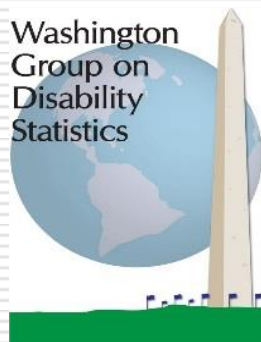


# Mainstreaming Disability Data: The Washington Group on Disability Statistics

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# The Washington Group (WG)

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- June 2001: UN International Seminar on the Measurement of Disability
- WG established as a City Group under the aegis of the UN Statistical Commission to:
  - address the need for population based measures of disability
  - foster international cooperation in the area of health and disability statistics
  - produce internationally tested measures to monitor status of persons with disability
  - incorporate disability into national statistical systems

# The WG is Country driven

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- Countries have ownership
  - Representatives include the national statistical offices of 133 countries and territories, 7 international organizations, 6 organizations that represent persons with disabilities
- The Secretariat for the WG is located at NCHS
- A Steering Committee oversees the WG work plan
- Workgroups carries out the work plan with input from all members
- Emphasis on evidence and transparency – extensive testing of data collection tools in multiple countries

# WG: Workgroups / Leaders

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- Workgroup on the Analysis of the Extended Set on Functioning / NCHS
- Workgroup on Child Functioning / NCHS
- Workgroup on Environmental Factors and Participation / NCHS
- Workgroup on Mental Health /South Africa and Italy
- Workgroup on Disability Module for Labor Force Surveys / UCL

# Summary of annual meetings

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1. Washington, DC 2/2002
2. Canada 1/2003
3. Belgium 2/2004
4. Thailand 9/2004
5. Brazil 9/2005
6. Uganda 10/2006
7. Ireland 9/2007
8. Philippines 10/2008
9. Tanzania 10/2009
10. Luxembourg 11/2010
11. Bermuda 11/2011
12. Thailand 10/2012
13. Jordan 10/2013
14. Argentina 10/2014
15. Denmark 10/2015
16. South Africa 12/2016

# Workshops and Expert Consultations:

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|                                |                 |                        |         |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------|
| Nairobi, Kenya                 | 06/2005         | Mumbai, India*         | 09/2012 |
| Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic       | 12/2006         | Belmopan, Belize*      | 01/2013 |
| Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina | 02/2008         | Amman, Jordan          | 05/2013 |
| Bangkok, Thailand              | 04/2008         | Podgorica, Montenegro* | 07/2013 |
| Ohrid, Macedonia               | 11/2008         | Apia, Samoa*           | 06/2014 |
| Dhaka, Bangladesh              | 08/2009         | Hammamet, Tunisia*     | 02/2015 |
| Muscat, Oman                   | 10/'10 & 04/'13 | Geneva, Switzerland*   | 07/2015 |
| Damascus, Syria                | 12/2010         | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  | 05/2016 |
| Sharjah, UAE                   | 05/2011         | NY, New York*          | 06/2016 |
| Bogotá, Colombia               | 07/'12 & 08/'13 | Nadi, Fiji             | 07/2016 |

\*in collaboration with UNICEF

# Collaborations

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

- UN Statistics Division
- UN Secretariat for the CRPD
- UNICEF
- UN ESCAP
- World Bank
- ILO
- World Health Organization

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

# WG Data Collection Tools: Short Set

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Question set that focus on measuring difficulty functioning in universal, basic activities:

- Short set on functioning adopted in 2006
  - Domains of functioning:  
Seeing, Hearing, Mobility, Cognition, Self-care, Communication
  - Response categories:  
No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all



# Testing of the WG SS

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- Cognitive testing of the short set questions was carried out in 2006 in fifteen countries:  
Argentina, Brazil, Congo, Egypt, Gambia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam
- This was followed by field testing in five countries:  
Argentina, Brazil, Gambia, Paraguay, Vietnam

# Monitoring the UN CRPD and SDGs through data disaggregation

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WG question sets are developed

- to collect internationally comparable data based on the ICF model
- that fulfill the monitoring requirements established by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

# Defining a disability continuum and a disability dichotomy

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WG questions fulfil two specific data needs:

- to describe disability data as a continuum of functioning based on graded responses to questions in the functional domains, and
- to define a cut-off (or a set of cut-offs) that can be agreed upon internationally in order to disaggregate outcome indicators (e.g. access to education, employment) by disability status

This allows for the calculation of prevalence rates and disaggregation.

