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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Report

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

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphes</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. INTRODUCTION	1-2	3
II. OBJECTIVES	3	3
III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	4-12	3
IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK	14-16	5
A. Date and venue	14	5
B. Participants	15	5
C. Evaluation.....	16	5
<i>Annex</i>		7

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		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Facilitator/ Presenter</i>
08.30 - 09.00	Registration of Workshop Participants	
09.00 – 09.10	Welcome	ESCWA & WG
09.10 - 09.30	Introduction of Facilitators and Participants / Workshop Overview	Jennifer Madans Washington Group
09.30 – 10:15	Disability in the ESCWA Region	Neda Jafar
10.15 - 11.00	Open Discussion: How Countries in the Region Collect Disability Data (Successes and Challenges)	Workshop Participants
11.00 - 11.15	<i>Break</i>	
11.15 - 12.15	A Brief History of Disability Measurement in Official Statistics & Introduction to the WG and WG Tools	Jennifer Madans Washington Group
12:15 - 12:45	Open Discussion: Country Experiences	Workshop Participants
12.45 - 13.45	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.45 – 14.45	Collecting Disability Data: Best Practices for Question Wording, Translation and Implementation	Julie Weeks Washington Group
14.45 - 15.00	<i>Break</i>	
15.00 – 16.30	Break Out Session / Open Discussion*	Dan Mont (Discussion Leader) Workshop Participants
16.30 – 17.00	Wrap-Up and Closing of Day 1	Mitch Loeb Washington Group

Day 2		
09.00 – 09.15	Recap of Day 1 and Day 2 Objectives	Julie Weeks Washington Group
09.15 – 10.15	Measuring Disability in Children: The WG/UNICEF Module on Child Functioning	Elena de Palma Washington Group
10.15 – 11.00	Open Discussion: Country Experiences	Workshop Participants
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Break</i>	
11.15 – 12.15	Data Production and Analysis Using the WG Tools	Mitch Loeb Washington Group
12.15 – 12.45	Open Discussion: Country Experiences	Workshop Participants
12.45 – 13.45	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.45 – 14.45	The Importance & Feasibility of Disaggregation by Disability: Monitoring the SDGs and UNCRPD	Daniel Mont Washington Group
14.45 – 15.00	<i>Break</i>	
15.00 - 16:00	Break Out Session / Open Discussion*	Mitch Loeb (Discussion Leader)
16.00 - 16.15	Wrap-up and Closing of Day 2	Jennifer Madans Washington Group
Day 3		
09.00 – 09.15	Recap of Day 2 and Day 3 Objectives	Julie Weeks Washington Group
09.15 – 10.15	Measuring the Environment and Participation: Inclusive Education and Employment	Dan Mont Washington Group
10.15 – 11.15	Open Discussion: Country Experiences	Workshop Participants
11.15 – 11.30	<i>Break</i>	
11.30 – 12.30	Workshop Summary	Jennifer Madans Washington Group

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

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ESCWA Member Countries:

Bahrain

Mr. Omar AbdulRahim Al Kooheji
Chief demographic statistics
IGA
Phone: 0097317878107
Email: AlKooheji@iga.gov.bh

Egypt

Ms. Eman Taha Hassan Mohammed
Third Statistician
CAPMAS
Mobile: 201116566090
Fax: 002024024099
Email: emantargam@yahoo.com

Jordan

Ms. Ekbal Atoom
Statistician
Department of Statistics
P.O. Box 2015
11181 Amman, Jordan
Phone: 0096265300700
Mobile:00962697284924
Fax: 0096265300710
Email: ekbal.atoom@DOS.GOV.JO

Mauritania

Mr. Boubecrin Kaber
Statistics Directorate
Phone: +222 36 29 25 91
Email: Aboubecrin_med@yahoo.fr

Mr. Alassane BA
Statistics Directorate
Phone: +22246940746
Email: ba.dsds.ons@hotmail.com

