

# A Multi-Country Workshop to Support the Implementation of ICD-11

25-29 April 2023, Colombo, Sri Lanka

## Meeting Report



### Background

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) has been the basis for comparable statistics on causes of morbidity and mortality and the latest version ICD-11 was adopted by the WHA72 and came to effect on 1 January 2022. Since ICD-11 has become fully digital, it is therefore accessible to anybody in any part of the world. However, to support countries in their uptake of this new classification, WHO is currently finalizing the development of a suite of tools from data collection, diagnostic coding, selection of underlying cause of death to data validation, analyses and dissemination. This suite of tools will enhance the entire data end-to-end process at the country level and improve the timeliness and quality of data.

Low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) bear a significant burden of disease but have health systems with limited resources for collection of health information and planning. Effective deployment of ICD-11 shall provide a huge boost in not just gathering information but in implementing better treatment and prevention policies. COVID-19 had further stretched the health system capabilities.

The workshop plans to provide an overview of ICD-11 tooling infrastructure with hands on training to the member states thereby creating an opportunity to incorporate ICD-11 into their health systems, enhancing them and having uniformity throughout in data collection, analysis and reporting.

ICD-11

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## Meeting Objectives

To improve the understanding and use of ICD-11 in measuring morbidity and mortality data and to provide orientation on the ICD-11 suite of tools from data collection, diagnostic coding, selection of underlying cause of death to data validation, analyses and dissemination.

### Specific Objectives:

- Identify status, needs and prospects for implementing and using ICD coded data at country level and take stock of ongoing and upcoming initiatives to modernize and digitalize the health information systems at country level.
- Demonstrate and build-up knowledge and skills on how to operate selected ICD-11 tools (ICD-11 Coding tool; DORIS for automated UCoD selection; ANACoD3 for analysis of ICD-11 mortality data; ICD-11 based MCCoD app in DHIS2).
- Introduce other WHO FIC Classifications and terminologies i.e., International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) and International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).
- Review and refine national ICD-11 implementation plans, discuss and plan for piloting ICD-11 in mortality and morbidity coding.



## Day 1 – Inaugural Session

The workshop commenced with Dr Rakesh Rastogi (Technical Officer, Health Information System, WHO SEARO) providing the regional perspective on CRVS and HIS in the scope of digital health transformation. He stressed upon the role of CRVS data which is a crucial and integral component of health systems and vital for achieving SDG targets and goals. Major challenges in the region are: 1) Irregularities in birth and death registration; 2) Low implementation of medical certification of cause of death (MCCD); 3) Insufficient staffing and trained personnel; 4) Absence of ICD training in medical curriculum.

Dr Nenad Kostanjsek (Technical Officer, Division of Data Analytics &

## Day 1 – ICD-11 Tool & Coding rules

Dr Nenad provided an overview of the ICD tooling infrastructure and the advancements integrated into it including it being multilingual, Natural Language processing capacity and its versatility to be used online or offline. Dr Saman Gamage then introduced the ICD-11 coding tool, its rules and practical use following which he

Delivery of Impact, WHO HQ) then discussed the role of value proposition of ICD-11 and other WHO FIC in modernizing HIS. He emphasized the need for a uniform code that can be used globally and how WHO enables this by being a standard setting body ensuring semantic interoperability allowing aggregation and comparability of data. He urged countries to use ICD-11 which ensures consistency, easy coding and aggregation of data enabling exchange and reusability of data.

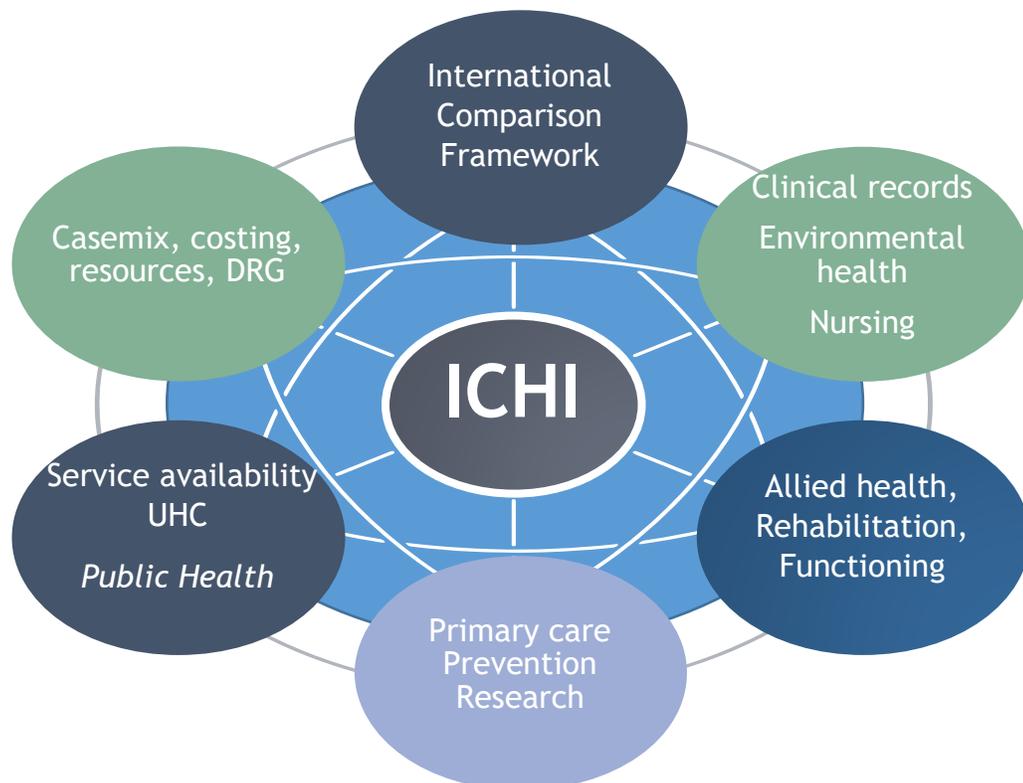
In the next session participants from the Member States discussed and elaborated on the existing systems in place, the infrastructure, tools utilized and policies with regards to CRVS.

