CALL FOR PROPOSALS
IDA Initiatives to advance Assistive Technologies

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Today, 2.5 billion people need to use at least one assistive technology (AT) type, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, prostheses, eyeglasses, or digital services. However, in low-income countries, over 90% do not have access to it.

AT can make a significant difference in a user’s ability to participate fully in social, economic, political, cultural, and family life. From supporting persons with disabilities to find meaningful employment, to ensuring children with disabilities have access to quality and inclusive education, to safeguarding the right of persons with disabilities to adequate healthcare, AT is crucial for a just, inclusive, and productive future for all. On the other hand, lack of access to AT can result in exclusion from education, work, family, and community life; poor health outcomes, and increased risk of poverty.

Since the 2018 Global Disability Summit (GDS) and the subsequent creation of ATscale, work on AT and how to increase access to it has been gaining momentum. ATscale was established to realize the goal of providing 500 million more people with the AT they need by 2030. Since then, there have been important steps forward, such as the 2018 World Health Assembly resolution on improving access to assistive technology; WHO and UNICEF’s recent “Global Report on Assistive Technology;” and the inclusion of accessible, gender and age-sensitive AT as the second most pressing priority at the recent Call for Actions’ Global Disability Youth Summit (GDS Youth).

As this progress around AT continues and translates into action, the requirements, concerns, and priorities of AT users must always remain at the centre. As such, IDA and ATscale propose a set of work with the overall objective of facilitating inputs from persons with disabilities and their representative organizations about the use of and access to AT globally and in specific country contexts. This will include inclusive, consultative, and participatory processes for examining existing barriers, learning from success stories, mining lessons learned, increasing knowledge about people’s experiences with AT, and offering recommendations for improving global access to life-changing and rights-enabling technologies.

Over the years, IDA has developed a “Microgrants” Program to support initiatives of our member organizations and networks to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the Global South, particularly of women with disabilities and other underrepresented groups, including indigenous

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1 The International Disability Alliance understands the term “underrepresented groups” to identify those among persons with disabilities who enjoy less visibility in decision-making processes. The disability movement is not homogenous, much like other social movements. Some groups have traditionally been less included in participatory processes, are harder to reach, or face higher barriers to participation, such as persons who are deafblind, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, autistic people, deaf people, and hard of hearing people. It can also include those who may be less
peoples with disabilities and youth with disabilities. It articulates an intervention by, for and with persons with disabilities, building solidarities from national to regional and global levels.

ATScale and IDA are proposing this microgrant for organizations of persons with disabilities and other AT users to conduct local and national initiatives advancing assistive technologies in focused countries.

1 GRANTS OBJECTIVES

The IDA-ATScale grants aim at supporting initiatives to advance assistive technologies for persons with disabilities and other users in focus countries, such as Kenya, Cambodia, Senegal, Georgia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Rwanda, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and Honduras. The activities financed by those micro-grants can cover the following areas or actions:

- Advocacy to enhance access to and use of assistive technology,
- Media campaigns, including social media, to raise awareness on AT of persons with disabilities and other identified AT users,
- Production of reports, case studies and other sources of evidence on assistive technologies for persons with disabilities and other identified AT users, covering the underrepresented groups. Such reports should include innovative tools and good practices for policymakers, development actors and others on the practical implementation and realization of assistive technologies initiatives,
- Capacity building around the legal frameworks, policies, financing, and other issues related to access Assistive Technologies, including initiatives towards positive contributions to national policy-shaping, decision-making, and implementation,
- Initiatives considering the impact of Assistive Technologies,
- Initiatives promoting access to Assistive Technologies in a specific sector, such as education, employment, health, independent living, among others.

This list is not exhaustive, and ATscale and IDA will consider any proposal covering cross-disability initiatives and partnerships at national level and other advocacy strategies towards AT initiatives.

2 APPLICATION PROCESS

engaged in decision-making, such as women, children, older people, indigenous peoples, and people from diverse faith, ethnicity, caste, class, sexual orientation or gender identity minorities. This understanding may differ in different countries, cultures, and contexts; and remains an evolving concept.
2.1 General Information

Eligible Organizations: Organizations of persons with disabilities or other AT users registered in Kenya, Cambodia, Senegal, Georgia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Rwanda, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and Honduras

Grants budget and Duration: 7,500 USD (per grant) for a period of 5 months.

Maximum Number of grants: Four (04)

2.2 Mandatory Organizational Requirements

Application organizations must meet the following requirements and qualifications:

- Being a legal entity or organization of persons with disabilities.
- Being registered in Kenya, Cambodia, Senegal, Georgia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Rwanda, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and Honduras (registration documents will be required).
- Currently operating in the country which they are applying.
- Having a bank account in the name of the organization and the financial capacity to pre-finance 20% of the activities.
- Showing project management skills, as evidenced by the successful delivery of projects and grants of similar size.
- Being able to provide evidence of experience in the field of the call for proposals and a vision that corresponds to the objectives of the call.
- Ability to work proficiently in English for project management and reporting purposes (with delivery to be conducted in local languages).

