ICF EDUCATION

International Classification of Functioning, Disability & Health (ICF)

ICF in the Family of World Health Organisation – International Classifications (WHO-FIC)

Huib Ten Napel

ICF Education Developer, Trainer & Consultant

Member of WHO-FIC Functioning Disability Reference Group (FDRG), EIC, FDC, MbRG, ITC

(Former)

Head of Dutch WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre

Senior Researcher, Department of Primary & Community Care, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Project Leader & Executive Officer WONCA ICPC-3 Consortium & Foundation

www.ICFeducation.org
www.huibtennapel@gmail.com

Overview of presentation

- What is the WHO-FIC
- What does it look like – before and at present
- Importance of ICF within the Family
- How does ICF connect to the Family members
- Importance of ICF Framework
- Applications of the ICF Framework

What is the “WHO-FIC”?

WHO-FIC stands for World Health Organisation of Family of International Classifications

International Standards are the highest level of standardisation/norms a country/profession can adhere to.

- If there are no International Standards → use National Standards
- If there are no National Standards → use Local Standards
- If there are no Local Standards → develop or adopt a Standard

Almost all National Standardisation Institutes apply these ‘rules’

ICF in the WHO-FIC Network – Context of ICF

- **WHO Head Quarters Geneva - Classification Team**
  Contact person for each of the Classifications. For the ICF: Nenad Konstanjsek
- **6 WHO Regional Offices:**
  AFRO-AMRO-EMRO-EURO-SEARO-WPRO

Workprogramm for WHO-FIC supported by:

- **WHO-FIC Collaborating Centres – through a Terms of Reference (ToR)**
- **WHO-FIC Committees and Reference Groups**
  e.g. FDRG, EIC, CSAC-ICF
- **Website:**
  www.who.int/classifications

WHO-Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC)

Traditional presentation – like "books"

Still Family Members

Under discussion

RELATED CLASSIFICATIONS

- International Classification of **Primary Care** (ICPC)
- International Classification of External Causes of **Injury** (ICECI)
- International Classification for **Nursing** Practice (ICNP)
- The Anatomical, Therapeutic, Chemical (ATC) classification system with Defined Daily Doses (DDD)
- ISO 9999 **Assistive Products** for persons with disabilities – Classification and Terminology

REFERENCE CLASSIFICATIONS



DERIVED CLASSIFICATIONS

- International Classification of Diseases for **Oncology**, Third Edition (ICD-O-3)
- The ICD-10 Classification of **Mental and Behavioural Disorders**
- Application of the International Classification of Diseases to **Dentistry** and Stomatology, Third Edition (ICD-DA)
- Application of the International Classification of Diseases to **Neurology** (ICD-10-NA)
- **ICF Children & Youth Version** (ICF -CY)

Chapters in ICD-10 with more detail

More detail

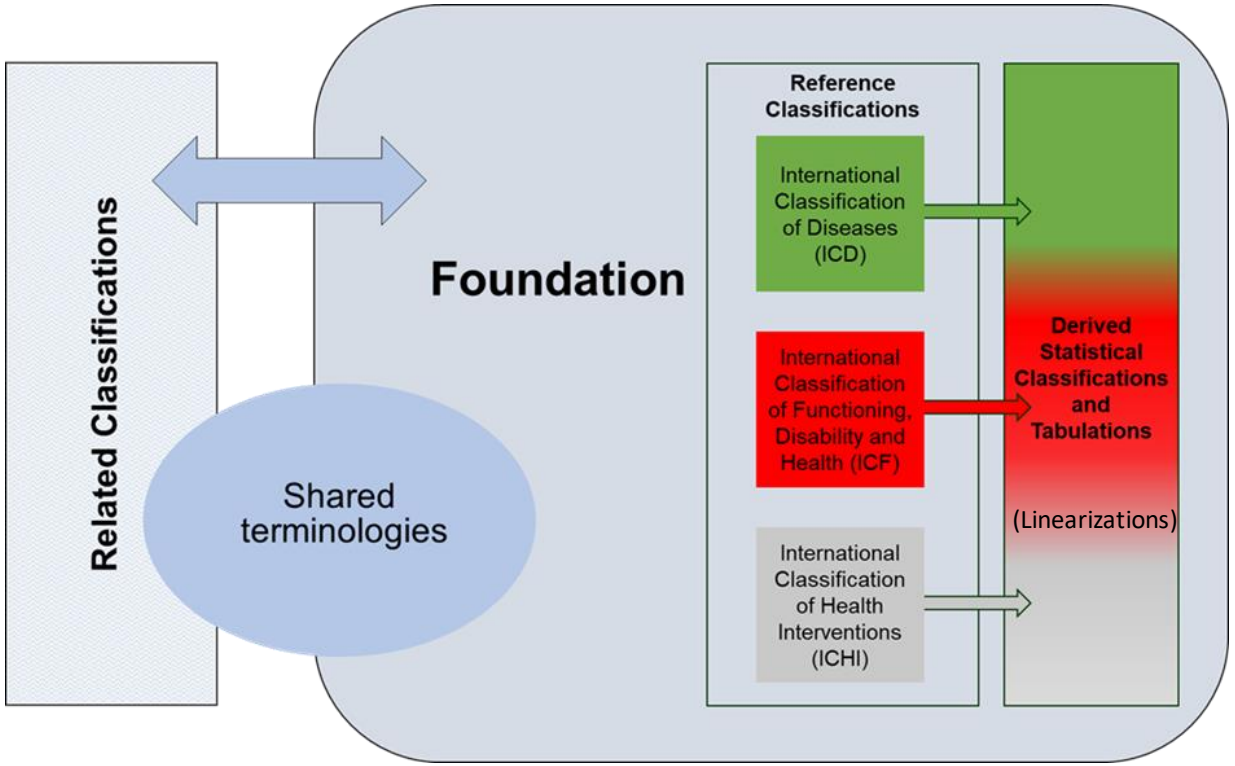
WHO-Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC)

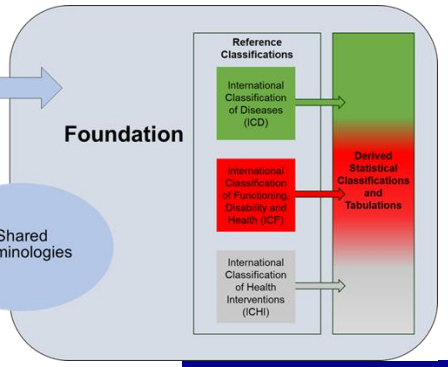
As stated in the WHO-FIC Family Paper (2021)

Goal: Improve health through the ongoing development, maintenance, and promotion of an integrated suite of reference health classifications and related products that produce information of value and utility across the world.

Current presentation –
"electronic repository" like

No more books!





