

# HIV, Disability and Rehabilitation



- To discuss aspects of a project in partnership with Cameroonian and Canadian organizations to **bridge traditionally separate worlds of HIV, disability and rehabilitation**
- To explore opportunities to include nurses within comprehensive rehabilitation

# Background HIV/AIDS and Disability



- With increasing access to antiretroviral treatment, more people living longer with HIV
- Rates of HIV in NW province of Cameroon are highest in the country are officially 9% overall
- Higher rates for women – 12%
- Over 25% for female sex workers

# HIV/AIDS and Disability



- At least 10% of world's population living with a disability (World Bank / Yale University study, 2004)
- Rates may be twice as high in many developing countries
- Sometimes do not know if disabilities are related to HIV or other reasons

# HIV/AIDS and Disability



- Many people living with HIV
- Many people living with disabilities
- Little has been done to link people living with HIV and people living with (other) disabilities (i.e. through government programs or international development initiatives)
- Leading Together: “ensuring that all people in Canada have access to high-quality rehabilitation programs and services”

# Bridging the Gaps



Collaborative project funded by CIDA  
through Canadian Society for International  
Health (CSIH) from 2006-8

Canadian Working Group on  
HIV and Rehabilitation

# Bridging the Gaps



## Project Goal:

To build upon existing programs and networks in Canada and Cameroon to:

- promote a comprehensive and inclusive approach to rehabilitation with people living with HIV/AIDS and / or other disabilities
- develop models to integrate services
- Develop model(s) to integrate services

# Project Objectives



1. Exchange information on current programs and services related to HIV, disability and rehabilitation in Canada and Cameroon
  - Identify gaps and opportunities for collaboration
2. Establish and strengthen relationships between / among communities including service providers, people living with HIV and / or other disabilities

# Objectives, cont'd.



3. Exchange knowledge and develop strategies to improve / promote integration of HIV, disability and rehabilitation services
4. Identify mechanisms to address participation restrictions related to gender, HIV and / or other disabilities – including stigma, lack of access to care, burden of care, other vulnerabilities

# Objectives, cont'd



5. Explore opportunities and challenges of community based rehabilitation.

6. Develop and share resources and knowledge through reciprocal educational sessions

# Partners



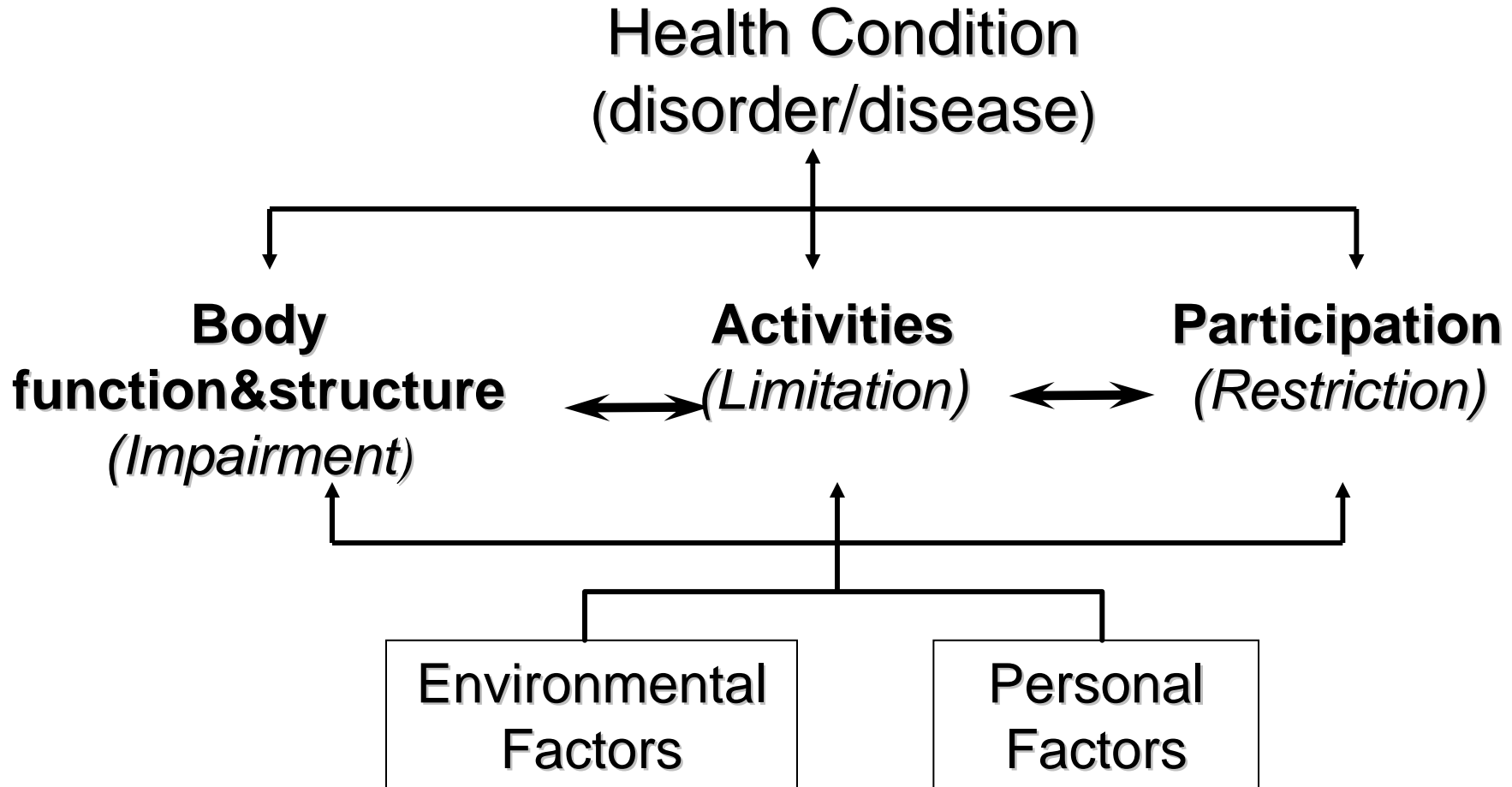
- Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR) (HIV and rehabilitation)
- International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (ICDR) at University of Toronto (rehabilitation and international initiatives)
- Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board (disability, rehabilitation and HIV in Cameroon)

