WHA71.8 on Assistive Technology

MS Information Session
3 March 2022 | Geneva, HQ
WHO Secretariat to:

1) Prepare a Global Report on Assistive Technology;
2) Provide technical and capacity building support for Member States in the areas of AT Policy and Programmes
3) Provide technical and capacity building support for Member States in Manufacturing, Supply and Procurement;
4) Contribute to development of minimum standards for priority assistive products;
5) Report on progress to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly and every four years until 2030.
1. Prepare a Global Report on Assistive Technology
Population based household survey to assess met and unmet need (rATA);

Government survey to explore system preparedness for assistive technology and progress made towards the implementation of the WHA resolution on assistive technology (Progress Indicators).
1. WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology: Data

- More than 500 experts including assistive technology users and their family members from over 100 countries are involved in the process;

- Population level data collected from 35 countries and system level data from 70 Member States;

- WHO and UNICEF jointly hosted 2 global and 6 regional consultations to develop the zero draft, including report recommendations;

- Presents data, evidence and analysis of current assistive technology access scenario and future trends and makes 10 recommendations;

- Launch date set for 16 May 2022.
2. Technical and capacity building support: AT Policy and Programmes

- Training in Assistive Products (TAP) trains primary health care personnel to identify those in need, provide simple assistive products, and refer where needed;
- Online, blended learning supported by local mentors – WHO Academy;
- 15 modules developed; 15 more underway 2022.
2. Technical and capacity building support: AT Policy and Programmes

Introduction

Assistive technology is life-changing for people in need. Access to assistive technology is a fundamental human right and offers immense potential to improve the health and functioning of individuals with disabilities. Many people with disabilities face barriers to accessing assistive technology, limiting their rights and freedom.

In response to this concern, the Seventy-first World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA71.8 in 2018, urging Member States to develop, implement, and strengthen policies and programmes to improve access to assistive technology. The World Health Organization is working to support Member States in implementing the resolution and to fulfill their related commitments, for example, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This brief highlights key challenges in ensuring equitable access to high-quality, affordable assistive technology (Table 1) and describes recent efforts to address them (Table 2). The brief also describes the Global Initiative on Technology and Employment (GATE) initiative, which aims to improve access to assistive technology, promoting equity and inclusion and supporting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Assistive technology is the application of organized knowledge and skills related to assistive products, including systems and services.

Assistive products include hearing aids, wheelchairs, communication aids, orthoses, prostheses, and other devices designed to improve health outcomes or support independence.

The GATE Initiative

The GATE Initiative aims to improve access to assistive technology, promoting equity and inclusion and supporting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Technical and capacity building support: AT Policy and Programmes

14 countries integrating assistive technology into PHC

- Complexity Resources Training
- Tertiary Service
  - Specialist AT Services
    - For example: Prosthetics and orthotics, intermediate level wheelchairs
  - General AT Service delivery
    - For example: Basic level wheelchairs
- Secondary Service
  - Screening and referral Simple AT Service delivery
    - For example: Reading glasses, walking aids, absorbent continence products
- Primary Health Centre + Community Service
3. Technical and capacity building support: Manufacturing, Supply and Procurement

National or regional centers of excellence: Kenya and India
4. Standards, Specifications and Procurement

Assistive product specifications and how to use them

A manual for public procurement of assistive products, accessories, spare parts and related services
5. Progress indicators (10)
"With my Wheelchair, I can do anything."

Assistive Technology
#LifeChanger
WHA71.8 on Assistive Technology

Thank you