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Report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/235, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, which was prepared with inputs from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), on current and planned activities to improve the quality, availability and comparability of disability statistics. The present report describes the work of the Washington Group on developing and testing questions on disability for use in censuses and surveys, joint work by the Washington Group and UNICEF on developing and testing question sets that focus on child functioning and disability and on barriers to full participation in education for use in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and other surveys focused on children, and the development of a model disability survey led by WHO. The Statistical Commission is requested to express its views on the current and planned work on those projects and to identify other key areas that should be addressed. The Washington Group also seeks the Commission's approval of its workplan for 2014.

* [E/CN.3/2014/1](#).



Report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

I. Introduction

1. At the International Seminar on the Measurement of Disability, held in New York from 4 to 6 June 2011, it was recommended that principles and standard forms for indicators of disability be developed for use in censuses. There was broad agreement on the need for population-based measures of disability for country use and for international comparisons. This work was greatly needed because data on disability, especially in developing countries, are scarce and often of poor quality. Furthermore, internationally comparable data are often lacking, even among developed countries. As a result, the Washington Group on Disability Statistics was formed to address this urgent need. The main purpose of the Washington Group is, therefore, the promotion and coordination of international cooperation in the area of health statistics focusing on disability measures suitable for censuses and national surveys. Its major objective is to provide basic necessary information on disability that is comparable throughout the world. Other agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Bank, also have an interest in improving the quality of disability statistics. Fruitful collaborations have been established to further shared objectives. While considerable progress has been made, significant efforts are required to incorporate disability statistics into ongoing data collections and to improve the quality and the comparability of the information obtained. This is all the more urgent given the data needs and reporting requirements identified in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2. The Washington Group was scheduled to report to the Statistical Commission at its forty-fifth session on its activities and accomplishments. Given the increasing interest in disability and disability statistics, the scope of the present report has been broadened to include activities undertaken by WHO and UNICEF. In addition, the report addresses concerns raised by the Commission at its forty-fourth session about the lack of coordination between WHO and the Washington Group in the development of a model disability survey. The Commission urged close collaboration in developing the survey to ensure that the data items proposed to be collected by WHO are consistent with those developed by the Washington Group, unless there is a compelling case to do otherwise, thereby avoiding confusion and duplication of efforts (see Commission decision 44/111, para. d).

3. The present report describes the work of the Washington Group on developing and testing questions on disability for use in censuses and surveys, joint work by the Washington Group and UNICEF on developing and testing question sets that focus on functioning in children and on barriers to full participation in education for use in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and other surveys focused on children, and the development of a model disability survey led by WHO.

II. Washington Group short question set on functioning

4. A major accomplishment of the Washington Group has been the development, testing and endorsement of a short set of questions that can be used in censuses,

sample-based national surveys or other statistical formats for the primary purpose of informing policy on the full inclusion of persons with disability into civil society. The WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) has been used as the basic framework for the development of the question set. At the sixth annual meeting of the Washington Group in Kampala, test results from 15 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Congo, Egypt, Gambia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam) were reported and the short set of questions on disability was endorsed by the 23 countries and 5 international agencies in attendance. The set comprises questions on six core functional domains: seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self care and communication. The questions were based on the model of disability inherent in ICF with a particular emphasis on international comparability. Testing procedures designed for the evaluation of internationally comparable question sets were developed for the use of the Washington Group. The testing procedures include both qualitative (cognitive testing) and quantitative methodologies. Training and technical assistance on conducting the Washington Group tests and, more generally, on disability data collection methods have been provided to countries. The short question set is accompanied by a description of its technical properties, and methodological guidance is given on implementation and applicability to all population subgroups. According to information obtained from the country reports submitted by the primary country representatives during the period from the ninth to thirteenth meetings of the Washington Group, 35 countries included the short set of questions, or some variant, in their recent census rounds.

III. Washington Group/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/Budapest Initiative extended question set on functioning

5. The Washington Group has also developed an extended question set on functioning to be used as a component of population surveys, as a supplement to surveys or as the core of a disability survey for use in surveys that expand on the short set. The extended question set also uses ICF as a conceptual framework. In collaboration with ESCAP, the Washington Group conducted standardized cognitive testing of the extended question set in nine countries (Cambodia, Canada, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka and United States of America) and standardized field testing of the extended question sets in six countries (Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines and Sri Lanka).

