

South African WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre: 2021 Report

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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 (SAMRC) in Cape Town - the Centre supports the development, implementation and maintenance of the WHO-FIC in South Africa, across the Region, and through the WHO-FIC network. Our term as collaborating centre ended in 2020 and we are currently under designation for a further term as a WHO CC.

WORKPLANS 2020-2021

Despite the ongoing limitation placed on our activities by the COVID-19 pandemic during the past year, we continued to implement our Strategic Workplan 2018-2020, and our operational work plan 2021-2022, in close collaboration with key stakeholders in South Africa and the WHO Regional Office for Africa.

Values: The WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in South Africa shares the values of Equity, Excellence, Solidarity, Respect, Integrity, Ubuntu and Social responsibility.

Mission: To cooperate with 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 2020-2021

Support the implementation of WHO-FIC classifications in South Africa and in the African region

- ✓ The CC is engaging with key stakeholders in South Africa on how to support the transition from ICD-10 to ICD-11 for morbidity and mortality coding, and support the strengthening of births and deaths registration processes in country.
- ✓ We supported the efforts of the WHO Regional Office to promote WHO-FIC through monthly virtual meetings.

Participate effectively in the international WHO-FIC network

- ✓ The CC is actively represented in most of the WHO-FIC Committees and Reference Groups, including the Verbal Autopsy Reference Group (VARG). Representatives of the CC participate in working meetings, projects, and the mid-year meetings of the WHO-FIC structures.
- ✓ Prof Soraya Maart (FDC Secretary and FDRG Voting member): Attended virtual FDC midyear meeting, and meets regularly with the FDC co-chairs. The SAMRC provided technical support in setting up the FDC mid-year meeting.
- ✓ Dr Warrick Sive and Prof Soraya Maart made a presentation on the joint use of the WHO-FIC at a virtual International Labour Organization (ILO) Workshop on Standardisation of Occupational Injuries and Diseases Reporting in June 2021.
- ✓ Prof Debbie Bradshaw contributes to multiple activities related to coding and certification of Cause of Death, and strengthening of processes for registration of births and deaths at national, regional and international levels.

Contribute to development and maintenance of WHO-FIC classifications 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 continued to participate in the ICD-11 update process (Dr Oluwatoyin Awotiwon and Dr Lyn Hanmer)
- ✓ We are collaborating with WHO Regional Office for Africa, in planning and supporting ICD-11 training for the region.
- ✓ A project using the WHO ICD-11 encoder in a South African public sector regional hospital is planned at the University of the Witwatersrand.

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 participates in the mICF initiative.

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.
- ✓ A project to investigate the use of ICHI in a South African public sector regional hospital is planned at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Develop, deliver and evaluate education relating to the WHO classifications and Cause of Death certification

- ✓ An online course on Certification of Death (4 modules) was developed, piloted and rolled out. A fifth module, to support Certification of Covid-19 related deaths, is under development: <http://www.deathcertification.org/>
- ✓ WHO guidelines on coding of morbidity and mortality due to Covid-19 are distributed.
- ✓ We are collaborating with the WHO Regional Office for Africa on comprehensive CRVS training.
- ✓ Training for ICF training facilitators is ongoing.

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