



Practical Guide for Identification and Use of Disability Data Based on the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability



easy read





Author:

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Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) is a German relief and social-welfare organisation. In Indonesia, ASB is working in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response and socio-economic development with a strong emphasis on disability inclusion. ASB is also the founding member of the Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN).

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List of Abreviations

- ASB : Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund
- CRPD : Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- DiDRRN : Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network
- UN : United Nations
- DRR : Disaster Risk Reduction
- SDGs : Sustainable Development Goals
- SFDRR : Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- WG-SS : Washington Group Short Set
- WHO : World Health Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Who we are?



This handbook has been developed by ASB with the members of the Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN) under a joint programme to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR that is inclusive for persons with disabilities. This programme is supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Home Affairs Republic of Indonesia.

Who are we?

DiDRRN members:



Supported by:



Who are we?




DiDRRN is a consortium of like-minded disabled people's organisation (DPOs) and 'mainstream' and disability-focused development and relief organisations.

 www.didrrn.net

 @didrrn

 DiDRRN

 @disabilityanddisaster

Who are we?



Our collective aim is to secure the active participation, and meaningful contribution, of persons with disabilities in DRR policy and practice post - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

II. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

B. What is the purpose of this handbook?



1. This handbook has been created to introduce the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) of Questions on Disability.



2. Describe their importance.

What is the purpose of this handbook?



3. Demonstrate how the questions may be used in the context of inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response.

C. What is the reason behind the development of this handbook?



1. Based on DiDRRN's experience, the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) of Questions has been very useful in ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response contexts.



2. In several countries, the government has adopted the Washington Group Short Set of Questions in their periodical census and surveys.

What is the reason behind the development of this handbook?



3. Many resources already exist related to the (WG-SS) of Questions, this is the first practical guide for identifying and using disability data.



4. This picture book has been developed in order to summarise the key information related to the (WG-SS) of Questions.

What is the reason behind the development of this handbook?



5. In hopes of promoting the wider use of the (WG-SS) of Questions to identify persons with disabilities and facilitate inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response practices.

D. Who is the target audience of this handbook?

Everyone who is interested to make their development and humanitarian programmes more inclusive, such as:



1. Government institutions responsible for collecting data

Who are the target audience of this handbook?



2. Government and village cadre



3. Organisation of Persons with Disabilities

Who are the target audience of this handbook?



4. Disaster Risk Reduction practitioners



5. Humanitarian workers

Who are the target audience of this handbook?



5. Project teams



6. School teachers

Who are the target audience of this handbook?



7. Disaster Risk Reduction forums and teams

8. And other inclusive development partners.

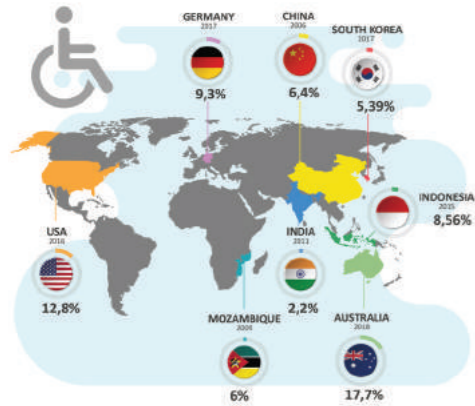
III. DATA AND DISABILITY

E. What is the current situation of disability data globally?



- According to the World Bank and the World Health Organisation (2011), at least 15-20% of the world's population lives with some form of disability.

What is the current situation of disability data globally?



Data resource:
World Health Organization
& World Bank. (2011). World
report on disability 2011

- However, the disability data that we collected from various sources shows different percentages.
- India, 2011: 2.2%
- South Korea, 2017: 5,39%
- Mozambique, 2009: 6 %
- China, 2006: 6.4 %
- Germany, 2017: 9.3%
- Indonesia, 2019: 10,65%
- United States of America, 2016: 12.8%
- Australia, 2018: 17.7%

F. What is the relationship between disability and development issues?



1. Based on various studies, disability is closely related to poverty.



2. Disability can happen as a result of poverty, which often limit people's access to proper health services, good nutrition, and better public safety and security.

What is the relationship between disability and development issues?



3. Based on this assumption, people living in wealthier countries should have better socio-economic status and therefore the number of people with disabilities in those countries should presumably be lower. So why does the data not reflect this?



4. Why do wealthier countries such as the USA, Australia and Germany have a higher percentage of disabilities?

G. Why is disability data between countries, communities and institutions not comparable?



1. Each country has their own definitions, categories, and instruments to determine disability.



2. Identifying persons with disabilities is more difficult depending on varying socio-economic backgrounds (including stigma).

Why are disability data between countries, between communities and institutions not comparable?



