Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Report

Workshop on Improving Disability Statistics in the Arab Countries.
Casablanca, Morocco, 17-20 April 2017
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), in collaboration with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, convened a Workshop on Improving Disability Statistics in the Arab Countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Casablanca, Morocco, on 17 to 20 April 2017.

2. The Workshop brought together 18 participants from 11 Arab national statistical offices and policy makers, and a representative from the United Nations Statistics Office (UNSD). The Workshop was facilitated by six experts; five from the Washington Group and one from UNESCWA.

II. OBJECTIVES

3. The objectives of the meeting were the following:

(a) To build on the review of national experiences regarding compilation of data on disability through national censuses of the 2010 round and other household surveys, including challenges faced and lessons learned in using the Washington Group questions.

(b) To allow participants to fully discuss the application of the Washington Group measurement tools.

(c) To provide suggestions for improvements and enhancing dissemination for evidence-based policymaking.

(d) To provide guidance on the implementation of disability statistics and dissemination of indicators in the Arab region.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Participants reaffirmed the importance of compiling harmonized disability statistics in the region and reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

a. Report on regional comparable and harmonized disability statistics on regular basis and establish a national and regional databases;

b. Develop the Arabic Regional Guidebook on the implementation of the Washington Group Questions in the region with national examples to illustrate good practices for future implementation of surveys and censuses;

c. Establish a regional group (CASA Group on Disability Statistics) to follow up on the developments of disability statistics at the regional and global levels and act as a regional reference source of experts on compilation of disability statistics in line with the Washington Group recommendations and the Regional and Global Guidelines.

d. Request UNESCWA to organize regular regional workshops on disability statistics with relative partners to better implement disability tools in the next round of censuses and household surveys;

e. Request UNESCWA to organize workshops on analysis of disability statistics in the region to guide countries to better disseminate information on persons with difficulties;

f. Develop the Arabic terms on disability to guide countries to a more harmonized terminology and to avoid misinterpretation of specialized terms used in the field of disability statistics.
IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

14. The Workshop on Improving Disability Statistics in the Arab Countries was held in Casablanca, Morocco, on 17 to 20 April 2017. The sessions included lectures, discussions and sharing of country experiences. (See Annex I Agenda)

B. PARTICIPANTS

15. The meeting was attended by 26 participants, including five experts from the Washington Group, three officials from UNESCWA; 17 representatives from national statistics offices and policy makers of Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, the Sudan and Ethiopia; and a representative of UNSD. The list of participants is presented in Annex II to this report.

C. EVALUATION

16. Eighteen participants completed the meeting evaluation form, which included questions on substantive quality, organizational and technical aspects. The results were as follows:

- 67 per cent of respondents rated the overall quality of the workshop as “Excellent” and 33 per cent as “good”.
- 56 per cent indicated that the workshop was successful in reaching its intended objectives as “Excellent”, 39 per cent as “good” and only 5 per cent assessed as “Fair”.
- 56 per cent rated the inputs provided by presenters in reaching the intended outcome of the workshop as “Excellent” and 44 per cent as “Good”.
- 78 per cent rated the overall organization and logistics of the workshop as “Excellent” and 22 per cent assessed it as “Good”.

# Annex I

## AGENDA

### Day 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Facilitator/Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30 - 09.00</td>
<td>Registration of Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 – 09.10</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>ESCWA &amp; WG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.10 – 09.30</td>
<td>Introduction of Facilitators and Participants / Workshop Overview</td>
<td>Jennifer Madans</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Washington Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.30 – 10:15</td>
<td>Disability in the ESCWA Region</td>
<td>Neda Jafar</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15 - 11.00</td>
<td>Open Discussion: How Countries in the Region Collect Disability Data (Successes and Challenges)</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 - 11.15</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 - 12.15</td>
<td>A Brief History of Disability Measurement in Official Statistics &amp; Introduction to the WG and WG Tools</td>
<td>Jennifer Madans</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Washington Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 12:45</td>
<td>Open Discussion: Country Experiences</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45 - 13.45</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<td>Washington Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.45 - 15.00</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 – 16.30</td>
<td>Break Out Session / Open Discussion*</td>
<td>Dan Mont</td>
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<td>(Discussion Leader)</td>
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<td>Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30 – 17.00</td>
<td>Wrap-Up and Closing of Day 1</td>
<td>Mitch Loeb</td>
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<td>Washington Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 – 09.15</td>
<td>Recap of Day 1 and Day 2 Objectives</td>
<td>Julie Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.15 – 10.15</td>
<td>Measuring Disability in Children: The WG/UNICEF Module on Child Functioning</td>
<td>Elena de Palma</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15 – 11.00</td>
<td>Open Discussion: Country Experiences</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.15</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 – 12.15</td>
<td>Data Production and Analysis Using the WG Tools</td>
<td>Mitch Loeb</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15 – 12.45</td>
<td>Open Discussion: Country Experiences</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45 – 13.45</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13.45 – 14.45</td>
<td>The Importance &amp; Feasibility of Disaggregation by Disability: Monitoring the SDGs and UNCRPD</td>
<td>Daniel Mont</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.45 – 15.00</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 - 16:00</td>
<td>Break Out Session / Open Discussion*</td>
<td>Mitch Loeb (Discussion</td>
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<td>Leader)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00 - 16.15</td>
<td>Wrap-up and Closing of Day 2</td>
<td>Jennifer Madans</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 – 09.15</td>
<td>Recap of Day 2 and Day 3 Objectives</td>
<td>Julie Weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15 – 11.15</td>
<td>Open Discussion: Country Experiences</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 – 11.30</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 – 12.30</td>
<td>Workshop Summary</td>
<td>Jennifer Madans</td>
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**Day 3**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30 – 13.30</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30 – 14.30</td>
<td>Small Group Discussions / Technical Assistance / Meetings with Country Representatives (sign up in advance)</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30 – 15.00</td>
<td>Open Discussion: Country Experiences</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 – 15.15</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.15 - 16:00</td>
<td>Wrap-up and Closing of Day 3</td>
<td>Dan Mont</td>
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<td>Washington Group</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 – 09.15</td>
<td>Recap of Day 3 and Day 4 Objectives</td>
<td>Jennifer Madans</td>
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<td>Washington Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.15 - 10.15</td>
<td>Country Practices and Proposals for Improvement</td>
<td>Neda Jafar</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15 – 11.15</td>
<td>Open Discussion: Country Experiences</td>
<td>Workshop Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 – 11.30</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 – 12.30</td>
<td>Improving Disability Statistics in The Arab countries</td>
<td>Neda Jafar</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30 – 13.30</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30 – 15.00</td>
<td>Indicators for evidence policy making</td>
<td>Neda Jafar</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 – 15.15</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.15 – 16.00</td>
<td>Workshop Recommendations and Closing Session</td>
<td>WG &amp; ESCWA</td>
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Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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