

Activity 2

Handout 6 - The Washington Group Questions on Disability – Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions have been extracted and/or adapted from:

Washington Group [Frequently Asked Questions - The Washington Group on Disability Statistics](#)

Humanity & Inclusion [2019-01-WGQs-Frequently-Asked-Questions-final.pdf](#)

Can I ask the Washington Group (WG) Short Set of questions to a single household respondent for all household members?

The WG Short Set of questions are intended to be administered individually to each person selected to be a respondent in a data collection. In some contexts, only specific members of the household are selected as a sample respondent while in others all members of the household are included. In the latter case, the questions may be administered to a household respondent who responds for all members in the family or household rather than asking each member to respond for him or herself. Visit the following Factsheet for more information: [2019-01-Factsheet-2-Collecting-data-using-the-WGQs-at-household-level.pdf](#)

Am I sure to identify all persons with disabilities?

Using the WG Short Set of questions, you will identify the majority of persons with disabilities but you may find that you miss people as part of data collection efforts. This is particularly the case for people with psychosocial difficulties. This is addressed, in part, in the enhanced Short Set, and included more fully in the extended set and child functioning modules. Some of these additional questions have been included in proGres v4 to enhance the identification of persons with disabilities.

Do the questions apply to all age groups?

The six questions of the WG Short Set were designed for a census context (general population 5 years and above). The questions will be also applicable to older people, among whom an estimated 46% have a disability; even if it may not be recognized as such by the individual or their environment, the limitations may require support to avoid restrictions in participation. The Washington Group and UNICEF collaborated on the development of the Child Functioning Module (CFM) which is the preferred tool for collecting information on children and adolescents with disabilities. Some of these additional questions have been included in proGres v4 to enhance the identification of children and adolescents with disabilities.

Can the questions be used as a diagnostic tool to identify particular health conditions, impairments or diagnoses?

The WG Short Set of questions does not identify particular health conditions or diagnoses (the medical model of disability) but rather captures the possible impact of these conditions on functional abilities (the social model of disability). In UNHCR's contexts, they are used to flag individuals who may require additional support and follow up to access assistance and protection.

Can the questions be used for targeting purposes?

The WG Short Set of questions have not been designed to be used for targeting, and as such there is no concrete response for their use in this way. As the WGQs will not identify all persons with disabilities it is not recommended to use them as the sole targeting criteria. If they are used amongst others, then this may work for your programming but they haven't been tested for this and so no recommendation can be made.

How do I translate the questions into my local language?

An accurate translation that conveys the context or conceptual meaning (rather than a literal translation) of the WG Short Set of questions is crucial. Guidelines for translating the questions can be found [here](#), and protocols for cognitively testing translated versions of the questions can be found [here](#). A few translated versions of the WG Short Set of questions are available [here](#). The Washington Group Secretariat continues to expand the number of languages into which this tool has been translated. If you cannot find a translated version in your local language, contact the WG Secretariat – there may be a version on file. [WG Secretariat@cdc.gov](mailto:WG_Secretariat@cdc.gov)