Linearisations drawn from the WHO-FIC Foundation:

ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics 2025-01 EN

Type for starting the search | Browse | Coding Tool | Info

- ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics
  - **01** Certain infectious or parasitic diseases
  - **02** Neoplasms
  - **03** Diseases of the blood or blood-forming organs
  - **04** Diseases of the immune system
  - **05** Endocrine, nutritional or metabolic diseases
  - **06** Mental, behavioural or neurodevelopmental disorders
  - **07** Sleep-wake disorders
  - **08** Diseases of the nervous system
  - **09** Diseases of the visual system
  - **10** Diseases of the ear or mastoid process
  - **11** Diseases of the circulatory system
  - **12** Diseases of the respiratory system
  - **13** Diseases of the digestive system
  - **14** Diseases of the skin
  - **15** Diseases of the musculoskeletal system or connective tissue
  - **16** Diseases of the genitourinary system
  - **17** Conditions related to sexual health
  - **18** Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium
  - **19** Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period
  - **20** Developmental anomalies
  - **21** Symptoms, signs or clinical findings, not elsewhere classified
  - **22** Injury, poisoning or certain other consequences of external causes
  - **23** External causes of morbidity or mortality
  - **24** Factors influencing health status or contact with health services
  - **25** Codes for special purposes
  - **26** Supplementary Chapter Traditional Medicine Conditions
  - **V** Supplementary section for functioning assessment
  - **X** Extension Codes

ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics

International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI)

Register | Login

Last Update: May 15

Search [Advanced Search] | Home | Foundation | Coding Tool | Proposals | Info

- **International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI)**
  - ICHI Category
    - Health interventions
      - Interventions on body systems or functions
        - Interventions on the nervous system or mental functions
        - Interventions on the circulatory system
        - Interventions on the respiratory system or voice or speech
        - Interventions on the visual system
        - Interventions on the ear or mastoid
        - Interventions on the haematopoietic or lymphatic system
        - Interventions on the endocrine system
        - Interventions on the digestive system
        - Interventions on the integumentary system
        - Interventions on the musculoskeletal system
        - Interventions on the genitourinary system
        - Interventions on other or unspecified body systems or functions
      - Interventions on activities and participation domains
        - Interventions on learning and applying knowledge
        - Interventions on general tasks and demands
        - Interventions on communication
        - Interventions on mobility
        - Interventions on interpersonal interactions and relationships
        - Interventions on self care
        - Interventions on domestic life
        - Interventions on major life areas
        - Interventions on community, social and civic life

        SZZ.ZY.ZY Other specified interventions on activities and participation domains

        SZZ.ZZ.ZZ Interventions on activities and participation domains, unspecified
      - Interventions on the environment
        - Interventions on the natural environment including human changes
        - Interventions on products and technology
        - Interventions on support and relationships
        - Interventions on attitudes
        - Interventions on services, systems and policies
        - Interventions on additional environmental industries and products

        UZZ.ZY.ZY Other specified interventions on the environment

        UZZ.ZZ.ZZ Interventions on the environment, unspecified

WHO-FIC Maintenance Platform

Welcome to the Maintenance Platform for the WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC)

This site contains **work in progress** versions of the Classifications

- ICD-11
- ICF
- ICHI

For the latest release of ICD-11 please see ICD-11 Browser

You need to create an account for yourself if you wish to contribute to the classification by writing proposals or comments by following the link below
Register
Please note that the accounts you've created before the release of the classification are still valid.

Caveats

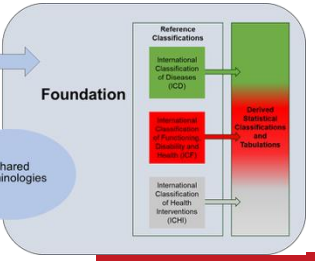
- The audience for this site is the maintainers, contributors and translators of the classification
- **The classification seen on this is not the released version of the classification. The content in this platform may change on an ongoing basis**
- For the latest release of the ICD-11 please see ICD-11 Browser

Related Information

ICD-11 Home Page

For more information about how to use this site, please see the User Guide

For more questions, please contact icd@who.int



Also drawn from the WHO-FIC Foundation:

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health 2026-01 EN

Type for starting the search | Browse | Coding Tool | Info

- International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)
  - ICF Category
    - Body functions
      - Mental functions
      - Sensory functions and pain
      - Voice and speech functions
      - Functions of the cardiovascular, haematological, immunological and respiratory systems
      - Functions of the digestive, metabolic and endocrine systems
      - Genitourinary and reproductive functions
      - Neuromusculoskeletal and movement-related functions
      - Functions of the skin and related structures
    - Activities and participation
      - Learning and applying knowledge
      - General tasks and demands
      - Communication
      - Mobility
      - Self-care
      - Domestic life
      - Interpersonal interactions and relationships
      - Major life areas
      - Community, social and civic life
    - Environmental factors
      - Products and technology
      - Natural environment and human-made changes to environment
      - Support and relationships
      - Attitudes
      - Services, systems and policies
    - Body structures
      - Structures of the nervous system
      - The eye, ear and related structures
      - Structures involved in voice and speech
      - Structures of cardiovascular, immunological and respiratory systems
      - Structures related to the digestive, metabolic and endocrine systems
      - Structures related to the genitourinary and reproductive systems
      - Structures related to movement
      - Skin and related structures
  - ICF Qualifier

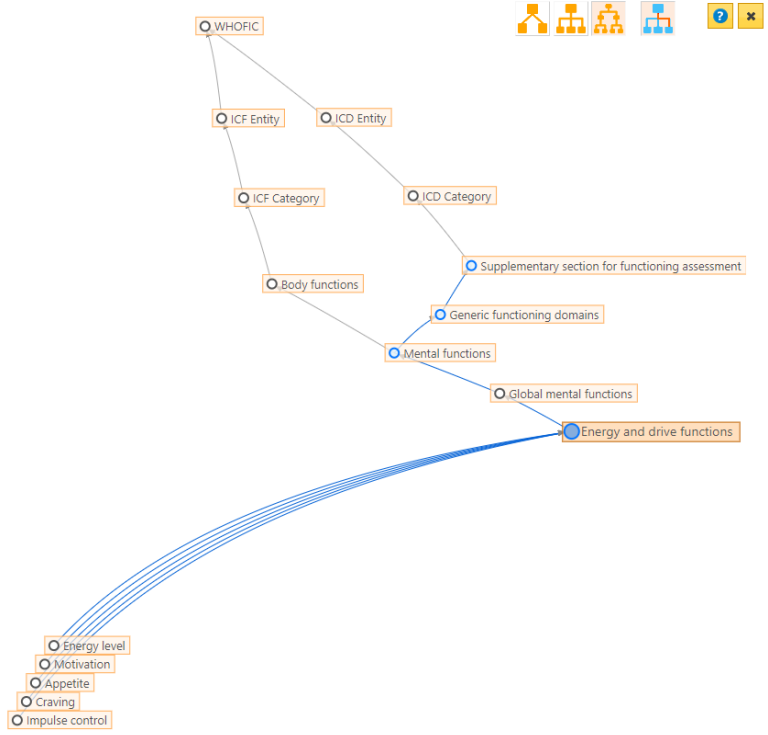
International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

icd.who.int/dev11/l-icf/en#/http%3a%2f%2fid.who.int%2ficd%2fentity%2f723665457?view=G0H1V239