# Disaggregation requirements

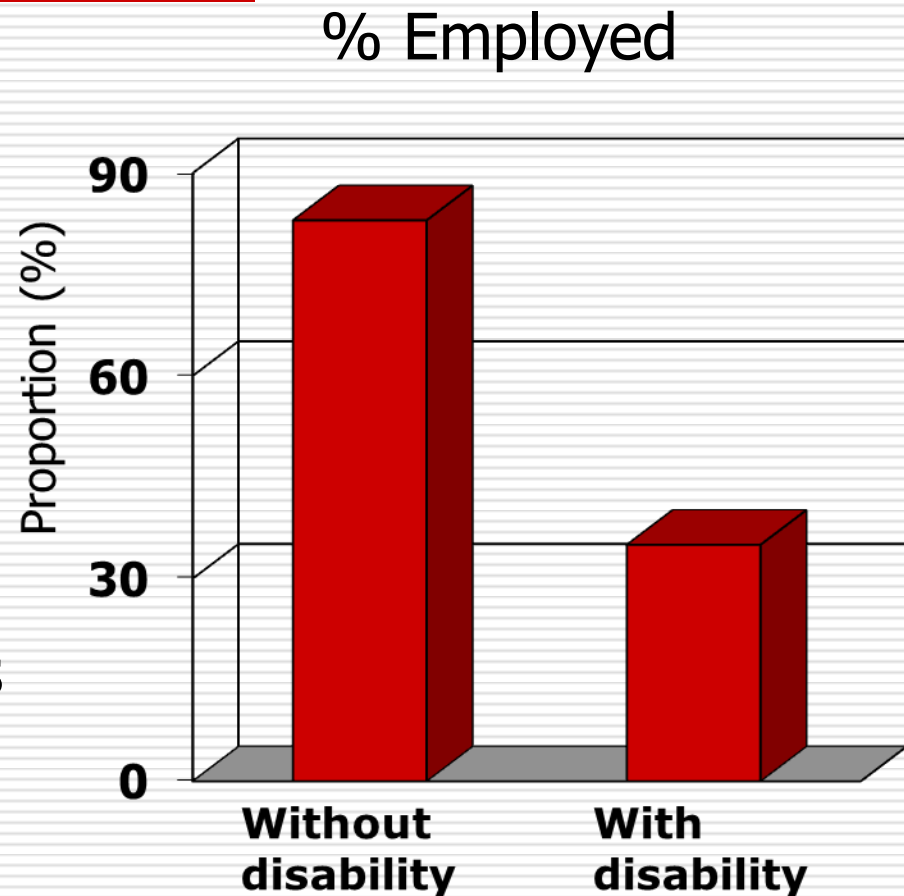
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- Need a straightforward and simple way to identify persons with disabilities: the WG questions identify those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.
- Need indicator/outcome data (education, employment, income, health care access) from data collections (census/surveys) that also include the above disability identifier.

# Focus on Equalization of Opportunities

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- Seeks to identify all those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.
- Disability used as a dissagregation variable.



# Mainstreaming disability statistics

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- WG questions can be added to any on-going data collections;
  - Can be used in any national or subnational survey (health, labor force, income & expenditure, DHS, MICS etc.)
- Once the WG questions become integrated into core statistical systems – disaggregating outcomes (education, employment etc.) by disability status becomes routine

# The Washington Group Short Set...

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- has been used in censuses or surveys in over 65 countries
- has been promoted by international aid programs, (DFID/UK and DFAT/Australia), as the means to collect disability data in all programs and projects,
- has been introduced as the means for collecting disability data by the UN Statistical Division (UNSD) and the UN Economic Commission for Europe for the 2020 round of censuses.
- And both the US AID and UNICEF have developed disability modules that will operationalize the WG SS for their Demographic and Health Surveys and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys respectively.

# WG Data Collection Tools: Extended Set for Adults

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- Extended set on functioning adopted 2010
  - expands on the Short Set adding information on upper body functioning, affect, pain and fatigue and adding more questions per domain;
  - begins to explore the association between functioning and the environment: use of assistive devices/aids, and functioning with and without assistance



# WG Data Collection Tools: Children

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Question set that focus on special case of disability and functioning among children and youth:

- WG/UNICEF Module on Child Functioning:
  - includes questions for children 2-4 and 5-17 years

Question set that focus on the environment and participation:

- WG/UNICEF Module on Inclusive Education
  - begins to address the association between environmental barriers and participation

# WG Data Collection Tools: Participation

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Question sets that focus on the environment and participation:

- Disability module for inclusion on labor force surveys
  - currently under development in collaboration with ILO
- Module on environment & participation
  - under development
  - measuring the environment indirectly through participation in selected activities: family, social and civic domains

# Volume on the history and accomplishments of the WG:

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International Measurement of Disability:  
Purpose, Method and Application  
The Work of the Washington Group

B. M. Altman (Editor)  
Springer (Publisher)

Publication: June, 2016

# The Road Ahead

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## Capacity building through 2018

- 5-7 regional workshops
- 6-8 implementation and other technical workshops

## Development of guidance documents

- Implementation protocols for data collection
- Data analysis
- Dissemination of results

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For more information about the WG **visit our new website:**

<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

Questions:

[WG\\_Secretariat@cdc.gov](mailto:WG_Secretariat@cdc.gov)

