



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title: The UNICEF-WG new survey tool for measuring child functioning and disability.

Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

Background: In spite of the global interest and commitment to promoting full social inclusion of children with disabilities, there are still little data available nationally to examine problems among these children and those data are not comparable cross-nationally. This lack of data seriously impedes the development of disability policies and their evaluation, progress to meet the requirements of the UNCRPD and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN Washington Group on Disability Statistics and UNICEF have developed a specific survey tool for measuring disability in children that will provide cross-nationally comparable data.

Methods: The “UNICEF-WG Module on Child Functioning” has been developed using the ICF as a theoretical framework for the operationalization of disability in a population survey setting. A review of existing survey tools and questions and consultations with child development experts led to the identification of a core set of domains and questions to measure child and youth disability. A mixed-method evaluation of the proposed questions, using both cognitive interview and field test methodologies in several countries was adopted.

Results: The Module uses a functional limitation approach to measure disability in key domains for children and youth aged 2-17 years. It can be used as part of national population surveys or in addition to specific surveys. To support the Module’s implementation across the world, a user’s manual and accompanying guidelines are being prepared and workshops are planned in all 7 UNICEF regions.

Conclusions: The Module represents an important step forward in the measurement of child functioning and disability in surveys; its implementation will aid the production of comparable data cross-nationally that in combination with other data collected on specific topics (e.g. education status), will provide knowledge on the level of social inclusion of children and youth with disabilities compared to those without disabilities.

Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

Please submit your abstract to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk

Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.

If you have any questions, please write to:

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