



Report of the Washington Group (WG) on Disability Statistics including an Executive Summary of the 20th Annual Meeting

Purpose

The main objective of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) is the promotion and coordination of international cooperation in the area of health statistics by focusing on disability measures suitable for censuses and national surveys. The aim is to provide basic necessary information on disability which is comparable throughout the world. For the primary purpose of informing policy on equalization of opportunities, the WG has developed, tested internationally, and adopted the Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) comprised of six disability measures suitable for use in censuses, sample-based national surveys, or other statistical instruments.

A second priority is to recommend one or more extended sets of survey items to measure disability that can be used as components of population surveys or as supplements to specialty surveys. To that end, the WG has developed, tested and adopted the Extended Set on Functioning for adults (WG-ES); an intermediate-length question set (WG-SS Enhanced); a Child Functioning Module (CFM) in collaboration with UNICEF; and a Labor Force Survey Disability Module (LFS-DM) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). In addition, in collaboration with UNICEF, a module on inclusive education to identify barriers to school participation for all children is currently being tested. These extended sets of survey items either include or compliment the WG-SS. The World Health Organization's (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) has been used as the basic framework for the development of all questions sets. The disability measures recommended by the WG, both short and extended, are accompanied by descriptions of their technical properties, and methodological guidance is given on their implementation and their applicability to population subgroups. The WG disseminates its work products globally through the world-wide web and scientific publications.

Year organized

2001

Participants

Representatives of national statistical offices, international organizations, and non-government organizations including international disability organizations have participated in the last 20 Washington Group annual meetings.

Current country representatives (from national statistical offices) include: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Anguilla, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Macao Special Administrative Region of China, Colombia, Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Monserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In the past, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Comoros, Nigeria, and the Turks and Caicos Islands have also participated.

Current non-government organizations include: Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), European Disability Forum, Eurostat, Humanity & Inclusion (HI: formerly Handicap International), Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities, Inter-American Institute on Disability, International Labour Organization (ILO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), National Disability Authority-Ireland, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), International Development Project, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Rehabilitation International (RI), United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO, formerly DFID), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), World Bank, and World Health Organization (WHO).

Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities: Coordenadoria Nacional para Integração da Pessoa Portadora de Deficiência (CORDE) in Brazil, Secretaria Nacional para la Integración de las personas con Discapacidad (SENADIS) in Panama, and Disabled Organization for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Development (DOLASED) in Tanzania.

Past meetings/major outcomes

First meeting (WG-1): 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.

Second meeting (WG-2): 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.

Third meeting (WG-3): 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 workgroup was designated to generate a draft set of questions related to this purpose. In addition, two other workgroups 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.

Fourth meeting (WG-4): 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.

Fifth meeting (WG-5): 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 workgroup including the WG sponsored pre-tests, the WHO/ESCAP test, and other testing activities.

Sixth meeting (WG-6): Kampala, 10-13 October 2006

Based on the outcomes of the pre-tests, the WG endorsed the six-question set (WG-SS) 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 workgroup and the data analysis work group merged to continue

the detailed analysis of the pre-test data. The workgroup on extended measures was charged with drafting a position paper on the first extended set.

Seventh meeting (WG-7): Dublin, 19-21 September 2007

The workgroup on the short set addressed the use of the WG-SS as a screener and presented an alternative (optional) question on upper body function. The combined workgroup on data analysis and methodological issues provided further analyses of the pre-test data presented at WG-6. A large part of WG-7 was dedicated to a discussion of work being done on the extended set of disability questions for surveys and survey modules. The extended set workgroup would coordinate its work with the work of the Budapest Initiative Task Force on Measuring Health Status (BI), Eurostat, and UN ESCAP.

Eighth meeting (WG-8): Manila, 29-31 October 2008

Work on the extended set continued by expanding upon the set of domains already covered in the WG-SS, 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 BI, Eurostat, and UN ESCAP. Methodological issues were raised 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.

Ninth meeting (WG-9): Dar es Salaam, 7-9 October 2009

The primary focus of WG-9 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.

Tenth meeting (WG-10): Luxembourg, 3-5 November 2010

WG-10 was held in conjunction with the BI. The primary focus of the meeting was to review results obtained from the 2010 round of cognitive and field testing of the WG-ES 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 WG-ES) 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.

Eleventh meeting (WG-11): Southampton, 14-16 November 2011

The WG began to monitor the use the WG-SS in national data collections (censuses and surveys). Preliminary analyses of data provided by countries using the WG-SS and of the WG-ES using data

obtained from the NHIS were presented. The children's workgroup presented on the development of the extended set for children including a conceptual framework. A formal collaboration was arranged between the WG 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.

