

ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology



ATscale
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
Initiated by
UNOPS



Together, transforming lives through assistive technology



Assistive technology (AT) is an umbrella term for assistive products such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, prostheses, eyeglasses and digital devices, and their related systems and services.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CAN BE LIFE-CHANGING.



Assistive technology can enable people to live healthier, more productive, independent and dignified lives than before, and to access education, employment and community participation.





Facilitates access to and participation in **education**: Enabling children to learn and thrive, fostering inclusive and effective education systems.



Is vital for **livelihoods and employment**: Enhances efficiency by reducing barriers to work, better-paid employment and higher productivity for adults, helps organizations retain valuable talent and fosters an inclusive, high-performing workforce.



Can support independence and chronic condition management, especially for **ageing populations**, helping them to stay active, maintain independence and reduce the burden on families and healthcare systems.



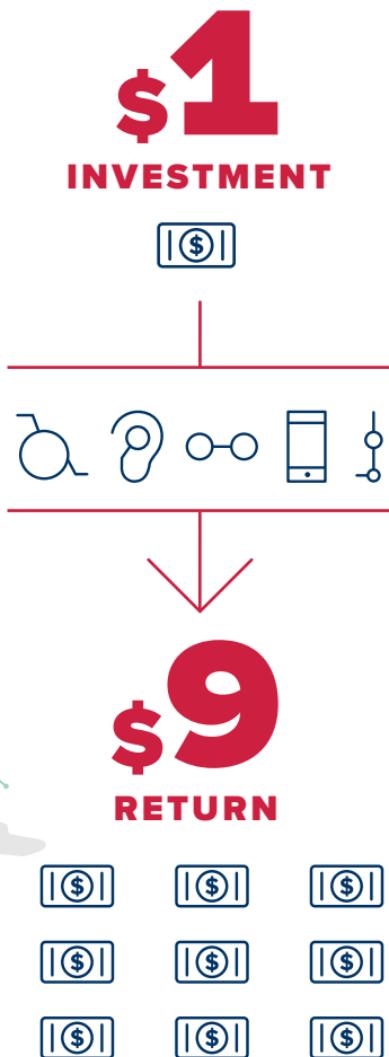
Can be **crucial to survival in humanitarian settings**: For accessing essential support to survive, recover and rebuild lives.

INVESTING IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY MAKES SOUND ECONOMIC SENSE.

The benefits of assistive technology extend beyond the individual user to wider society by boosting economic productivity, reducing healthcare costs by enabling preventive care and independent living, as well as promoting inclusivity and equality.



For every dollar invested, there is an estimated nine-dollar return.



**DESPITE ITS
TRANSFORMATIVE
POTENTIAL, ONE
BILLION PEOPLE
WORLDWIDE
LACK ACCESS
TO THE AT
THEY NEED.**

This problem is particularly acute in low-income countries, where only 10% of the population has access. AT has historically been neglected and under-resourced, resulting in massive inequities based on age, disability, gender, type of functional difficulty, living environment and socio-economic status.



10% OF PEOPLE IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES CAN ACCESS THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY THEY NEED

Currently, over

2.5

BILLION PEOPLE

require one or more
assistive products



a number projected to rise to

3.5

BY 2050

due to ageing populations
and the rising prevalence of
noncommunicable diseases.

This lack of access is a significant barrier to advancing inclusion, human rights, economic development and achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, making it impossible to *Leave No One Behind*.

ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, is hosted by UNOPS, and was created to ensure that everyone, everywhere, can access and afford the assistive technology they need, unlocking a lifetime of potential.

Strategic pillars

ATscale convenes partners globally and nationally, and engages AT users, to drive progress across three mutually reinforcing strategic pillars:

SUPPORTING COUNTRY PLANS



and their implementation, to strengthen AT policies, systems, services and financing in over 30 countries across multiple product areas. By 2024, ATscale-supported programmes had reached 1.7 million people with assistive technology, including about 250,000 users of AT in Cambodia, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Tajikistan and Zambia — half of whom were women and girls.

ATscale's mission is to transform lives through assistive technology. It catalyses action to ensure that, by 2030, an additional 500 million people in low- and middle-income countries get the life-changing AT they need.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL ENABLERS -



the global tools and resources, such as knowledge, guidance and product information - that countries need to make progress, such as healthy markets that deliver reliable supplies of quality, affordable products. For example, in collaboration with CHAI, ATscale supported the production of the first-ever assistive product market report, analysing markets for eyeglasses, hearing aids, prostheses, wheelchairs and digital technology.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE



to catalyse political will, build public awareness and raise overall resources. For example, in collaboration with 24 partners, ATscale launched *Unlock the Everyday*, the first global campaign intended to raise awareness of the urgent need to increase access to assistive technology. The campaign has reached millions around the world and is celebrated each year on 4 June, World Day for Assistive Technology.

Board members



China Disabled Persons'
Federation (CDPF)



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Children's Fund



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For more information, visit
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