



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Information Note

Workshop on Improving Disability Statistics in the Arab Countries

27- 28 July 2022, Beirut, Lebanon

BACKGROUND

Lack of reliable data and comparable statistics on persons with disabilities are the most critical obstacles in mainstreaming disability in development. Improvements in the collection, analysis, and availability of disability statistics are crucially necessary in order to promote evidence-based policymaking and programming decisions, as well as effective monitoring. In addition, concerted and coordinated action is urgently needed at all levels to harmonize concepts, definitions, and methodologies in line with international guidelines and standards. In this regard, the Statistics, Information Society, and Technology Cluster at the UNESCWA is initiating the 2nd round of data collection of disability statistics to produce a regional database and report. This effort will also include the implementation of capacity development workshops for disability statistics during 2022-2023. Data compiled will also feed into the Secretary-General Disability and Development Report on the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for, and with persons with disabilities.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop is to build on the review of national experiences regarding the compilation of data on disability through the latest surveys and censuses, including challenges faced and lessons learned in using the Washington Group questions. The Workshop will allow participants to fully discuss the application of the Washington Group measurement tools and provide suggestions for improvements and enhancing dissemination for evidence-based policymaking.

OUTCOME

The workshop will enhance the capacities of member countries to compile and produce accurate and comparable disability statistics with harmonized concepts, definitions, and methodologies in line with international guidelines, standards, and classifications.

The workshop is expected to accomplish the following:

- Developing the capabilities of national statistical offices to collect and publish accurate and comparable disability statistics from household censuses and surveys.
- Enhance understanding of concepts, definitions, and methodologies to produce consistent data aligned with regional and international standards.
- Discuss the development of a stand-alone surveys to reach a consensus for a regional module.
- Share good practices in producing disability statistics in the region and related challenges in data analysis.

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop will be held at the United Nations House, ESCWA, in Riad Al-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon from 27 to 28 July 2022. The workshop starts every day at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. The workshop will take place in the MZ Hall at Basement Level 1.

To facilitate your entry to the United Nations House, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport and the original registration form at the UN Security Identification Office at the UN House by 8 a.m. on 27 and 28 July 2022. For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the UN House.



UN HOUSE LOCATION

- a. All participants will access the UN-House through the pedestrian entrance located in Gibran Garden.
- b. All participants are requested to present a valid photo IDs or national passport for accreditation at the UN-House.
- c. Below is the google map for the UN-House pedestrian entrance for ease of reference.



LANGUAGE AND DOCUMENTATION OF WORK

The working language of the workshop is Arabic. Workshop documents will be made available on the ESCWA website. The site will be updated on a regular basis and will provide background documentation and material including the information note and the organization of work.

PARTICIPATION

A maximum of two experts (preferably a statistician and IT) who have been actively engaged in completing the ESCWA Disability Statistics Questionnaire will be invited to attend the workshop.

All participants should register for the workshop by completing the attached registration form and sending it to the ESCWA secretariat (email: mansour10@un.org or fax: +961 1 981 510) by 23 June 2022.

All participants attending the workshop are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible at the Embassy of Lebanon in the country in which the participants reside, with reference to the workshop of the ESCWA. If necessary, the ESCWA secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa (email: mansour10@un.org or fax: +961 1 981 510). Participants can also check the website of the Lebanese General Security for further information. <http://www.general-security.gov.lbasp>

TRAVEL, DSA AND ACCOMMODATION

All participants' travel and accommodation will be covered by the ESCWA secretariat. To facilitate ticket purchase and other administrative clearances participants are requested to send a scanned colored copy of their passport to Ms. Khadije Mansour (mansour10@un.org) by 23 June 2022. Please note that the system will be locked thereafter, and we will not be able to process delayed registrations.

Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, whereby the most direct and economical route will be chosen, and an electronic ticket will be sent to you. Participants are not to buy their own tickets as they will not be refunded. ESCWA will provide sponsored participants a lumpsum terminal allowance of US\$ 188 to cover airport terminal expenses in their home country and in Beirut. No receipt is required to receive this allowance.

Participants traveling at the UN expense will also receive a daily per Diem (DSA) at the applicable UN rate for Beirut (US\$221) to cover accommodation, food as well as terminal expenses including transport costs to and from the airport. Lunch and coffee will be provided for four days.

Sponsored participants are reminded to bring a copy of their passports with entry stamps, a copy of the ticket, and a boarding pass, original PCR receipt/invoice to UNESCWA MZ venue on the first day of the workshop to process daily subsistence allowance (DSA) payment promptly.

Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. The ESCWA is not in a position to provide such services to participants. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the workshop.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT

The Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport is the only international airport in Lebanon. It is approximately 10 – 15 minutes from downtown Beirut. Participants should make their own arrangements from and to the airport. The fare usually ranges between US\$10-20 either through a private taxi or the hotel. A hotel list is attached for ease of reference.

PCR TESTING

All passengers arriving in Lebanon from any point of origin, including GCC countries, must hold a negative PCR test certificate. The test must be taken no more than 72 hours prior to the time of departure. Travelers from certain countries must hold a negative PCR test taken no more than 48 hours prior to the time of departure. Please check your country's travel advisory for the latest guidance on outbound trips, as well as your carrier requirements check this website for updates:

<https://www.dgca.gov.lb/index.php/en/recomm-dgca-en>.

GENERAL AND TOURIST INFORMATION

- **Time Zone:** Beirut's time zone is GMT+2
- **Electricity:** Electricity Voltage is 220
- **Currency:** Both the US Dollar and the Lebanese Lira are accepted everywhere in Lebanon.
- **Weather:** Average temperatures in July range from 24 to 30 degrees Celsius.
- **Tourism:** The following websites provide information on tourist attractions in Beirut and Lebanon:
 - <https://www.visit-lebanon.org/leisure/>
 - <https://www.the961.com/mag/travel-leisure/guides/>

CONTACT

Participants may contact Ms. Khadije Mansour (email: mansour10@un.org or phone: +961 1 978 475) for any questions regarding their participation in the workshop.

ORGANIZERS

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