6. In February 2011, an expert group meeting was held in Bangkok to review the results of a second round of cognitive testing of the Washington Group/ESCAP extended question set to measure disability through surveys. The objectives were to discuss the results of the second round of cognitive testing of the question set on disability, in particular on the domains of communication, hearing, affect, pain and fatigue, to further train senior statisticians from the Asia-Pacific region on the skills required to undertake the analysis of cognitive interviews, and to discuss future areas of work on disability data collection and measurement.

7. The extended set of questions was adopted by the Washington Group after its tenth meeting, held in Luxembourg in November 2010. The extended question set is

accompanied by a description of its technical properties, and methodological guidance is given on implementation and applicability to all population subgroups.

8. In collaboration with the Budapest Initiative, a final version of a question set on health state (a subset of the extended set on functioning) was submitted to Eurostat for inclusion in the European Health Interview Survey.

IV. United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group module on child functioning and disability

9. In 2009, the Washington Group began work on the development of a set of questions on child disability for use in surveys. This coincided with the plans of UNICEF to revise the existing data collection module used in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey programme (see www.childinfo.org/mics). The new UNICEF/Washington Group questionnaire on child functioning and disability reflects current thinking on child disability and can produce internationally comparable data. The questionnaire covers children between the ages of 2 and 17 and assesses speech and language, hearing, vision, learning (cognition and intellectual development), mobility and motor skills, emotions and behaviours. A draft of the proposed UNICEF/Washington Group module was discussed and revised during a three-day expert consultation at UNICEF headquarters in New York in June 2012. The consultation meeting brought together 35 experts from around the world on a variety of topics ranging from paediatric development to survey design. Since then, the questionnaire has undergone cognitive testing¹ in Mumbai, India, as an independent project carried out by ADAPT (formerly the Spastics Society of India); in the United States at the National Center for Health Statistics; in Belize in association with UNICEF Belize, the country's national statistical office and Care International; in Oman by its national statistical office; and in Montenegro (see <http://youtu.be/sMcI3jEJaZU>). So far, field testing has taken place in Cameroon, Haiti and Italy and it is planned that it will take place in a few more countries. UNICEF and the Washington Group are also working on the development of a manual to support the implementation of the module. The manual will include all the background documentation necessary to accompany the module, including tabulation plans, templates for reporting, instructions for interviewers and training materials. It is expected that the new module and the manual for its implementation will be ready for actual data collection and use by countries in the second half of 2014.

V. United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group survey module on environment and school participation

10. UNICEF and the Washington Group are working on the development of a survey module on the measurement of environment and school participation. The aim is to measure the barriers to and/or facilitators of education by children with or without disabilities. The module will complement the module on child functioning and disability described above. Together, the two modules will provide a

¹ The purpose of cognitive testing is to determine the quality of the questions being asked and to ascertain the cultural understanding by the respondents of the underlying concepts.

comprehensive measurement of disability, assessing children's functional limitations as well as their interaction with the environment. The module will cover four areas: attitudes, accessibility, getting to school and affordability. The draft module is expected to be discussed at an expert group meeting early in 2014. Once finalized, the draft module will undergo cognitive testing and field testing. It is expected that it will be ready for actual data collection and use by countries early in 2015.

VI. United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group manual for the production of statistics on children with disabilities

11. The purpose of the manual is to provide guidance for those considering collecting data on children with disabilities. The manual discusses conceptual and theoretical issues related to measuring disability and reviews methods that have been used previously to assess disability in children, paying particular attention to methods used in low-resource settings. Considerations for designing, planning and implementing a child disability data collection effort are presented. The manual is currently being drafted by UNICEF with input from 28 international experts. The draft manual is expected to be discussed at an expert group meeting in early 2014 and finalized by the end of 2014.