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) Register | Login

Search [Advanced Search] | Home | Foundation | Proposals | Info — *Last Update: May 29*

- International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)
  - ICF Category
    - Body functions
      - Mental functions
        - Global mental functions
          - b110 Consciousness functions
          - b114 Orientation functions
          - b117 Intellectual functions
          - b122 Global psychosocial functions
          - b126 Temperament and personality functions
        - b130 Energy and drive functions
          - b1300 Energy level
          - b1301 Motivation
          - b1302 Appetite
          - b1303 Craving
          - b1304 Impulse control
          - b1308 Other specified energy and drive functions
          - b1309 Energy and drive functions, unspecified
        - b134 Sleep functions
        - b139 Global mental functions, other specified and unspecified
        - Specific mental functions
        - b198 Other specified mental functions
        - b199 Mental functions, unspecified
      - Sensory functions and pain
      - Voice and speech functions
      - Functions of the cardiovascular, haematological, immunological and respiratory systems
      - Functions of the digestive, metabolic and endocrine systems
      - Genitourinary and reproductive functions
      - Neuromusculoskeletal and movement-related functions
      - Functions of the skin and related structures
    - Activities and participation



Foundation URI : http://id.who.int/icd/entity/723665457

b130 Energy and drive functions

Parent

Global mental functions

Show all ancestors

Description

General mental functions of physiological and psychological mechanisms that cause the individual to move towards satisfying specific needs and general goals in a persistent manner.

Exclusions

- Consciousness functions (b110)
- Emotional functions (b152)
- Psychomotor functions (b147)
- Sleep functions (b134)
- Temperament and personality functions (b126)

All Index Terms

There are no index terms associated with this entity

Postcoordination

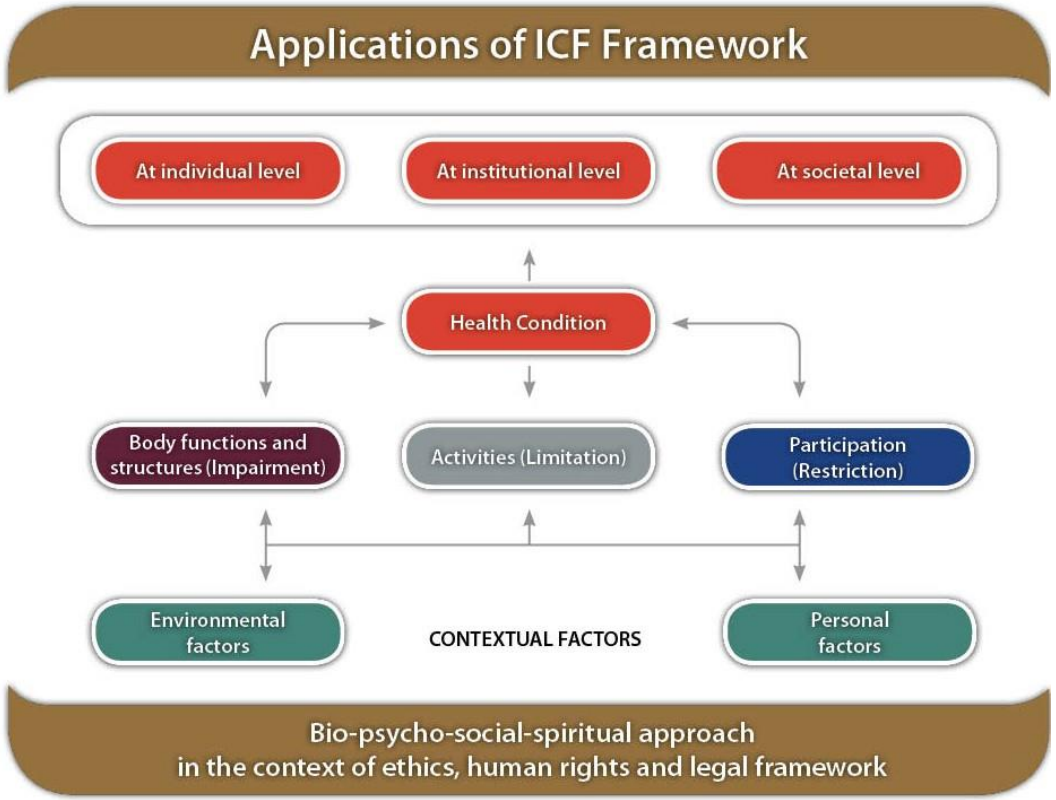
Add detail to **Energy and drive functions**