Twelfth meeting (WG-12): Bangkok, 23-25 October 2012

Results from further analysis of data provided by countries using the WG-SS in recent national data collections (censuses and surveys) and from a mixed-method approach to assess validity and cross-subgroup comparability of the WG-ES using data from the 2010 and 2011 NHIS were presented. The workgroup investigating environmental factors and participation provide an update on their work including a review of the conceptual framework and related questions sets. 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

Thirteenth meeting (WG-13): Amman, 29-31 October 2013

Results from the continued analysis of data provided by countries using the WG-SS 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-ES 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 CFM.

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.

Fourteenth meeting (WG-14): Buenos Aires, 8-10 October 2014

Final results from the analysis of data provided by countries using the WG-SS 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-ES 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.

Fifteenth meeting (WG-15): Copenhagen, Denmark 27-29 October 2015

Proposed guidelines for analyzing data obtained from the WG-ES were discussed. A small workgroup will finalize the analysis for the outstanding domains and present results at the next meeting.

Status reports were provided by the workgroups focusing on methodological issues concerning surveys: child disability, mental health, disability module for labor force surveys, and environmental factors & participation. The child disability workgroup presented findings from preliminary analyses of data collected in a Samoan Demographic and Health Survey. The workgroup also presented results from the cognitive tests of the module on inclusive education carried out in the United States. A review of the development of a proposed disability module intended for use in labor force surveys was provided. The workgroup investigating the development of measures specific to mental health presented the work accomplished in the previous year. The meeting also included a review of recent international activities in disability statistics including the use of outcome indicators for monitoring the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sixteenth meeting (WG-16): Pretoria, South Africa 7-9 December 2016

The guidelines for analyzing data obtained using the WG-ES were finalized and approved by the delegates in attendance. The final version of the WG/UNICEF CFM was presented and formally adopted. Discussions included additional work in the development of the modules on barriers and facilitators to school participation (for children) and to employment (for adults). There was additional discussion of issues pertaining to measuring mental health. The next steps and future plans for the workgroups addressing these topics were discussed. The meeting also included special sessions devoted to the use of WG tools for disaggregation of the SDGs by disability status, and Disability Measurement in Africa.

Seventeenth meeting (WG-17): Sydney, Australia 31 October - 2 November 2017

An overview of the recently revised WG website was provided at the meeting. The sessions also included a review of the best practices when implementing the WG data collection tools. Guidelines for analyzing data obtained using the WG-ES were presented and approved. The guidelines including SPSS and SAS syntax are available on the WG website. Discussions included the further development of modules on barriers and facilitators to school participation (children) and to employment (adults) as well as issues pertaining to measuring psychosocial functioning. The meeting also included special sessions devoted to regional capacity building to improve the collection and analysis of disability statistics, disability in Australia and New Zealand and measuring Disability in Asia and the Pacific region.

Eighteenth meeting (WG-18): Rome, Italy 7-9 November 2018

A representative from the World Bank highlighted the organization's commitment to disability inclusive development and outlined their plans to incorporate the WG-SS into their Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS). A representative from Eurostat outlined plans to modernize the European Social Surveys, which included integrating a subset of the WG-SS into the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and a subset of the WG/UNICEF CFM into the EHIS.

Status updates were provided by the respective workgroups. The analysis workgroup reported on determining mutually exclusive severity categories and measurement of disability across multiple domains at different cut-offs. The Child Disability & Inclusive Education workgroup outlined plans for further testing of the WG/UNICEF Inclusive Education Module (IEM) in countries with an identifiable population of 'out of school' children. The Mental Health & Psychosocial Functioning workgroup presented results from a scoping literature review on activity limitations, participation restrictions and environmental barriers commonly associated with common and severe mental disorders. The workgroup proposed a draft module based on the results of the scoping review for future cognitive testing. Preliminary results from cognitive tests in Mongolia were presented by the Disability Module for Labor Force Surveys workgroup. Endorsement of the final module is expected at the next annual meeting (WG-19). The Administrative Data workgroup discussed the challenges with using administrative data for measuring disability prevalence and the associated WG blog. In addition, an example of the use of the WG questions in administrative programs that collect information relevant to disability issues (e.g., education management information systems) was presented. The content of the blog and presentation will be expanded into a full article for journal submission or posted on the WG website.

