

Session 3: Disability statistics in the ESCAP region: An overview – A review of available statistics on disability in the region with emphasis on comparability of prevalence rates

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Outline of the presentation

1. Data gaps
2. Reliability/comparability
3. Issues for consideration

Data gaps

- ESCAP publications “Disability at a Glance 2012” and “Disability at a Glance 2015”
- ESCAP survey on the availability of national baseline data on Incheon Strategy indicators (Apr.-Jun. 2013)
- ESCAP multi-year project on data collection for Incheon Strategy indicators (2014 to the present)

Availability of disability statistics

| Indicator | Number of PWDs | | Disability prevalence | | Disability prevalence by age group | | Persons with disabilities by type of disability | | Sex-disaggregation | |
|-------------------|----------------|------|-----------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|---|------|--------------------|------|
| | 2012 | 2015 | 2012 | 2015 | 2012 | 2015 | 2012 | 2015 | 2012 | 2015 |
| ESCAP, Total (58) | 50 | 57 | 48 | 56 | 30 | 36 | 38 | 44 | 39 | 46 |
| ENEA (7) | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| SEA (11) | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 9 |
| SSWA (10) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| NCA (9) | 8 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Pacific (21) | 15 | 20 | 13 | 20 | 8 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 14 | 20 |

Unit: Number of countries

Source: *Disability at a Glance, 2012 and 2015*

Availability of labour statistics for PWDs

| Indicator | Employment-to-population ratios | Unemployment rates | LF participation rates | Employment by main sector | Sex-disaggregation |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| ESCAP, Total (58) | 20 | 19 | 16 | 12 | 19 |
| ENEA (7) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| SEA (11) | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| SSWA (10) | 5 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| NCA (9) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pacific (21) | 8 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 7 |