provided a hands-on session to the participants web-based application ICD-Field Implementation Tool (ICD-FIT). Three modules designed to learn and work on various cases scenarios were completed by the participants providing them knowledge in every aspect of the tool.

## Day 2 – ICD-11 for Underlying cause of Death (UCoD), Digital Open Rule Integrated cause of death Selection (DORIS) and International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI)

Dr Carine Alsokhn (Technical Officer, Division of Data Analytics & Delivery for Impact, WHO HQ) briefed the participants on the ICD-11 rules for UCoD, the DORIS tool and how electronic MCCD shall replace the existing paper-based mortality reporting system. Following this, a hands on session on the DORIS tool was given by Dr Nandalal Wijesekara (Consultant, Community Physician and Specialist, HIS, Sri Lanka). Dr Carine then discussed the WHO guide for examination of dead body and on the WHO Verbal Autopsy tool. These tools shall support areas where there is no physician or trained health workers.

The next session was on ICHI by Dr Nenad, which he explained was a tool for recording, reporting and analyzing health interventions. He also discussed the ICF and WHO DAS 2.0 tools that assess and classifies disability in the appropriate standards. The final session was regarding the inclusion of a new chapter on Traditional medicine in ICD-11. Dr Nenad stressed upon the need for standardization of diagnosis, measuring the frequency effectiveness, safety and quality of traditional medicine.



## **Day 3 – Embedding into DHIS2, ANACOD3**

Dr John Lewis (Health Information Systems Programme (HISP) Vietnam), introduced embedding ICD-11 MCCD application into DHIS-2. He demonstrated examples, enabling participants to understand from installation of the application to generation of death certificate, which is submitted to a central system whereby it is verified and registered. In the next session, Dr Doris Ma Fat (Statistician, Division of Data Analytics & Delivery for Impact, WHO, HQ) introduced and provided a hands-on session on the ANACOD3 tool to the participants.

## **Day 4 – ICD-11 Implementation Planning & Information Tracker (IMINT)**

Country group work on mortality and morbidity was presented by respective Member States. Most countries still use ICD-10 codes and is not fully digitalized. New systems and policies are in place to transition to ICD-11 and embed it within the country's DHIS-2 system. There are also plans to improve the cause of death analysis using DORIS and ANACOD3 tools.

Dr Nenad briefed upon the ICD-11 Implementation Planning & Information Tracker (IMINT) highlighting key points to consider before transitioning to ICD-11: 1) Establishing a national taskforce; 2) Strategic planning and project management; 3) Maintenance of existing ICD-10 based system during transition; 4) Develop and implement a national plan for ICD-11 implementation.