Nineteenth meeting (WG-19): Buenos, Argentina 7-9 September 2019

The formal WG meeting was preceded by a pre-meeting session attended by a representative from ECLAC and WG representatives from Latin American and Caribbean countries. The goal of the session was to build on the increasing country and region-specific interest in utilizing the WG tools and lay the foundation for the establishment of a regional entity in Latin America and the Caribbean to collaborate on implementation activities and share best practices for the collection of disability data at the regional level. ECLAC and the WG country representatives from Brazil and Argentina agreed to take on leading roles in this group.

Status updates were provided by each of the active workgroups. The Mental Health & Psychosocial Functioning workgroup presented preliminary results from cognitive tests conducted in South Africa of the draft module presented at the previous year's meeting. Further refinements will be made to the module and cognitive testing protocol based on the testing results. The workgroup on child functioning and disability introduced a draft of the CFM-Teacher Version (CFM-TV). The module is intended to be administered to teachers and school administrators and addresses the growing demand for a shortened version of the CFM. Preliminary results from testing of the draft CFM-TV in Senegal were presented by a representative from HI. The workgroup, along with HI, plans to continue to work on the CFM-TV for eventual incorporation into EMIS. A representative from the ILO presented Final results from field testing of WG/ILO Labor Force Survey Disability Module (LFS-DM) in Mongolia. At the conclusion of the presentation, the WG/ILO LFS-DM was endorsed by the meeting attendees. The Data Analysis & Dissemination workgroup provided an update on their work to address the determination of mutually exclusive severity categories using the WG-SS. The workgroup also presented examples of templates for standard tables for the reporting of results using the WG questions. Both presentations were well-received by the delegates in attendance. Country representatives were encouraged to provide input on both activities and replicate the results using their country data.

Report of the Twentieth meeting (WG-20): 22 - 24 September 2020:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person meeting scheduled to be hosted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics was postponed. In lieu of the in-person meeting, a shortened virtual meeting, organized by the WG Secretariat and Steering Committee, was held via Zoom.

To account for regional time differences, the WG-20 was divided into two session tracks: one to accommodate participants from the Americas, Europe, Africa and the Middle East and another for participants from countries in the Asia and Pacific regions. Approximately 120 participants from over 50 countries representing national statistics offices, ministries of health, academia, international and non-government organizations, and organizations representing persons with disabilities attended the two session tracks combined. The meeting was conducted in English and included interpretation in Arabic, French, Spanish and American Sign Language.

Objectives for WG-20 were to:

- Launch and obtain feedback on the newly redesigned WG website
- Provide an update on country data collection activities related to COVID-19 and disability
- Seek consensus on analytic guidelines for developing severity indicators using the WG questions and identify countries with data to replicate the analyses
- Seek consensus on standard templates for reporting results based on the WG questions and identify countries with data to produce country reports
- Seek consensus on draft terms of reference for the Environment and Participation workgroup
- Review the development of measures of psychosocial functioning and agree on next steps
- Discuss next steps for establishing regional disability groups

Launch of the New WG Website

During the meeting, the WG officially launched an updated version of its global website. The new and improved website provides the WG tools and information, guidance and support for all interested in the collection, dissemination, analysis and evaluation of disability statistics. A major objective of the redesign was to make the site user-friendly and easily accessible. Positive feedback was received from the meeting attendees. Meeting participants were encouraged to take time to review the website and provide additional comments and suggestions for improvements. The updated WG website can be accessed at: <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

COVID-19 and Disability

The WG Secretariat provided a summary of the disability and COVID-related data collection activities reported by WG country representatives. There were 16 countries that reported COVID-related data collection activities that also include disability questions. Three of the countries reported that the WG-SS (or a subset) or WG-SS Enhanced would be included in the data collection. A representative from CBM Global Disability Inclusion provided an overview of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities' (SGPwD) activities focusing on collecting data on COVID-19 for persons with disabilities.

The CBM/SGPwD representative emphasized that persons with disabilities have been one of the subgroups most adversely impacted by the pandemic. To better understand and address the severity of the situation of persons with disabilities globally, the SGPwD carried out a qualitative research study from May to June 2020. The study found that most persons with disabilities around the world have been adversely affected in some way as a result of additional or new barriers resulting from the pandemic. More information, including detailed results, are available in the study report (http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/master_sgpwd_covid-19_report_-_repaired_via_365_june_22_2020finalfinal.docx). The WG representatives from Finland and Columbia presented on the COVID-19 and disability data collection activities in their respective countries.

