



# WHO Ear and Hearing Disorders Survey Protocol and Software Package

*This package consists of the following items:*

- 1. WHO Ear and Hearing Disorders Survey Protocol**
  - 2. WHO Ear and Hearing Disorders Survey Form on card**
  - 3. WHO Ear and Hearing Disorders Survey Software Manual**
  - 4. Four disks for installing “EARFORM” software**
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The purpose of this protocol is to enable a country, especially a developing country, to conduct a population-based, random-sample survey of the prevalence and causes of, and actions needed for, deafness and hearing impairment. The survey can be conducted at the national or district level.

The protocol comprises guidelines on survey methods and an ear and hearing examination form with coding instructions. It has been developed over several years with the advice of experts, and co-ordinated by WHO. By using the standardised format of the protocol, results can be compared between surveys conducted in different places and in the same place at different times.

The software enables data entry and basic analysis and can be linked to other programmes, such as EPI-INFO, for more detailed statistical analysis.

The main uses of the protocol are:

- to provide epidemiologically accurate data on the size of the problem in the country or part of the country where the survey is being conducted;
- to give an overview of the main causes of deafness and hearing impairment and the resources needed to deal with them.
- to provide information for health planners and policy makers for prioritisation, programme planning and resource allocation.
- to provide baseline data for comparison with subsequent similar surveys to measure changes in the problem and assess the effectiveness of interventions.
- to help determine the costs to the community of deafness and hearing impairment, and the costs and benefits of prevention.
- to contribute to the construction of a regional and global database by WHO.

The package is available at no cost to countries and organizations who are planning to conduct a population-based survey of deafness and hearing impairment. When requesting the package please include details of where and when the survey is intended to be conducted.

The package can be obtained from:

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