



## Knowledge Product: Assistive Technology in Kenya

### Introduction:

Assistive Technology (AT) plays a crucial role in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities by enhancing their independence, mobility, communication, and overall quality of life. In Kenya, AT has the potential to significantly impact the lives of the estimated 6.5 million people living with disabilities. This knowledge product aims to provide an overview of AT in Kenya, including its current status, challenges, and potential for growth.

### Overview of AT in Kenya:

AT in Kenya encompasses a wide range of devices and services designed to support individuals with disabilities. This includes mobility aids such as wheelchairs and walkers, communication devices like speech-generating devices, hearing aids, vision aids, noise reducing headphones, and other specialized tools to assist with daily living activities.

### Current Status of AT in Kenya:

While there have been efforts to promote AT in Kenya, there are still significant challenges that need to be addressed. One major challenge is the lack of awareness, and accessibility of AT devices and services, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, there is a shortage of trained professionals and limited funding for AT programs.

### Legal and Policy Frameworks

According to a survey by IDA both persons with and without disabilities stated that the biggest barrier to accessing AT was the lack of laws that protected the right to access to AT. The second largest barrier indicated by both groups was the stigma associated with using AT.

In Kenya, although there are gaps that still need to be addressed the National Disability Policy, recognizes accessibility as a cross cutting concern which should remain an underlying consideration in the built environment, information and services. To this end, it provides a policy framework that seeks

to create an environment that is conducive for persons with disabilities to realize their full potential and contribute to the development of society.

**The Constitution of Kenya, 2010** guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to access AT. It promotes inclusive policies and practices to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities in all aspects of life, including education, employment, and healthcare.

**Kenya Persons with Disabilities Act, 2003:** provides a legal framework for the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities in Kenya. It includes provisions related to AT, such as the mandate for the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to provide assistive devices to persons with disabilities to enhance their mobility, communication, and other abilities.

The Kenya National ICT Policy, 2016: This policy recognizes the role of ICT, including AT, in promoting social inclusion and economic development. It emphasizes the need to make ICT accessible to all, including persons with disabilities, and encourages the development and use of AT to enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

**REHABILITATIVE SERVICES AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2022-2026:** The strategy recognizes that access to assistive technology is crucial for enabling the independence, social inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in Kenya. It outlines specific interventions to increase the availability, affordability and quality of assistive devices, as well as to strengthen the overall assistive technology ecosystem in the country.

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD):** Kenya ratified the UNCRPD in 2008, committing to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities. The convention recognizes the importance of AT in enabling persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life.

<https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/crpd-jurisprudence-assistive-technologies-through-concluding-observations-analysis-global-south>

[CRPD General Comment No. 7 \(2018\) on participation of persons with disabilities](#)

<https://www.health.go.ke/kenya-launches-rehabilitative-services-and-assistive-technology-strategy-2022-2026>

## **Aggregation and listing of available Assistive technology and services in Kenya**

While the assistive technology landscape in Kenya and East Africa is still developing, there are various organizations, programs, and government efforts underway to improve access and innovation in this space. The UN, World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have been working to improve access to assistive technology across the world, including in Kenya and East Africa.

The Kenyan government also plans to coordinate the establishment of an innovation ecosystem dedicated to the continued creation of novel assistive products, services and policies.

Additionally, initiatives like the Inclusive Africa conference provide a platform for sharing information and technology related to disability, with a focus on the East African context.

**Below are some of the Assistive Technology products and service providers.**

1. **National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD):** Provides assessment, prescription, and distribution of assistive devices to persons with disabilities across Kenya. They also facilitate training on the use and maintenance of these devices.

Location: Opposite ABC Place, Waiyaki way, Nairobi, Kenya

Contact: 0800 724 333, +254 709 107 000

Website: [ncpwd.go.ke](http://ncpwd.go.ke)

2. **Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK):** Offers a wide range of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, and prosthetic limbs. They also provide rehabilitation services and training on the use of these devices.

Location: Waiyaki Way, Opp. ABC Place/Oilibya Petrol Station

(At the Kabete Orthopedic Compound)

Contact: + 254 722 334677 / 734 590497

Website: [apdk.org](http://apdk.org)

3. **Enable Me Kenya:** Provides customized assistive technology solutions for persons with disabilities, including mobility aids, communication devices, and home adaptations. They also offer training and support services.

