



APPROACHES USED TO MEASURE DISABILITY THROUGH CENSUSES IN GHANA

**United Nations Regional Meeting on Disability Measurement &
Statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Dev't & the
2020 World PHC Programme for Africa
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Introduction

- Ghana, like many other developing countries, relies mainly on survey and population census data for planning at the national and the sub-national levels
- Disability is an inescapable human condition and at one point or another, almost every person is exposed to, and may experience temporal or permanent disability (WHO & World Bank, 2011)
- Disability can occur at three levels: impairment in body function or structure; a limitation in activity, such as the inability to read or move around; a restriction in participation, such as exclusion from school or work
- The barriers and challenges disabled people encounter in their routine lives are far greater than those encountered by people who are not disabled
- It is the responsibility of GSS as the office responsible for conducting large scale household surveys including censuses to collect, analyse and disseminate information on disability in Ghana (visual, physical, speech, hearing, emotional and intellectual)

National Context

- Ghana has signed, ratified and adopted various international agreements including the Convention on the rights of PWDs and the African Decade of the Disabled Persons
- National Council for Persons with Disabilities was established in accordance with Article 41 of the Persons with Disability Act 2006
- Other initiatives include the 3% allocation of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) to assist PWD, and the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (2010 – 2013) Volume I which aims to develop and implement an action plan to fulfill the provisions of the Persons with Disability Act 2006 and develop social interventions

National Context

- The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana makes provision for the fundamental human rights of all Ghanaians. Article 29 of the 1992 Constitution specifically imposed an obligation on Parliament to legislate laws to protect and promote the rights of persons with disability (PWD)
- The Constitution makes provision for the rights of PWD including the right to live a decent life with their families or foster parents and to participate fully in social and recreational activities. The Constitution further guarantees the rights of PWD against all forms of exploitation, discriminatory or abusive regulations of all kinds

Questions on Disability

- A module on disability was included in the 2010 PHC for the first time in Ghana.
- Does (NAME) have any serious disability that limits his/her full participation in some life activities (such as mobility, work, social life, etc.)
- Persons with disabilities were defined as those who are unable to or are restricted in the performance of specific tasks/activities due to loss of function of any part of the body as a result of impairment or malformation. Examples are persons with visual/sight impairment, hearing impairment, mental retardation, emotional or behavioural disorders and physically challenged persons.

Questions on Disability

- A disability could be partial or total, sensory or physical and an individual may suffer from one or more disabilities. A person is considered disabled if despite the use of assistive device or supportive environment (such as eye glasses and hearing aids), the limitation/restriction cannot be improved

The Question

- Does (NAME) have any serious disability that limits his/her full participation in some life activities (such as mobility, work, social life, etc.) –Either a Yes or No.
- Visual/Sight Impairment (Blind and partially sighted)
- Hearing Impairment (deaf, hard at hearing)
- Speech Impairment
- Physical (e.g. needs wheel chair, clutches or prosthesis, leg, hand usage limitations)
- Intellectual (serious difficulty in learning)
- Emotional/Behavioural Disorders

Reasons for choice of Questions

- Need to plan for every body/all inclusive/leave no one behind in the planning process (men, women, children, elderly, PWDs, etc.)
- To meet data needs of users (Gov't, NGOs and other users)
- Recommendations from UN P&R

Challenges in administering Questions

- Stigmatization
- Definitional problems



- **Disability in Ghana**

With a population of 24,658,823, PWDs were 737,743 accounting for 3.0% of the total population

Region	Total Population	Population with Disability	Disability Rate
All Regions	24,658,823	737,743	3.0
Western	2,376,021	66,016	2.8
Central	2,201,863	75,939	3.4
Greater Accra	4,010,054	103,939	2.6
Volta	2,118,252	91,767	4.3
Eastern	2,633,154	94,579	3.6
Ashanti	4,780,380	124,501	2.6
Brong Ahafo	2,310,983	54,038	2.3
Northern	2,479,461	61,294	2.5
Upper East	1,046,545	39,924	3.8
Upper West	702,110	25,746	3.7

Disability in Ghana

- In general, the rates of disability increase with age. The disability rate rose from 1.4% at age group 0–14 years to 3.1 % for those aged 15–64 years then to 14% at age 65+ years
- About 39 % of all PWDs in Ghana had multiple disabilities
- Nationally, the most common type of disability is sight or visual impairments (40.1%), followed by physical disability (25.4%)

Steps

- Consider which way to go-Washington Group questions OR modify what was used in the 2010 PHC with slight modifications.



END OF PRESENTATION

Thank you