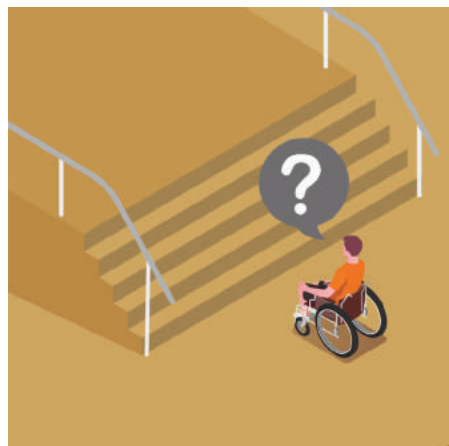
3. We cannot use binary questions to confirm disability (Disabled? Yes/ No) or to describe the real situations faced by persons with disabilities.

H. What will happen if the disability data is inaccurate?



1. Inclusion will be difficult to achieve if the existence and number of people with disabilities is unknown.

What will happen if the disability data is inaccurate?



2. Without accurate data, development plans will be unable to take the needs and capacity of persons with disabilities into account.

What will happen if the disability data is inaccurate?



- 3. It will be difficult to fulfill commitment on inclusion as incorporated within the key global policies, such as:
 - 3.1 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD)
 - 3.2 The Sustainable Development Goals
 - 3.3 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

IV. ABOUT WASHINGTON GROUP SHORT SET QUESTIONS

I.

The Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability: a practical instrument for disability identification.



The need for reliable disability data has been recognised for a long time. How can data discrepancy issues across countries that use varying definitions, categories, and instruments to determine disability? Introducing the Washington Group!

J. Who are they?



- The group comprises statisticians established under the United Nations Statistical Commission who regularly hold meetings to discuss issues on statistics and disability measurement.



- Established in 2001, the first meeting was held in Washington, hence the name.

Who are they?



- The Washington Group agreed that a uniform measuring instrument on disability is required to produce comparable and valid results.



- Therefore creating a practical, easy-to-use, and concise measuring instrument known as the **Washington Group Short Set of Questions**.

K. Why does the Washington Group Short Set of Questions focus on difficulty in functioning?

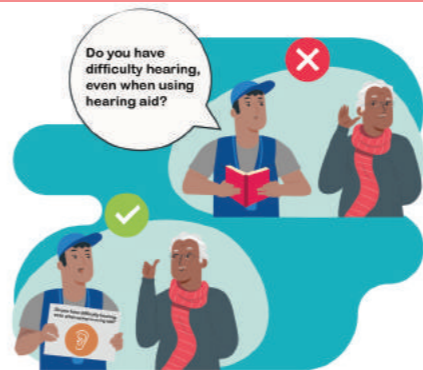


1. It enables more neutral questions that can be asked to everyone openly.



2. The questions do not focus on labelling a person as someone with “disability” or “non-disability”, but rather on their functioning difficulty. This helps us to get a clearer picture about the barriers that persons with disabilities may face.

Why does the Washington Group Short Set of Questions focus on difficulty in functioning?



3. It is developed based on the concept of disability under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (disability = functioning difficulty X environmental barriers).



4. The questions were made simple and concise so that they can be combined with other surveys.

Why does the Washington Group Short Set of Questions focus on difficulty in functioning?



5. The questions were made simple and concise so that these questions can be used by anyone, even without an expertise in a particular subject.



6. Ultimately, this is a solution for meeting the need for valid and more informative data on disability.

V. SIX WASHINGTON GROUP SHORT SET QUESTIONS

L. What are the questions under the Washington Group Short Set?

Washington Group Short Set of Questions consists of **6 questions**:



1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

What are the questions under the Washington Group Short Set?



2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?



3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

What are the questions under the Washington Group Short Set?



4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?



5. Do you have difficulty with self-care, washing all over or dressing?

What are the questions under the Washington Group Short Set?



6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?



These questions do not assume the use of assistive devices, unless it is mentioned in the question (glasses and hearing aid).

What are the questions under the Washington Group Short Set?



Each question has **4 answer choices** which are applicable to each question:

- a. No – No Difficulty**
- b. Yes – Some Difficulty**
- c. Yes – A Lot of Difficulty**
- d. Cannot Do at All**

VI. USE OF WASHINGTON GROUP SHORT SET QUESTIONS

M. How do we collect data using Washington Group Short Set?

Dos:



- Set the objectives of the data collection.
- Ensure that the data of each respondent is disaggregated based on age, gender, and functioning difficulty.

Dos:



- Ask each question and read out their four answer choices. Ask all six questions completely.



- As much as possible, ask the questions directly to person with disabilities, not to his/her carers.

Dos:



- When translating the (WG-SS) of Questions into a local language, ensure that the translation does not use free interpretation; it must retain the original meaning.