Location: Ngong Lane, Nairobi, Kenya

Contact: +254 20 386 1556, [brian.ndiritu@enableme.ke](mailto:brian.ndiritu@enableme.ke),

Website: [enableme.co.ke](http://enableme.co.ke)

4. **Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB):** Provides braille materials, white canes, and other assistive devices for persons with visual impairments. They also offer training in braille literacy and orientation and mobility skills.

Location: Barclay House, Mai Mahiu Rd, Nairobi

Contact: 020 6001541

Website: [ksblind.org](http://ksblind.org)

5. **Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) Assistive Technology Center:** Provides assessment, fitting, and training on the use of assistive devices for persons with disabilities. They also conduct research on new technologies and devices.

Location: MTRH Annex, Nandi Road, Eldoret, Kenya

Contact: [053 2033471](tel:0532033471)

Website: <https://www.mtrh.go.ke/>

6. **African Union of the Blind (AFUB):** Advocates for the rights of persons with visual impairments in Africa, including access to assistive devices. They also provide support and information on available devices and technologies.

Location: 1st Floor, Even Business Park, Airport North Road, Nairobi, Kenya.

Contact: +254773772707

Website: [afub-uafa.org](http://afub-uafa.org)

7. **African Network for Evidence-to-Action in Disability (AfrINEAD):** Conducts research and provides evidence-based information on disability issues in Africa, including assistive technology access and effectiveness.

Location: Stellenbosch University, Cape Town 8000, South Africa

Contact: [afrinead@sun.ac.za](mailto:afrinead@sun.ac.za), +27 21 938 9090

Website: [afrinead.org](http://afrinead.org)

8. **Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH):** Provides support and services for persons with intellectual disabilities, including access to assistive devices such as communication aids and specialized learning tools.

Location: Buru Buru Phase 5 (near the point at Mai Mahiu court plot number 439), Nairobi, Kenya

Contact: (+254)207789948

Website: <https://www.kaihid.org/>

9. **Kyaro Assistive Tech Tanzania:** The organization works on designing, manufacturing, and delivering assistive devices to individuals with disabilities in the region.

Location: Arusha, Tanzania

Website: <https://www.kyaroassistive.org/>

10. **The Accessibility Institute (TAI)** offers affordable assistive technology devices to low-income and mobility-impaired people in Kenya and the broader region.

Location: Kenya branch

Website: <https://www.ikeasocialentrepreneurship.org/en/social-enterprises/the-accessibility-institute>

11. **Motivation Kenya**, a non-profit that designs, manufactures and distributes wheelchairs and other mobility aids to people with disabilities across the country. They have served over 14,000 Kenyans since 1997.

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Contact:** +44 (0)117 9 660 398

**Email:** [info@motivation.org.uk](mailto:info@motivation.org.uk)

**Website:** [motivation.org.uk](http://motivation.org.uk)

12. **Jaipur Foot**, an India-based NGO, has established a prosthetic limb center in Nairobi that provides affordable artificial limbs and rehabilitation services to Kenyans with physical disabilities.

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Contact:** 00254745333647

**Website:** [jaipurfoot.org](http://jaipurfoot.org)

13. **MADE51, a UNHCR initiative**, works with local refugee artisan groups in Kenya to design and produce assistive products like crutches, walkers and prosthetic limb covers.

**Location:** Kenya

**Contact:** [info@made51.org](mailto:info@made51.org)

**Website:** [unhcr.org](http://unhcr.org), <https://made51.org/>

## **Other service providers**

### **1. Invent Delight Ltd**

**Website:** [www.inventdelight.com](http://www.inventdelight.com)

**Email:** [info@inventdelight.com](mailto:info@inventdelight.com)

**Phone:** +254 720 614 238

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

### **2. Assistive Tech Solutions**

**Website:** [www.assistivetechsolutions.co.ke](http://www.assistivetechsolutions.co.ke)

**Email:** [info@assistivetechsolutions.co.ke](mailto:info@assistivetechsolutions.co.ke)

**Phone:** +254 722 516 277

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

### 3. Techsight Associates

Website: [www.techsightassociates.com](http://www.techsightassociates.com)

