

United Nations Disability Statistics Programme in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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National interest in disability data and measurement

- ❑ 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	94*

* Does not include censuses taken 2012-2014



National interest in disability data and measurement – Role of international mandates

International observances and policy documents on human rights of persons with disabilities

- ☐ GA Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975)
 - ☐ International Year of Disabled Persons (1981)
 - ☐ The World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (1982)
 - ☐ United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992)
 - ☐ Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993)
 - ☐ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
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National experience

- ❑ Still lack of comparability among countries regarding definitions, concepts used in disability measurement

Countries that asked a question on disability in 2010 census round

Total number of countries in study	Asked question on disability	Used Washington Group Short Set of Questions	Measurement of impairment (handicap)
124	94	32	22

New opportunities for disability statistics and measurement

- ❑ 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme (2015-2024)
 - ECOSOC Resolution (E/RES/2015/10) stresses importance of censuses as source of data for:
 - Inclusive socio-economic development
 - Assessing situation of special population groups, including persons with disabilities
- ❑ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - In context of “no one will be left behind” and “reach the furthest behind first” recognizes persons with disabilities as one of the vulnerable groups

2020 WPHP and SDGs - Opportunities and challenges

❑ Opportunities

- Building on momentum of 2010 census round
- Use of administrative data and of advanced technologies for census operations leading to more frequent and better quality statistics
- International applicability of SDGs and support at highest level
- Many disability-related indicators

❑ Challenges

- Risk for a sizeable number of countries not being able to take 2020 round censuses (e.g., due to instability)
- SDGs require exploitation of multiple data sources



UNSD disability statistics project

Strengthening Disability Statistics in the Era of Post-2015 Development Agenda

Funding: Government of Australia

Implementation: United Nations Statistics Division

Duration: 2015-2019

Objective of the project:

“to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices to produce and disseminate good quality and fit-for-purpose statistics on disability for evidence-based policy making and monitoring”

UNSD disability statistics project

Two expected accomplishments of the project:

- 1) Formulation of international guidelines for measurement of disability taking into account existing measurement instruments, good national practices and country experiences
 - o Build on on-going endeavors and existing measures of disability
 - o Take into account national experiences and needs
 - Important for getting measures that are applicable and relevant for their needs, and for generating data that are fit-for purpose
 - o Through consultative process with countries and international disability experts
 - Expert group meetings

UNSD disability statistics project

Two expected accomplishments of the project (Contd.):

- 2) Enhanced capacity of national statistical systems to collect and generate relevant and quality disability statistics based on international guidelines
 - o Special attention to 'data-poor' countries
 - o Importance of developing and exploiting multiple data sources
 - o Use of appropriate technologies
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UNSD disability statistics project

Modalities for national capacity development

- ☐ Training workshops
- ☐ Develop e-learning material on disability measurement
- ☐ Study visits for South-South cooperation
- ☐ Technical advisory assistance upon request of countries

UNSD disability statistics project

Stakeholders

- United Nations Statistics Division/DESA
 - Division for Social Policy and Development/DESA
 - WHO, UNICEF, ILO, World Bank, UNESCO, +, +
 - Regional and sub-regional organizations
 - Washington Group on Disability Statistics
 - National statistical offices
 - Disability measurement experts/researchers
 - National institutions in charge of disability programmes
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UNSD work on disability statistics

UNSD responsible for:

- ❑ Development of methodological standards
 - *Principles and Guidelines for Development Disability Statistics*
 - *Manual for Development of Statistical Information for Disability Programmes and Policies*
 - *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*
 - ❑ Compilation of statistics
 - DISTAT online database
 - *Based on analysis of data in DISTAT and observed non-comparability of rates and methodology, UNSD organized an International Seminar that recommended creation of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics
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UNSD work on disability statistics

UNSD responsible for:

- ☐ Providing technical assistance to countries for national capacity building
 - Workshops
- ☐ Coordination at international level

In conclusion

Through project, UNSD aims to assist countries to collect and utilize fit-for purpose disability statistics through:

- ☐ Tools and guidelines
- ☐ National capacity development
- ☐ Close collaboration with stakeholders, particularly with countries