Workgroup Updates

Data Analysis & Dissemination

The workgroup, led by the WG Secretariat, presented proposed analytic guidelines for developing severity indicators using the WG questions and disability indicators created by combining information from multiple functional domains (e.g. vision-hearing and cognition-communication). The meeting attendees agreed that the workgroup would finalize the guidance documents and make them available via the WG website. The guidelines presented were developed using data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) conducted in the United States. The workgroup is seeking countries to replicate the analysis using their data.

The workgroup also presented examples of templates for reporting data collected using the WG questions. Examples were provided using data from three countries (Kenya, the Philippines and United States). Overall, positive feedback was received on the examples of the standard reports that were presented. The discussion included the potential need for recommending a standardized age-adjustment approach to ensure the international comparability of the data presented in the reports. The workgroup will take this issue into consideration as it moves forward. The meeting attendees agreed that completed reports will be needed from additional countries before the series of reports can be published on the WG website.

Environment & Participation

At previous meetings, interest was expressed in establishing a workgroup to focus on the built environment and participation. However, no one had volunteered to take on an active role in leading the workgroup and very little interest was expressed by the WG membership. WG-19 included a discussion on whether this activity should be included in the WG's future workplan. The WG-19 attendees agreed the WG Secretariat should send another request for participation to the WG membership. Following WG-19, the WG representative from Kenya agreed to serve as chair of the workgroup. Over the past year, the workgroup has convened and drafted a terms of reference (TOR) that was presented at WG-20. The TOR was well received by the WG-20 attendees and it was agreed that the workgroup should continue its efforts. To date, several representatives have volunteered to participate in the workgroup. However, only a small number of these have been actively involved. The workgroup continues to seek active members to help it achieve the objectives outlined in the TOR.

Child Disability & Inclusive Education

The WG and UNICEF have collaborated to develop several resources intended to assist users with the implementation of the WG/UNICEF Child Functioning Module (CFM) and analysis of the data collected. Supporting documentation, including translations of the modules, a concept note, tabulation plans, narrative and syntaxes (SPSS and Stata), templates for reporting, guidelines for interviewers (available in English, French and Spanish), and training materials are available on UNICEF's website: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-disability/module-on-child-functioning/>

The CFM and WG-SS have also been added to the current round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS6). To date, there are 71 countries are in various stages of MICS6 implementation.

The WG has also collaborated with UNICEF on the development of a module designed to measure facilitators and barriers to school participation. An update on the status of the module was presented. Cognitive testing of the UNICEF/WG Inclusive Education Module (IEM) was carried out in the United States (35 interviews), India (40 interviews), Jamaica (40 interviews), Cambodia (69 interviews), and Kazakhstan (60 interviews). Results from the cognitive tests were used to inform revisions to the module. Further testing was planned for 2020. However, the testing was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The workgroup continues to seek countries with an identifiable population of 'out of school' children for further cognitive testing.

At previous WG meetings, work to validate selected domains (vision, hearing and mobility) from the CFM through Fiji's Education Management Information System (EMIS), was presented by a representative from Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne. Building on this work, and in response to requests for a shortened version of the CFM, the workgroup began to explore the development of the CFM – Teacher Version (CFM-TV). A draft of the CFM-TV and an overview of the process leading to its development were reviewed. Preliminary results from tests conducted in Senegal had been presented by a representative from HI at WG-19. The results were favorable, but additional testing is needed. The workgroup plans to continue to work on the CFM-TV and investigate its fitness for application in the EMIS setting.

Mental Health & Psychosocial Functioning

This workgroup, co-chaired by representatives from South Africa and Italy, provided a review of the work that has been completed to date. Preliminary results from cognitive tests of the draft module conducted in South Africa were presented. Cognitive testing occurring in the United States was also discussed. The next steps for the workgroup include finalizing the report with the testing results and the literature review presented at previous meetings. Based on the results of the South Africa tests, the workgroup plans to revise the cognitive testing protocol and test alternative questions. Several countries have expressed interest in testing the module including Brazil, Costa Rica, Israel, Russia, and Tunisia - in collaboration with HI. Initial plans for training in cognitive testing and further testing of the draft module were delayed due to the pandemic. The workgroup hopes to be able to organize a virtual training workshop on cognitive testing for countries interested in participating and moving forward with the testing protocol in the coming year.