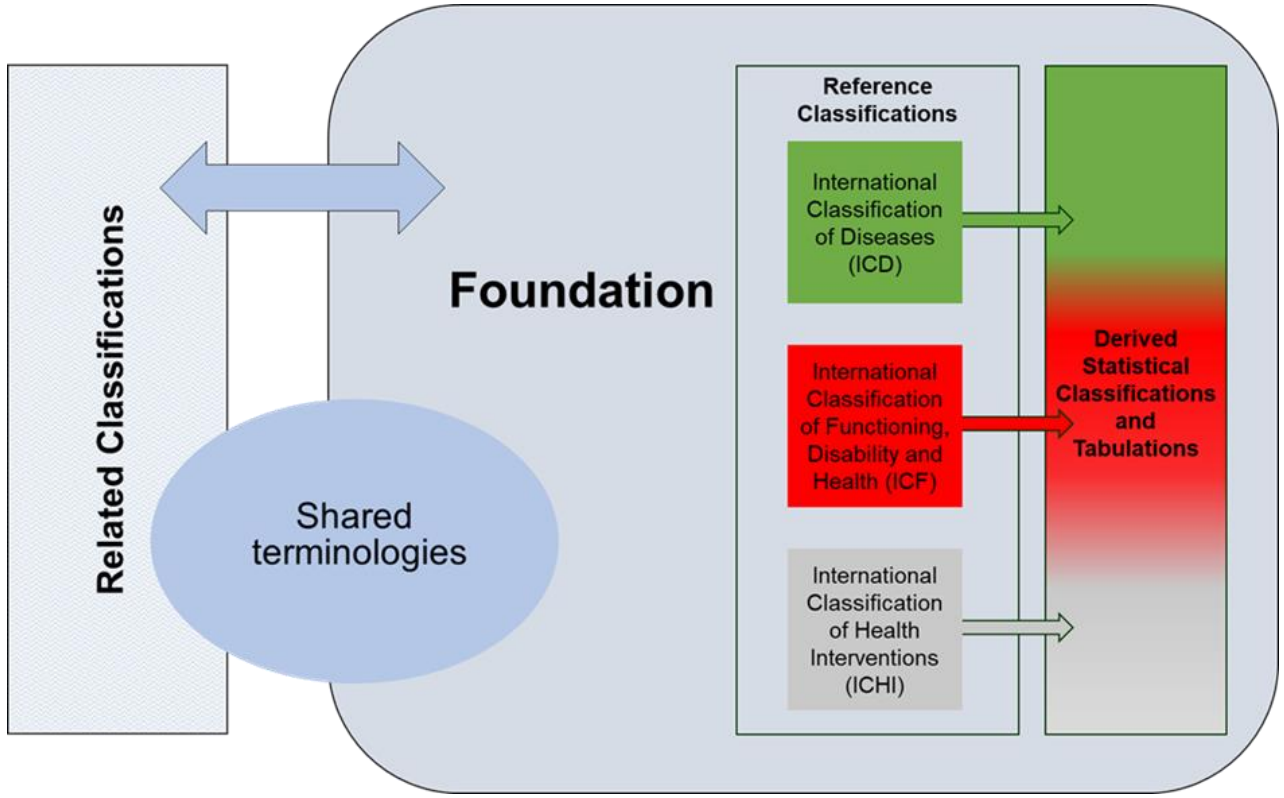
Extent or magnitude of impairment *(use additional code, if desired)*

qm0	NO impairment (none, absent, negligible,...) 0-4 %
qm1	MILD impairment (slight, low,...) 5-24 %
qm2	MODERATE impairment (medium, fair,...) 25-49 %
qm3	SEVERE impairment (high, extreme,...) 50-95 %
qm4	COMPLETE impairment (total,...) 96-100 %
qm8	not applicable
qm9	not specified

Caveats

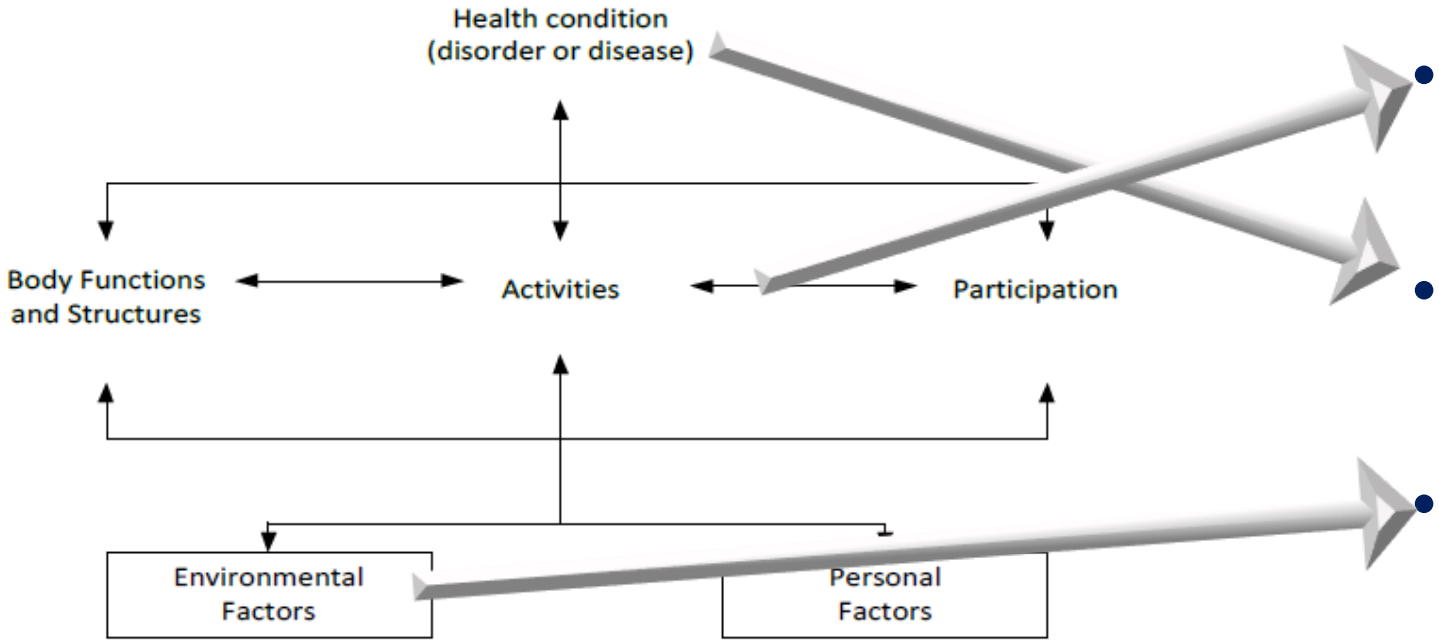
Importance of ICF within the WHO-FIC:





Remember the ICF Framework and Family picture!

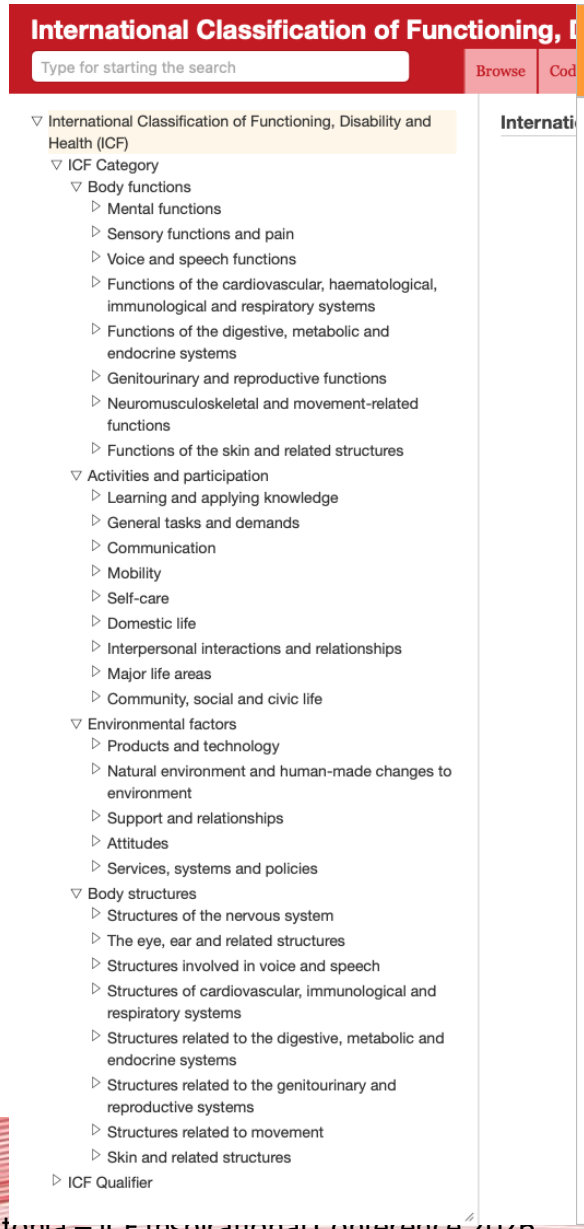
ICF Framework captures the WHO-FIC (and more):

