

FACTSHEET #4 UNDERSTANDING TEMPORALITY AND CAUSALITY WHEN COLLECTING DATA IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION USING THE WASHINGTON GROUP QUESTIONS.



Data collected with the Washington Group questions (WGQs) will not tell you the cause of difficulties reported (causality), how long the persons has had difficulties for and whether they will face difficulties in the foreseeable future (temporality).

When testing the WGQs, the Washington Group found that respondents would not usually report temporary conditions. This was because the respondents understood that the questions were aimed at long-term conditions. However, given the nature of the humanitarian context, sometimes this data is necessary or relevant.

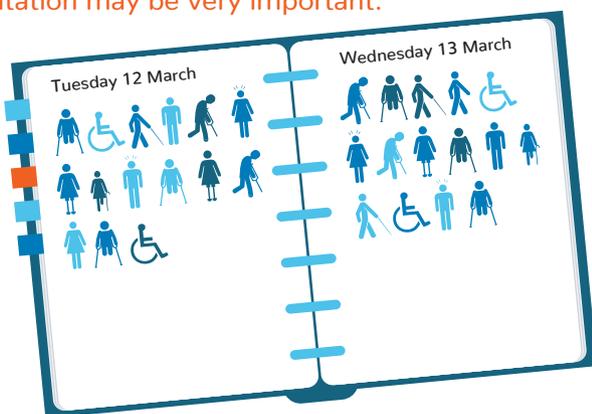


The objective of WGQs is to identify people with difficulties in performing basic actions regardless of the cause of these difficulties. As a result, questions on causality are outside of the scope of WGQs.

When is temporality relevant?

Temporality is relevant to get a snapshot of who, at the time of a census or survey, is facing these difficulties, and would at that time benefit from accommodations or universal design, or be in need of assistive devices, medical care, or some other intervention.

Remember: the WGQs are not designed to determine eligibility for particular individuals for various programs. In those instances, knowing the temporary/permanent nature of a functional limitation may be very important.



When is causality relevant?

Causality is relevant

to identify victims of mines or explosive remnants of war, as stipulated in certain International Humanitarian Law Conventions.

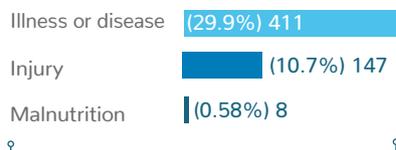


OR

to understand the impact of the context in the data collected



Causes Of Disability



Almost 1 in 3 disabilities were acquired as a result of illness or disease.

Related to Syrian Conflict

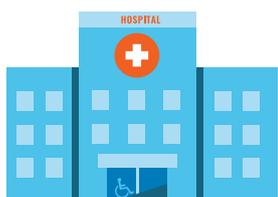


HI & iMMAP Removing barriers - path towards inclusive access.

If this information is relevant, how to collect it?

Remember – the WGQs were not designed to ask about temporality or causality and so no changes should be made directly to the WGQs.

Supplementary questions should always come after the WGQs.



Keep in mind that:

If your objective for collecting data is to understand whether your services are accessible you would want to know that all persons with disabilities are able to access your services.



A person with a temporary or recent disability is still at risk of restricted social participation, and therefore a distinction doesn't need to be made.



YEARS

Clauses that refer to length of time or permanence/temporary are complicated and are often misinterpreted, which could affect the quality of the data collected.

By adding supplementary questions such as:

How long do you expect these difficulties to last?

- Less than 6 months?
- Between 6 months and a year?
- Over a year?

What is the cause of (name)'s functional difficulties?

- From birth
- Injury
- Illness or disease
- Ageing
- Malnutrition
- Others (specify)
- Do not know

By asking these supplementary questions, you will understand the cause of the difficulties a person is facing in one of the WG domains but you will not know the cause of a specific impairment or medical condition (as this is not identified using the WGQs).