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UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
(EUROSTAT)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN  
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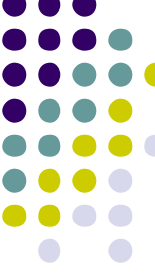
**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION (WHO)**

Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Meeting  
on the Measurement of Health Status  
(Budapest, Hungary, 14-16 November 2005)

**Session 5 – Invited paper**

# **Washington Group: Workshops and Protocols for Pre-testing**

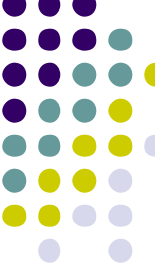
**Jennifer Madans  
National Center for Health Statistics, U.S.A**



# Workshop Objectives

- Review the work of the Washington Group, introduce the set of questions on disability, and explain the rationale for the question set;
- Present the implementation protocols and the plans for testing;
- Review, in depth, the implementation methods, including practical sessions;
- Review lessons learned from the participating countries and plan next steps.

# Participants



## 1<sup>st</sup> workshop: Nairobi, Kenya

- 3 days
- 15 representatives from 13 countries; 1 representative of international disability organization
- 7 presenters

## 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- 2 days
- 31 representatives from 28 countries; 1 UN affiliate; 1 representative of national disability organization
- 8 presenters / meeting support staff

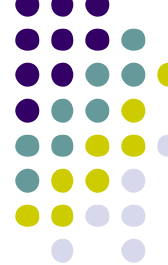
# Example of Workshop Agenda



## Day 1

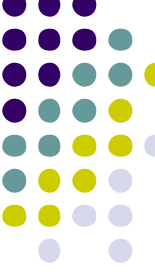
- Opening remarks; review of workshop objectives
- Review work of the WG and UNSD
- Introduction to WG questions and rationale
- Present implementation protocols and test plan
  - Objectives of the test and evaluation plan
  - Question by question specifications
  - Translation issues
  - Cognitive test plans
  - Field test plans
  - Enumerator training
  - Plan for tabulation, analysis and report writing

# Agenda (continued)



## Day 2

- Break-out groups (in-depth discussion of implementation methods and country specific issues)
- UNSD questionnaire
- Wrap-up (lessons learned and next steps)

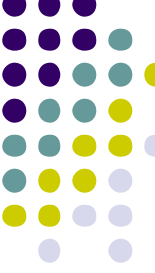


# Implementation: Objectives

## Objectives of test plan

To determine if:

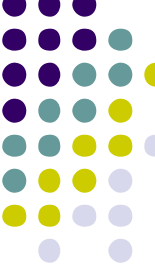
- 1) the questions are being interpreted as intended by the developers to reflect the basic aspects of the functional domains selected and
- 2) the questions are interpreted consistently across countries.



# Implementation: Cognitive test

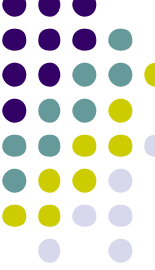
## Cognitive test

- Objective: to determine how to best convey the question concepts within individual countries and cultures
  - **Provides introduction to the cognitive testing process**
  - **WG cognitive test protocol more structured than usual**
  - **Ensures a greater level of standardization across test sites**
  - **Objective to understand how the response mechanisms operate in the different countries**



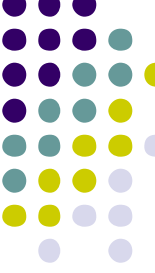
# Implementation: Cognitive test

- Components of cognitive test
  - **Starts with the questions to be tested**
  - **Includes additional questions on specific aspects of functioning domains addressed by core questions**
  - **Traditional cognitive probes also used**
  - **Probes and supplemental questions derived from previous cognitive tests**
  - **Interviewer report on problems respondent had with questions**



# Implementation: Cognitive Test

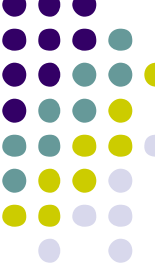
- Protocol provides a variety of other guidance including:
  - Instructions for translation based on concepts
  - Short directions on training interviewers and debriefing interviewers
  - Provides testing for proxy respondents as well as self respondents
  - Supplies a spreadsheet for recording data in a uniform way and guidance on coding



# Implementation: Field test

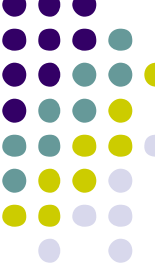
## Field test

- Protocols on translation, sampling and interviewer training provide guidance on setting up a field test as well as implementing the actual census or survey.
- Countries are encouraged to piggy back the field test on other pre testing activity to provide a larger sample, however a small field test is also acceptable.
- Countries are also encouraged to use their own questions in the field test to see how the new questions relate to data collected in the past.



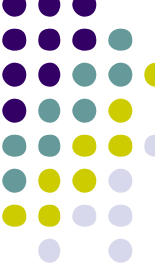
# Implementation: Field test

- Core questions are compulsory inclusions in the field test, additional two are optional
- Larger set of questions (based on WHODAS) are provided for comparison to the core questions – countries own questions would also provide comparisons.
- Three approaches provided for sampling depending on country's situation
- Relationship of cognitive testing and field testing elaborated



# Analysis

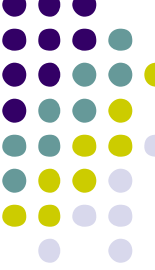
- How to evaluate without a gold standard
- Cognitive and field tests provide spread sheets for recording data
- Analysis can be done within countries, but will also be done by a WG work group organized just for this purpose.



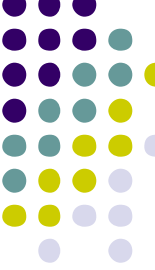
# Analysis Will Include

- Examination of prevalence cross-nationally.
- Correlations with the between the core questions and the supplemental questions.
- Examination of response patterns in populations of different ages, races and incomes.
- Emphasis of analysis will be on the cross-national comparisons to make decisions about the adequacy for cross-national use.

# Difficult Issues



- Standardization of administration within a country
  - No written language
  - Multiple languages
  - Lack of trained personnel resources
- Standardization of administration across countries
- Many countries have never done cognitive testing
- Providing assistance at a great distance and often in a different language – lack of hands on collaboration.



# Meeting Products and Information

- Executive summary of meetings, presentations, and papers posted on the Washington Group website:
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/citygroup.htm>
- Publication of key papers in a special issue of *Research in Social Science and Disability* due this Fall