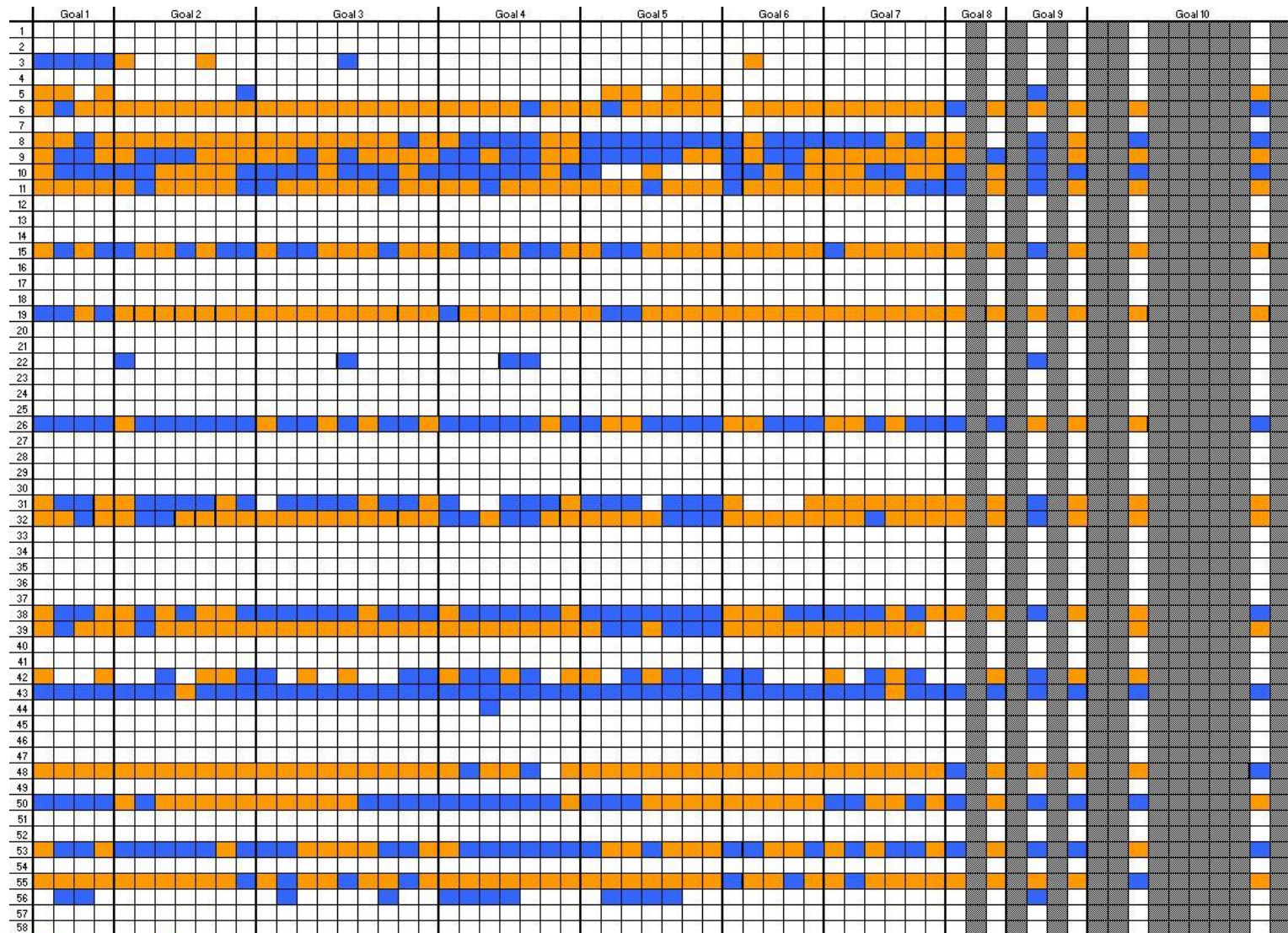
Unit: Number of countries

Source: *Disability at a Glance, 2015*

Regional survey on the availability of national baseline data (mid-April to June 2013)

- Survey questionnaire was sent to all 58 ESCAP member States and associate members with a cover letter of Executive Secretary
- Questionnaire address the issue of availability of data for IS indicators in areas of poverty, employment, education, accessibility, health, etc.
- One questionnaire per country to be completed by DFPs jointly with NSOs and other line ministries
- Responses were received from 23 countries and areas

Availability of data as reported by 23 Governments



ESCAP project on data collection for Incheon Strategy indicators

- ESCAP organized national consultation meetings in seven countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) since 2014
- The purpose of the consultations was to discuss data issues with line ministries, NSOs and DPOs, and help governments develop national actions plans

Outcome of national consultations:

- Assessment of data gaps and constraints
- Development of national action plans on data collection for Incheon Strategy

Reliability and comparability of disability statistics

Disability prevalence (%)

| | All ages | By age group | | |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|-------|------|
| | | 0-14 | 15-59 | 60+ |
| World | 15.3 | 5.1 | 14.9 | 46.1 |
| High-income | 15.4 | 2.8 | 12.4 | 36.8 |
| Developing | | | | |
| South-East Asia | 16.0 | 5.2 | 16.3 | 58.8 |
| Africa | 15.3 | 6.4 | 19.1 | 53.3 |
| Latin America | 14.1 | 4.5 | 14.6 | 44.3 |

