**Concept Note - Workshop on the Measurement of Disability**

*UNICEF, New York NY, 10 June 2018*

**Rationale**

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) mandates that ratifying States Parties “collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention”.

Valid, reliable, and relevant data on persons with disabilities are essential for a variety of purposes including:

* to understand the situation of persons with disabilities;
* to investigate childhood exposure to nutritional deficiencies, toxins, infectious diseases and trauma, and the relationship between these exposures and functional limitations;
* to assess the role of environmental factors (including societal attitudes and physical barriers) in the experience of disability;
* to inform policies and programs, facilitate the planning of services, and improve participation and quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families;
* to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities;
* to report against national, regional, and international conventions and goals.

For countries to fulfill their commitments under the CRPD as well as to inform and support the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, there is an urgent need for countries to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyse, understand, use and disseminate data on persons with disabilities in a manner that is accurate and comparable across different settings, countries, and populations. To help strengthen local capacities, UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG)[[1]](#footnote-1) have developed a training series that includes an introductory webinar followed by an audience-specific workshop on the measurement of disability.

**Learning Objectives**

At the end of the training, participants should:

* Have increased their knowledge of main issues related to the collection, analysis, interpretation, and use of data on disability;
* Have strengthened their understanding about appropriate data collection methods and tools;
* Have deepened their knowledge of how to read and interpret data on persons with disabilities;
* Understand how to disseminate and use data effectively to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Workshop Content**

The following modules will be included in the workshop:

**1. Importance of Data**

This module will highlight the need for high quality data. It will define disability in the context of development and discuss why it is important to gather reliable information on persons with disabilities. The key challenges to gathering reliable and relevant data will also be discussed.

**2. Concepts and Definitions**

This module will discuss conceptual issues related to the definition and measurement of disability, including the push towards the participation of individuals with disabilities in the data collection process.

**3. Data Collection Methods and Tools**

This module will review available methods and tools to collect data on disability. Data collection strategies, including comprehensive and domain specific measures, will be reviewed in depth.

**4. Making Use of Data**

This module will focus on how to turn data into knowledge that can inform evidence-based policy, programming and advocacy. It will provide information on how to look at data to identify patterns and trends. Suggestions for how to effectively disseminate findings will also be presented.

**Audience**

The main audience for the training will be representatives of Disabled Peoples’ Organizations from around the world, with an interest in disability data collection.

1. The WG is a voluntary working group made up of representatives of over 100 National Statistical Offices and international, non-governmental and disability organizations. It was organized under the aegis of the United Nations Statistical Division and has been in existence since 2001. The main purpose of the Washington Group is the promotion and coordination of international cooperation in the area of health statistics focusing on disability measures suitable for censuses and national surveys. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)