# Mainstreaming Assistive Technology Provisioning Across Development and Humanitarian Systems

A joint UNICEF, WHO, ATscale, and GDI Hub initiative

**16 February 2022, 7-8:15pm CET,** [**virtual event**](https://unicef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fdovQ46VQv-d6KCnDPIflQ)

## Concept Note and Agenda

### Context

The 2022 Global Disability Summit (GDS22), has five thematic focus areas: education, health, livelihoods, situations of conflict and crises, and capacity development of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). For each of these areas, persons with disabilities will only be included and empowered if access to appropriate, affordable, and effective assistive technology (AT), is ensured.

Given that today only an estimated 10 per cent of those who need AT actually have it, scaling-up access to AT will require stakeholders to improve coordination in their efforts, adopt more sustainable and scalable strategies, and mobilize and deploy funding more efficiently.

### Objectives

To build a common understanding across a diverse set of stakeholders regarding the need for mainstreaming of AT in order to expand access widely enough and sustain provisioning long enough to meet GDS commitments and relevant SDGs.

## Agenda

### Administrative Guidance on Accessing Interpretation and Captioning Services for Event

5:00-5:02 – Overall event facilitation by **Ceridwen Johnson**, Communications and Advocacy Advisor for ATscale **(live).**

### Perspectives from Two AT Users

Two users talk about their experiences with and without access to AT, the challenges in obtaining AT, and their lives once they have access to AT.

5:02-5:10 – Two four-minute contributions by Ms. **Almah Kuambu, a Technical Advisor at the National Orthotic & Prosthetic Services of Papua New Guinea**; and Sana Khurshid, a Lawyer, Social Activist, and Disability Rights Activist in Pakistan **(pre-recorded)**.

### Introduction to the Side Event

Brief overview of key challenges for ensuring access to AT to all who need it, and the necessity for international and cross-sectoral collaboration.

5:10-5:12 – Two-minute introduction by Rebecca Levy, Acting U.S. Government Special Advisor on Children in Adversity, and Acting Director of the Inclusive Development Hub in the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation at USAID **(live).**

### Strategies for Improving Overall Access to AT

UNICEF’s Supply Division presents its approach, together with UNICEF’s Programme Group, to ensure scalable and sustainable access to AT in LMICs.

5:12–5:16 – Three-minute presentation by **Etleva Kadilli**, Director of Supply Division at UNICEF **(pre-recorded)**.

### Strategies for Demand and Supply in Humanitarian Contexts

UNICEF’s Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) presents its approach, in partnership with the Programme Group, to ensuring AT demand and supply in humanitarian contexts, and the actions taking place to implement its AT strategy.

5:16–5:20 – Three-minute presentation by **Grant Leaity**, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Programmes at UNICEF **(pre-recorded).**

### Building an AT-Inclusive Health System

The WHO presents the key elements which must be present in all health systems in order to ensure that persons with functional limitations, including persons with disabilities, older persons, and others, have the assistive products and services they need.

5:20–5:24 – Three-minute presentation by **Mariangela Simao**, Assistant Director-General, Access to Medicines and Health Products at the WHO **(pre-recorded)**.

### Partnerships and leveraging resources for Access to AT

ATscale presents the value of coordination amongst global actors, national governments, and the private sector, as well as the market shaping options available for sustainable and scalable impact in the AT ecosystem.

5:24–5:28 – Three-minute presentation by **Pascal Bijleveld**, CEO of ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology **(live).**

### Innovation, Research, and Evidence for AT Growth

The Global Disability Innovation Hub describes the ways in which innovation, research, and evidence both expand and illuminate policy options for national governments and donors, essential requirements in order to ensure that over a billion persons receive the AT they need.

5:28–5:32 – Three-minute presentation by **Victoria Austin**, Co-Founder and CEO of the GDI Hub **(pre-recorded)**.

### Expert Panel

Panel responds to questions collected throughout the presentations.

5:32–6:13 – Expert panel with AT users, OPDs, and governments react to presentations and contribute their perspectives on improving access to AT. Panelists include **Judy Heumann** (as an AT user from the US), **Marco Pelligrini** (as an OPD representative from Brazil), Modesta Zabula (sharing the private sector perspective from Botswana), and others. Moderation by **Fernando Botelho**, Programme Specialist for Assistive Technology at UNICEF **(live)**.

### Closing Remarks

6:13-6:15 – Two minutes of closing remarks by Susannah Rodgers , Technical Advisor on Disability Inclusion at the FCDO **(live)**.

## Registration

The registration for this GDS side event can be made on the following web page:

<https://unicef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fdovQ46VQv-d6KCnDPIflQ>

The event will be held in English and interpretation will be available for Arabic, French, Spanish, and International Sign Language. Captioning will also be available.