



Questions used to identify persons with disabilities: Overview of 2010 census round

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National experience

United Nations Statistics Division

- ❑ National efforts to collect data on disability in both developed and developing countries have continuously increased over time

Countries that asked question on disability in census

Census round	Number of countries
1970	19
1980	36
1990	80
2000	103
2010	104*

* Based on questionnaires available to UNSD



2010 census questions on disability

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	Total number of countries reviewed	Question on topic of disability	Use of Washington Group Short Set of Questions	Measurement of impairment
Total countries	131	101	36	37
Africa	33	29	5	11
America, North	18	18	7	2
America, South	6	5	1	1
Asia	31	26	10	11
Europe	24	11	4	2
Oceania	22	15	9	0

Meeting on Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, Bangkok, Thailand, 26-28 July 2016



Type of questions used

- ❑ List of impairments – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal
- ❑ Screener question about presence of disabled household members followed by list of impairments – India, Lao-DPR
- ❑ Screener about household members with disabilities followed by list of impairments – Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand
- ❑ Presence of list of impairments, medical conditions, functioning, participation – Korea, Rep of



Type of questions used

- ❑ Washington Group – Indonesia*, Korea-DPR, Israel, Myanmar, Sri Lanka*, State of Palestine, Qatar, Timor Leste*, Turkey, Viet Nam*

* - With modifications



List of impairments (and medical conditions)

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Bangladesh - 2011	Bhutan - 2005	Cambodia - 2008	Nepal - 2011
Type of disability	Physical or mental disability in:	Physically or mentally disabled in:	What is the physical and mental disability of ..?
Speech	Seeing	Seeing	Physical disability
Vision	Hearing	Hearing	Blind and low vision
Hearing	Speaking	Speech	Deaf & hard of hearing
Physical	Moving	Movement	Deaf-blind
Mental	Mental	Mental	Speech problem
Autistic			Mental problem
			Intellectual problem
			Multiple disability



Screeners on disabled household members and list of impairments

India - 2011	Lao-DPR - 2005
Is this person physically or mentally disabled? If, yes:	Is there any disabled person in the household? If yes:
Seeing	Visually handicapped
Hearing	Deaf/dumb
Speech	Arm/leg handicapped
Mental retardation	Multiple handicapped
Mental illness	Other
Any other	
Multiple disability	



Screeners on household members with disabilities and list of impairments

Iran - 2006	Malaysia - 2010	Mongolia - 2010	Thailand - 2010
Is there anybody in the household with at least one of these disabilities?	Do you experience any form of disabilities as follows?	1) Do you have a disability? 2) if yes: type of disability	Do you have disability? If yes:
Blind	Sight	Visual	Blind in both eyes
Deaf	Hearing	Speaking	Unable to speak/mute or unable to speak intelligibly
Voice and speech disorder	Speech	Hearing	Loss of at least one foot at the ankle or above or one arm at the wrist or above/paralyzed



Screeners on household members with disabilities and list of impairments

Iran - 2006	Malaysia - 2010	Mongolia - 2010	Thailand - 2010
Is there anybody in the household with at least one of these disabilities?	Do you experience any form of disabilities as follows?	1) Do you have a disability? 2) if yes: type of disability	Do you have disability? If yes:
Hand amputation	Physical	Mobility	Mentally ill/violent/withdrawn/autistic
Hand impairment	Slow learner	Cognitive	Intellectually disabled
Leg amputation	Mental	Other	
Leg impairment			
Torso impairment			
Mental disorder			



Impairments, medical conditions, functional limitations

Korea, Rep. of - 2005

Is there a mental or physical impairment that has existed for 6 months or has been diagnosed to last longer?

1. Visual/hearing/language disabilities
2. Dementia
3. Paralysis
4. Difficulties in walking, taking stairs, or lifting
5. Difficulties in studying, mental deficiencies or disorders

Do difficulties exist in the following activities?

1. Learning, remembering, concentrating
2. Dressing, bathing, eating, roaming inside the house ins
3. Shopping, going to hospital, roaming outside of the house
4. (16 years old and over)Job activities



**Washington Group
Short Set
of
Questions**

Essential domains

Additional domains
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Walking

Seeing

Hearing

Cognition

Self-care

Communication

Upper body functioning

Psychological functioning

All regions (131 countries)

36

35

34

35

33

18

14

7

2

Africa (27)

5

4

4

4

4

3

2

1

1

America, North (18)

7

7

7

7

7

6

5

4

1

America, South (6)

1

1

1

1

0

0

0

0

Asia (27)

10

10

10

10

8

3

3

1

0

Europe (24)

4

4

4

4

4

3

3

0

0

Oceania (22)

9

9

8

9

9

3

1

1

0



Use of Washington Group questions

Country	Modification(s)
Indonesia	1) combined category of "remembering or concentrating or having difficulty in communicating with others because of a physical or mental health condition" 2) 3 response categories: no/some/total
Sri Lanka	3 categories: no difficulty/difficulty/not possible at all
Timor Leste	How much difficulty does (NAME) have in? 1. walking, 2. seeing, 3. hearing, 4. intellectual/mental condition
Viet Nam	Use of hearing aid not included in question



Use of Washington Group questions

□ WG domains

- Walking (10) - Indonesia, Korea-DPR, Israel, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Qatar, Timor Leste, Turkey, Viet Nam
- Seeing (10) - Indonesia, Korea-DPR, Israel, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Qatar, Timor Leste, Turkey, Viet Nam
- Hearing (10) - Indonesia, Korea-DPR, Israel, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Qatar, Timor Leste, Turkey, Viet Nam
- Cognition (8) - Korea-DPR, Israel, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Qatar, Turkey, Viet Nam



Use of Washington Group questions

- WG domains
 - Self-care (3) – Indonesia, Israel, Sri Lanka
 - Communication (3) - Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Turkey
 - Upper body (1) - Turkey