VII. United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group toolkit and methodological guidelines for disability assessment in children

12. UNICEF is working to create a package of methodological guidelines, protocols, instructions, tools and training materials for an in-depth assessment of child disability based on existing best-practice approaches in resource-poor countries. The materials are being developed by UNICEF with input from an extended network of international experts. The guidelines utilize the children and youth version of ICF as the conceptual framework for an approach to disability where the focus is on activity limitations and barriers to and/or support of participation. The package will include survey instruments and an interview guide, methodological guidelines, the training programme and materials and guidance on staff recruitment and overall logistics. The interview guide and training programme will cover the entire assessment procedure, including the minimum qualifications for the interviewers; the steps to take before, during and after the assessment in order to ensure data quality; guidance on following the required ethical codes; and ways to guarantee appropriate follow-up if needed. The package will also contain an analytical framework for the analysis of the findings, including main tables and indicators for reporting, and a strategy for validation and field testing. Recognizing that high-level specialists may be in short supply in some areas, the toolkit is designed to be administered by trained mid-level professionals, such as teachers and community workers, strengthening local capacity for the identification and assessment of children with disabilities. The draft toolkit is expected to be discussed at an expert group meeting early in 2014. Testing and validation will follow. It is expected that the toolkit will be ready for use by countries in late 2014.

VIII. United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group regional capacity-building workshops and technical assistance on the measurement of child disability

13. UNICEF and the Washington Group intend to develop training material and conduct workshops on the measurement of child disability. The training material is intended to be used in technical workshops as well as for individual learning. The workshops are meant to take place in all seven UNICEF regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia). The purpose of the workshops will be to build and strengthen local capacity for data collection. Training will be provided to national statistical officers, other government staff and local researchers on concepts, models and measures of disability, survey design, data processing, data analysis, data dissemination and data use. The workshops are expected to take place in 2015.

14. UNICEF and the Washington Group also intend to establish a mechanism of technical assistance for countries that want to implement the module on child functioning and disability, as well as the module on school participation, including technical assistance during the design of the questionnaire and methodology, training of interviewers, supervision of fieldwork and support for the analysis and presentation of the data.

IX. World Health Organization/World Bank collaboration on the model disability survey

15. WHO and the World Bank, along with input from Statistics Norway and the Washington Group, have been working to develop the model disability survey. The survey uses a conceptualization of disability based on ICF. The ICF framework has been operationalized in the survey to capture the entire disability experience. The survey asks respondents not only what their intrinsic abilities are, but also how those abilities play out in the person's real life environment. In addition, it asks for details regarding the person's built and attitudinal environments, as well as the assistive devices they have in place. Additional modules ask about health-care utilization, health conditions and well-being. The model disability survey, along with other such initiatives, will provide the data that social, health and other policies require, and thereby support countries to implement article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is being developed in a modular format to enable countries to collect comprehensive information on disability through a national disability survey or to include relevant modules in existing data collection efforts. It is expected that, after initial testing in some countries, a short version will also be developed as a subset of the full survey that can be included in other national or subnational surveys. The questionnaire has been developed drawing on the best questions from all 179 disability surveys carried out since 2000. As such, it builds on existing work on disability data from around the world. A database of all those surveys, with systematic mapping onto ICF, is available on the WHO website.

16. The Washington Group has provided expert advice on the structure of the questionnaire, the wording and order of the questions and cognitive testing. The

Washington Group participated in an expert consultation on the draft questionnaire in December 2012. WHO and the World Bank produced a revised draft, which was reviewed by the Washington Group and a subset of the expert group in May 2013.

17. The model disability survey questionnaire is currently undergoing cognitive testing. The Washington Group, in collaboration with the National Center for Health Statistics in the United States, conducted a first round of cognitive testing in English. Statistics Norway has also carried out cognitive testing in Malawi and Norway. Testing in English is also being carried out by the Institute for Social Research in Michigan. The Washington Group plans to conduct a second cognitive test of relevant portions of the survey as well as the integrated version. Further cognitive testing and piloting of the survey is planned with support from the Governments of Australia, Germany and Norway. The questionnaire will be revised on the basis of the findings of the review processes and in consultation with core contributors. Pilot testing will be carried out in selected countries in 2014, and there is the possibility that some national surveys will be completed in 2014 as well.

18. The placement of the questions and exact question wording within the model disability survey, in particular of the Washington Group questions, have not been determined; however, both issues are important given the desire to maximize international comparability and avoid confusion at the country level. Currently, while the six-question short set on functioning has been included in the testing, key aspects of the wording of the question stem and the response categories have been changed. Neither the extended question set on functioning for adults nor the UNICEF/Washington Group set for children have been included in the survey. The Washington Group has developed an alternative version of the questionnaire and WHO and the World Bank intend to test that version. The international comparability between existing data instruments will be an important consideration in the finalization of the model disability survey instrument.

