

Developing an adaptation of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health for children



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The rationale for the ICF version for children: developmental issues



- Childhood: a period of dynamic development with significant changes in physical, mental and social functioning
- Manifestations of disability differ in nature, intensity and consequences from those of adults
- Identification of disability and risk factors for disability in early childhood is crucial for *prevention* and *early intervention* efforts

The need for an ICF version for children: demographic issues



- Demographic trends reflect increased childhood morbidity and disablement
- Disability is disproportionately high in developing nations; children account for the largest proportion- manifestations related to AIDS, malnutrition, infectious disease
- Disability prevalence increasing in western nations- manifestations related to complex and pervasive disabilities as well as attention and learning difficulties (ADHD; learning disabilities)

The importance of an ICF version for children

- Facilitate continuity of classification in transitions from child to adult services
- Support U.N. Conference on Children (2002) and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Complement existing childhood classifications in related areas:
 - DSM IV-PC (Child & Adolescent Version)
 - Multiaxial Classification of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Disorder (ICD-10)
 - Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood

Classifying disablement in childhood: documentation requirements

- Accounting for the role of development in disability (*eg., clumsiness in motor coordination*)
- Accounting for emerging processes in development of function (*eg., joint attention in cognition*)
- Recognizing the significance of precocious or delayed emergence of functions or structures as indicators (*eg., dentition, genital development*)
- Differentiating typical and atypical environmental factors (*eg., nature and quality of physical and social ecology- "developmental niche"*)



Unique aspects of childhood disability: a picture is worth a 1000 words

- Portrayal in WHO colour photo contest:
 - *Chilling out) Movement functions & participation: young boy in leg braces sitting with peer groups*
- Portrayal in WHO black/white photo contest:
 - *(Joy in the pool) Movement functions & participation: child with severe CP enjoying time in the swimming pool*
 - *(Left alone) Relationships: child with developmental disability, excluded on the playground*



Development of the ICF version for children: overall approach

- Develop draft adapted versions of ICF
- Evaluate draft versions of child ICF
- Identify existing and needed measures for use with ICF
- Develop ICF based assessment measure
- Prepare final version ready for publication by WHO in 2004



Development of the ICF version for children: work group tasks

- Review content from main ICF volume applicable for children
 - Body function/Body structure
 - Activity/Participation
 - Environmental factors
- Identify new content to encompass aspects of infancy, early/middle childhood, adolescence
- Identify and develop assessment instruments that are complementary with children's version



Development of the ICF version for children: structural considerations

- Build on guidelines in Appendix 8
- Identical conceptual framework of Body Function/Structure, Activities & Participation, Environment
- Identical hierarchical structure of chapters, blocks and categories



Development of the ICF version for children: content considerations

- Modify/ expand existing descriptions
- Assign new content to unused codes
- Modify/ expand inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Use additional qualifiers as appropriate



Development of the ICF version for children: work group activities

- Work group convened for first meeting in Trieste, April 2002
- Agenda and timeline developed
- Guidelines for review of ICF main volume identified
- Review of ICF content initiated in terms of applicability for children



The ICF version for children: examples of additional content

- Body Function/Structure:
 - Behavioral regulation
 - Clumsiness
 - Delayed or persistent motor reflex
- Activities & Participation
 - Mouthing-purposeful sensing
 - Joint attention
 - Pre-verbal communication
 - Attachment
- Environmental Factors
 - Child-care settings



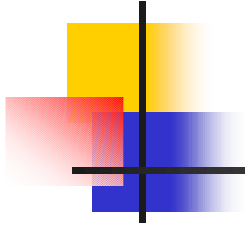
Development of the ICF version for children: next steps

- Next work group meeting in Sweden in August 2002
- Synthesize findings of reviews and identification of new content
- Secure stakeholder participation
- Plan development and evaluation of first draft



Development of the ICF version for children: activities for 2002-2004

- Convene work group on a regular basis
- Implement international evaluation process of draft version, and develop revised version for evaluation
- Develop and evaluate assessment measure
- Prepare final ICF version for children and complementary measure



■ THANK YOU