Email: [info@techsightassociates.com](mailto:info@techsightassociates.com)

Phone: +254 722 718 923

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

### 4. Kenyatta University Assistive Technology Center

Email: [atc@ku.ac.ke](mailto:atc@ku.ac.ke)

Phone: +254 20 8710901 ext. 57718

Location: Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya

### 5. Sight Savers International Kenya (Provides assistive technology and services for people with visual impairments)

Website: [www.sightsavers.org/kenya](http://www.sightsavers.org/kenya)

Phone: +254 20 480 3644

Email: [info@sightsavers.or.ke](mailto:info@sightsavers.or.ke)

Location: Nairobi

### 6. Kilimo Trust (Provides assistive technology for farmers and persons with disabilities)

Website: [www.kilimotrust.org](http://www.kilimotrust.org)

Phone: +254 20 780 5681

Email: [info@kilimotrust.org](mailto:info@kilimotrust.org)

Location: Nairobi

### 7. Deaf-Abled Support Services (Promotes inclusion and provides assistive tech for the deaf and hard of hearing)

Website: [www.deafabledss.org](http://www.deafabledss.org)

Email: [info@deafabledss.org](mailto:info@deafabledss.org)

Location: Nairobi

**8. Intrahealth International (Medical equipment and assistive devices for healthcare)**

Website: [www.intrahealth.or.ke](http://www.intrahealth.or.ke)

Phone: +254 20 370 1320

Email: [kenya@intrahealth.org](mailto:kenya@intrahealth.org)

Location: Nairobi

**9. Adaptive Technology Solutions (Provides computer assistive technology and training)**

Phone: +254 726 230 037

Email: [info@adaptivetsolutions.co.ke](mailto:info@adaptivetsolutions.co.ke)

Location: Nairobi

**Available Assistive Technology and Services in Kenya and East Africa.**

<https://ncpwd.go.ke/assistive-device/>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16549716.2024.2302208>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10791081/>

<https://www.eurofins.com/eurofins-foundation/some-supported-projects/improving-health/kyaro-assistive-tech/>

<https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/commitments/government-of-kenya#>

**Available Assistive technology support networks and communities**

1. **African Disability Forum (ADF):** A pan-African disabled people's organization that advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities, including access to appropriate assistive devices and technologies.
  - Contacts: [info@adf-secretariat.org](mailto:info@adf-secretariat.org)
  - Website: <https://africandisabilityforum.net/>
2. The International Disability Alliance (IDA) supports assistive technology in Kenya by advocating for inclusive policies, partnering with local organizations, and engaging stakeholders to address the needs of persons with disabilities.
  - Website: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/>

3. **Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)** - Kenya Chapter -Organizes training, networking events, and knowledge-sharing platforms for assistive technology professionals and users.
  - Contacts: info@ATIA.org
  - Website: <https://www.atia.org/>
4. **Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE)** - Kenyan Branch Facilitates collaborations, research, and policy development around assistive technologies in Kenya.
  - Contacts: +43 732 2468 3750
  - Website: <https://aaate.net/>
5. **Kenya Disability Forum (Facebook Group)** - An online community that provides peer support, information sharing, and advocacy for people with disabilities and those working in the assistive technology space.
  - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/307427679335013/members/>
6. **Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB)** - Offers support and services for persons with visual impairments, including access to assistive devices and technology.
  - Contact: +254 20 266 6506,
  - Website: ksblind.org
7. **Enable Me Kenya**- Provides customized assistive technology solutions for persons with disabilities, including mobility aids and communication devices.
  - Contact: +254 20 386 1556,
  - Website: enableme.co.ke
8. **United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK)** - Advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities in Kenya, including access to assistive devices and technology.
  - Contact: [0722 126197](tel:0722126197)
  - Website: <https://www.udpkenya.or.ke/>
9. **Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK)** - Offers a wide range of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, and prosthetic limbs. They also provide rehabilitation services and training on the use of these devices.
  - Contact: + 254 722 334677 / 734 590497
  - Website: apdk.org
10. **Motivation Kenya**- Designs, manufactures, and distributes wheelchairs and other mobility aids to people with disabilities across Kenya.
  - Contact: +44 (0)117 9 660 398
  - Email: info@motivation.org.uk
  - Website: motivation.org.uk



11. **East Africa Center for Disability Law and Policy (EACDLP)**- Conducts research and advocacy on disability rights and policies in East Africa, including issues related to access to assistive technology.