WG's Efforts to Establish Regional Entities

Since 2015, with funding from DFAT and administrative and logistical support from the International Disability Research Centre at University College London (UCL), the WG has been able to continue its capacity building and outreach efforts by hosting or participating in several webinars, training and implementation workshops to meet the varied needs of data producers and users. Recently, the WG has begun to shift focus from providing national support, to building capacity regionally. Building on growing country-specific interest in utilizing the WG tools, the WG has begun to establish regional entities that would collaborate on implementation activities and share best practices for the collection of disability data at the regional level. To date, four active regional groups have been established: 1) the Pacific Group on Disability Statistics (for countries in Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia), 2) the Buenos Aires Group (for Spanish-speaking Latin America and Caribbean countries), 3) the Brazzaville Group (for French-speaking and West Africa countries), and 4) the Casablanca Group (for Arabic-speaking countries). Several other regional groups have been identified and are waiting initiation, including: the Moscow Group (for Russian-speaking and Commonwealth of Independent States countries), the Kathmandu Group (for South Asia countries), the Eastern/Southern Africa Group (for English-speaking African countries) and the Caribbean Group (for English-speaking and Island countries in the Caribbean region). Regional groups have yet to be established or identified for South-Asia and Eastern Europe. At WG-20, the WG representatives from Samoa, Argentina, and the Republic of Congo provided updates on the status of the workgroups in their respective regions.

Links to the recordings and copies of the presentations from each of the sessions are available on the WG's website: <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/events/20th-annual-meeting-was-held-virtually-september-22-24-2020-273/>

Key Agreements of WG-20 and Next Steps:

The WG agreed to its work plan for 2021. Among other items, the plan delegates specific responsibilities to working groups that meet throughout the year (via email and telephone or video conferences). Next steps for the steering committee and workgroups include:

- Continue to make refinements to improve the accessibility and user-friendliness of the WG website based on feedback received
- Finalize guidance documents for analysis of data collected using the WG tools, including:
 - 1) The development of severity indicators
 - 2) The development of disability indicators for multiple domains (e.g. vision-hearing and cognition-communication)
 - Develop syntax to be used with other statistical and analytical software platforms (i.e. SAS, Stata and CSPro)
 - Identify additional countries with data to replicate analyses
- Continue work on the development of standard templates for reporting data collected using the WG tools
 - Explore standard approaches for age-adjustment to ensure international comparability
 - Identify additional countries to complete reports
 - Add reports to the WG website (if a significant number of reports are received)
- Continue work on the measurement of environmental factors and participation
 - Finalize terms of reference

- Begin scoping literature review focusing on single topic area (e.g. transportation)
- Continue work with UNICEF on the development of the Inclusive Education Module
 - Conduct additional tests in countries with identifiable population of 'out of school' children
- Continue work on the development of the CFM-TV
 - Conduct additional testing of the module
 - Determine if module is suitable for incorporation into the EMIS
- Continue work on the measurement of psychosocial functioning
 - Finalize literature review and paper on review of WG affect questions and other measures
 - Finalize the South Africa cognitive testing report
 - Revise cognitive testing protocol based on South Africa tests
 - Conduct cognitive testing training and additional testing of the module
- Continue work to establish regional entities to collaborate on implementation activities and share best practices for the collection of disability data at the regional level

Governance issues

The next in-person meeting, to be hosted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, is tentatively scheduled for early 2021. The date is yet to be determined. The WG is also exploring the possibility of holding a mid-year meeting and interim virtual meetings to cover topics of importance and interest to the WG membership.

In keeping with UN guidelines, issues of gender bias and other potential sources of bias will be a consideration of all WG work.

Products:

Proceedings from the meetings (presentations and papers), reports to the UN Statistical Commission, final meeting reports, and information on upcoming meetings can be accessed through the Washington Group website (<https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>).

WG Points of contact: Washington Group Secretariat (NCHS, U.S.A.)

Cordell Golden
 Health Statistician
 National Center for Health Statistics
 3311 Toledo Road
 Hyattsville, MD 20782 (USA)
 (Phone) 301-458-4237
 (Email) CGolden@cdc.gov

Heidi Ullmann
 Health Statistician
 National Center for Health Statistics
 3311 Toledo Road
 Hyattsville, MD 20782 (USA)
 (Phone) 301-458-4531
 (Email) HUllmann@cdc.gov

Julie D. Weeks
 Chief, Measures Research and Evaluation Branch
 National Center for Health Statistics
 3311 Toledo Road
 Hyattsville, MD 20782 (USA)
 (Phone) 301-458-4562
 (Email) JWeeks@cdc.gov