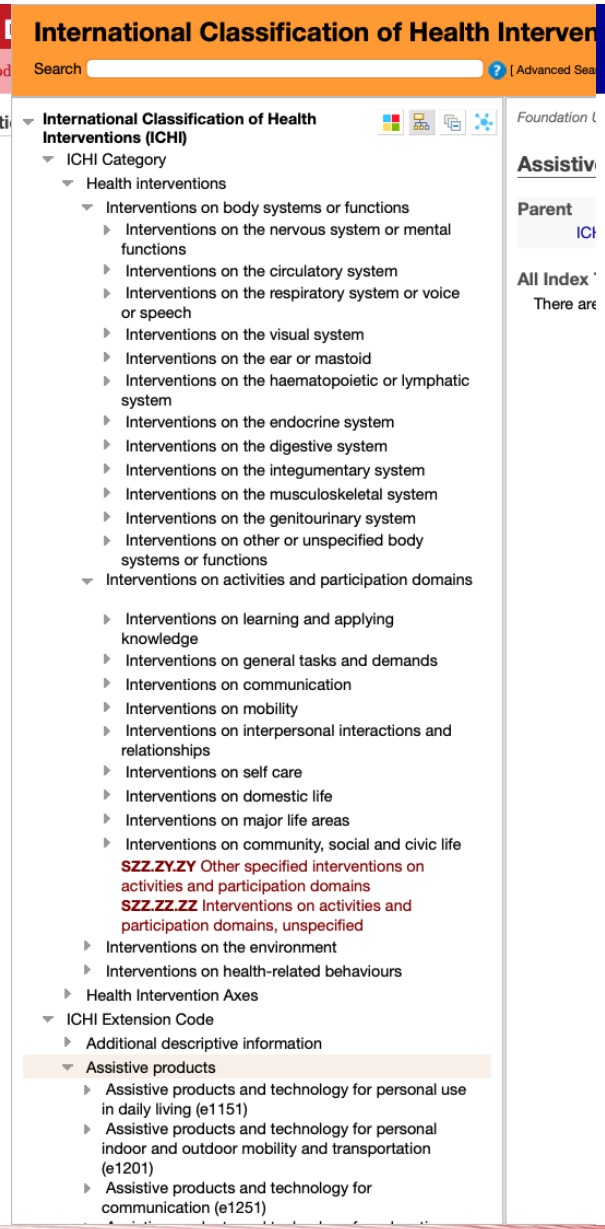


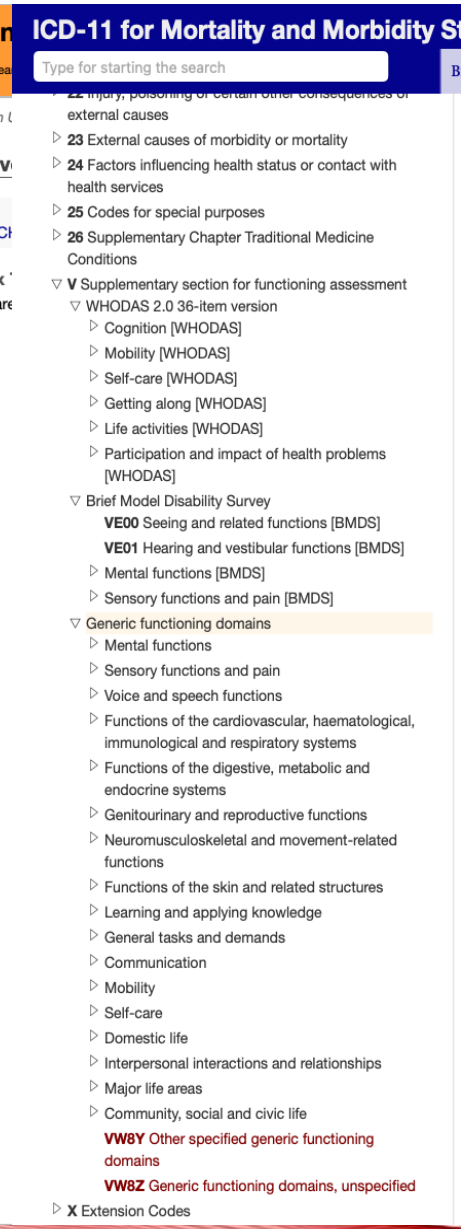
- Functioning ++ - ICF
- Disease/disorder - ICD
- Health Interventions - ICHI