X. Washington Group meetings, capacity-building and training

19. The Washington Group has held 13 annual meetings since its inception: (a) from 18 to 20 February 2002, in Washington, D.C.; (b) on 9 and 10 January 2003, in Ottawa; (c) on 19 and 20 February 2004, in Brussels; (d) from 29 September to 1 October 2004, in Bangkok; (e) from 21 to 23 September 2005, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; (f) from 10 to 13 October 2006, in Kampala; (g) from 19 to 21 September 2007, in Dublin; (h) from 29 to 31 October 2008, in Manila; (i) from 7 to 9 October 2009, in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania; (j) from 3 to 5 November 2010, in Luxembourg; (k) from 14 to 16 November 2011, in Southampton Parish, Bermuda; (l) from 23 to 25 October 2012, in Bangkok; and (m) from 29 to 31 October 2013, in Amman. Annual meetings are rotated through major geographic regions to facilitate participation, especially by the developing countries.

20. The Washington Group has sought to foster international collaboration and, in particular, to ensure that the efforts of the group are broad-based and include voices from developing countries from every region of the world. Therefore, representatives of national statistical authorities, disabled people's organizations and international organizations participate in the Washington Group. Since its inception, representatives of national statistical offices in 123 countries have participated in

the Washington Group. Representatives from 89 countries have attended at least one annual meeting, and representatives from 58 countries have attended more than one annual meeting. Currently, representatives of the national statistical offices of 119 countries and territories, 7 international organizations, 6 organizations that represent persons with disabilities, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations system entities are members of the Washington Group (see annex I).

21. From 2008 to 2013, the Washington Group has participated in or facilitated several training workshops that have introduced Washington Group products and helped build capacity locally and nationally in understanding and measuring disability for censuses and surveys (see annex II).

XI. Outcomes of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Washington Group

22. The Washington Group continues to monitor the collection of disability data internationally, and annually requests detailed information from representatives of national statistical offices covering survey periodicity, sample size and frame, mode of data collection, languages used, exact question wording and response options and prevalence estimates. Results from further analyses of the data provided by the countries were presented at its thirteenth meeting, held from 29 to 31 October 2013 in Amman.

23. While countries continue to report disparate disability prevalence rates, with few exceptions, those that use the resources of the Washington Group as intended have reported disability prevalence rates that are comparable. Further analyses of those data and a paper based on the findings are part of the workplan for 2014.

24. The Washington Group is continuing to work on the extended question set on functioning. The question set was added to the National Health Interview Survey of the United States beginning in 2010. Individual domain analyses were conducted on data from the surveys carried out in 2010 and 2011 and presented at the meeting. Analyses addressed how best to combine information from several questions per domain and develop standards for the determination of cut-points. Further analyses were warranted in some domains. All analyses will be compiled and presented in a document describing the properties of individual domains of functioning. The working group will continue to develop a plan of analysis and continue its analysis of the data on the extended question set on functioning collected during the National Health Interview Survey of 2011 as part of the workplan for 2014.

25. The working group on the development of an extended question set for measuring disability among children and youth presented the work accomplished in the previous year as part of its collaboration with UNICEF. Representatives from the children's working group, chaired by members from the Italian National Institute of Statistics, provided a review of the conceptual framework for question development and a proposed set of questions. Presentations were made regarding the results of cognitive testing that was completed in Belize, India, Montenegro, Oman and the United States, and, based on those findings, a revised module on child functioning and disability was developed and presented. The revised module will be cognitively tested in the United States prior to field testing, which is expected to commence

early in 2014. Plans for field testing were discussed, as well as the results of some ad hoc field testing that was conducted by Italy on a pre-final version of the module. Field testing was also carried out independently by a group connected with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Cameroon. Those results were also discussed.

26. The representative from UNICEF presented for review the work that has begun on measuring facilitators of and barriers to school participation. UNICEF also presented its workplan for the development of guidelines and accompanying documentation for the modules developed in collaboration with the Washington Group.

