

Comments on Chapter 2 of the World Report on Disability

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WR Recommendations:

To enhance the availability and quality of data on disability the WR recommends:

- Adoption of the ICF
- Improved national disability statistics
- Improved comparability of data
- Development of appropriate tools (both quantitative and qualitative methodologies) to improve and expand data collection on disability.

WR Recommendations:

- Collection of national population census data according to the recommendations from the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) and the UN Statistical Commission
- Development and testing of extended measures of disability for use in population surveys or as the core of a disability survey as initiated by the WG/Budapest Initiative (BI).

WR Recommendations:

- Improvement in collaboration and coordination between various initiatives to measure disability prevalence at global, regional and national levels (including the WG, BI, European Statistical Commission, UNESCAP, United Nations Statistical Commission, WHO, United States and Canada).

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG)

- June 2001-- the UN Intl Seminar on the Measurement of Disability recommended the development of principles and standard forms for global indicators of disability censuses.
- The WG, comprised of representatives from NSOs, has pursued these goals over the past 10 years

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG)

- The WG has:
 - fostered international cooperation,
 - untangled the web of confusing/conflicting disability estimates
 - addressed methodological issues
 - produced internationally tested measures to monitor outcomes by disability status

Global disability prevalence rates*

High-income countries			Low-income countries		
	Year	%		Year	%
Canada	1991	14.7	Kenya	1989	0.7
Germany	1992	8.4	Namibia	1991	3.1
Italy	1994	5.0	Nigeria	1991	0.5
Netherlands	1986	11.6	Senegal	1988	1.1
Norway	1995	17.8	South Africa	1980	0.5
Sweden	1988	12.1	Zambia	1990	0.9
Spain	1986	15.0	Kenya	1989	0.7
UK	1991	12.2	Zimbabwe	1997	1.9
USA	1994	15.0	Malawi	1983	2.9

WG Products:

- Short Set of Questions – six questions recommended for Censuses.
(Recommended for use in all national censuses in the UN *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*)
- Extended questions sets for national surveys. First set will provide broader survey measures of this population.

How WG Short Set Was Developed to Reflect ICF Model

- ICF provides general theoretical definition
- Theoretical definition needs translation to concrete representations to create operational measurement.
- Purpose for measurement facilitates operational representation choices
- Limitations of Census format restricted the inclusiveness of measures to represent disability.

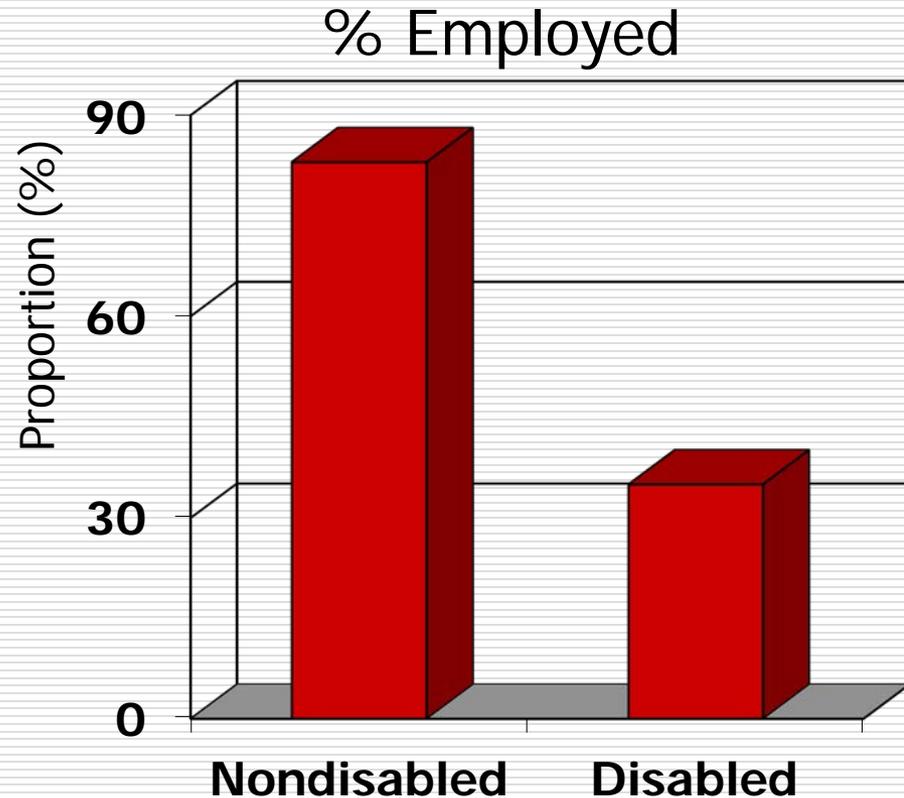
Intended use of data

- Compare levels of participation in employment, education, or family life for those with disability versus those without disability to see if persons with disability have achieved social inclusion
- Monitor effectiveness of programs / policies to promote full participation
- Monitor prevalence trends for persons with limitations in specific basic action domains

WG Purpose: Equalization of Opportunities

Seeks to identify all those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.

Disability used as a demographic.