Dos:



- Snowball sampling methods are strongly recommended for collecting data using the (WG-SS) of Questions.
- This method works by first asking a known or previously identified respondent. The identified respondent is then asked to suggest other persons with disabilities who can be interviewed.
- The process continues by each new respondent suggesting another respondent. Similar to a rolling a snowball which will continuously grow in size, by using this method there will be more persons with disabilities who can be identified.

Do's:



- Before beginning data collection, it is very important to conduct trainings and trials first.

Don'ts:



- Do not ask: “Are you disabled?”

- The focus of the (WG-SS) Questions is not to label whether someone has a disability or not. Respondents may be reluctant to identify themselves as persons with disability or labelled as persons with disabilities.

Don'ts:



- Avoid using the word “disability” during the introduction, taking into consideration that this word may have different meanings to different people.



- Do not alter the questions provided in Washington Group Short Set with your own words during an interview.

Don'ts:



- Do not let the respondent only provide a “yes” or “no” answer. All four answer choices must be read out clearly and completely.



- Do not answer the questions based on your own observation.

Don'ts:



- If our observation is different from the respondent's answer, write this down separately as an additional note.

N.

How to categorise data collected using the Washington Group Short Set Questions to support its practical use?



- Compile all results of data collection from the field in a database. Following this, the results can be analyzed and interpreted.

How do we analyse data obtained using the Washington Group Short Set?



- Categorise the data based on the types of functioning difficulty (or levels of difficulty).
- Categorise the data based on gender and age groups.
- Categorise the data based on any other objectives you have set for the data collection.

Q. The benefits of using Washington Group Short Set in inclusive disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response, and quality projects.

Disaster risk reduction:



- Assists in understanding a person's functioning difficulty without disability labelling or categorisation.

Disaster risk reduction:



- It helps understanding a person's functioning difficulty in a variety of situations:
 - Accessing and acting on safety information
 - Conducting evacuation
 - Actively participating
 - Increasing capacity



Humanitarian response:

- Identifying the number of persons with disabilities affected by a disaster.
- Identifying the needs, capacity, and rights of persons with disabilities.



Humanitarian response:

- Understanding a person's capacity to access a service or a facility.



- Increases the participation of persons with disabilities.



Project quality:

- **Planning:** Assists in ensuring the provision of budget allocation and services needed for persons with disabilities.



- **Implementation:** Ensures meaningful participation and access for persons with disabilities.



Project quality:

- **Monitoring:** Assists in sorting the data based on gender, age and types of disability which can help to indicate the coverage of the program for each community members.



- **Advocacy:** Increases capacity and promotes the leadership of persons with disabilities.

VII. USING WASHINGTON GROUP SHORT SET QUESTIONS IN PRACTICE

P. An example of how to use information from data collected using the Washington Group Short Set.



1. Methods and media adaptation for spreading the information about disaster risk reduction and the relevant trainings:



- Use of audio files for persons with visual impairment.
- Use of materials in large fonts for persons with low vision.

An example of how to use information from data collected using the Washington Group Short Set.



- Use of sign language interpreter for persons with hearing impairment.



- Use of audiovisual media and demonstration/practice method for persons with intellectual disability.

An example of how to use information from data collected using the Washington Group Short Set.



- Planning the layout of a room or sitting positions for persons with visual/hearing/mobility impairment.



2. Disaster risk assessment and mapping to identify persons who have difficulty performing self-evacuation.

An example of how to use information from data collected using the Washington Group Short Set.



3. Preparing Early Warning System accesible for everyone:
 - Sound-based alarms for persons with visual/mobility impairment or intellectual disability.
 - Lamps or visual warnings, for persons with hearing impairment.

An example of how to use information from data collected using the Washington Group Short Set.



4. Evacuation:

- Setting a protection priority for persons who have difficulty in evacuating independently.
- Ensuring that evacuation routes are accessible for everyone.

An example of how to use information from data collected using the Washington Group Short Set.



5. Response and recovery:

- Determining aid priorities.
- Taking accessibility into account in emergency services and facilities.



- ### 6. Promoting persons with disabilities' roles in formulation of policies on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Q. Conclusion



- Identifying a person's functioning difficulty can help us understand their risks so that we can better implement disaster risk reduction intervention.

Conclusion



- The Washington Group Short Set of Questions allows us to integrate the understanding of someone's of functioning difficulty into disaster risk reduction practices, making them flexible, practical, and solution-oriented.

IX. CLOSING

R.

Closing





We hope that this handbook gives some ideas of how you can use the Washington Group Short Set of Questions to identify persons with disabilities and understand their potential barriers in a practical way, especially in planning inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. Collecting and using accurate disability data is an important step in understanding the needs and capacity of persons with disabilities. This is essential to realise inclusion: where everyone has the right and capacity to contribute.

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