Morocco

Ms. Zineb EL Ouazzani Touhami
State Engineer
HCP
Phone:212610831391
Email : z.elouazzanitouhami@hcp.ma

Ms. Loubna BELKASSEM
IT Engineer
HCP
Mobile: +(212)622548508
Email: l.belkassem@hcp.ma

Ms. Ouafae Chtibi
Assigned Information System file
Directorate for advancing Rights of Persons in
Disability Status
Tel: 00212663255916
Email: ouafae.chtibi@gmail.com

Ms. Oumlil Nawal
Statistician engineer
Division of international cooperation
Ministry of family, Solidarity, Equality and Social
Development
Tel: 00212619431990
Email: nawaloumlil@gmail.com

Oman

Ms. Mayasa Al Bulushi
Statistician
NCSI
Sultanate of Oman
Mobile: 0096896778879
Email: malbulushi@ncsi.gov.om

State of Palestine

Mr. Rami Al Dibs
Department Director
Palestine, RamAllah
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Phone: 00 (972/970) 2-298 2700
Mobile: 00(972/970) 599385386

E-mail: rdibs@pcbs.gov.ps
Ms. Aya Amro
Statistical Assistant at Technical Operation
Department at Censuses Directorate
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Palestine, RamAllah
Mobile.: 00972598537094
E-mail: aamro@pcbs.gov.ps

Qatar

Ms. Maryam Al Ali
Head of office and field operation section
Ministry of development planning and statistics
Qatar
Mobile: 0097466995353
Email: malali@MDPS.GOV.QA

Saudi Arabia

Ms. Arwa Al Shangiti
General Authority of Statistics
GM statistical Analysis
Ryadh, Saudi Arabia
Tel:00966114014138
Mobile: 00966504490895
Email: arwaalshangiti@stats.gov.sa

Sudan

Ms. Ghada Ismail
Programmer
Central Bureau of Statistics
Khourtoun- Sudan
Phone: 00249912207090
Email: gayoda2@gmail.com

Ms. Somaia Hemaïdan
Central Bureau of Statistics
Khourtoun- Sudan
Email: smasim.hamer@gmail.com

Ethiopia

Assefa Etana
Expert in Population Statistics
Central Statistical Agency
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mobile: +251913537411
Email: negeraa@yahoo.com

UN Organizations:

United Nations Statistics Division

Mr. Andrew Smith
UN-Headquarters-New York
Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
Phone: +12129636017
Email: smith61@un.org

LIST OF ORGANIZORS

Washington group

Ms. Jennifer Madans
National Center for Health Statistics
Associate Director for Science
Hyattsville, MD-USA
Email: jhm4@cdc.gov
Mr. Mitch Loeb
National Center for Health Statistics
Data Scientist
Hyattsville, MD-USA
Email: gze1@cdc.gov

Ms. Julie Weeks
National Center for Health Statistics
Chief, Aging and Chronic Disease Statistics
Branch
Hyattsville, MD-USA
Email: jad3@cdc.gov

Ms. Elena De Palma
Senior Researcher
Disability and Social Integration Unit
Phone: 00393358028655
Email: depalma@istat.it

Mr. Daniel Mont
Consultant
University College London
Torrington Place, London
Email: danielmont01@gmail.com

United Nations- ESCWA

Ms. Neda Jafar
Head of Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit
Statistician, Gender and SDGs
Statistics Division
UN-ESCWA
Beirut- Lebanon
Tel: +9611 978344
Fax: +961 1 981510
Email: jafarn@un.org

Ms. Dina Karanouh
Statistics Assistant
Statistics Division
UN-ESCWA
Beirut- Lebanon
Tel: +9611 978450
Fax: +961 1 981510
Email: karanouh@un.org

Ms. Dana Soussi
Research Assistant
Statistics Division
UN-ESCWA
Beirut- Lebanon
Tel: +9611 978767
Fax: +961 1 981510
Email: soussi@un.org