

WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in Africa: 2020 Report

19-24 October 2020

Virtual WHO-FIC

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Abstract Colleagues associated with the WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in South Africa are continuing their activities in support of the development and maintenance of the WHO-FIC internationally; in WHO-FIC network structures; in the development, implementation and use of ICD, ICHI and ICF in Africa; and in support of strengthening civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in the WHO African region.

INTRODUCTION

As the only WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in the WHO African region - hosted by the South African Medical Research Council in Cape Town - the centre supports the development, implementation and maintenance of the WHO-FIC across the region, and through the WHO-FIC network. Our term as collaborating centre came to an end in 2020 and we have been invited to apply for a new four-year period of designation with WHO.

STRATEGIC WORKPLAN 2018-2020

Despite the limitation placed on our planned activities by the COVID-19 pandemic during the past year, we continued to implement our Strategic Workplan 2018-2020, in close collaboration with the WHO Regional office for Africa.

Values: The WHO-FIC Regional Network for Africa shares the values of Equity, Excellence, Solidarity, Respect, Integrity, Ubuntu and Social responsibility.

Mission: To cooperate with the countries and other stakeholders in the WHO African region to develop and advance WHO-FIC.

Vision: Coordinate and share experiences, knowledge, and the production of scientific evidence on WHO-FIC to contribute to Universal Health Coverage and strong health information systems in the WHO African region.

KEY RESULTS 2019-2020

Build an effective WHO-FIC Network in WHO African region

- ✓ We distributed two newsletters to our database of 500 persons and organisations in the African region. Join our database: www.whofic.org.za.
- ✓ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in-person stakeholder meetings took place. However, there were ad hoc virtual meetings with key stakeholders.
- ✓ We supported the efforts of the WHO regional office to promote WHO-FIC through monthly virtual meetings.

Build strong international links with international and other WHO-FIC regional networks

- ✓ Prof Soraya Maart (FDC Secretary and FDRG Voting member): Attended virtual FDC midyear meeting, and meets regularly with the FDC co-chairs.
- ✓ Dr Stefanus Snyman (EIC voting member and FDRG member) attended the virtual FDRG Midyear and helped to organise 6th International Symposium: ICF Education.
- ✓ Dr Oluwatoyin Awotiwon (Gbabe) and Prof Debbie Bradshaw: Attended the virtual MRG mid-year meeting
- ✓ Dr Oluwatoyin Awotiwon and Dr Lyn Hanmer attended the CSAC virtual meetings
- ✓ Dr Lyn Hanmer and Dr Warrick Sive attended the EIC virtual meeting
- ✓ Dr Warrick Sive, Dr Lyn Hanmer and Prof Soraya Maart: Attended virtual FDC mid-year meeting. The SAMRC provided technical support in setting up this meeting.

Contribute to development and maintenance of member classifications of WHO-FIC aligned to needs of region

ICD-10 & ICD-11:

- ✓ The ongoing implementation and maintenance of ICD-10 for mortality and morbidity coding remain a core focus. Inputs to the further development of ICD-11 are essential to ensure that the classification meets regional needs.
- ✓ We are collaborating with WHO Regional Office for Africa, planning ICD-11 training for the region.

ICHI:

- ✓ The successful development of ICHI is of relevance for South Africa, since the country does not currently have a national procedure coding standard. Accurate data on procedures are essential for the planned implementation of a National Health Insurance (NHI) system, which is currently under way.

- ✓ We coordinated ICHI testing in South Africa and the Africa region on behalf of WHO (Geneva) and the regional office (Brazzaville). Stakeholders in public and private sectors participated in the testing process.

ICF:

- ✓ We continued to participate in the ICF Update process (Prof Soraya Maart and Dr Stefanus Snyman)
- ✓ Stefanus Snyman serves on the Board of ICFeducation.org and helped to organise the 6th International Symposium: ICF Education (virtual).
- ✓ As part of the mICF initiative, a pilot project was completed to gather data on persons reversing their Type 2 Diabetes.

Deliver educational resources for ICD, ICF, ICHI and Cause of Death Certification



The screenshot shows the SAMRC logo and a banner for 'Improving Cause of Death Reporting in SA'. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'Improving cause of death reporting' with a sub-header 'With a few exceptions, medical doctors in South Africa do not routinely receive training in the medical certification of cause of death, and do not understand how these data are processed and used for public health policy. A large percentage (approximately 44%) of all deaths certified by clinicians are insufficiently specified resulting in unusable data.'

- ✓ An online Certification of Death course (4 modules) was developed, piloted and rolled out: <http://www.deathcertification.org/>
- ✓ We compiled and disseminated the South African Guideline for Medical Certification of COVID-19 related deaths
- ✓ We are collaborating with the WHO Regional Office for Africa on comprehensive CRVS training
- ✓ The ICF Education.org website was updated by Nelson Mandela University with funding from the WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in the Netherlands.

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