

How can I collect or access data on people with disabilities in humanitarian action?

Before learning more about using the Washington Group Questions in humanitarian action it is important to reflect on how to access data on persons with disabilities. Depending on the context, data may (or not) be available to use, and additional data collections will be informed by this. Take the following flow chart to see when you need to collect data, and if the WGQs are the right set of questions for you.

Could there be **existing data** on persons with disabilities available?

Yes

No

Where are you in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle?

Emergency response preparedness

Needs assessment & analysis

Depending on your context, the following are examples of sources that may contain data on persons with disabilities.

Example:
National census data
Demographic and health survey data
Multiple Indicator Cluster report
National information systems

Depending on your context, the following are examples of sources that may contain data on persons with disabilities.

Example:
Humanitarian Needs Overview
Preliminary response plan

Can you collect new data on persons with disabilities?

No

Yes

I can't collect new data:

It is sometimes not possible to collect new data. Don't fret - check out the following steps to see how you can take action.

Where data cannot be collected, due to the urgency or limited time available, the earliest actions should be designed from the outset in an accessible way (Universal design) so as not to create barriers for people with disabilities.

I can collect new data:

When collecting new data, consider the following elements: What type of data do you want to collect?

Data to determine who is in need of medical services and what type of services those should be

This type of data is difficult to collect with non-specialised staff and tests. The WGQs cannot be used to collect this type of data.

Data to determine the barriers persons with disabilities face

Different tools and questions exist, but no standardized approach is available yet, limiting comparability.

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



The **Washington Group Questions** are a validated and endorsed tool developed to collect data on the functional difficulties of a person.

Implementation and monitoring

Evaluations

Depending on your context, the following are examples of sources that may contain data on persons with disabilities.

Example:
 Periodic monitoring reports
 Situation reports
 Donor reports

Depending on your context, the following are examples of sources that may contain data on persons with disabilities.

Example:
 Real-time evaluations
 Inter-agency evaluations

Attention point: (2) When using data collected externally, take care to understand how the data was collected, using what questions and severity cut-off as this will impact the comparability of the data.

Attention point: (1) No matter what situation may have existed pre-crisis, there will be changes as a result of the disaster or conflict, requiring initial assessments from as soon as it is feasible.

Didn't find the data you were looking for? It isn't reliable? Pop back up to the start and now select that there is no data available.

Link with local key informants such as Organisations for People with Disabilities (DPOs) for more information.

Monitor against global disability estimates to detect under-representation among certain groups.

So now you know that you can use the **Washington Group Questions**, let's plan for their use in your selected programme.

What is your objective for collecting this data?

Designing project activities

For example, 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

Monitoring and evaluating activities

For example, 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

I don't know

It may be too early to know, but do reflect again on if the Washington Group Questions are the right questions for you?

Would you like to go on to see what question set you should use? If yes, choose from the following the characteristics of your data collection

The population is mostly adults

Consider the Short Set of Questions

I want to identify children with disabilities

Consider asking the Child Functioning Module to those under 18 years old

I also need to identify persons with psychosocial difficulties

Consider the enhanced short set of questions

I want to collect detailed data on persons with disabilities

Consider the extended set of questions

Now you know when to use the WGQs, and what set of questions to use we hope that many of your questions have been answered.