THE GLOBAL NEED FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IS STAGGERING AND GROWING

Over 1 billion people need at least one assistive product

This number is expected to double by 2030

90% of unmet need in low and middle income countries today

A lack of access to AT has significant consequences for:

- **Individuals**
  - Individuals may experience isolation and exclusion from education, the labour market, and civic life.

- **Families**

- **Society**

Access to appropriate AT enables people with loss of function, disabilities, non-communicable diseases, and the aging population to enjoy their rights.
THE CHALLENGES

Lack of Enabling Ecosystem

- Limited political will and investment
- Weak policy and regulatory environment
- Lack of trained and skilled personnel to support delivery of AT
- Persisting stigma

Market Barriers

- Lack of awareness among users and policy makers leading to sub-optimal demand
- Lack of transparency on pricing and quality leading to a mismatch between supply and demand
- High costs and complex supply chains
Investing in making Assistive Technology available is worth it.

For every $1 invested in AT, $9 is returned to the economy.

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

- **ECONOMIC RETURNS.** AT has a significant effect on lifetime earning potential.
- **HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS.** AT improves users’ health and wellbeing.
- **SOCIAL INCLUSION.** Increased access to AT facilitates greater inclusion of users of all ages in society.
Since the 1st Global Disability Summit in 2018, progress has been made.

- In-depth analysis of market barriers for 5 priority products, 1 scoping report for AT.
- Global product specifications launched for 26 assistive products.
- Policy strengthening started in 12 countries, including national action plans in 6 countries.
- Hearing aids and wheelchairs being added to UNICEF supply catalogue.
- Dedicated AT programmes underway in 67 countries.
- Africa's first AT accelerator & dedicated AT impact fund supporting 28 ventures.
- Created global AT Innovator map and Data Portal.
- Data on AT need has been collected in 74 countries and in-depth capacity assessments in 33 countries.

AT data/need assessments done
Implementation of new programmes started
CLOSING THE GAP FOR ACCESSIBLE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The Opportunity

A global, cross-sector partnership to ensure 500 million more people are reached with life-changing AT by 2030

ATscale
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Coordinate around a common agenda
- Raise political will and increase momentum
- Mobilise and leverage resources within countries
- Spur public and private investment globally
- Leverage market shaping approaches
- Scale innovative processes and products
- Measure progress & share best practices
The Goal: 500M new AT users

Much more still needs to be done.

Today

2026

2030

2050

In order to reach all those in need of AT, it is estimated that over USD 10 billion a year is needed.

ATscale will raise USD 300 million over the next 5 years

And aim for 3X leverage from increased domestic resources, private sector support, and funding through other channels to reach more than USD 1 billion

500M new AT users
This catalytic funding will:

- Support the engagement in over 40 countries to address critical barriers towards sustainable AT access
- Help raise political will and inspire action towards AT
- Invest in global public goods and interventions aimed at creating a healthier market for AT products and services
While more resources are necessary, two other ingredients are key.

1. **INTEGRATION** - Understanding that inclusion, which is the key theme of the 2nd GDS, is impossible without AT.

2. **PARTNERSHIPS** - Understanding that no one alone can achieve the goal. We must work together – governments, civil society, private sector, development agencies, and donors.
Integration

Inclusion is impossible without AT

Education

AT plays a powerful role in ensuring access to education and in supporting educational achievement.

Health

Provision of AT improves health outcomes, helps prevent secondary health conditions, lowers related costs (e.g. long term care).

Livelihoods & Social Protection

AT is a powerful enabler to overcome poverty. It can increase lifetime earning potential by approx USD 100,000.

Situations of Crisis & Conflict

Assistive devices often lost during displacement which increases vulnerabilities. Conflict creates increased demand, while reducing supply.

Capacity Development of OPDs

AT enables communication and mobility as a pre-requisite for demanding full inclusion.
We must work together to achieve the goal. These are examples of what we expect from each other.

- **National Governments**
  - Carry-out or complete AT needs assessments
  - Develop cross-sectoral and integrated plans for coordinated national scale-up
  - Increase domestic budget allocation towards rehabilitation and Assistive Technology
  - Reduce regulatory barriers, including import tariffs

- **Donor Organisations**
  - Support national, cross-sectoral efforts with direct additional funding
  - Streamline disability inclusion and AT into all development support
  - Increase funding to global, coordinated efforts such as ATscale

- **Private Sector**
  - Make products more easily accessible through price reductions, increased market transparency, service support, or product design adaptations
  - Engage with global and national partners to identify business models that create win-win situations for business and AT users

- **Civil Society**
  - Increase advocacy of disability rights organizations with governments, funders and development partners to introduce and fund national AT strategies
  - Engage with communities and local governments to increase awareness and reduce stigma
MOBILISING FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

TODAY, TOGETHER,

• We will hear from and discuss with a range of partners:
  • Individuals who use Assistive Technology
  • Civil Society, including Organizations of People with Disabilities
  • Governments from the Global South and North
  • Multilateral Partners
  • The Private Sector

• We will understand the progress on increasing access to affordable and appropriate AT and discuss the need to renew and increase our commitments.

• Build a cross-sector partnership that is a catalyst for change, for every person that is in need of AT.