



# Assistive technology in humanitarian response

**Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week**

**3 February 2020**



# People in need of assistive technology: 1 billion today, 2 billion by 2050

The first step  
into education.



The first step  
out of poverty.



The first step into  
work and employment.



The first step towards  
inclusion & participation.



The first step to enhance  
mobility, independence,  
and freedom.



*What implications for humanitarian action?*





Only 1 in 10 people  
globally have access

# Challenges in access

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of policies and strategies
- Disconnect between humanitarian response and national systems
- Provision of inappropriate products
- Inaccessible environment
- Lack of and low priority for health/social services
- Lack of properly trained personnel
- Disruption of supplies (products, raw materials and components)
- Geographical, financial and security barriers
- High importing taxes in some countries








# Current initiatives and projects

Supporting countries to improve access to assistive technology since 2014

- **Policy:** support the development of person-centred policies
- **Products & Procurement:** identify priority products and procurement strategies
- **Provision:** mainstream assistive products within existing health services
- **Personnel:** develop minimum competencies and training for health personnel







# Resolution WHA71.8

## Improving access to assistive technology

**Including assistive technology in humanitarian  
preparedness and response and promote barrier-free  
environments**

- Assistive products procurement consultation in Jordan
- AT programme in Syria

## Guidelines

# **INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

July 2019  
IASC Task Team on Inclusion of Persons  
with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Endorsed by IASC October 2019



International  
Disability  
Alliance



- Three-year consultation process, including with persons with disabilities and humanitarian actors
- Set out essential actions in humanitarian response, including the role of persons with disabilities as actors
- Essential actions include planning and budgeting for provision of AT and considering access to AT in assessment processes
- AT addressed across all sectoral chapters
- AT presented as being a requirement for accessing basic, life saving assistance and enabling participation

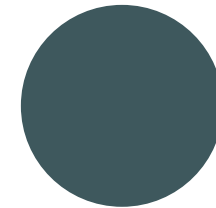


- Addressing a gap in knowledge- research project to document levels of need, barriers and enablers specific to humanitarian contexts
- Identify strategic entry points to improving access to AT in humanitarian contexts



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## Understanding barriers and enablers in humanitarian contexts



# Innovation in Supply

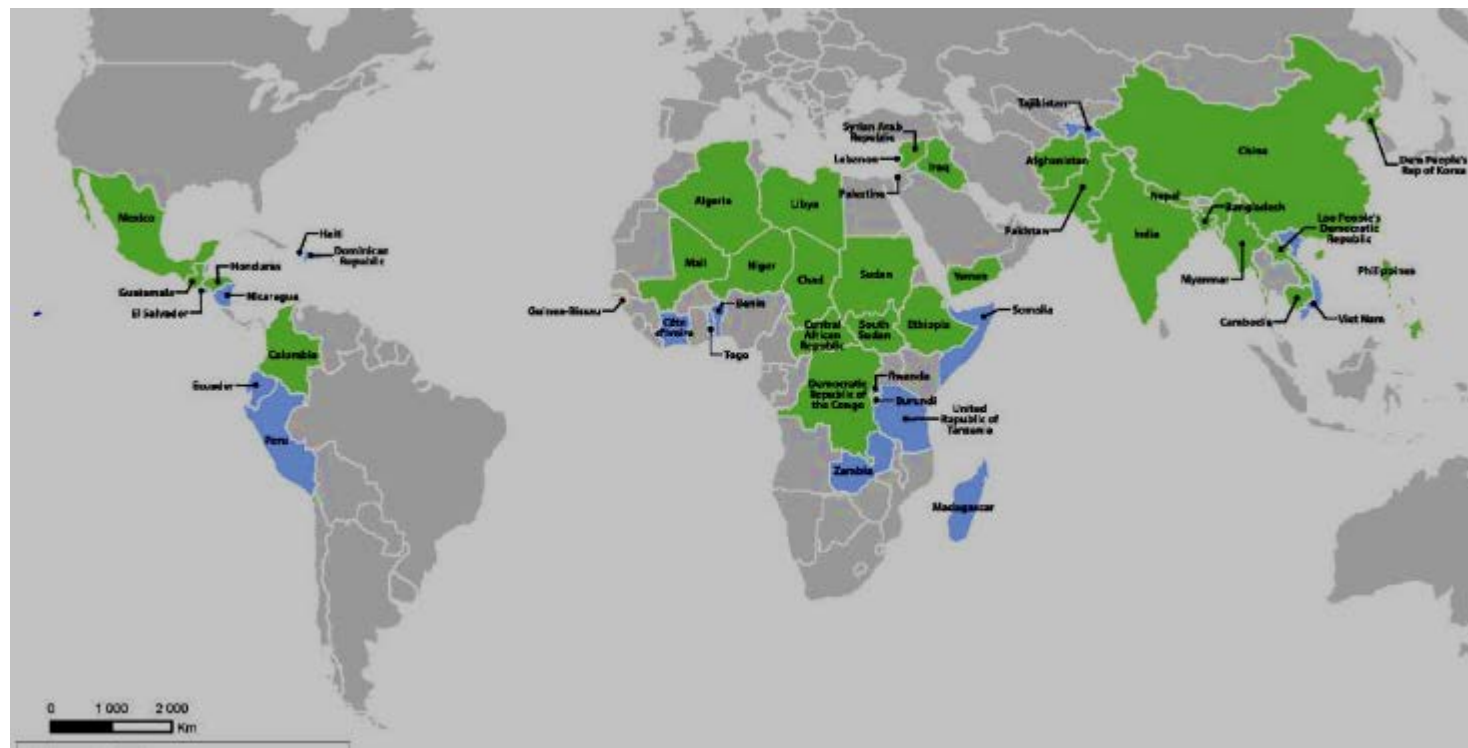
- Ensuring that supplies procured are inclusive
- Adding AT products UNICEF Supply Catalogue
- Development of an Innovation AT device- Emergency Squatting Plate Disability Add-on







# ICRC



## Support to Physical Rehabilitation Services

- 35 countries
- 139 Physical Rehabilitation Centres

# Approach

- Twin track
- 4 Intervention Pillars







# 2019

- Beneficiaries: 410'238
- Prostheses: 65'565
- Orthotics: 183'230
- Wheelchairs: 15'243
- Walking aids: 71'932
- Physiotherapy sessions: 472'485

Global level



Country level – Pakistan



Addressing assistive technology supply





Giulia Oggero (GATE/WHO): [oggerog@who.int](mailto:oggerog@who.int)



Kirstin Lange (UNICEF): [klange@unicef.org](mailto:klange@unicef.org)



Miguel Mateus Fernandes (ICRC): [mmateusfernandes@icrc.org](mailto:mmateusfernandes@icrc.org)



Thank you for your attention!