



## CONCEPT NOTE

# WORKSHOP ON THE MEASUREMENT OF CHILD DISABILITY

### 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 children with disabilities are essential for a variety of purposes including:

- to understand the situation of children 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 children with disabilities and their families;
- to advocate for the rights of children 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 future international development goals, there is an urgent need for countries to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyze, understand, use and disseminate data on children 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)<sup>1</sup> have developed a training package on the measurement of child disability.

<sup>1</sup> 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.



## Learning objectives

At the end of the training, the participants should:

- Understand the concepts, models, and measures of child disability;
- Have acquired increased knowledge of main issues related to the collection, analysis, interpretation, and use of data on child disability;
- Be able to develop a comprehensive data collection plan, with clear objectives, indicators, and appropriate data collection methods and tools;
- Have deepened their knowledge of how to read and interpret data on children with disabilities;
- Understand how to disseminate and use data effectively to promote the rights of children with disabilities.

## Audience

The main audience for the training will be experts and practitioners with a particular interest or responsibility in child disability. This will include (but not be limited to):

- Representatives of National Statistical Offices;
- Government staff, in particular those responsible for child disability programme development and implementation;
- Monitoring and evaluation specialists from within the sector;
- Local researchers and academics;
- Representatives of Disabled Peoples' Organizations;
- Child disability practitioners.

## Format and time frame

The workshop will run from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm over 4 days and consist of lectures, interactive sessions, and group work. The participants will receive a list of introductory reading materials in advance of the workshop.

## 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 child disability in the context of



development and discuss why it is important to gather reliable information on children 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. Prominent frameworks and models of disability will be presented, including the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and the ICF for Children and Youth (ICF-CY).

## **3. Key Domains of Child Functioning**

This module will describe child functioning in six key domains: mobility; vision; communication; cognition and learning; and social and emotional development.

## **4. Environment and Participation**

This module will explain and review the important contributions of environmental factors (including physical, social, and attitudinal) to the experience of disability in children.

## **5. Data Collection Methods and Tools**

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

## **6. Planning, Designing, and Implementing Data Collection**

This module will present key issues to consider when planning, designing and implementing a child disability data collection effort. Ethical considerations will also be covered.

## **7. Analysis of Data**

This module will provide information for carrying out data analysis and illustrate how to look at data to identify patterns and trends.

## **8. Making Use of Data**

This module will focus on how to turn data into knowledge that can inform evidence-based policy, programming and advocacy. Suggestions for how to make study reports accessible and how to effectively disseminate findings will also be presented.

