

# More than facilitators and barriers: Fitting the full range of environmental and personal contextual factors into the ICF model

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# Background: Using the ICF for research

- 1. Need clear identification of concepts
- e.g. distinction between activity and participation
  - preliminary criteria for distinguishing domains presented to NACC 2005
- 2. Need to account for contextual factors
  - nature of the 'complex interaction'
  - can't ignore personal factors (need a categorization)

# Objectives

1. Review assumptions about contextual factors in the ICF model
2. Suggest tentative categorization of personal factors
3. Discuss the role of contextual factors in ICF model
4. Discuss implications for ICF development

# Contextual factors in the ICF

The complete background of an individual's life and living (ICF Manual p16)

- Environmental (classification)
  - 'facilitating or hindering impact of features of the physical, social and attitudinal world' (ICF Manual p8)
- Personal (no classification)

# Role of environmental factors

1. Affects the extent and nature of accomplishment of activity or participation

## **Facilitators or barriers**

2. Determines nature of activity or participation
  - whether and how an activity is carried out
  - domains of participation and repertoire of tasks relevant to the individual

## **Scene-setting**

# Example: Activity (Tasks)

Scene-setting environmental factors

e.g. climate  
culture

Defines the nature of the tasks and how they are accomplished

e.g. dressing  
cooking

(often via social roles/participation)



# Example: Participation (Societal Involvement)

Scene-setting environmental factors

Opportunities and imperatives for involvement - but not the composition of involvement in terms of the tasks included



- e.g. employment: availability of jobs
- parenting: relationship to a child
- religious observance: culture
- recreation: climate

# Personal Factors

Not classified in ICF because of 'the large social and cultural variance associated with them'

## **Proposal – 3 major categories:**

- A. Scene-setting personal factors
- B. Potentially modifiable personal factors
- C. Social relationships

# Draft categorization of Personal Factors

## A. Scene-setting personal factors

### A1. Sociodemographic

A1.1 Inherent

age, gender, ethnicity, race

A1.2 Social and cultural

language, social background, upbringing, cultural affiliation, religious affiliation

A1.3 Acquired

education, profession, income

A1.4 Other

time, place, life events, current experience

### A2. Body function and structure

A2.1 Physical characteristics

body size, strength, energy

A2.2 Psychologic traits

temperament and personality, 'talent', ingenuity, resilience, intelligence

A.2.3 Other health conditions

# Draft categorization of Personal Factors

## B. Potentially Modifiable Personal Factors

### B1. General

goals, expectations, health and other knowledge

### B2. Behaviours and lifestyle

exercise/ physical activity, fitness, smoking, alcohol, diet, social behaviours, dress/grooming

### B3. Consequent on health condition

self-efficacy, coping, emotional reaction, frustration, anger, body image, self-esteem, effort

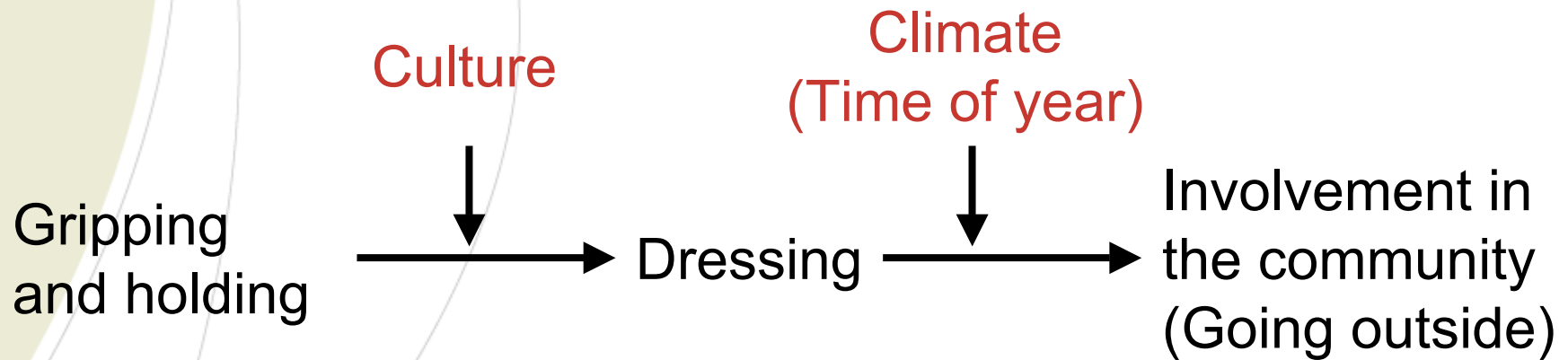
## C. 'Support and relationships'

Chapter 3: Environmental Factors Classification.

