

Technology that helps you

What you told us



The International Disability Alliance and the Global Disability Innovation Hub worked together to write this information.

This project is part of **AT2030**.
AT 2030 is a project paid for by UK Aid and led by the Global Disability Innovation Hub.



**Easy
Read**

Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



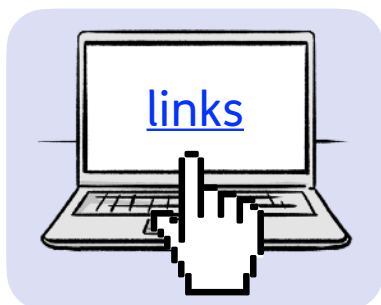
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

About this booklet	4
Assistive technology (AT)	5
Around the world.....	7
Finding out what people think.....	8
What people told us	10
Finding out about AT	13
What should change	15
What we have learned	21
Find out more	22

About this booklet



The **International Disability Alliance**, or **IDA**, brings groups of people with disabilities together.



We wanted to find out how easy it is for people with disabilities around the world to get **assistive technology**.

We explain more about what assistive technology is on the next page.



We asked people around the world to fill in a survey about assistive technology.



This booklet explains what people told us.

Assistive technology (AT)

Assistive technology is anything that helps people with disabilities. It includes:



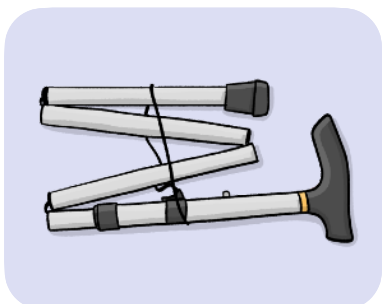
- Things that help people to use computers.



- Hearing aids.



- Glasses.



- Walking sticks.



- Wheelchairs.



Assistive technology can make a big difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

It can help people to:



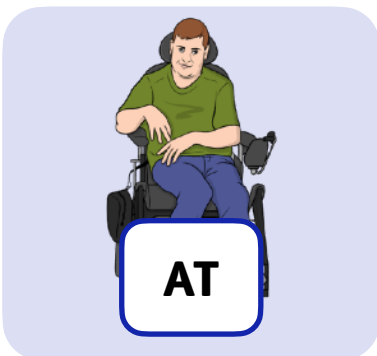
- Do more for themselves.



- Be included.



- Live a good life.



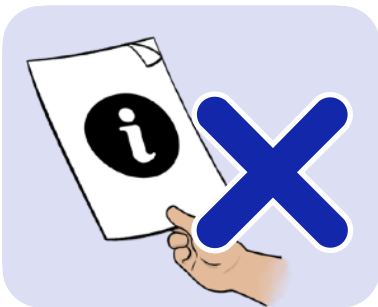
Assistive technology can also help people with a disability to speak up and make a difference.

In the rest of this document, we will call assistive technology **AT**.

Around the world



People around the world are trying hard to help more people with disabilities use AT.



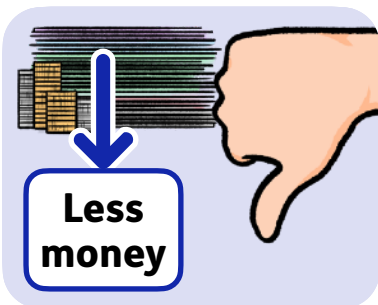
But there is not enough information about what people need.



It is easier to get AT in some countries than in others.



People in richer countries often have more AT and can speak up about it more.



People in poorer countries often have less AT.

Finding out what people think

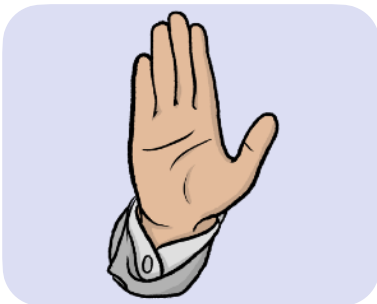
We wanted to find out:



- Whether people with disabilities can get the AT they need.



- Whether some groups of people with disabilities find it harder to get AT than others.



- What stops these groups from getting the AT they need.



We wanted to hear from people from countries that have less money than others.



We heard from 1040 people in over 100 countries.



We heard from people with disabilities, and people without disabilities.



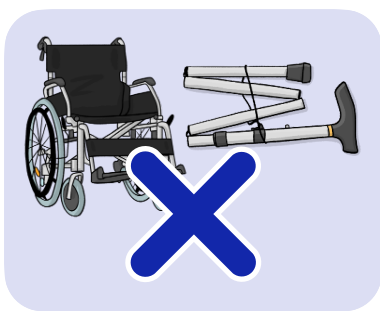
We also heard from people who use AT, and people who do not use AT.

What people told us

People told us that:



- People with disabilities do not know about the AT that they can get.



- There is not enough AT for people to buy.



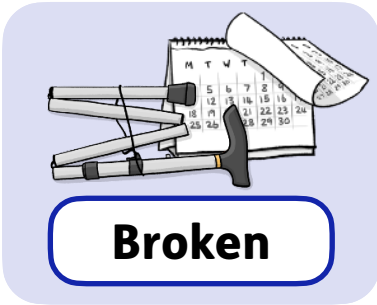
- It is not easy to change AT to make it right for what they need.



- They do not get money to help them travel to get the right AT for them.



People with disabilities were much more likely to think that they did not get a choice over their AT.



People thought that AT broke or wore out too quickly.