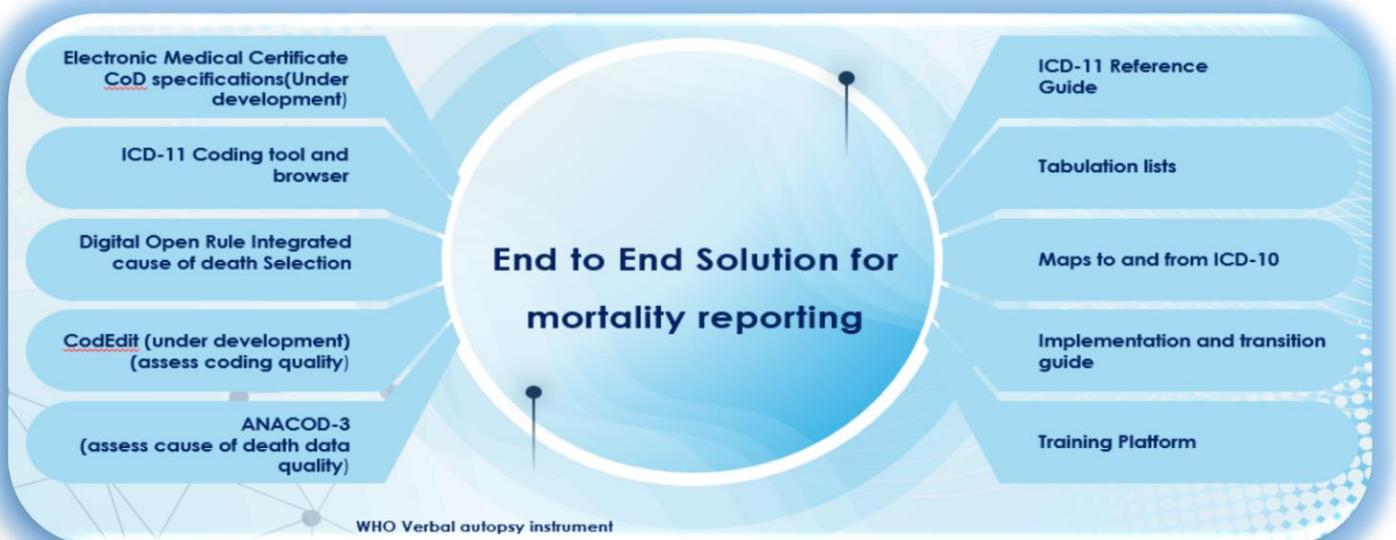
In the next session countries discussed their ICD-11 implementation plans. Most countries mentioned that as they already have a base system in place, it wouldn't be very difficult to transition to ICD-11 though there shall be challenges: insufficient trained staff, digitalization of the entire system, obtaining quality data, interoperability and regulation.

## **Day 5 – Transitioning & Piloting ICD-11**

The transition and implementation of ICD-11 from ICD-10 in Mexico was discussed and elaborated in detail by Manuel Yanez from the Ministry of Health, Mexico. Dr Nenad then described the process of conducting trainings and piloting ICD-11 in countries. Based on this session, participants then discussed their plans—few

countries have already begun the transition process—to implement transitioning and piloting of ICD-11 in their countries.

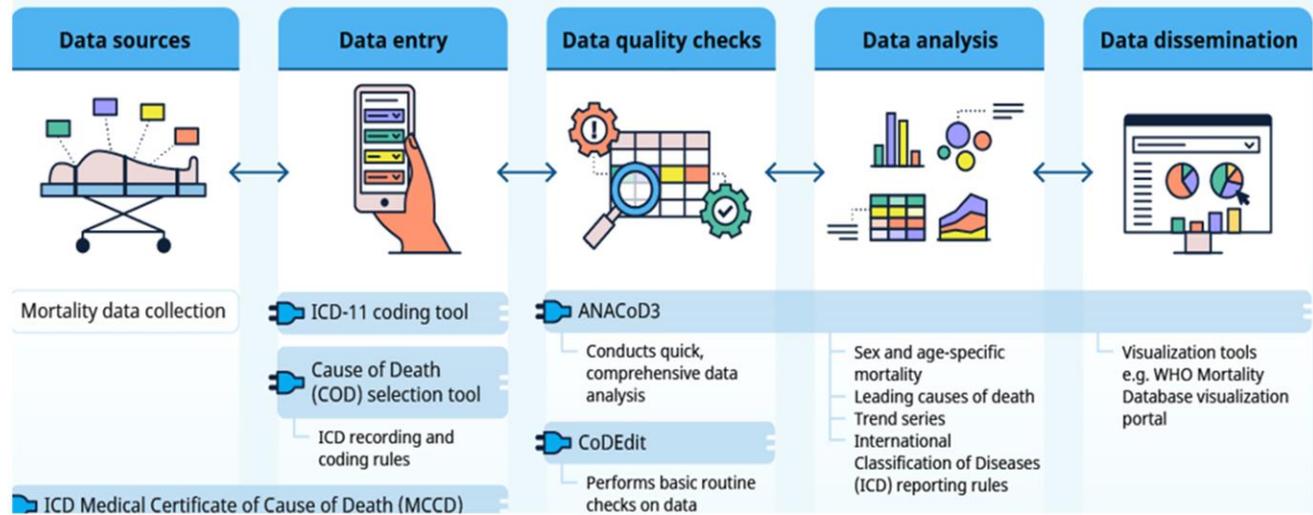
## Snapshot of ICD-11 purpose & its' Tooling Infrastructure



# Cause of Death reporting in the ICD-11 universe



Plug and Play tools for Cause of Death reporting



## Key outcomes

- Introducing ICD-11, its tooling infrastructure, WHO FIC classifications and terminologies.
- Establishing a culture of ICD-11 and the need for transitioning from ICD-10 to ICD-11
- Hands-on-training provided on key tools including the ICD-11 coding tool, DORIS and ANACOD3.
- Planning and developing ICD-11 country implementation plans along with creating a national taskforce, fully digitization of system and providing routine trainings to the staff.
- Developed piloting plans for ICD-11 in respective countries with support from WHO.