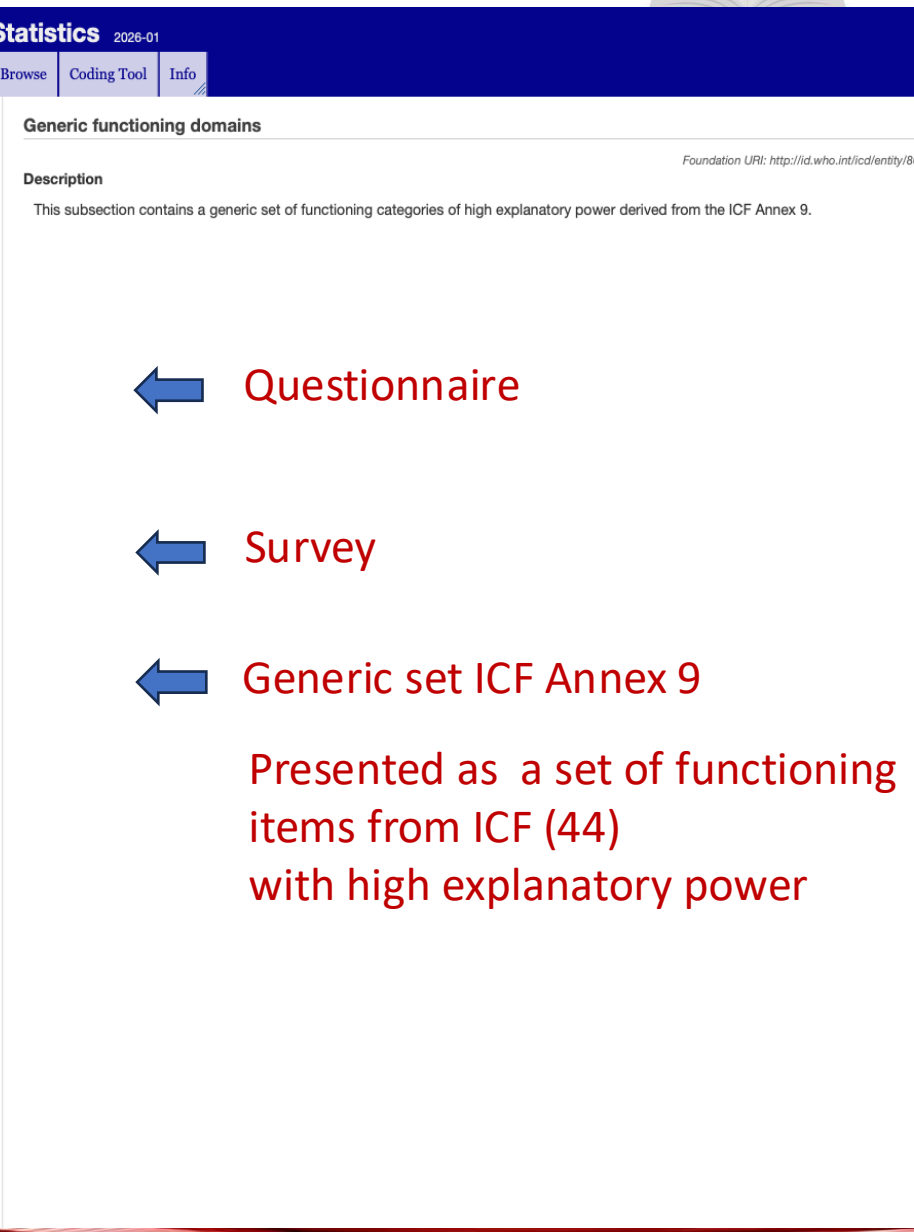
Together with the UNConventionRPD it is the Foundation for ICF
ICF applies to everyone!

How does ICF connect to the Family Members?









Questionnaire

Survey

Generic set ICF Annex 9

Presented as a set of functioning items from ICF (44) with high explanatory power

How does ICF connect to the Related Family Members?

Before and after the discussion – remember the Family Pictures

- At first ‘related’ International Classifications have been welcomed as long as they served a special purpose
- At present under discussion within Family Develpment Committee and WHO, how they fit within the Family
- First accepted as “Related” if regarded as suplementary to the “Core”
- Now the basic principle is that they need to be ‘in the public domain’
- Examples of (old) Related Family Members: International Classification for Primary Care (ICPC), International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP) International Classification of External Causes of **Injury** (ICECI), ISO 9999 **Assistive Products** for persons with disabilities – Classification and Terminology

How does ICF connect to the Related Family Members?

• ICPC-2	❖No direct connection, in ICPC has a position limitations can be coded 28	❖Not public domain
• ICPC-3	✓Direct connections, separate Chapter II - Functioning and Functioning Related, 97 codes with ICF terms and links to ICF codes	✓Public domain
• ICNP	❖No direct connection	✓Public domain
• ICECI	✓Integrated in ICD11 - no connection	
• ISO 9999	❖No direct connections, fits into e1 Product and technology, but there is a proposed list of mappings to ICF – product related intended use	❖Not public Domain

Importance of ICF within and outside the WHO-FIC (cont.):

- **Changes thinking about health:** from a medical to a biopsychosocial (spiritual) Framework.
- **Fuels discussions about the definition of health:** can health be defined or does it need operationalisation?
- **The Integrated Health Framework:** combines medical, social, and personal perspectives to reflect real-life disability experiences and interactions.
- **Offers Individualized Functioning Differences:** it captures how people with the same diagnosis function differently due to environment and support systems.
- **Promotes Inclusion and Rights:** the ICF supports a human-rights-based approach emphasizing participation, accessibility, and quality of life.
- **Collaboration:** to support unified effort in different professional domains in working together (Interprofessional). Share insights, coordinate support plans, and maintain open communication to maximize each person's potential.

Importance of ICF within and outside the WHO-FIC:

Changes thinking about Disability: also from the medical way of thinking to a biopsychosocial perception of Disability.



2006

People with disabilities have to be able to participate in society
"on an equal basis with others"

Countries are therefore requested to identify barriers, and take action to eliminate them, as well as to identify needs, and take action to meet them, so that the participation level of people with disabilities is comparable to the level of the general population of a country.

UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability:

International treaty to reinforce the understanding of disability as a human rights and development priority.

It should become the frame for policy development, for all policies and for all stakeholders.

However, people do not want the “right” e.g. to work: they want a job!!

Maybe the challange lies in the definition of Disability?

Problems in the definition: impact on people's lives

- A Worldwide UNSD – SDG consultation demonstrated the ambiguous use of 'disability' in national surveys

Present uses of the term disability:

People with disability

People with chronic conditions

People with NCD's

Ageing people

Old people

Are we considering people's Functioning?

Importance of defining a profile of disability and functioning

It is important to not only treat problems (impairments) but also address people's needs in relation to their lived experience and in their own context.

A biopsychosocial profile of functioning is the best indicator of treatment needs and service outcomes.

When is something Disability?

Example 1

A psychiatrist has lost his/her middle finger being stuck in a metal box with sharp edges. He/she went to hospital with the finger, as quick as possible, but the operation to attach the finger, and the exercises after, could not restore the complete movement function of the finger.

In ICF terms, codes and qualifiers:

- S73021 Joints of hand and fingers qm3 SEVERE Impairment, qs1 total absence, --2 left side (s73021.312)

After the operation and therapy S73021, qm2 MODERATE Impairment, qs6 deviating position, --2 left side (S73021.262)

b7100 Mobility of single joint, qm4 COMPLETE Impairment, -2 left side (b7100.42)

Can still perform his work: d8502 Full-time employment, 0. NO capacity difficulty, .0 NO performance difficulty = d8502.00

Participation problem? Lived experience?

Disability?

When is something Disability?

Example 2

A professional violin player has lost his/her middle finger being stuck in a metal box with sharp edges. He/she went to hospital with the finger, as quick as possible, but the operation to attach the finger, and the exercises after, could not restore the complete movement function of the finger.

