

Making sure people can get assistive products



**Easy
Read**



This is an Easy Read
version of the **Global
Report on Assistive
Technology Summary**

Contents

Introduction	3
Assistive products	5
When people cannot get the assistive products they need.....	8
What needs to improve	11
Recommendations	13
For more information	18



In this Easy Read document, some words are in **bold**. The meanings of these words are explained in the sentence after they are used.



Some words are blue and underlined.

These are links which will open up another website which has more information.

Introduction



World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) is part of the United Nations.



WHO works to make sure people around the world can live a healthy life.



UNICEF is also part of the United Nations. It works to protect the lives of children around the world.



WHO and UNICEF want to make sure people get the **assistive products** they need.



Assistive products help people to do something that they find difficult or cannot do for themselves.

This document will tell you:



- More about assistive products.

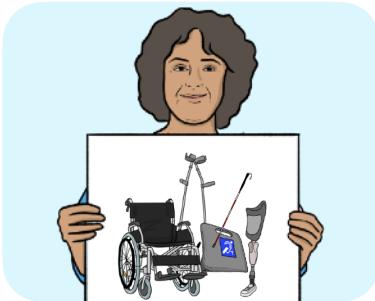


- What happens when people cannot get the assistive products they need.

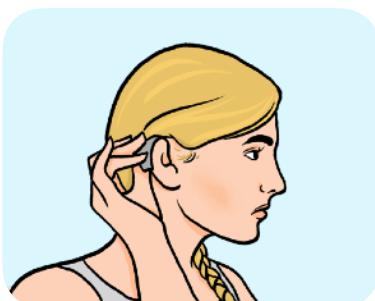


- What governments and organizations should do next.

Assistive products



Assistive products help people to do things in their everyday life.



Some examples are:



- Hearing aids - these are used by people who do not hear well to help them hear sound.



- Wheelchairs - these are used by people who cannot walk to move around.

- Text-to-speech software - this helps people communicate by typing text into a device which reads it out loud.

Assistive products help different groups of people, like:



- People with disabilities.



- Older people.



- People with long-term health conditions.



- People getting better after an accident.



Most people will need to use some sort of assistive product during their lifetime.



In 2021, there were more than 2.5 billion people in the world who needed assistive products.

This number will go up to 3.5 billion by 2050.

How assistive products are provided to people



Some people get assistive products through health care or as part of their **social care**.

Social care helps people with support needs to be as independent as possible. Sometimes, it is paid for by the government.



Some people are given assistive products by community organizations.



Many people have to buy the assistive products they need.

When people cannot get the assistive products they need



Sometimes people cannot get the assistive products they need. This stops them from being able to take part in the world around them.



This leads to people having:



- Worse health than others.
- Less of a chance to learn and grow through education.



- Fewer opportunities to work.



- Less money.

Problems that stop people from getting assistive products include:



- People not always being aware that assistive products are available.



- The cost, because they can be expensive.



There are not enough services to support people who need or have assistive products.



Many countries:

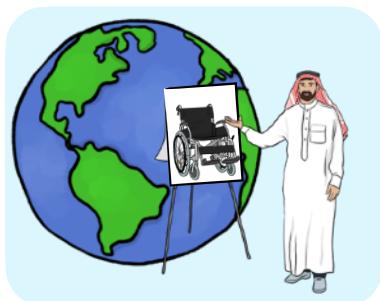
- Have a part of the government that is responsible for making sure people can get assistive products.



- Have some rules and laws about people being able to get the assistive products they need.



Many countries spend some money on making assistive products available. They also pay towards the assistive products that people use.

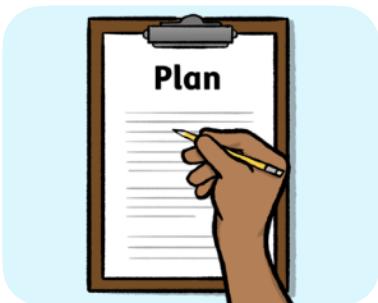


Only a few countries have the right training in place to be able to support people who need assistive products.



Countries do not always have services available to people who need assistive products in all parts of the country.

What needs to improve



Countries need to make sure every person can get the assistive products they need.

Countries should plan in these 4 areas:



1. **Policy** - this means having the right rules and laws in place to make sure people can get what they need.



2. **Products** - this means having enough assistive products available that do not cost too much money.



3. **Provision** - this means having services available to provide assistive products to everyone in every part of the country.



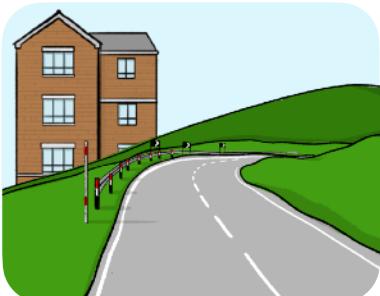
4. **Personnel** - this means having staff that are trained to support people to get assistive products that are right for them.



Countries should think about assistive products when they are planning for emergencies, like war or disease.



Emergencies often lead to more people needing assistive products.



Countries should think about the needs of people who need assistive products when they:

- Plan and improve buildings, roads and types of transport.
- Design new technology.
- Provide services.
- Improve access to outdoor spaces and nature.



Recommendations



Recommendations are ideas that will help governments and organizations make sure people can get the assistive products they need.

We have 10 recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Make it easier for people to get assistive products, especially in:



- Health care.
- Education, like in schools and universities.
- Jobs.
- Social care.

Recommendation 2

Make sure that any assistive products that are being provided are:



- Safe.



- Right for the person.



- Affordable - this means it does not cost too much money.

Recommendation 3



More people should be trained to support people who need assistive products.

Recommendation 4

Involve users of assistive products and their families in:

- Telling others about how useful assistive products are.
- Telling services about how to make their assistive products and services better.



Users and their families should be trained to fix their assistive products if they are slightly broken.

Recommendation 5

Make sure more people are:

- Aware of how assistive products can be helpful.
- Positive when they think and talk about people who use assistive products.



Recommendation 6



Collect more information about people who need assistive products and how the products were provided. This will help to make better decisions in the future.

Recommendation 7



Work on **research** about assistive products, and on creating new assistive products.

Research is finding out more information about a problem and learning how to solve it.



Working on research will make sure assistive products always meet the needs of people who use them.

Recommendation 8



Make places easy for everyone to use and move around, including people who use different types of assistive products.

Recommendation 9



Make sure that during an emergency there is support for people who need assistive products.

Recommendation 10



Countries should work together to help people get the assistive products they need.

For more information



You can look at our website for more [facts about assistive technology.](#)

If you need more information please contact us by:

- Post:

World Health Organization
HQ/MHP/HPS/ATM/ATA (M507)
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland



- Phone: +41 22 791 21 11