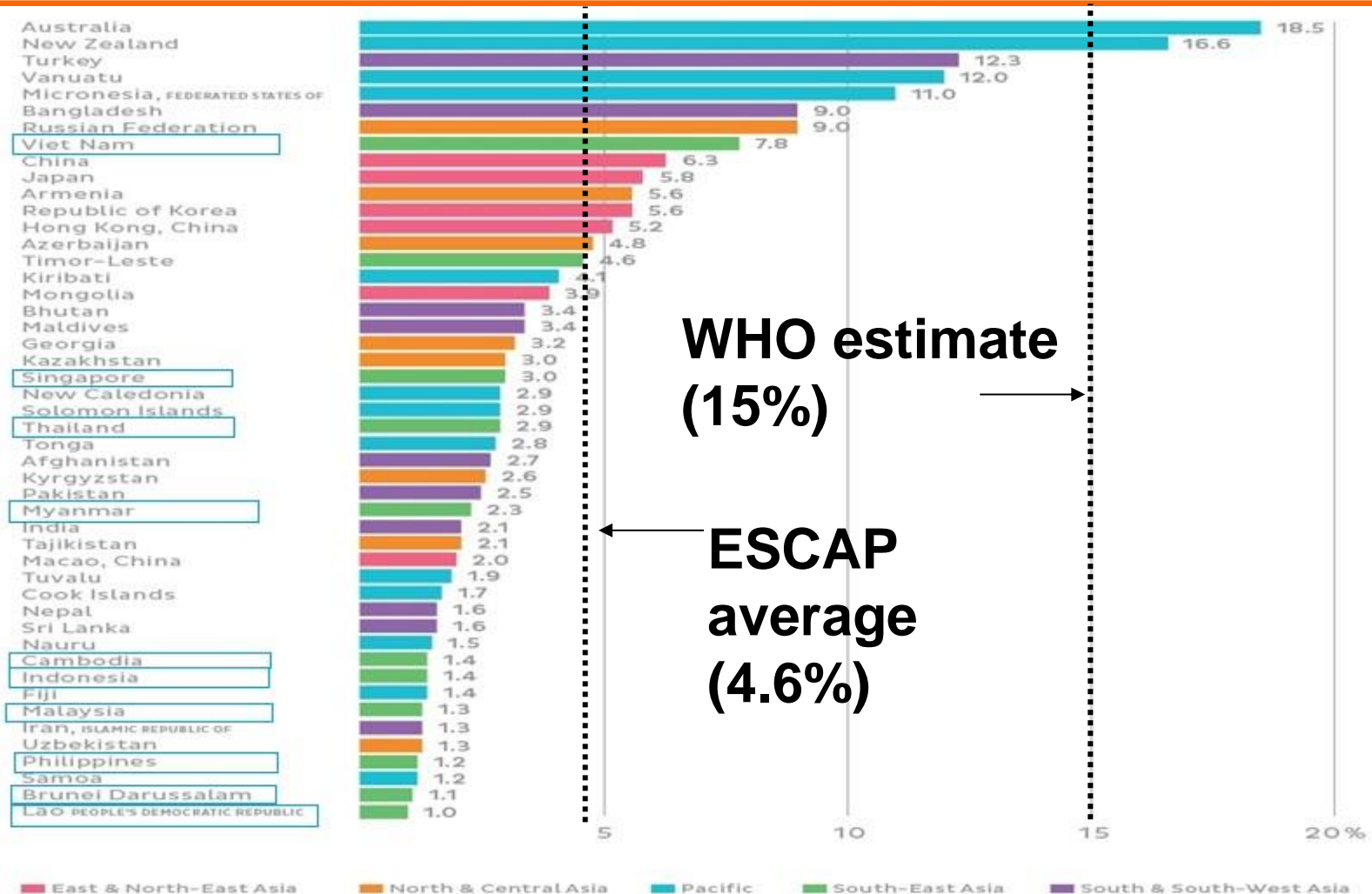
Source: World Report on Disability 2011

Reliability and comparability of disability statistics

ESCAP “Disability at a Glance 2012”, key issues:

- Disability prevalence ranges from 1.0 % in Lao PDR to 18.5% in Australia
- The population-weighted average of disability prevalence for the Asia-Pacific region is 4.6%., much lower than the WHO’s 15%
- There are only 200 million PWDs in the A-P region while the WHO estimates indicate that 650 million PWDs live in the region (450 millions are not counted)

Government-reported disability prevalence



SOURCE: ESCAP ANALYSIS BASED ON ESCAP DISABILITY SURVEY, 2011, AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENT DISABILITY FOCAL POINTS DURING 2012.

Reliability and comparability of disability statistics

What are the causes of these cross-country differences?

- Differences in the conceptualization and definition of disability (medical vs. social model)
- Differences in purposes of data collection
- Differences in methods of data collection (e.g. question, response scales)
- Differences in data reference periods (periodicity of data collection)
- Interplay of these parameters affect the comparability

Reliability and comparability of disability statistics

- Therefore, various estimates do not point necessarily to actual differences in the number of persons with disabilities
- Various estimates are found even within countries that compile disability data from various sources (e.g. census, DHS, HIES)
- A common and consistent approach to data collection is required to improve the reliability and comparability

| | Australia | Lao PDR |
|--|---|--|
| Purpose of collecting disability data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To measure the prevalence of disability. •To provide a demographic and socioeconomic profile of persons with disabilities. •To identify support needs for persons with disabilities and older persons. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To provide information on the population and their living conditions. •To identify development plans, including education, employment, housing and construction, water and electricity supply. |
| Underlying approach for disability | Focusing on interaction between individuals and external environment | Impairment |
| Number of disability questions | 75 | 3 |
| Types of questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A set of screening questions using ICF domains from the body functions, body structure, activities and participation components used. •Personal interviews with people identified or proxy interviews followed to ask about assistance needs and received in carrying out core activities, internet use, participation in community, schooling and employment restrictions. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there any disabled person in this household? (Yes/No) 2. What type of disability does he/she have? (Visual, deaf/dumb, arm/leg, multiple, other) 3. What is the cause of disability? (since birth, war accident, drug addiction, diseases, others) |
| Degree of severity of impairment identified | Mild-moderate-severe-profound | Does not address severity directly, either “Yes” or “No”. |
| Data collection instrument | Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers | Population and Housing Census |
| Recorded disability prevalence | <p>18.5 per cent (total)</p> <p><i>of which</i></p> <p>Mild: 5.6 % : Moderate: 3.0 %</p> <p>Severe: 2.9 % : Profound: 2.9 %</p> <p>Other restrictions: 4.1 %</p> | 1.0 per cent |

Issues for consideration

- Strengthen the national statistical system from a disability perspective
- Use a common framework for disability data collection (e.g., Washington Group recommended disability questions)
- Find cost-efficient and diversified ways for disability data collection by leveraging the pros. and cons of census, surveys vs. administrative sources

Voices of persons with disabilities

“Get Counted to Count!”

***“Effective policy formulation is
not possible without accurate
data on persons with disabilities”***

Thank you.