In ICF terms, codes and qualifiers:

s73021 Joints of hand and fingers qm3 SEVERE Impairment, qs1 total absence, --2 left side (s73021.312)

After the operation and therapy s73021, qm2 MODERATE Impairment, qs6 deviating position, --2 left side (s73021.262),

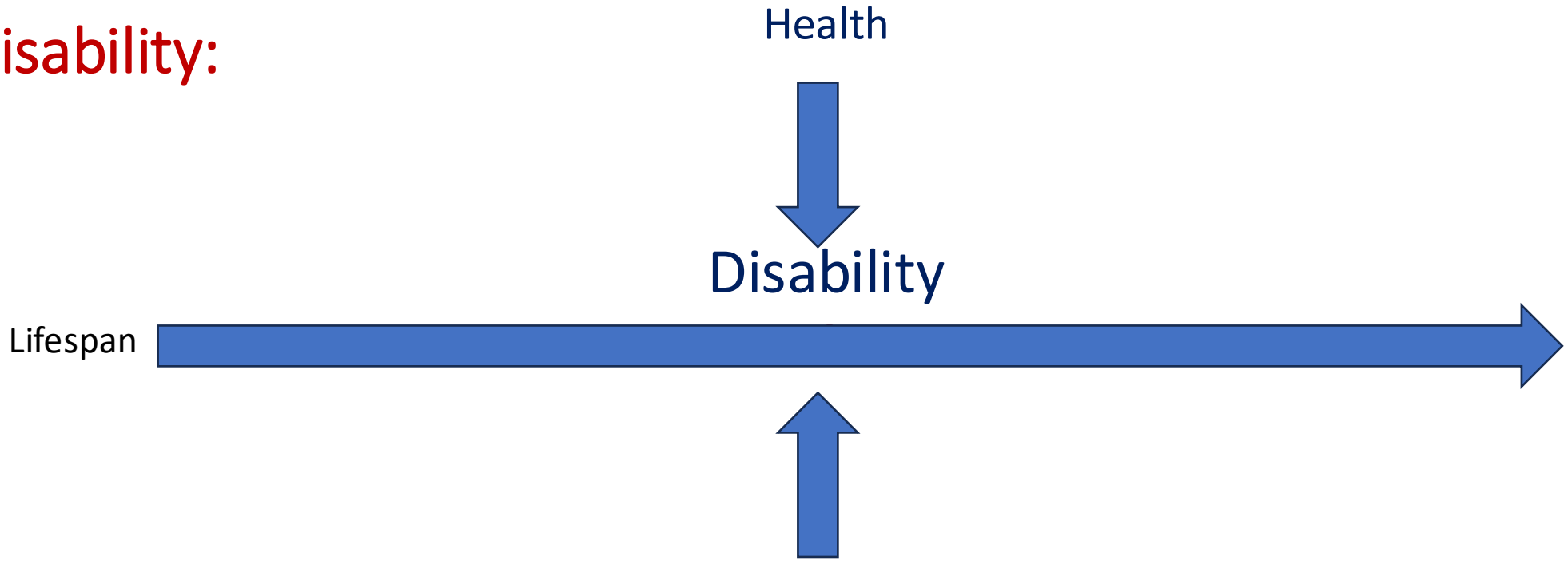
b7100 Mobility of single joint, qm4 COMPLETE Impairment, -2 left side (b7100.42)

Can no longer play the violin: d8502 Full-time employment, 4. Complete capacity difficulty, .4 Complete performance difficulty = d8502.44

Participation problem? Lived experience?

Disability?

Disability:



Disability, according to ICF, is a point on a continuum. Definition of disability depends on perspective, usually driven by access to services. The cut point on the continuum is a decision. In fact it is not as much a definition but an operationalisation on this point.



Health

- WHO's concept of human functioning constitutes **a rethinking of health**: a new understanding and conceptualization of health with wide-ranging consequences.
- Functioning is not simply an outcome of health; by **capturing the lived experience of health i**t is conceptually intrinsic to health and accounts for the value of health both for individuals and society at large.

In other words: A state of health we call disability

Importance of ICF Framework

On global Policy level in several International developments the ICF Framework is used:

- UN: Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030 and UNCRPD (UN convention on the Rights of People with Disbality)
- UN: 17 SDG's – Sustainable Development Goals – goal 3 health
- NCD global strategy: WHO Global Coordination Mechanisme for Noncommunicable Diseases 2030
- WHO: Baseline Report for the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021 – 2030
- WHO: Universal Health Coverage – UHC
- WHO Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031
- WHO: World Report on Disability and the Global Report on Health Equity for People with Disability
- Brain Health Global Plan
- Rehabilitation 2030 and WHO Resolution 2023 on Rehabilitation and the WRA (World Rehabilitation Alliance)
- Europa: International Court of Justice adopted the ICF for Employment Equality Directives

Importance of ICF Framework

For all these initiatives and developments, to a minor or larger extent the ICF Bio-Psycho-Social Framework has been mentioned, embedded or is used.

Specially the BPS Framework is recognised as an important key element to formulate, build and understand policy.

This can be regarded as a MOTIVATION for a change on a global scale.

Some plans are completely based on the ICF, such as the latest WHO plan on epilepsy and neurological disorders to achieve the highest level of functioning.

Applications of the ICF & Framework

Some examples

The ICF Framework[1] and the F-Words[2]

Body Structure and Function



Everyone needs to stay fit and healthy both physically and mentally. Help me find ways to keep fit.

Fitness

Activity



I might do things differently but I CAN do them. How I do it is not important. Please let me try!

Functioning

Participation



Having friends is important. Please give me opportunities to make friends.

Friends

Environmental Factors



My family knows me best and I trust them. Listen to them. Talk to them. Hear them. Respect them.

Family

Personal Factors



Life is about having fun. Please help me do the activities that I find the most fun.

Fun

Future

I am growing up every day, so please find ways for me to participate and be included in my community.

For more information visit the F-words Knowledge Hub:
www.canchild.ca/f-words

CanChild



1) World Health Organization. (2001) *International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)*
2) Rosenbaum P & Gorter JW. (2012). The 'F-words' in childhood disability: I swear this is how we should think! *Child Care Health Dev*; 38.