Severity within Domains of Functioning

At least:

Core Domain	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Unable To do it
Vision	4.7	2.6	0.5
Hearing	3.7	2.3	0.5
Mobility	5.1	3.8	0.8
Remembering	2.0	1.5	0.3
Self-Care	2.0	1.3	0.4
Communicating	2.1	1.4	0.5

Severity in Population (%)

Person with disability has:	N	%
at least 1 Domain is 'some difficulty'	4053	14.5
at least 1 Domain is 'a lot of difficulty'	2368	8.5
at least 1 Domain is 'unable to do it'	673	2.4
> 1 Domain is 'some difficulty'	1718	6.1

This measure focuses on difficulties with multiple actions.

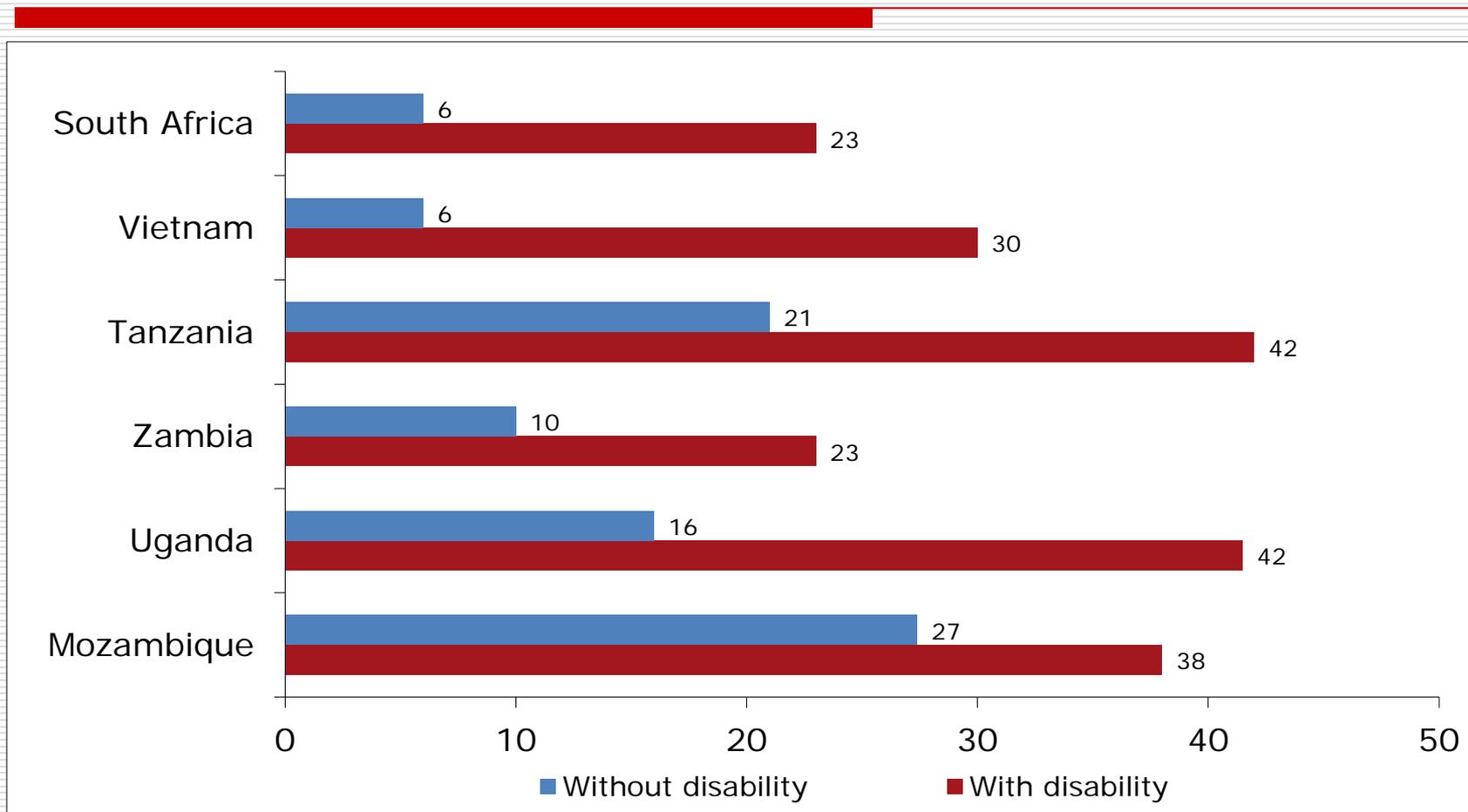
Standardized Approach to Monitoring the UN Convention

- Using standardized questions makes it possible to provide comparable data cross-nationally for populations living in a variety of cultures with varying economic resources;
- Data can be used to assess a country's compliance with the UN Convention and, over time, their improvement in meeting the requirements set out under the Convention.

Access to Education and Employment by Disability Status

	% never attended school (6 years or older)		% not working (15 – 65 years)	
Determination of Disability	Not disabled	Disabled	Not disabled	Disabled
Cut-off is:				
at least 1 domain is <i>some</i>	8.2	22.8	42.3	49.4
at least 1 domain is <i>a lot</i>	8.8	23.3	41.9	55.3
at least 1 domain is <i>unable</i>	9.8	37.2	42.7	71.7

Population aged 15 years + who never attended school, by disability status (%)



World Report

Recommendations and the WG

- In order to meet WR recommendations and improve national disability statistics it is important that the **routine collection of disability data become incorporated into national statistics programs.**
- The questions developed by the **WG and BI provide a core set** that can be expanded to meet country needs
- NSOs are encouraged to **actively participate in the WG** as a means of improving data quality, comparability, and availability