27. The working group was encouraged to continue its collaboration with UNICEF on the development of the module on child functioning and disability. Field testing of the question set and the development of a manual for implementation of the extended question set for measuring disability among children and youth are part of the workplan for 2014.

XII. Washington Group workplan for 2014

28. At its thirteenth meeting, the Washington Group agreed to its workplan for 2014. Among other items, the plan delegates specific responsibilities to the steering committee and the working groups that meet throughout the year using e-mail and telephone conferences. Next steps for the steering committee and the working groups include the following:

- (a) Work on the short set of questions:
 - (i) A working group will finalize a paper for publication that reports on the use of the Washington Group short set of questions and other measures of disability and the impact of wording changes to the standard set on the data obtained;
 - (ii) A working group will present the final update to the analyses of the results of country data collection using the Washington Group short set on functioning and present the published paper at the fourteenth meeting;
- (b) Work on the extended question set on functioning:
 - (i) Interested Washington Group members will continue to analyse data from the National Health Interview Survey and prepare a paper for publication on the analysis of the data;
 - (ii) A working group will review and approve guidelines for analysing data obtained from the Washington Group extended question set on functioning and present them at the fourteenth meeting;
- (c) Work on extended question sets on child disability:
 - (i) The working group on child disability will continue its development of the module on child functioning and disability through field testing of the module, and results from analyses of field testing will be presented at the fourteenth meeting;

- (ii) The working group will collaborate with UNICEF on the development of a manual for implementation of the extended question set for measuring disability among children and youth. A draft will be presented at the fourteenth meeting;
 - (iii) The working group will prepare documents on the development of measures of child disability for the fourteenth meeting;
 - (d) Work on extended question sets on environmental factors and participation:
 - (i) A working group will continue work on the development of the conceptual framework and develop a proposed set, or sets, of questions;
 - (ii) A working group will review progress in the development of measures of facilitators and barriers to school participation for children and present a draft survey module at the fourteenth meeting.
29. The fourteenth meeting of the Washington Group is tentatively scheduled to be held in October 2014 in Argentina.
30. The Washington Group disseminates the products of its work globally through the Internet (see www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group.htm) and in scientific publications.

XIII. Points for action by the Statistical Commission

31. The Statistical Commission may wish:
- (a) **To express its views on the activities and achievements of the Washington Group as described in the progress report;**
 - (b) **To consider and approve the draft workplan of the Washington Group for 2014, as described above;**
 - (c) **To urge support through United Nations regional offices for training, cognitive and field testing, technical assistance and regional workshops;**
 - (d) **To express its views on the current status of collaborative efforts to improve the quality of disability statistics and on recommendations for ways to strengthen those efforts.**

Annex I

Membership of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

1. Representatives of national statistical authorities of the following 119 countries and territories are currently members of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics: Albania; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belgium; Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burundi; Cambodia; Canada; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Côte d'Ivoire; Costa Rica; Croatia; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Egypt; Estonia; Fiji; Finland; France; Gambia; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Guatemala; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malawi; Maldives; Malta; Mauritius; Mexico; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Rwanda; Saint Lucia; Saudi Arabia; Serbia; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sweden; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad; Tunisia; Turkey; Tuvalu; Uganda; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Viet Nam; Zambia; Zimbabwe; Aruba; Bermuda; Curaçao; Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; Sint Maarten; and State of Palestine. In the past, the Bahamas, the Comoros, Ecuador, Nigeria and Turks and Caicos Islands also participated.

2. Past and present representatives of international organizations representing persons with disabilities include the European Disability Forum, Rehabilitation International, the Inter-American Institute on Disability, the African Rehabilitation Institute and the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. Past and present representatives of national organizations representing persons with disabilities include the National Disability Authority in Ireland, the Coordination Office for the Integration of Displaced Persons in Brazil, the National Secretariat for Social Integration of the Disabled in Panama, the Disabled Organization for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Development in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy in Mexico, the Puerto Rico Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Office of the Ombudsman for People with Disabilities in Puerto Rico, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in the United States and the National Union of Persons with Disabilities of Uganda. Past and present representatives of organizations representing persons with disabilities in Bermuda include Age Concern, Bermuda Resources for the Advancement of Children with Special Needs, the Bermuda Autism Support and Education Society, the Bermuda Society for the Blind and the Bermuda Hospitals Board. Government organizations in Bermuda include Community Rehabilitation-Occupational and Physiotherapy Services, the National Office for Seniors and the Physically Challenged, the Human Rights Commission and the Department of National Drug Control.

