

# WHO-FIC COLLABORATING CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA: 2014 REPORT

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Lyn Hanmer, Debbie Bradshaw

WHO-FIC collaborating centre in South Africa (WHO-FIC SA),  
South African Medical Research Council, South Africa

**Abstract** Colleagues associated with the WHO-FIC collaborating centre in South Africa (WHO-FIC SA) continue to participate in activities related to the development, implementation and use of ICD-10 and ICF in South and Southern Africa; the development of ICD-11 and ICHI; and in WHO-FIC network structures. There is ongoing communication with WHO HQ and WHO/AFRO as required.

## Introduction

The base of activities of the WHO-FIC collaborating centre in South Africa (WHO-FIC SA) has been consolidated in the Burden of Disease Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council (MRC BOD) since June 2013. Contact is maintained with colleagues in other institutions and structures involved in the development, implementation and use of the WHO-FIC, mainly in South Africa but also in other countries in the WHO/AFRO region, and with the relevant structures in WHO headquarters in Geneva and the WHO African region (WHO/AFRO).

The range of WHO-FIC SA activities relates to most components of the WHO-FIC: ICD and ICF development, implementation and use; and the development of ICD-11 and ICHI. Participation in WHO-FIC structures is strongest in the FDRG, the FDC, the MRG and in the WHO-FIC Council and Council SEG.

WHO-FIC SA benefits from the ongoing contributions of colleagues in a wide range of organisations and roles, who are committed to the effective use of the WHO-FIC in support of excellent health care.

## ICF

Members of the FDRG from South Africa, including the current FDRG secretary, continue to contribute significantly to the ICF activities of the WHO-FIC.

In addition to direct FDRG participation, ongoing training and research activities within South Africa and elsewhere in the African Region provide important insights into the challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the ICF in low-resource settings.

The inputs from South Africa to the developing mICF project (described in detail in separate reporting) reflect the necessity for international projects to take account of as wide a range of requirements as possible to ensure effective design.

## ICD-10

### National activities in South Africa

ICD-10 is the national standard for diagnosis coding for South Africa. WHO-FIC SA is represented on the National ICD-10 Task Team, an advisory committee to the National Department of Health, and provides regular reports on WHO-FIC activities. Membership of other national committees related to health information in both public and private sectors provides the opportunity to report on the WHO-FIC and gain an understanding of the challenges and progress in the implementation of ICD-10 as a national standard.

Research studies related to the implementation of ICD-10 mortality coding at national level, and in the Western Cape, one of the nine provinces in South Africa, provide the platform for promoting the effective implementation of ICD-10 for mortality coding, and in sophisticated analysis and modelling of the available data on mortality in South Africa.

### ICD-10 beyond South Africa

A joint WHO/AFRO and WHO-FIC SA consultation on mortality coding training in support of improved Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) was held in Pretoria, South Africa on 30 January 2014. Participants included a representative from WHO/AFRO and colleagues involved in mortality coding training from Statistics South Africa (the national statistics office), the MRC, the National Department of Health, and the private healthcare sector. Input on the implementation of ICD-10 mortality coding in Mozambique was also provided. The consultation also provided the opportunity for sharing information among multiple agencies involved in the reporting of mortality for Africa.

Input on the standardised implementation of ICD-10 to support health services in Namibia was provided at a workshop for Namibian Health Information managers and other stakeholders in Walvis Bay between 24 and 26 March 2014.

## New members of the WHO-FIC

WHO-FIC SA, as a member of the WHO-FIC network, is committed to contributing to the development of new components of the WHO-FIC.

There continues to be active participation in the development of **ICD-11** through members of the MTAG, the MbTAG and several vertical TAGs. Efforts are being made to ensure that there will be significant input to the current beta review phase and in field testing of this classification.

Participation in the development of **ICHI** provides the opportunity to ensure that this interventions classification meets the needs of potential users in the African region.

## Conclusions

The importance of networks of stakeholders has been reflected in the past year in multiple activities including

- the expanded links with colleagues in Namibia;
- the opportunity for colleagues involved in ICD-10 mortality coding in South Africa to meet through the joint WHO/AFRO and WHO-FIC SA consultation on mortality coding training
- ongoing ICF training in African countries; and
- multiple international activities related to the mICF project and the development of ICD-11 and ICHI.

Further opportunities for expanding the network of WHO-FIC participants and activities in South and Southern Africa and through the international WHO-FIC network continue to be sought.

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