



# Making Children Count in Population and Housing Census Recommendations for the 2030 round

UNECE Meeting of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses  
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# I. Counting children with disabilities

## DESA (2017)

Core topic

Addressed to each single household member / Proxy / Account for each family member individually

Disability status

Disability questions

## UNECE (2015)

Non-core topic

Applied to all household members aged 5+ / Proxy / Account for each family member individually

## UNICEF recommendations for 2030:

1. Disability questions should be addressed to each household member aged 5+ / Proxy / Account for each family member individually

## UNICEF

### recommendations for 2030:

2. Collect data for children aged 2-17 years and use the **UNICEF / Washington Group (WG) Child Functioning (CF) Module**, as the WG short set significantly underestimates the prevalence of disability among children

### Comparison of domains between the UNICEF/WG Child Functioning Module and the WG short set

| WG SS                         | CFM (2 to 4 years)                          | CFM (5 to 17 years)                                    |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Seeing                        | Seeing                                      | Seeing   |
| Hearing                       | Hearing                                     | Hearing  |
| Walking                       | Walking                                     | Walking  |
| Self-care                     |   | Self-care  |
|                               | Fine motor                                  |  |
| Communicating                 | Communication/<br>Comprehension<br>Learning | Communication/<br>Comprehension<br>Learning            |
| Concentrating/<br>Remembering |   | Remembering<br>Focusing attention and<br>concentrating |
|                               |   | Relationships  |
|                               | Controlling behaviour                       | Copying with change<br>Controlling behaviour           |
|                               |   | Emotions: anxiety and<br>depression                    |
|                               | Playing                                     |  |

# II. Counting children in institutional households

## UNICEF analysis

**DESA** 2017: “institutional population”  
vs. **UNECE** 2015: “Institutional household”

**Differences in classifications** of types of institutional household reflecting differences in existing types of institutions across countries

- 2015 UNECE categories are not sufficiently sensitive to the institutional child population and may lead to **undercounting**

- Evidence shows that **children living in mixed-population facilities** with adults are more likely to be picked up as part data collection exercises
- There are **many facilities specifically designed to accommodate and care for children** who are often overlooked in national statistics
- Accurate enumeration is crucial for **social welfare and child protection policymaking and planning**

## II. UNICEF recommendations

### UNECE 2030 – 7 categories of institutional households to include:

- all facilities and communal establishments for both, adults, and children aged 0-17 years
  - all facilities and communal establishments that are accommodating and providing services specifically for children aged 0-17 years
- Reflect this in the *Notes, Methodological considerations, and definitions of ‘institutional household’ and of ‘person living in an institutional household’*
- Suggested wording and illustrative examples in the UNICEF paper accompanying this presentation!

# III. Children in family-based care arrangements

## UN Guidelines on Alternative Care for Children (2009)

Kinship Care

Foster Care

Other forms of family-based  
and family-like care

According to the 2009 Guidelines, all children in alternative family-based care and family-like care placements are considered part of **private households**

### UNICEF's analysis concluded

The purpose of the census does not lend itself to collect disaggregated data on children in different types of formal and informal alternative family-based care arrangements, especially as there is a wide variety of categories and terms used across countries, leading to inconsistencies

# IV. Family nucleus and childcare arrangements

## UNECE (2015)

Children (blood, step-, or adopted son or daughter) and grandchildren

Foster children and any (grand)son or (grand)daughter who lives with a spouse, partner, or own children

## Alternative care guidelines (2009)

Grandchildren placed in “kinship care” with their grandparents by a competent authority (or informally)

Children in formal foster care, children in other types of formal family-based or family-like care arrangements

Included

Excluded

## UNICEF recommendations for 2030:

- **Provide clarity:** whether to include “grandsons and granddaughters” who have usual residence in the household in the family nucleus when no parents are present, as per current UNECE definition
- **Or redefine** the “family nucleus” in private households to include only parents (biological or legal) and their child(ren), thus excluding other caregivers like extended family members not holding parental rights

Thank you.

unicef   
for every child

