

respondents reported a lot of difficulty or unable to do any one activity or some difficulty in two or more of the six domains (minimum criteria set for presence of disability by the Zambian research team<sup>9</sup>). Also, there was a low rate of misclassification resulting from the WG questions when compared to information obtained from subsequent detailed interviews with respondents.

#### **VI. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics:**

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) was organized in 2001 following the United Nations International Seminar on Measurement of Disability to address the need for statistical and methodological initiatives at an international level to facilitate the measurement of disability and the comparison of data on disability cross-nationally. To date, the WG has met seven times, in: Washington DC, USA (2002); Ottawa, Canada (2003); Brussels, Belgium (2004); Bangkok, Thailand (2004); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2005); Kampala, Uganda (2006); and most recently in Dublin, Ireland (2007). All National Statistical Offices are eligible for membership in the WG. Currently, 77 National Statistical Offices are represented, as well as 7 international organizations, 6 organizations that represent persons with disabilities (DPOs), the UNSD, and 3 other UN affiliates. The Secretariat for the WG is located at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), USA. The main objective of the WG is the promotion and coordination of international cooperation in the area of health statistics by focusing on disability measures suitable for censuses and national surveys.

Details of the WG organization, history and accomplishments are available online at: (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/citygroup.htm>). In addition the site provides access to lists of participants, proceedings from the meetings (presentations and papers), reports to the UN Statistical Commission and information on upcoming meetings.

Building Capacity for Disability Data Collection in Developing Countries: Several government statisticians from developing countries have been trained on disability measurement methodology through the WG efforts. Regional training meetings held in Kenya (June, 2005) and Brazil (September, 2005) were an integral part of this effort. Presently, countries that received training are working internally to improve their overall approaches to dealing with the issue of disability measurement through ongoing data collection activities.

Fostering International Cooperation: The WG has cooperated with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Budapest Initiative group, the World Bank and others to promote a unified approach to disability measurement. Several World Bank data instruments have been heavily influenced by the work of the WG, and related disability questions are currently being tested as part of the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS).

Future Work: The WG remains active and will continue to work on the development and testing of extended question sets for surveys and survey modules and the production of technical reports on methodological issues such as dealing with special populations (e.g., children and

institutionalized persons). If resources allow, it also plans to continue to offer technical assistance to countries to build capacity for disability measurement and analysis.

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