2.3 Evaluation Criteria

All completed applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria. Proposals must:

- Have clear and concrete objectives, communicated simply
- Contribute to the objectives of the IDA- ATscale Project
- Be feasible and achievable, considering the budget and timeframe
- Applications will be evaluated and scored by a granting committee and operational staff in line with the selection criteria below and weighing.
2.3.1 Organizational and operational capacity (25%), applicants should:

- Have a strong mission statement
- Demonstrate adequate staff and presence in the target areas to deliver the interventions
- Hold relevant technical knowledge and expertise
- Demonstrate how they include women, underrepresented/marginalized groups and youth members in decision making
- Have established connections with the target beneficiaries
- In assessing applications, we will consider the ‘added value’ offer of the applicant, especially where it develops networks and capacities or valuable collaborations, in particular with other OPDs.

2.3.2 Relevant experience (25%)

- Applicants should have managed initiatives of similar size in the field of advocacy, awareness campaigns, production of reports, data collections or training delivery.

2.3.3 Quality of intervention, partnerships, innovation, inclusion of underrepresented groups and feasibility (40%)

- The proposal should be clear and in line with one of the IDA-ATscale Project objectives. Applicants must demonstrate understanding of the context and problem to be addressed.
- Proposals which contravene fundamental ethical principles, rights-based approaches, gender inclusion and respect for diversity shall not be selected.
- To receive grant funding, proposals do not necessarily need to achieve massive scale. In fact, over-promising could hurt your application. Some projects might seek to reach a wide audience. Others might seek to achieve a greater depth of impact with a smaller number of people. The scale and quality of impacts will influence project marking. Projects should seek to achieve the widest and/or most meaningful impact possible within the realistic boundaries of the project. They should also seek to measure that impact in a relevant and credible manner.
- The applicant should have a well-developed, realistic plan to execute on the proposal, including a simple but comprehensive action plan that includes activities, deliverables, and measurement indicators. Target groups and indicators should be realistic and measurable. Moreover, the team
should have the right expertise and skills to execute on the proposal or have identified the right partners and domain experts needed for implementation.

- Involvement of key stakeholders during the implementation of the project, resulting in expanding networks; sharing knowledge, experiences and learning, and leveraging up the activities thanks to partnerships will be considered as an asset.
- Innovation and different approaches will be considered as an asset.
- Applicants must show how underrepresented groups will be included in the initiative’s activities.

2.3.4 Budget, Financial management, reporting (10%)

- Applicants must demonstrate their implemented systems to document and monitor the work that will be delivered. The key areas include keeping track of the number of events and participants, number of beneficiaries, outcomes of events and any other relevant details. IDA-ATrscale expects to receive one narrative report covering the implementation period, outlining outcomes and deliverables achieved.
- Applicants must demonstrate they implemented accounting and financial control systems ensuring sound financial management of the project and accurate reporting to IDA. A financial report is required to be submitted at the end of the project with the relevant supporting documents (invoices, contracts, procurement files etc.). Administration and finance requirements are detailed in Annex A.

2.4 How to apply?

Completed applications must be submitted by email to grant@ida-secretariat.org under the title “IDA - ATscale Initiatives 2023” before 5pm CET on Friday 10th November 2023. Applications must be completed in English. A completed application must include:

- One-page cover letter signed and stamped.
- Grant Application Form
- Copy of Registration Certificate
- Copy of Bank account details
Annex A: Due Diligence and financial reporting requirements

Registration and Statutes

- Registration certificate / permission of license to operate as an OPD/NGO. Income tax number/PAN card copy of the grant receiver, any unique identification number of the OPD provided by the government.
- Bank account details including details for wire transfers.
- Office address, contact details, email.
- List of Board Members, their contact details, and dates of their last 3 meetings.

Internal Financial Control Mechanisms

- The most recent annual financial statements signed by the Treasurer/President.
- Name, designation, address, contact details of focus person for the project from the organization.

Disbursement

- The disbursement of funds will be done in 3 tranches – one at the beginning of the project phase (40%), one after a third of the project phase (4 months for a 12-month project for example) (30%) and the last one after the second third of the project phase (8 months for a 12-month project for example) (30%).

Financial Reports/documents required

- Financial statement should be built on the budget approved with the contract and showing the expenses for the period reported.
- Variances above +/- 10% should be explained. Major variances should have been discussed on the job with the authorized person identified by IDA.
- Documentation trail of all expenses should be preserved carefully and submitted at the end of the project period (all original supporting bills, invoices, etc. for validating each expenditure).
- Financial statements should be signed by the Partner financial controller/accountant and by the Executive Director / Program Director.
- Copy of workshop/training/event attendance lists.