

# Case Study: Adjudication of Multiple Spanish Translations of the WG Short Set

---

Cordell Golden  
National Center for Health Statistics  
United States

**Nineteenth Meeting of the Washington Group on  
Disability Statistics**

25 – 27 September 2019  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

# Overview

---

## Goal:

To develop official translations of the WG questions sets and the supporting documents to make publicly available on the WG website.

## Process:

- Started with the WG Short Set (WG-SS)
- Submitted requests to two translation services
  - Official UN Languages, Portuguese (Brazil and Europe), Vietnamese
  - Different variations of each language were returned
  - Both Spanish translations also differed from the version used in the US NHIS
- At WG-18, participants agreed that small groups of countries who speak a common language should review the translations

# Case Study: Adjudication of the Spanish Translations

---



- Three versions of the Spanish translation were sent to 18 countries (Latin America and Spain)
- Countries were also provided the question specifications for the WG-SS
- Countries asked to review the translations of the question wording and response categories

# Challenge

---

## English version:

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

## Translation A:

¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **incluso con gafas**?

## Translation B:

¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **incluso cuando usa lentes**?

## Translation C:

¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **aún cuando tiene puestos espejuelos/anteojos**?

***Which translation is correct???***

---

# Countries Accepting the Challenge

---



- Feedback provided by 7 countries
- No consensus on a single translation or appropriate wording for all questions and response categories

# Feedback on the Vision question

---

**Translation B** (Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Mexico)

**Modified A:** ¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **incluso si usa lentes?**

**Modified C:** ¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **aún cuando usa lentes/anteojos tiene puestos espejuelos/anteojos?**

(Ecuador)

¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **aún con los anteojos o lentes puestos?** (Argentina)

¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **aun usando anteojos?** (Peru)

¿Tiene dificultad para ver, **aunque lleve gafas o lentillas?** (Spain)

¿Tiene dificultad (NOMBRE), para ver, **incluso si usa anteojos?**

(Costa Rica / ECLAC Recommendations for 2020 Census)

# Next Steps

---

- How should we proceed???
- Should there be one translation for each language or multiple translations?
  - Regional or country-specific variations
  - Variations within country or region