



# ICF Education

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Poster Number

WHO/CTS to insert

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**Abstract** This poster outlines activities in support of ICF Education including the 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium ICF Education and the activity on the ICF Education portal.

## Introduction

Despite the years since the ICF was published there is still a high demand for education about the classification and, importantly, how to use it in practice. A series of international symposia have been conducted in association with the Functioning and Disability Reference Group mid-year meetings since 2015. These symposia offer an opportunity for people in the locality of the FDRG meeting to benefit from the presence of FDRG members with their experience of the ICF and its use globally.

On 6 & 7 April 2019, the 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium: ICF Education took place in following the FDRG mid-year meeting in Kuwait. A multidisciplinary group of 80 persons from 29 nations in all 6 WHO regions attended the symposium. This unexpectedly large and diverse turnout underscores the interest in the ICF and its implementation all around the world.

## The symposium

Following an opening ceremony featuring representatives of the Ministry of Health, the WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in Kuwait, the Public Authority for Disability affairs and FDRG there were sessions on Kuwait and regional perspectives on functioning and disability and presentations from the region.

The plenary sessions covered ICF related tools to assess functioning, ICF based evidence informing policy and Educating on ICF. These were followed by facilitated discussion groups on the topics.

The symposium attracted more than 50 abstracts, the majority of which were published as posters in a booklet. The poster booklet stands as an ongoing record of the symposium on the ICF Education portal.



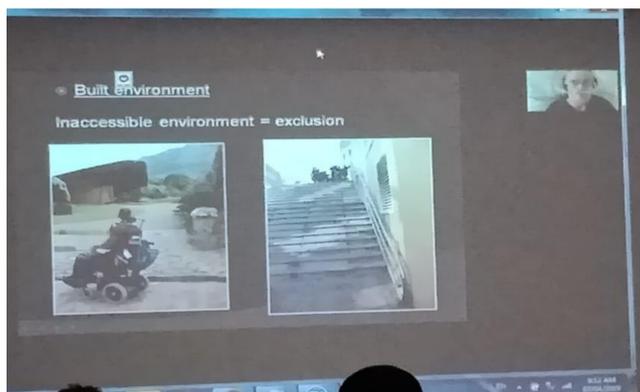
## Results

The key outcomes of the symposium were:

- Increased awareness of the importance of information on functioning for policy and planning as well as delivery of services to people with disabilities.
- Cross cultural exchange of views in lively discussion.
- National coverage on television.



Involvement of people with disabilities was made possible through technology. Dr Vic McKinney was able to join a large part of the meeting and make a presentation from his home in South Africa. His contribution to the meeting was highly appreciated.



## ICF Education portal

ICF Education was designed as an open access international portal for users and potential users of ICF to access educational materials. Over the five years that it has been in existence, and in response to WHO requests the portal has been developed further to include a Functioning Forum and a register of ICF advisors and educators.

The list of resources has grown to 87; with a mix of slide presentations, podcasts, webinars and user guides. Resources are available in a range of languages including: Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish



## ICF EDUCATION

There are a list of advisors/educators who have provided workshops and seminars in response to enquiries from the portal. Users of the portal can search according to level of experience and the languages in which education/ advice can be provided.

The Functioning Forum includes frequently asked questions concerning the application of ICF and the WHODAS 2.0. Users of the portal can pose a question and members of an Editorial team of FDRG members and collaborators can provide answers. Other users can enter discussions and submit their points of view.

In addition there are sections on the portal for users to share their news about ICF, including any peer reviewed publications and to submit information about ICF related events. To access the portal go to: [www.ICFEducation.org](http://www.ICFEducation.org)

## Conclusions

The International Symposia: ICF Education have proved successful; stimulating interest in the classification. The multidisciplinary nature of the symposia and involvement of health officials is important. The next symposium is scheduled for April 2020 in Ribeiro Preto, Brazil. Announcements will be made on the ICF Education portal.

As more people become aware of the importance of functioning information through the inclusion of categories in the ICD 11 so ICF education may need to change.

## Acknowledgements

The symposium was only made possible through the generosity and enthusiasm of a large number of people, too numerous to name, from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean regional office, the WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in Kuwait, and a committee of FDRG members and collaborators. The ICF Education website also benefits from the contributions of FDRG volunteers and staff from Nelson Mandela University.