

WHO FIC EIC Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG)

April 4-5 2019, Kuwait

The FDRG committee of the WHO Family of International Classifications (FIC) strives to monitor the ongoing updates of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (aka ICF).

The FDRG meets twice a year, at the annual WHO-FIC meeting and again mid-year, most often to discuss updates from the WHO and potential new codes for the ICF.

ICF is used in clinical practice (WHO A Practical Manual for using the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health) such as in the consideration of health and functioning, setting goals, evaluating treatment outcomes, communicating with colleagues or the person involved. It provides a common language across clinical disciplines and with patients or clients. It is considered complementary to ICD. Additionally, it can be used for additional purposes such as:

- Support services and income support
- Population statistics education
- Policy and programmes
- Advocacy and empowerment

The FDRG group met in Kuwait in April. The WHO Collaborating Centers and Non-governmental organizations updated activities in their areas. In addition, open proposals for ICF-Youth (CY) were discussed. There was a discussion of WHO Disability Assessment Scale (WHODAS) education modules. The overview of a new project, KIDDAS, was also discussed. Draft use cases for International Classification of Health Interventions, ICF, and ICD were discussed as well. More information on these groups can be found at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>.

One area discussed during the meeting included the mICF work and the continued development of mobile applications that focus on ICF. “mICF is a person-centered user-friendly solution to help people to describe their lived

experience of service needs. It is a paradigm shifting platform for personalized health and social care that will facilitate individualized, predictive care by utilising big data models.” Information about mICF and work in Kuwait can be found on the website <https://icfmobile.org/>

ICF education is a large part of the focus of FDRG. Following the FDRG meeting the 3rd International Symposium on ICF Education was held in Kuwait. Information on the educational work on ICF can be found at the following website <http://www.icfeducation.org/>. The theme of the conference was “ICF: Measurement for Better Participation.” The program topics were

- ICF-related tools to evaluate functioning
- Educating on ICF
- ICF-based evidence informing policies

References:

WHO, A Practical Manual for using the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health

<https://icfmobile.org/>

<http://www.icfeducation.org/>.

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