- Website: <https://cdlpug.wordpress.com/>

12. **Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH)**- Provides support and services for persons with intellectual disabilities, including access to assistive devices such as communication aids and specialized learning tools.

- Contact: (+254)207789948
- Website: <https://www.kaihid.org/>

## **Kenya priority list for assistive technology products and services:**

The Kenyan government, through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), has developed a prioritized list of assistive devices and technologies that are deemed essential for persons with disabilities in the

The priority list includes mobility aids like wheelchairs, crutches, and prosthetic limbs; vision aids such as white canes, magnifiers, and screen readers; hearing devices like hearing aids and cochlear implants; and communication tools like speech-generating devices.

This priority list serves as a guide for government procurement, service provision, and resource allocation to ensure that the most critical assistive products and services are made accessible and affordable for Kenyans with disabilities.

The list is regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with disabled people's organizations, healthcare providers, and assistive technology experts to reflect the evolving needs and technological advancements in the field.

The existence of this prioritized list helps to streamline the assistive technology ecosystem in Kenya, enabling more coordinated and targeted efforts to address the most pressing needs of the disability community.

However, challenges remain in terms of adequate funding, infrastructure, and capacity to fully implement and deliver on the priorities outlined in the list across the country, especially in remote and underserved areas.

So in summary, Kenya has established a priority list for assistive technologies, which serves as an important framework to guide the development, procurement, and distribution of essential devices and services for persons with disabilities in the country.

## **RATA Documents**

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375890/9789240081192-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

### Challenges Facing AT in Kenya:

1. **Awareness and Accessibility:** Many individuals with disabilities in Kenya are unaware of the availability and benefits of AT devices and services. Accessibility to AT is also limited, especially in rural and remote areas.
2. **Affordability:** AT devices can be costly, making them inaccessible to many people with disabilities who cannot afford them. There is a need for more affordable AT options and financial assistance programs.
3. **Lack of Training:** There is a shortage of trained professionals in Kenya who can assess, prescribe, and train individuals on the use of AT devices. Training programs for professionals and users are essential to maximize the benefits of AT.
4. **Policy and Legislation:** While Kenya has made progress in developing policies and legislation to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, there is a need for specific policies that address AT and ensure its availability and accessibility to all who need it.

**Potential for Growth:** Despite the challenges, there is great potential for the growth of AT in Kenya. With increased awareness, funding, and collaboration between government, NGOs, and private sector organizations, AT can become more accessible and affordable to individuals with disabilities across the country. Training programs for professionals and users can also help improve the uptake and utilization of AT devices and services.

**Conclusion:** Assistive Technology has the power to transform the lives of individuals with disabilities in Kenya. By addressing the current challenges and working towards increased awareness, accessibility, and affordability, Kenya can unlock the full potential of AT and improve the quality of life for millions of people with disabilities.

<https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/reflection-barriers-accessing-assistive-technology-low-and-middle-income-countries>

<https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/empowering-organizations-persons-disabilities-rwanda-through-capacity-building-assistive>

<https://www.disabilityinnovation.com/projects/start-up-innovation/innovate-now-how-is-gdi-hub-accelerating-disability-innovation-in-kenya>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38224051/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6890536/>

<https://www.enableme.ke/en/topics/assistive-technology-630>

<https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/navigating-ecosystem-users-findings-ida%E2%80%99s-assistive-technology-survey>

<https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/publications>

[Un disability-inclusive consultation guidelines.pdf](#)

[https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/bridge\\_quality\\_criteria\\_principles\\_development\\_oct2018.pdf](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/bridge_quality_criteria_principles_development_oct2018.pdf)

<https://chaiportal.org/program/details?summary>

<https://www.kictanet.or.ke/icts-assistive-technologies-for-invisible-disabilities/https://cbm-global.org/news/global-report-on-assistive-technology-launched>

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375890/9789240081192-eng.pdf?sequence=1>