



The Washington Group Questions on Functioning

**identifying persons with disabilities
for protection case management**



What is problem to be addressed?

- Lack of information and knowledge about available or appropriate tools to collect disability data in humanitarian actions (binary 'yes/no' questions, such as “do you have a disability or medical condition” lead to underreporting);
- Lack of data on the number of persons with disabilities that are affected by the refugee crisis;
- The actors involved in refugee response are not equipped to identify and address the needs of persons with disabilities, or design and implement inclusive projects.



What are the Washington Group Questions?

- validated tools developed to collect data on the functional difficulties of a person
- developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (a UN city group established under the United Nations Statistical Commission)
- original purpose - to generate reliable and comparable data on persons with disabilities during national level data collection exercises
- internationally recognized method to ask about disability in humanitarian settings/interventions



The use of WGQ in humanitarian actions

- to determine who is at risk of exclusion or restricted participation

E.g. when **designing project activities**, you can use the WGQs to:

- Understand the prevalence of persons with disabilities in a target location
- To inform programme planning and service delivery
- To mainstream protection activities

E.g. when **monitoring and evaluating activities**, you can use the WGQs to:

- Know if persons with disabilities are accessing a programme or service
- To report against selected programme indicators



Tools used for disaggregation:

- The population is mostly adults –

Washington Group Short Set of Questions

- To identify children with disabilities –

Washington Group Child Functioning Module

- To identify persons with psychosocial difficulties –

Washington Group Enhanced Short Set of Questions

- To collect detailed data on persons with disabilities –

Washington Group Extended Set of Questions



Washington Group Short Set of Questions

- asks about six core domains of functioning
- the questions seek to determine how much difficulty an individual has in performing basic functions:
 - **Walking**
 - **Seeing**
 - **Hearing,**
 - **Cognition**
 - **Self-care**
 - **Communication**



SIX QUESTIONS ON SHORT SET



Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?



Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?



Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?



Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?



Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?



Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?



THE RESPONSES

- Responses to the six questions range from:
 1. No - no difficulty
 2. Yes - some difficulty
 3. Yes - a lot of difficulty
 4. Cannot do at all
- If responses at *all* six questions are 1 or 2 (i.e. the person has no difficulty or only some difficulty over the 6 domains), then the individual is considered as *without disability*.
- If any one (or more) of the six domain responses is 3: a lot of difficulty or 4: cannot do at all, then the person is considered as *with disability*.



DATA ANALYSIS

Respondent	WG-SS Q1	WG-SS Q2	WG-SS Q3	WG-SS Q4	WG-SS Q5	WG-SS Q6	Disability – Yes	Disability – No
0045	No	No	No	No	No	No	0	1
0046	No	Cannot do at all	No	No	No	Yes – a lot	1	0
0047	Yes – some	No	No	No	No	No	0	1
0048	No	No	Yes – a lot	No	No	No	1	0
TOTAL							2	2



For more information

<https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

Thank you!