



UN Regional Meetings on Disability Measurement and Statistics: Some Observations

Margaret Mbogoni
UNSD Disability Statistics Programme
United Nations Statistics Division



UNSD Disability Statistics Programme in support of the 2030 Agenda

- UNSD organizing regional meetings to:
 - review national experiences in disability measurement, including challenges faced and lessons learnt during 2010 censuses
 - discuss compilation of disability-related SDG indicators for monitoring progress towards inclusion of persons with disabilities in development programmes
 - Asia (South and South-East) – July 2016
 - Caribbean – September 2016
 - Africa – November 2016
 - Arabic-speaking countries – March 2017
 - Central Asia and Western Balkan States – June 2017
 - Latin America – June 2017
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Regional meetings on disability measurement and statistics

Region	Date	Total participants	Country representatives	Countries represented
E-SE-Asia ¹	July 2016	43	26	19
Caribbean	Sept. 2016	24	16	14
Africa	Nov. 2016	23	18	14
Arabic speaking	March 2017	29	18	11
CA & WBS ²	June 2017	31	21	17
Latin America	June 2017	43	34	15
Total		193	133	90

Note: ¹- East/South-East Asia; ²-Central Asia and Western Balkan States



Participation in regional meetings

❑ Asia (South and South-East) – July 2016

19 countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, China (Hong Kong), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam

❑ Caribbean – September 2016

14 countries - Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Turks and Caicos Islands

❑ Africa – November 2016

14 countries - Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Swaziland, and Uganda



Participation in regional meetings

❑ Arabic speaking countries – March 2017

11 countries - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

❑ Central Asia and Western Balkan States – June 2017

17 countries - Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan

❑ Latin America – June 2017

15 countries - Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay



Regional meetings

Some observations....



National practices

- ❑ Substantial increase over time in countries collecting data on disability
 - Increased from 19 during 1970 round to at least 120 during 2010 round

But also

- ❑ Differences in national practices in disability measurement
 - Sources used for data on disability
 - Population & housing censuses main source for data on disability
 - differences by region in use of household surveys and administrative records as source of data on disability
 - Methodology
 - Conceptualization and implied definition of disability
 - Terminology used (e.g., seeing, sight, vision)
 - Questions asked (type, wording, included items, response options)
 - Coverage (incl/excl of children, inst. population, homeless)
 - Use of international standards and guidelines
 - Operational aspects (type of respondent, mode of data collection)



Operational Issues

- Type of respondent (self-response or proxy)
 - Oral translation of questions in the field
 - Different modes of data collection
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Data Sources

- ❑ Population & housing censuses
 - Complex operation with main objective of getting accurate count of population and major characteristics
 - Uses proxy respondents with likely effect on quality of data compared to self-response
 - Not enough time to devote to required training of enumerators
 - Not enough time for adequate probing to get more accurate information
 - May not be appropriate vehicle for collecting data on disability
- ❑ Household surveys
 - General lack of comparability between questions asked in different surveys and between the surveys and censuses
 - Some countries expressed caution on adding a disability module to other surveys because not all surveys are appropriately designed for disability measurement
 - Due to varying sampling frameworks employed for different surveys, results may not be comparable when modules are attached
 - Sample size has implications for disaggregation of by characteristics of interest and overall cost of survey
 - SIDS challenged in use of sample surveys to collect data on disability
 - Small population bases coupled with small numbers of identified persons with disabilities
 - Data disaggregated at country or high geographic level



Data Sources

- ❑ Administrative data sources
 - Fragmentation of sources with a lack of linkage and harmonization of their content
 - Coverage of administrative sources may be limited to a particular population of interest
 - Recognition that this source of data on disability should be strengthened and exploited
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Reported challenges

- ❑ Translating and interpreting into local languages some disability terms
 - ❑ Willingness of public to provide information due to stigma attached to disability, with potential for under-counting
 - ❑ Difficulties in distinguishing degrees of difficulty particularly illiterate respondents
 - ❑ General lack of qualified enumerators to collect data on disability
 - ❑ For censuses, generally not feasible to provide required specialized training to enumerators
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Some recommendations from regional meetings

- ❑ Harmonized approach to data collection
 - Use of ICF for standardized terminology and definitions
 - Washington Group approach (for and against)
 - Importance of adequately testing and adapting recommended questions and categories to national situations and contexts (to ensure relevance of resulting information)
 - Guidance on lowest age for asking questions on disability in census
 - Should there be a time reference for presence of difficulty?

 - ❑ Guidelines
 - Develop guidelines with harmonized measurement standards for data collection, dissemination and analysis encompassing censuses, surveys and administrative sources

 - ❑ Census questions should be kept simple and easy to understand
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Some recommendations from regional meetings

- ❑ Capacity building
 - Comprehensive statistical capacity development needed in face of data requirements for SDGs monitoring
 - Enhance the capacity of national offices through appropriate training, e.g, on operationalization of ICF into census and survey questions
 - Technical assistance in data collection, analysis and dissemination
 - Strengthen communication between national and international stakeholders to identify needs for and how to implement training

 - ❑ Strengthening administrative datasets through harmonization and coordination with other sources
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