# Incorporating scene-setting and personal factors in research

1. Understanding of disability models and processes
2. Awareness of potential bias  
(e.g. level of difficulty in activity may vary by level of scene-setting contextual factor)
3. Need to test for effect modification

# Detecting effect of contextual factors



Moderator (Effect modifier) – stratified analysis or test for statistical interaction

# Implications for use of ICF

## Scene-setting contextual factors

- raise questions about feasibility of capacity assessment
  - *Capacity*: an individual's ability to execute a task or an action in a "standardized" environment (which is uniform for **all persons in all countries**).
- likely underpin social/cultural differences
  - implications for research study design

# Implications for ICF further development

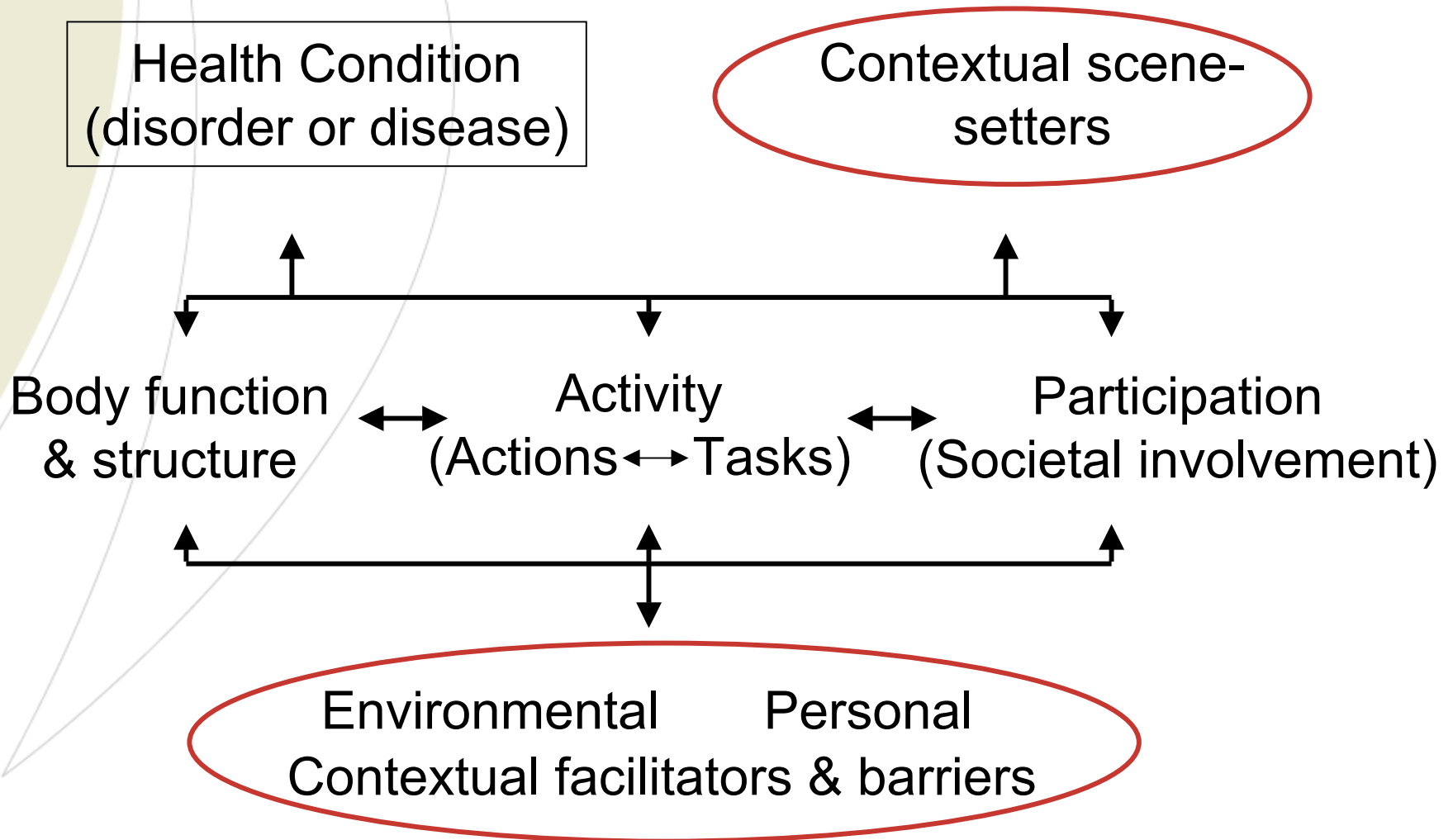
**ICF qualifiers:** only for facilitators and barriers

- need a way of denoting a scene-setting personal or environmental contextual factor

**Conceptual model:**

- needs modification to show scene-setting contextual factors

# Modified model of functioning and disability



# Conclusion

## **A theoretical analysis**

Role for contextual factors setting the scene for activities and participation (not only as facilitators and barriers)

## **Personal factors:**

Suggest three major groups:

- scene-setters
- potentially modifiable
- support and relationships

Many (if not most) personal factors are scene-setters