

## Development and validation of a new Quality of Life measure for children living in contexts of vulnerability

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**Introduction/Rationale:** Handicap International intervenes in several developing countries to create opportunities to learn and develop for children, presenting or not a situation of handicap, growing up in contexts of vulnerability. There is a need to measure the quality of life (QoL) of these children in order to accurately assess the impact of implemented interventions.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to develop and validate a new QoL measure for children aged 4 to 18 years living in vulnerable contexts such as refugee camps.

**Method:** The study used a mixed methods approach. Following the qualitative phase of the project, a pool of 48 items is being administered to a sample of 500 children living in refugee camps in Thailand, Bangladesh and Pakistan. An item-theory (IRT) statistical method is being used to provide preliminary evidence of validity and reliability for the items and to provide evidence for the discriminative capacity of the response options. A second deployment of the analyzed items is planned for fall 2017 for further refinement of the items.

**Results:** All items will be fit to an IRT model and examined for targeting, discriminative ability and biases according to gender, age and country. Once items and response options fit the model, evidence for reliability, content validity based on the empirical hierarchy and spread of the items along the variable QoL will be presented. Age-adapted versions of QoL measures will be presented.

**Conclusion:** The new QoL measures will be available to assess the impact of interventions for children living in vulnerable contexts.