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DOCUMENT N° 8:

RMI HIES ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITY TO DISAGGREGATE BY DISABILITY

ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE METHODS BOARD POWER POINT PRESENTATION

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1. Disability continuum and decision for cutoff point for disaggregation purpose

This section reviews the various possible cut off point and the implications on disaggregation.

Disability is best understood as a continuum. In terms of difficulty functioning, the 'difficulty' can be operationalized through a range of descriptors from no difficulty at all, through some difficulty and a lot of difficulty to completely unable to carry out the action. Each of these descriptors represents a possible cutoff or threshold in the determination of a final disability identifier; for example, to define those with and without disability.

Depending on purpose, disability prevalence is not a single statistic. It can be calculated at various thresholds to serve purpose for both data collection and reporting. For example, if the purpose is to provide for equitable access to public spaces – then the level of inclusion for a disability identifier might be **some difficulty**, since those with even minor levels of difficulty functioning would likely benefit from adaptations made to remove barriers and ease access.

Alternatively, if the purpose is to provide subsidies or allowances – the level of inclusion for a disability identifier might be **cannot do at all** since only those with more severe functional limitations would meet stricter eligibility criteria.

For statistical purposes, it is also important that sufficient cases are available to allow for reliable disaggregation. General practice is that estimates based on less than 50 cases are reported with caution while estimates based on less than 25 cases are suppressed.

Key consideration: The Washington group (WG) tools address the issue of whether persons with disability participate to the same extent as persons without disabilities – leaving no one behind. The chosen cutoff/set of cutoff points should be driven by the policy priorities to address disparities.

2. Possible disaggregation:

This section outlines the disaggregation that are possible in HIES data using the RMI data. Desegregations were found to be possible in the following areas:

- Disaggregation in literacy and education
Tables disaggregated by appropriate level of difficulty – Reading, writing and level of education.
- Disaggregation in health
Tables disaggregated by appropriate level of difficulty – Body Mass Index, insurance cover.
- Disaggregation alcohol and tobacco use
Tables disaggregated by appropriate level of difficulty – Tobacco, alcohol, kava, betel nut.
- Disaggregation in communication
Tables disaggregated by appropriate level of difficulty – access to internet, use of phone.
- Disaggregation in labour
Tables disaggregated by appropriate level of difficulty – main activity.
- Disaggregation in poverty
Poverty estimates can also be generated by the appropriate level of difficulty along the continuum. This is perhaps the biggest motivation for inclusion of the extended set of the WG questions in HIES.
- Other possible disaggregation
The disability disaggregates obtained through the WG group questions can also be applied where other individual level disaggregates are used/applied, going beyond what has been identified in this note.

3. Issues

- Disability prevalence estimates being obtained in Pacific Countries and Territories are generally low (< 5%) than would be expected based and obtained through global estimates of 12-15 %.

- As recommended by the WG, there is considerable benefit in using the long set in specialized surveys and the short set in census.
- Good training of enumerators is critical for the successful implementation of the WG and use for disaggregation in specialized surveys.

4. Key conclusion

This presentation recommends using disability measures as disaggregates in specialized surveys such as HIES. The disability prevalence estimates are best obtained through a population and housing census. WG recommended cut-off (**a lot of difficulty and cannot do at all**) for prevalence may not yield adequate number of cases sufficient for disaggregation in small sample surveys. Given the flexibility of the WG group tools, cut-off points maybe be defined to respond to various data needs of policy priorities.

Reference:

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS). Information note dated 2 August 2017.