

## **Summary of pre-test results for WG short set of questions: MOBILITY**

### **Introductory phrase:**

The next questions ask about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a HEALTH PROBLEM.

### **Question on mobility**

Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

- a. No- no difficulty
- b. Yes – some difficulty
- c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
- d. Cannot do at all

### **Summary of pre-test results:**

In the cognitive tests, only 81 of the cases (out of 852) fell into the “problematic” group of response patterns for the mobility question. The majority of cases fell into pattern “I” (48 of the 81 problematic responses) where respondents answered “no” to the WG question but “yes” to one or more of the extended questions<sup>1</sup>. Most of these respondents reported only some difficulty on the extended questions suggesting that they may not consider their impairment to be serious enough to report in the general WG question. Alternatively, the extended questions may be detecting aspects of mobility that differ from walking (such as problems with sitting, stooping or standing) or that are more specific than the WG question (such as difficulty walking long distances).

Data from the field test indicated more reports of difficulty moving inside the home (extended question) compared to the WG question also suggesting that the extended questions may be detecting different aspects of mobility than the WG question. In field tests, there was better correspondence between the WG question and extended questions that were more closely related to walking (such as the question about walking a long distance). Data from Vietnam (the largest field test) showed good (but not very good) correspondence between the degree of difficulty reported on the WG question compared to the extended questions. Responses usually differed by only one level (for instance “a lot of difficulty” on the detailed question and “some difficulty” on the WG question).

Because of these discrepancies, there was discussion about whether to make the WG question more specific (i.e. add a clear reference to distance). Concern was raised that this would make the question less comprehensive and would introduce error because of the additional complexity. This generated a more general discussion about the necessary level of generality / specificity for all 6 WG questions. After much discussion, it was agreed that some error is

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<sup>1</sup> Extended questions: (i) *Do you use any kind of equipment, such as a wheelchair, walker or cane, to help you get around? Do you have difficulty* (ii) *going outside of your home?* (iii) *walking a long distance such as a kilometer (or a mile)? By yourself and not using aids, do you have any difficulty* (iv) *walking for a quarter of a mile (about 2 or 3 blocks)?* (v) *walking up ten steps without resting?* (vi) *standing or being on your feet for about 2 hours?* (vii) *sitting for about 2 hours?* (viii) *stooping, crouching or kneeling?*

acceptable and to be expected. Based on the pre-test results, the overall level of error with the WG questions was small and bias in responses because of contextual differences across countries did not appear to be a problem. It was agreed that increasing the specificity of the questions would not be beneficial, particularly in a Census format and given cultural and contextual differences across countries.

Overall, the question on mobility was well understood by respondents. Since there was a relatively small number of problematic cases, and correspondence between the WG question and the extended questions was relatively good on the field tests, the results were considered positive and there were no recommendations for revision of this question.