3. Other international organizations that have participated or that currently participate in the Washington Group include Eurostat, Partnership Health of the European Union, the International Labour Organization, the Organization for

Economic Cooperation and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Development Project, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications Collaborating Centre, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Annex II

Capacity-building and training workshops

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics facilitated or participated in the following workshops:

- In August 2013 the Washington Group facilitated a training workshop in Bogota sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia. In preparation for the 2014 census, the aim was to present the Washington Group and the short set of six questions designed to measure disability on national censuses and to train workshop participants in question design and cognitive interview methodology developed by the Question Design Research Laboratory at the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States.
- In July 2013, the Washington Group facilitated a training workshop in Podgorica sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Montenegro. The aim was to present the UNICEF/Washington Group module on child functioning and disability and to train workshop participants in question design and cognitive interview methodology developed by the Question Design Research Laboratory at the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States.
- In May 2013, the Washington Group participated in a training workshop in Amman sponsored by the Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Statistics of Jordan. The aim was to present the Washington Group and the short set of six questions designed to measure disability on national censuses and to train workshop participants in question design and cognitive interview methodology developed by the Question Design Research Laboratory at the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States.
- In April 2013, the Washington Group participated in a training workshop in Muscat sponsored by UNICEF Oman. The aim was to present the UNICEF/Washington Group module on child functioning and disability and to train workshop participants in question design and cognitive interview methodology developed by the Question Design Research Laboratory at the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States.
- In January 2013, the Washington Group participated in a training workshop in Belmopan sponsored by UNICEF Belize. The aim was to present the UNICEF/Washington Group module on child functioning and disability and to train workshop participants in question design and cognitive interview methodology developed by the Question Design Research Laboratory at the National Center for Health Statistics in the United States.
- In September 2012, the Washington Group participated in a training workshop in Mumbai, India, sponsored by ADAPT. The aim was to present the UNICEF/Washington Group module on child functioning and disability and to train workshop participants in question design and cognitive interview methodology developed by the Question Design Research Laboratory at the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States.
- In July 2012, the Washington Group participated in a training workshop in Bogota sponsored by UNFPA and the National Administrative Department of

Statistics of Colombia. The aim was to present the Washington Group and the short set of six questions designed to measure disability on national censuses and to train workshop participants in question design and cognitive interview methodology developed by the Question Design Research Laboratory at the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States.

- In May 2011, the Washington Group participated in a training workshop in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, sponsored by the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics. The aim was to train representatives from national statistical offices of Arab countries in understanding and operationalizing disability measures developed by the Washington Group. The training workshop was attended by 35 representatives from the national statistical offices of 15 Arab countries (Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.
- In December 2010, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics sponsored a disability seminar in Damascus. The specific goal was to exchange knowledge with representatives from national statistical offices from Arab countries on disability definition and measurement. The seminar was attended by 22 representatives from the national statistical offices of 12 Arab countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen and State of Palestine).
- In October 2010, a training workshop for question evaluation and cognitive interview methodologies sponsored by the Government of Oman was held in Muscat. The objectives were to inform researchers of and train them in current cognitive interview methodology and question evaluation techniques with respect to the Washington Group extended set of disability questions. The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of National Economy of Oman and was attended by 15 representatives from the national statistical offices of nine Arab countries (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen and State of Palestine).
- In August and September 2009, at the request of the World Bank, the Washington Group assisted the Bureau of Statistics of Bangladesh by holding a training workshop designed to provide an understanding of disability and functioning using the Washington Group approach based on the International Classification of Function, Disability and Health, and by implementing the Washington Group short set of questions in their national household income and expenditure survey in preparation for the census of 2010.
- In November 2008, the Washington Group participated in a regional training workshop on population and housing censuses for South-East European countries, sponsored jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and UNFPA in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The workshop was organized for senior professionals and experts from the national statistical offices of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. The Washington Group was responsible for a full-day training session that included the measurement of disability in censuses and interpreting and understanding disability as measured using the Washington Group short set of questions.