People who use AT said that:



- There was enough AT for people.

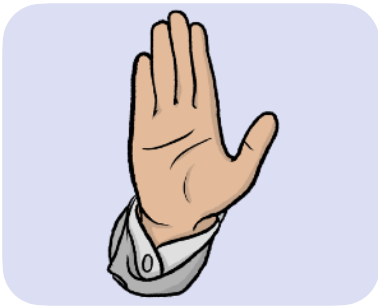


- They could get training on how to use AT.



- They could get information about AT in their own language.

What stops people from getting AT



We asked people what stops people with disabilities from getting the AT they need. Most people said:



- There are no laws that make sure people get the AT they need.



- People are worried others will think differently about them if they use AT.



Some people also said:

- Services that provide AT do not think about what is right for people from different communities.



- They cannot make changes to their AT to meet their needs.

Finding out about AT



We asked about the organisations that let people with disabilities know about AT that can help them.

Most people said that this was done by:



- Organisations of people with disabilities.



- Other organisations that are not part of the government.



- Family and friends.



Organisations of people with disabilities are very important to help people learn about AT.

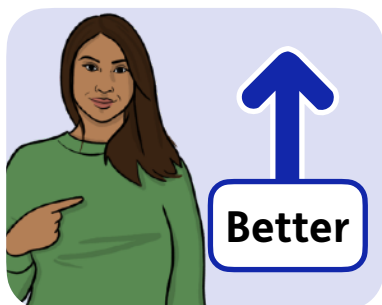


But companies and governments often do not ask organisations of people with disabilities about the AT that people need.



This means that these organisations do not always get the chance to help people get good quality AT.

What should change



We asked people how AT could be better for them.

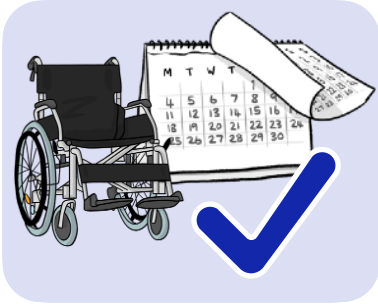


They gave us lots of ideas for what could change.



We have included their ideas over the next 5 pages.

Making AT



AT should be made well, so that it lasts a long time.



It should be made close to where people live, by companies who know what local people need.



Companies should talk to organisations of people with disabilities when they make new AT.



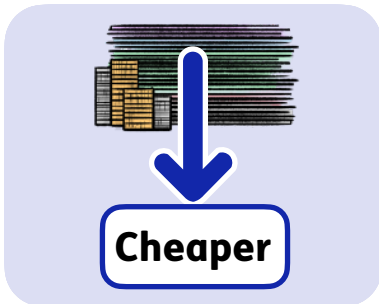
People should get cheap training on how to use AT.



They should also keep getting support while they are using the AT.

The government

Governments should:



- Help to make AT cheaper to make and buy.



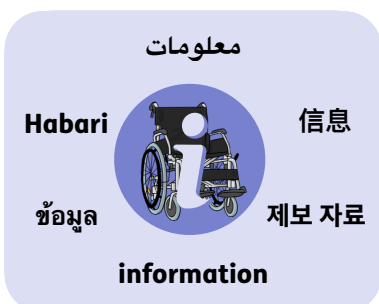
- Write laws that make sure people can get good quality AT.



- Help companies to make AT close to where people live.

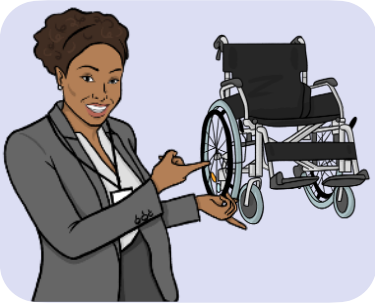


- Learn more about the people with disabilities in their countries.



- Make sure that people with disabilities can get help in a language they can understand.

Governments should also:



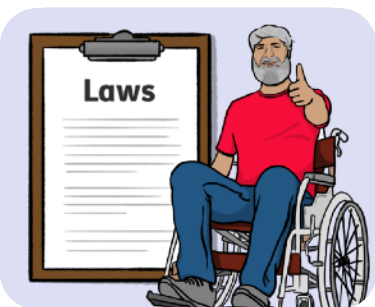
- Teach more people about AT.



- Make it cheaper to bring AT into their country.



- Help **indigenous people** to get AT. **Indigenous people** live in an area their family comes from and has lived in for a very long time.



- Write laws to make sure that AT is good quality.

Letting people know



It is important that more people know about AT.



This is very important in places that are far away from big cities.



Organisations of people with disabilities should also get support so that they can help more people.



International organisations should help people to get AT for less money.

International organisations work around the world.

Working together



Companies and governments should work together to help people.



There should be more jobs where people make AT, or support people to use it.



AT can help people to get ready to live independently.

What we have learned



The people with disabilities who answered our questions gave us good answers and ideas.

They showed:



- They know a lot about AT.



- How AT could help many more people.



- That it is important to listen to people with disabilities when making choices that affect them.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/

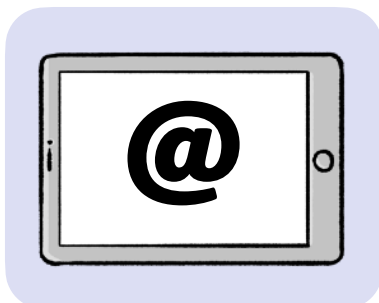
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