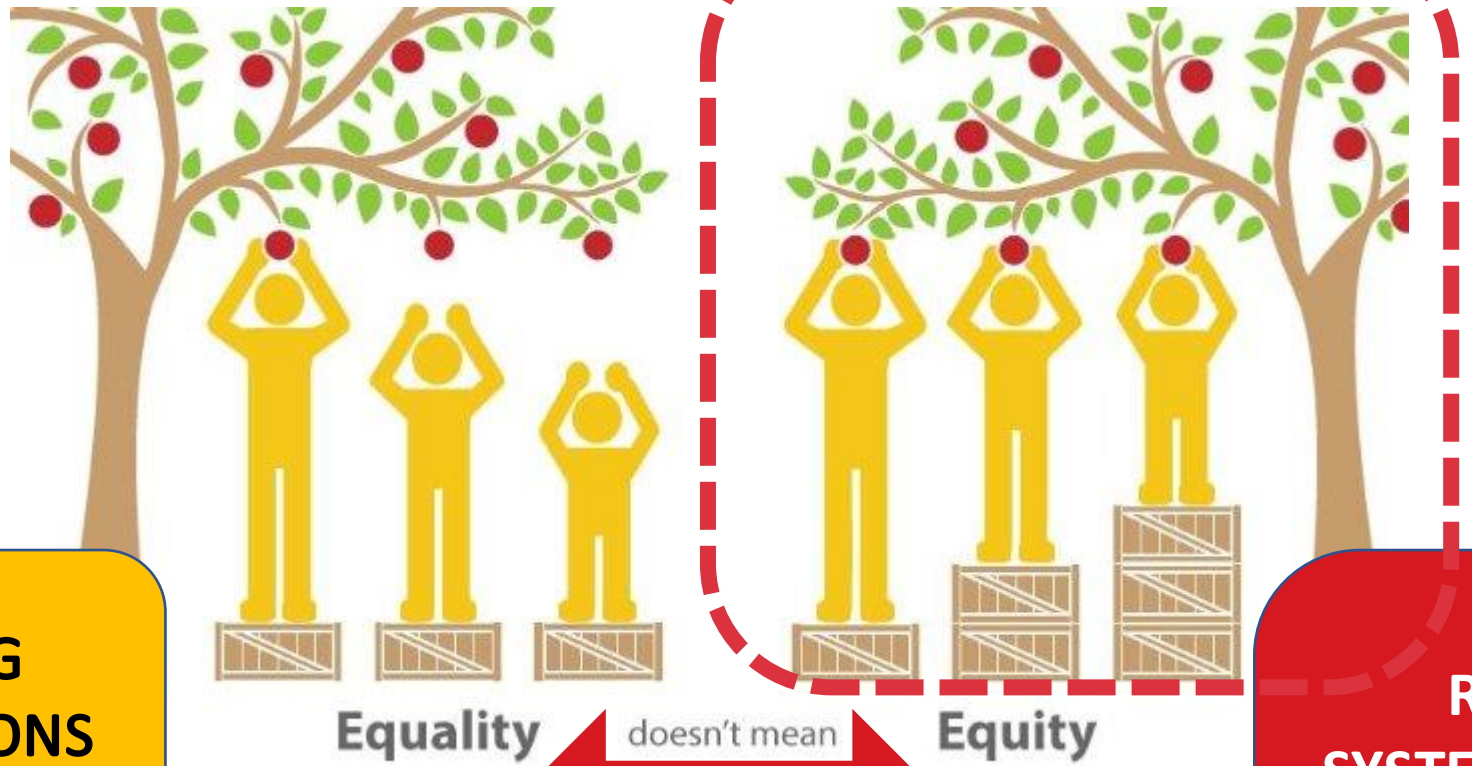
The ICF Framework in Primary Care



For more information on ICPC-3 - https://icpc-3.info/index.php

Application of ICF in Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice

is driven by global priority in reaching HEALTH EQUITY



TRANSFORMING HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

REFORMING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

TRANSFORMING HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

through

a person-centred approach

which required competencies related to

Bio-psycho-social-spiritual approach
incorporating the **complex interrelated**

- changes in **body functio**
- **functioning** and fu
- the barriers influencing health (inclu
-

esulting in

ARE, SHARED DECISION-MAKING AND PERSON-REPORTED OUTCOMES

creating the opportunity for

PERSON-DRIVEN DATA

"personalised healthcare"



Country Applications of the ICF & Framework

Many other examples how the ICF Framework and terminology are ‘discovered’ by Governments and to be implemented on a large scale:

- India (wide array of uses), South Korea (data-collection), Vietnam (Childcare – F-words)
- Hong Kong (& China) for every project in Health Care
- Saudi Arabia - mandatory to use, policy documents, Tunesia
- South Africa - South Africa's National Health Insurance will require ICF- based functioning data across all health professions. Curriculum for OT’s
- Australia – widest implementation of ICF and Framework – more explained in next slide
- USA – for guidance on evaluation of impairment, Framework and definitions American Medical Association (AMA)
- Canada – application in the law system – Accessible Canada Act – aim: Canada without Barriers (ConvRPD)
- Greece, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Italy, Finland, Austria, Switzerland (Education, Rehabilitation Specialized Centre Nottwil), Ukraine, Netherlands (Rehabilitation and Children)
- Carribean
- Estonia: implementation under construction
- And many other Countries/initiatives

Applications of the ICF & Framework Australia

Used as a framework for planning, assessment, information

- ICF user guide
- National data dictionaries – data consistency, based on ICF
- Data items in national data collections
  - Australian Disability Survey (ASD) disability, ageing and carers survey
  - 2006 Census question (developed and tested, to be confirmed)
  - Disability support services
  - Medical indemnity – (compensation for Med Errors)
  - Children's services (trial)
- National health performance framework
- Rehabilitation, athletics and research applications
- Case management

Applications of the ICF & Framework Australia

Concerning Disability and participation

- UN Standard Rules and ICF share a rights framework - mutual recognition
- ICF participation domains used as a framework for reporting outcomes (AIHW biennial reports to Parliament)
  - education and school
  - employment
  - income
  - social activities
  - community living

Applications of the ICF & Framework in Tools

- The ICF is not meant to be used directly, as a whole, in patient care and assessment but always needs to be adapted for use and special purposes with a selection of items (terms and codes)

Examples:

- Censuses (limited number of items) Worldwide in National Disability Surveys, but very different and limited number of codes
- WHO's Model Disability Survey (larger number of items)
- Person centered Assessment tools, questionnaires for special purposes (goal driven), e.g. AQUA-Child, Primary Care Functioning Scale (PCFS)
- Tests for specific purposes, e.g. FIM (Functioning Impact Measure)
- Specific selection of Term Sets, such as Coresets (mostly Diagnosis/ Disorder-oriented and specified-development procedure) and many other terms sets – 25 years of ICF poster book

Applications of the ICF & Framework

- The application of the ICF is increasing all over the World for many purposes and for different levels, spanning from Meta- to micro-level

- Estonia: ambitious implementation Action Plan 2026 – 2028 very much in line with what is needed for Inter Professional Education and Collaborative Practice

Applications of the ICF & Framework - Concluding

- The application of the ICF is expanding all over the World for many purposes and for different levels, spanning from Meta- to micro-level

- Estonia: ambitious implementation Action Plan 2026 – 2028 very much in line with what is needed for Inter Professional Education and Collaborative Practice

REFORMING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

through

TRANSFORMING HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

ICF EDUCATION

THANK YOU!