Child Functioning Module, and the datasets are publicly available. Based on these criteria along with the other requirements listed above, you can request for funding support.

Please note that we expect to receive a large number of funding requests. As a result, we will not be able to respond favorably to every applicant requesting support.

## 11. VISA

Support for obtaining a travel visa will be provided by the University of Trento to participants who require one. Details and contacts will be communicated to the selected participants.

## 12. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION OF MATERIALS

All training instructions and course materials will be in English only. There is no provision for translation/interpretation into other languages.

## QUESTIONS

The training is organized by the Data and Analytics Section of UNICEF Headquarters (the technical lead and secretariat for the Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities) in partnership with the Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science of the University of Trento. If you have any questions regarding the training course, please contact Claudia Cappa ([ccappa@unicef.org](mailto:ccappa@unicef.org)) or Archana Dwivedi ([adwivedi@unicef.org](mailto:adwivedi@unicef.org)).