

15th Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

Accomplishments, Objectives and
Agenda

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WG History and Milestones:

1. Agreement to develop short and long sets of internationally comparable disability measures using the ICF as a framework; census questions a priority
2. Equalization of opportunities selected as purpose of short measure
3. Developed a comparable testing methodology
4. Short set adopted 2006
5. Extended set on functioning adopted 2010
6. Module on Child Functioning and Disability developed with UNICEF – awaiting final field testing
7. Module on Inclusive education under development
8. Extended set on the environment and participation currently under development.

Summary of annual meetings

1. Washington, DC	February	2002
2. Ottawa, Canada	January	2003
3. Brussels, Belgium	February	2004
4. Bangkok, Thailand	September	2004
5. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	September	2005
6. Kampala, Uganda	October	2006
7. Dublin, Ireland	September	2007
8. Manila, Philippines	October	2008
9. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	October	2009
10. Luxembourg	November	2010
11. Southampton, Bermuda	November	2011
12. Bangkok, Thailand	October	2012
13. Amman, Jordan	October	2013
14. Buenos Aires, Argentina	October	2014

WG-14 in Buenos Aires Oct, 2014:

The meeting was attended by 103 persons:

- 53 representing national statistical authorities from 14 countries;
- 43 representatives from universities or national institutes of public health or other national research bodies or ministries;
- 4 representatives from the National Center for Health Statistics (WG Secretariat);
- 1 representatives from organizations representing persons with disabilities; and
- 2 representatives from international organizations (Eurostat, UNFPA)

WG-14 Main Objectives:

- Present final analyses of results of country data collection using the WG Short Set
- Review and approve guidelines for analyzing data obtained from the WG Extended Set on Functioning
- Present progress with WG/UNICEF modules on child functioning and disability & inclusive education
- Review progress of new WG initiatives
- Review recent international activities in disability statistics

All these items (and more) will be discussed in detail during WG-15

Workshops and Expert Consultations:

Nairobi, Kenya	June	2005
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	Dec	2006
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Feb	2008
Bangkok, Thailand	April	2008
Ohrid, Macedonia	Nov	2008
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Aug	2009
Muscat, Oman	Oct 2010 / April 2013,	
Damascus, Syria	Dec	2010
Sharjah, UAE	May	2011
Bogotá, Colombia	July 2012 / August 2013,	
Mumbai, India	Sept	2012
Belmopan, Belize	Jan	2013
Amman, Jordan	May	2013
Podgorica, Montenegro	July	2013
Apia, Samoa	June	2014
Hammamet, Tunisia	Feb	2015
Geneva, Switzerland	July	2015

Comparable testing methodology:

- Developed a procedure for question evaluation that includes guidelines for translation and cognitive testing in order to ensure cross-cultural and cross-national comparability
- **Q-Notes** software developed for data entry and analysis of qualitative cognitive interviews
- **Q-Bank** launched as an online repository for reports of question evaluation studies – to ensure transparency
- Publication: Miller K, Willson S, Chepp V, Padilla JL. Cognitive Interviewing Methodology, John Wiley & Sons. 2014

Report Series of WG activities:

- Disability Information from Censuses, prepared for DPOs
- Development of an Internationally Comparable Disability Measure for Censuses, prepared for NSOs
- Monitoring the UN CRPD
- Understanding and Interpreting Disability as Measured using the WG Short Set of Questions
- The Measurement of Disability: Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Censuses
- Development of Extended Sets of Disability Measures for Surveys
- Disaggregation by Disability - A way forward (forthcoming)

All reports are available on the web:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group.htm

Publications:

- Measuring Disability and Monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: the work of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. BMC Public Health 2011, **11**(Suppl 4):S4
- A White Paper on Disability Measurement. Journal for Disability and International Development. 2012, **1**:4-11.
- Disability Statistics: and integral but missing (and misunderstood) component of development work. Nordic Journal of Human Rights, 2013; **31(3)**:306–324
- Methods to Improve International Comparability of Census and Survey Measures of Disability. Disability & Rehabilitation, 2013; **35(13)**:1070-3

Volume on the history and accomplishments of the WG:



Title: International Measurement of Disability: Purpose, Method and Application

B. Altman (Editor)
Springer (Publisher)
Work on this volume began in 2012.

Publication forthcoming in 2016

Collaborations:

The WG has a long history of collaboration with other international organizations:

- UNSD (Statistical Division)
- UN DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
- UNICEF (Children's Fund)
- UN ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)
- World Bank
- World Health Organization

as well as many National Statistical Offices and both Non-Governmental and Disabled Person's Organizations

Some specific outside activities:

- Cognitive testing:
 - WHO Model Disability Survey – report prepared: http://wwwn.cdc.gov/qbank/report/Miller_2013_NCHS_MDSCFBU.pdf
 - International Labor Organization (ILO): disability module in labor force surveys
- UN-One (a UN partnership with ILO, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA): to develop a common approach to measuring disability for the purposes of monitoring – and international comparison

Some specific outside activities:

- Handicap International: initiatives in the Andean region, east Africa, in emergency response situations; and training
- with UN DESA: contribution to a Toolkit on Disability in Africa

Accountability:

United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC):

- at the 45th Session of the UNSC (2014), the work of the WG was included as a *discussion item*;
- over 20 countries expressed their support for the work of the WG;
- several indicated that they had used or intended to use the WG SS of questions in their census;
- the commission commended the work of the WG and endorsed its the work program for 2014-2015,
- encouraging continued work on the extended question set on functioning for adult and children; and
- **suggested expanding the scope of work to include data analysis and the dissemination of disability statistics.**

The WG will be again included as a discussion item at the 2016 meeting of the UNSC.

WG SS: International Initiatives

Recommendations for monitoring:

- UN DESA/UNESCO Expert Group Meeting, Paris, July '14
- Follow-up conference on disability data, London, Oct '14

Adoption in International aid programs:

- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)

The 2020 round of censuses:

- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
 - UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
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The Road Ahead

- We will continue to work on question development for sub-populations (children), and specific areas (mental health, environment & participation)
- We will discuss:
 - Capacity building,
 - Training & Technical assistance,
 - Analysis,
 - Implementation, and
 - Dissemination.

Main Objectives for 15th meeting

- Provide an up-date on the WG short and extended sets of questions and approve guidelines for analyzing data obtained from the WG extended set on functioning;
- present additional work on the WG/UNICEF modules on child functioning and disability & inclusive education;
- Development of disability modules on labor force surveys;
- Methodological issues concerning environmental factors and participation;
- Status on development of questions to measure mental health;
- review recent international activities in disability statistics: outcome indicators for monitoring

Agenda: Sessions Overview

1. Opening
2. WG short and extended set on functioning – proposed guidelines for analysis
3. Methodological issues: modules on child functioning and disability, and the measurement of inclusive education
4. Development of disability modules for labor force surveys
5. Methodological issues: environmental factors and participation

Agenda: Sessions Overview

6. Methodological issues: measuring mental health
7. Outcome indicators to monitor UN CRPD and post-2015 SDGs
8. Country activities
9. Updates on WG governance issues; summarizing the accomplishments of the 15th meeting and next steps and objectives for the 16th meeting

Post-meeting sessions

10. Meeting of the Global Network on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development
11. Planning meetings for Workgroups (if desired)