WHO - FAMILY OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING 2026

12-17 October 2026

WHO-FIC

Poster Number

WHO/CAT to insert

ADVANCING ICD-11 and Digital Health: IFHIMA'S GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

Kathy Giannangelo, Sharon Baker

WHO-FIC Network NGO, IFHIMA

Abstract The International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA), a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with WHO, has a commitment to helping the healthcare industry prepare for ICD-11. In 2026, IFHIMA continued its support of the WHO-FIC Network Strategic Framework and Work Plan priority areas of Education and Implementation, with a focus on ICD-11 and other health records and health information topics .

Introduction

IFHIMA has a longstanding relationship with WHO and works on projects of particular concern or interest to health records and health information. Its work with the WHO-FIC Network includes support for ICD-11 education and implementation and digital health.

Methods & Materials

ICD-11 Community of Practice (CoP)

Quarterly meetings brought together health information professionals from different countries to exchange implementation experiences, identify common challenges, discuss education and workforce needs, and consider practical ways to support ICD-11 adoption.

Education and Training

IFHIMA's second Focus on the Future of HIM series brought together industry leaders and Health Informatics/Health Information Management experts to discuss key topics impacting all facets of healthcare.

IFHIMA published a learning module on ICD-11 Morbidity Coding for inclusion in its basic health records practice modules.

Collaboration with the WHO-FIC Network

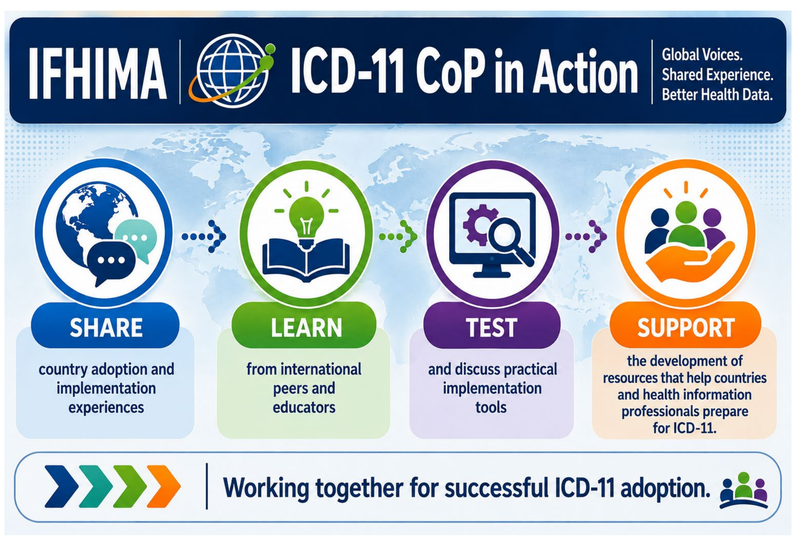
IFHIMA's current collaboration plan activities focus on:

- ICD-11 awareness, adoption, and implementation
- Training, webinars, and curriculum development
- Technical input on coding and classification

As such, IFHIMA has members on the following committees/reference groups (CRGs):

- Education and Implementation Committee (EIC)
- Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG)
- Informatics and Terminology Committee (ITC)
- Family Development Committee (FDC)
- Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG)

Results



The ICD-11 CoP met quarterly where members shared country experiences, identified common barriers, learned about WHO implementation tools, and gathered international adoption datapoints to help health information professionals understand how they can support ICD-11 implementation locally and globally.



IFHIMA's 2026 *Focus on the Future (FOF) of HIM* series included speakers and a panel discussion. IFHIMA granted 17 scholarships to FOF participants from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

Learning Modules provide opportunities for education between persons working in the field of health records/information management. An update to the ICD module provides foundational training support for ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics (ICD-11-MMS), 2026-01 release, with a focus on morbidity coding.

WHO-FIC Network Collaboration

IFHIMA support to the WHO-FIC Network CRGs consisted of:

- **EIC**

Support of the prioritization of practical use cases within the EIC's work, particularly through our ICD Community of Practice (CoP), educational initiatives, and related events.

- **MbRG**

Assistance with the priorities of the MbRG, including the 2027 ICD-11 updates and specific morbidity coding reviews in areas such as obstetrics, burns, injuries, and other priority areas.

- **ITC**

Participation in mid-year and annual meetings to advance ITC's strategic pillars.

- **FDC**

Input to specific deliverables: Updates to the Family Paper; Status of related terminologies, ontologies, and classifications; and Harmonization of the Foundation and next steps.

- **FDRG**

Support for ICF Reference Guide updates and other deliverables.

Conclusions

Through the ICD-11 CoP, education and training, and IFHIMA's participation in WHO-FIC CRGs, IFHIMA's global activities continue to shift from awareness toward practical implementation support.

Next Steps

- Continue quarterly ICD-11 CoP meetings.
- Develop the proposed ICD-11 trainer initiative for potential consideration by the EIC.
- Maintain collaboration through contribution to CRG work items and participation in meetings.

Acknowledgements

The IFHIMA WHO-FIC representatives acknowledge the ICD-11 CoP leadership, members, guest presenters, Focus on the Future of HIM speakers and participants, author of the ICD-11 Learning Module, IFHIMA Board and volunteers who contribute to IFHIMA's global activities and international information-sharing efforts.

Poster generated with the assistance of AI.