

## Inclusion Forum:

### Measuring population access to assistive technology

10:15 – 11:55, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, WHO & GAATO

#### Background

Measuring the use of, the need and unmet need for, and the barriers to access assistive technology in the population is important to inform evidence-based policy and programme development, and guide research and innovation for improving access to assistive technology.

The Global Report on Assistive Technology published in 2022 presented a comprehensive dataset on population access to assistive technology using the WHO rapid Assistive Technology Assessment (rATA) survey. The survey data collection took place between April 2019 and December 2021, in collaboration with governments, research institutes and NGOs. Globally, about 330,000 people were interviewed in 35 countries. The survey questionnaire was translated into 28 different languages and nearly 1,700 individuals were trained locally to conduct the survey.

WHO will continue the effort on measuring population access to support its Member States in progressing the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA71.8) on improving access to assistive technology ([https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA71/A71\\_R8-en.pdf?ua=1](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71_R8-en.pdf?ua=1)) and report on progress in 2026 and 2030.

#### Objectives

The objectives of the session are to engage global assistive technology stakeholders to reflect on the methodology, process and outcome of measuring population access in different contexts using rATA, and to set up an action plan for data collection for the WHA Progress Report on improving access to assistive technology in 2026.

#### Programme

The programme starts with a presentation of the background and overview of population access data collection process and the outcome. Three moderated discussions will proceed to engage participants to address: 1) what improvement is needed to make rATA more effective in measuring population access; 2) what data collection processes would be efficient and sustainable; and 3) how can the global assistive technology sector access and use the data and its findings.

Time	Programme	Presenter/moderator
10 min	Overview of the rATA survey 2019-2021 and objectives of the session	Wei Zhang
<b>Moderated discussion</b>		
80 min	Discussion 1: improving rATA questions & analysis (ca. 30 min)	Johan Borg
	Discussion 2: improving data collection process (ca. 30 min)	Wei Zhang
	Discussion 3: improving data sharing (ca. 20 min)	Irene Calvo
10 min	Next step for setting up a network of experts for developing rATA ahead of the WHA Progress Report 2026	Wei Zhang

## Participants

The session is open to all ICCHP-AAATE 2022 conference participants.

## Expected outcome

Informed decision for WHO and partners to develop an action plan and platform for a working group on continued data collection on population access to assistive technology, including:

- further development, improvement of the WHO rATA questionnaire;
- improvement on data collection and analysis process for WHA Progress Report; and
- a global platform / forum on sharing of data, knowledge and experience.

## Supporting materials for the discussion

- The WHO rapid Assistive Technology Assessment questionnaire (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-MHP-HPS-ATM-2021.1>);
- Protocol for global rATA data collection and analysis as for the Global Report on Assistive Technology (<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/24/13336>);
- WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology - Section 2: Measuring access to assistive technology (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240049451>);
- WHO Global Health Observatory – assistive technology data portal (<https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/assistivetech>).

## Guiding questions for the discussion

Discussion 1: What improvements are needed to make rATA more effective in providing relevant population-level information on need for and access to assistive technology?

Questions:

1. What are your suggestions on modifying, adding or removing questions in the current rATA questionnaire to reliably and effectively measure self-reported use of, and need and unmet need for assistive technology?
2. What are your suggestions on analysing rATA data for prevalence of use, need and unmet need, and access?

Discussion 2: What rATA data collection processes would be efficient and sustainable?

Questions:

1. Considering acceptable data quality, required training and other aspects of data collection, what are your suggestions on cost-effective data collection modalities (e.g. in-person household survey, telephone survey, self-administered online surveys, etc) using the rATA questionnaire?
2. What are the opportunities to embed rATA questions in other data collection processes?
3. Which rATA questions should be prioritized when not all can be included in a survey?

Discussion 3: How can rATA data and findings be made useful to the global assistive technology sector?

Questions:

1. What tools should WHO develop or improve to support stakeholders in collecting, sharing and analysing comparable rATA data worldwide?
2. What tools should WHO develop to support stakeholders in sharing, compiling and presenting rATA findings at national and global levels?
3. What strategies should WHO use to increase awareness/knowledge of data collection tools and data platforms?