

Regional Consultations for WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT)

Concept note

1. Background

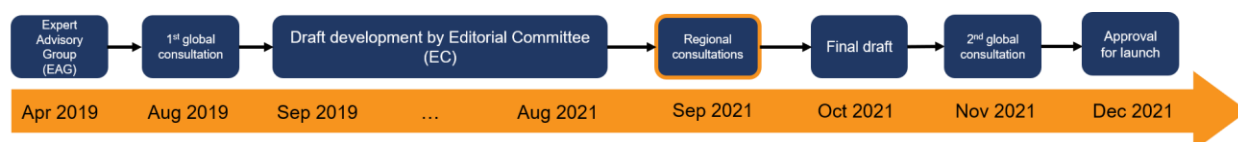
The 71st World Health Assembly resolution WHA71.8 calls upon WHO to prepare a global report on effective access to assistive technology (GReAT) in the context of an integrated approach, based on the best available scientific evidence and international experience. The report aims to:

- Showcase the current status in terms of access to assistive technology (AT) with a comprehensive dataset, description and analysis;
- Draw attention to governments and civil society about the need for and benefit of AT, especially the return on investment;
- Make recommendations for concrete actions that will improve the access to AT, especially in resource limited settings, based on the best available scientific information and country experience;
- Support implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and making Universal Health Coverage inclusive.

The development of GReAT started in January 2019 under the guidance of the WHO/UNICEF Steering Committee, the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) with 18 global experts, and key AT stakeholders. The draft report is being developed by an Editorial Committee (EC) of five members under the leadership of the Lead Editor. It is based on the input of the background papers, case studies and user stories from the first global consultation, which was attended by over 270 AT stakeholders.

The EAG, WHO/UNICEF technical units and external AT experts have provided a series of critical reviews of the drafts developed so far. The current draft will be further updated with population survey data on access to AT from approximately 30 countries and includes progress indicators of the (WHA71.8) implementation status from the Member States (MS). The updated draft will be discussed at regional consultations representing all six WHO regions before its finalization. Based on the feedback from the regional consultations, the Lead Editor, EAG, and WHO/UNICEF Steering Committee will develop the draft for the second global consultation of AT stakeholders. The final report will be developed following the outcome of the global consultation.

The figure below summarizes the key milestones in the GReAT development.



2. Objectives

To ensure the GReAT will be relevant and contribute to improving access to AT in all regions, the draft report will receive input from the MS in each of the WHO regions through regional consultations. The objectives of the consultations are:

- To inform the MS in the regions about the key findings of the global report;
- To validate the draft report based on the regional perspective;
- To discuss the GReAT recommendations and way forward.

3. Methods

Led by the regional offices and with technical support from WHO HQ, GReAT EAG and EC, the regional consultations are to be held between **1 September** and **15 October 2021** - dates to be set by the six WHO regional offices. Considering the on-going pandemic, an online format is recommended.

Programme:

A provisional four hour programme is suggested in the table below. The regional offices are encouraged to adapt and expand the programme based on regional context and priority.

Time	Programme	Discussion points
30 minutes	Background of GReAT	Informing the MS in the region about the GReAT objectives and potential impact
60 minutes	Presentation of GReAT	Informing the MS of the GReAT content and key messages
90 minutes	Feedback from MS to GReAT	Moderated discussion on regional representation and perspectives on GReAT
60 minutes	Recommendation from MS to GReAT	Suggestions from MS regarding missing information, improvement and conclusion

Participants:

Representatives from each MS in the region (e.g. Ministry of Health, health & social welfare, social welfare or other relevant ministries for AT); WHO Regional Advisors; EAG members from the respective regions; EC members; other national or regional stakeholders, especially organizations representing AT users are also welcome to join the consultation.

Materials:

The following materials will be distributed to participants for reference one week prior to the consultation:

- Key messages of each report chapter;
- GReAT recommendations;
- Guide for discussion;
- Template for summary report.

Language:

The abovementioned materials will be available in English and if required, will be translated into the regional language(s) for distribution. The consultations will be held in English and regional language(s), if required.

4. Expected outcome

A summary report is expected to be completed by each regional office one week after the respective consultation. The report should summarize the consultation outcome covering the following areas (max 2500 words):

- Is there any misinterpretation or misleading information regarding AT access in the region? If so, what is the correct information or presentation?
- Is there any critical region-specific information missing? If so, what should be added?
- Are the GReAT recommendations relevant for the region and countries? If not, what are the recommendations suggested by the region?

5. Roles and responsibilities

Offices:	Responsibilities
WHO Regional Offices	Leadership in organizing the regional consultation Engagement and communication with MS Programme design and implementation Consultation summary report (with agreement from MS) Administration and logistics (registration, translation of materials, interpretation)
GReAT EAG/EC	Support programme design and implementation (presenting GReAT, moderation of discussion, summary report drafting)
WHO HQ	Financial support (funding contribution to translation of materials, consultation interpretation, etc) Technical support on hosting online meeting (if required)