

# Mainstreaming Disability Data: The Washington Group on Disability Statistics

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Jennifer H Madans

Associate Director for Science,  
National Center for Health Statistics, USA and  
Chair, Washington Group on Disability Statistics

# 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

# Summary of annual meetings

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1. Washington, DC	February	2002
2. Ottawa, Canada	January	2003
3. Brussels, Belgium	February	2004
4. Bangkok, Thailand	September	2004
5. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	September	2005
6. Kampala, Uganda	October	2006
7. Dublin, Ireland	September	2007
8. Manila, Philippines	October	2008
9. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	October	2009
10. Luxembourg	November	2010
11. Southampton, Bermuda	November	2011
12. Bangkok, Thailand	October	2012
13. Amman, Jordan	October	2013
14. Buenos Aires, Argentina	October	2014
15. Copenhagen, Denmark	October	2015

# Workshops and Technical Assistance

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Nairobi, Kenya	June	2005
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	Dec	2006
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Feb	2008
Bangkok, Thailand	April	2008
Ohrid, Macedonia	Nov	2008
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Aug	2009
Muscat, Oman	Oct 2010 / April	2013
Damascus, Syria	Dec	2010
Sharjah, UAE	May	2011
Bogotá, Colombia	July 2012 / August	2013
Mumbai, India	Sept	2012
Belmopan, Belize	Jan	2013
Amman, Jordan	May	2013
Podgorica, Montenegro	July	2013
Apia, Samoa	June	2014
Hammamet, Tunisia	Feb	2015
Geneva, Switzerland	July	2015

# 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



# Use of the WG short set in censuses, national surveys, disability modules or pre-tests\* (n=66)

Afghanistan	Egypt	Malta	Qatar
Argentina	Estonia	Mexico	Romania
Armenia	Fiji	Mongolia	Rwanda
Aruba	France	Montenegro	Samoa
Bangladesh	Iran	Montserrat	St. Maarten
Bermuda	Ireland	Mozambique	South Africa
Brazil	Israel	Netherlands	Sri Lanka
Burundi	Italy	Netherlands Antilles	Tanzania
Cambodia	Ivory Coast	Oman	Thailand
Canada	Jamaica	Pakistan	Tunisia
Chad	Japan	Palestine	Turkey
Costa Rica	Jordan	Panama	Uganda
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Paraguay	UAE
China	Kenya	Peru	United States
China (Hong Kong SAR)	Latvia	Philippines	Vietnam
Dominican Republic	Malawi	Poland	Yemen
			Zambia
			Zimbabwe

\*Based on information obtained from 2009 - 2015 country reports

# 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.

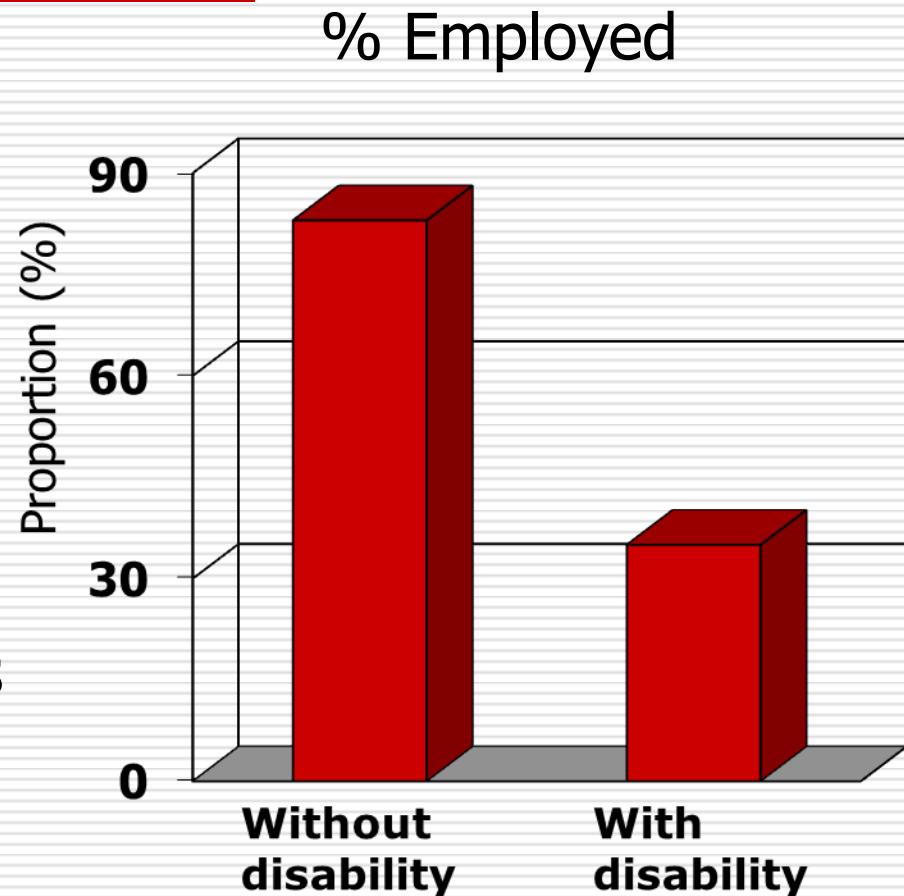
# Disaggregation requirements

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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

- 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

# 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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Published by Springer

B. Altman (Editor)

## International Measurement of Disability: Purpose, Method and Application

- 18 chapters, many written by past and current members of the WG
- covering the work of the WG over the past 15 years and a look towards the future

# 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