# Activities to date



- Presentations at AIDS 2006 (August 2006)
- Environmental scan - Meetings in Cameroon with HIV/AIDS and disability groups (ICDR - November, 2006)
- Planning educational sessions / conference bringing together HIV and disability groups – August 2007

# International Classification of Function - ICF (WHO 2001)



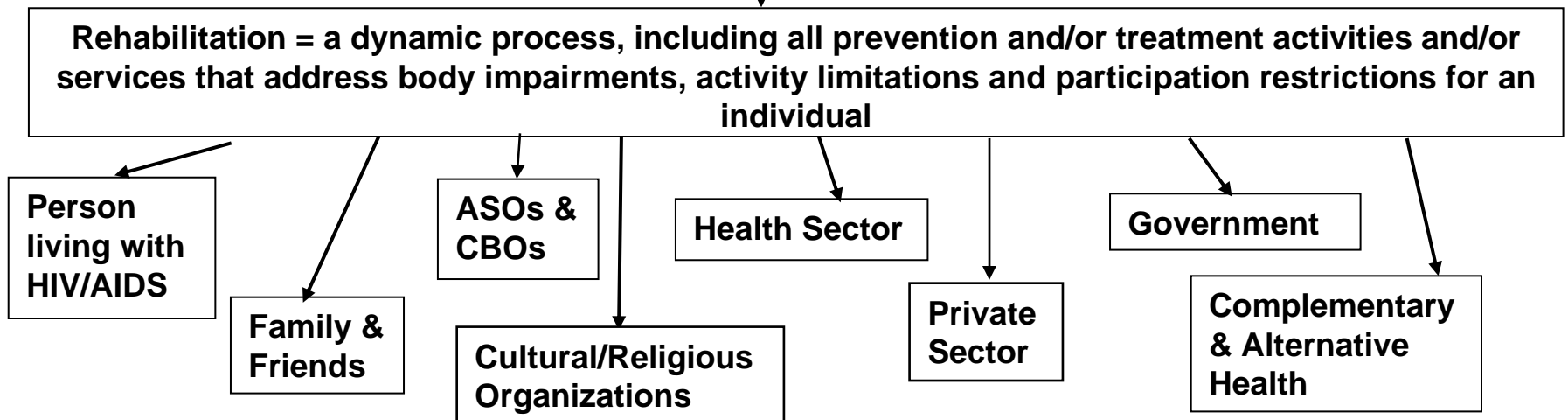
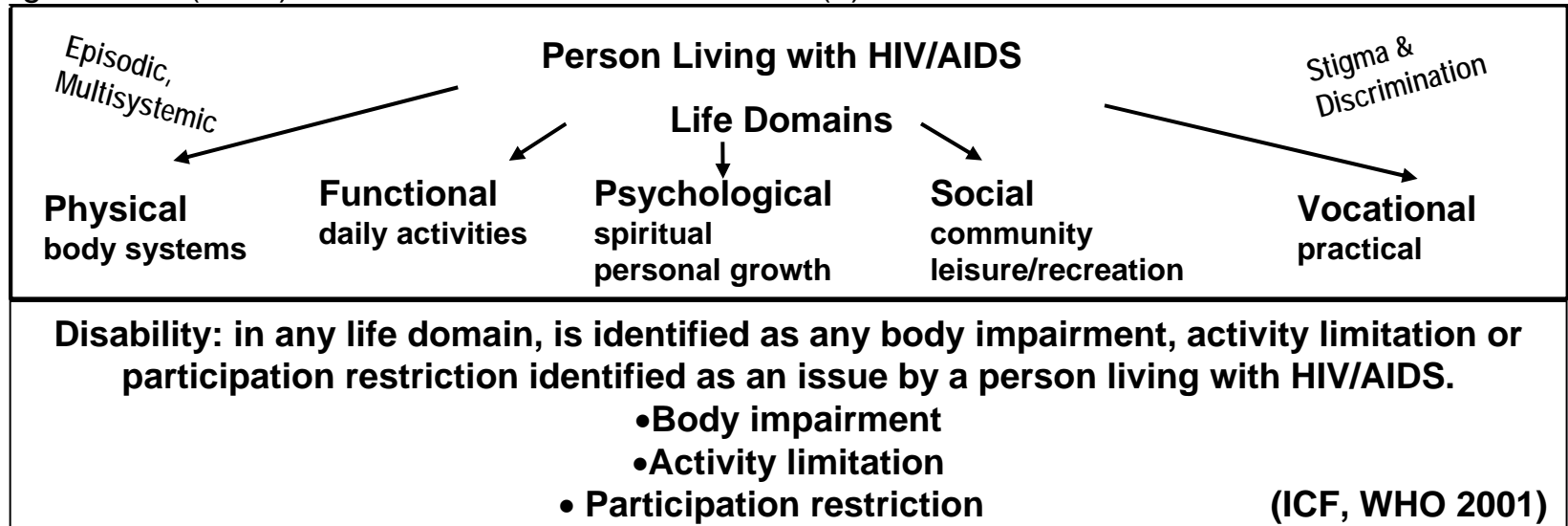
# Rehabilitation Roles in HIV



- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech – language pathology
- Audiology
- Mental health
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Complementary and Alternative Therapies
- Role of physicians

# Conceptual HIV/AIDS Rehabilitation Framework

Worthington et al. (2005) *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*. 19(4): 258-271



# Roles for Nursing in Rehabilitation



- (How) are nurses currently involved in rehabilitation related to HIV?
  - e.g. referrals, hospital care, clinics, bridging HIV and rehabilitation?
- How might nursing be integrated into rehabilitation care in HIV?

# Roles for Nursing in Rehabilitation



- How might we promote community based rehabilitation with people living with HIV in Canada? Interprofessional approaches?
- Challenges? Opportunities?

# Next steps



- Educational sessions / conference
- Planning model of integrated program
- Presentations at CWGHR and ICDR meetings
- Developing resources
- Global engagement component of Federal Initiative on HIV/AIDS - forum (Sept. 2007) – how can we share this knowledge / integrate into Canadian context /
- Other suggestions / ideas?

# Acknowledgements



- CIDA
- Canadian Society for International Health
- Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development
- Project Coordinating Committee (ICDR, CBC, CWGHR)
- Project Advisory Committee

For more information...



[www.hivandrehab.ca](http://www.hivandrehab.ca)

Canadian Working Group on HIV and  
Rehabilitation

<http://www.icdr.utoronto.ca/>

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