The Assistive Products for Children with Disabilities (APCD) Forum

Copenhagen, 6-7 July 2015
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Forum Objectives

• Share UNICEF’s programme and supply work on disability and learn about partner organisations work in the area (including UN partners and leading disability NGOs).

• Learn about AT products being used in low resource settings by impairment group, with a focus on the key products identified by Programme Division (PD)’s recently concluded survey.

• Learn about existing availability, procurement, distribution, R&D efforts in the area of AT in low resource settings as well as where innovation is needed.

• Discuss challenges, opportunities, and key product gaps related to AT products and programming in low-resource settings and identify opportunities for collaboration.

What follows is a summary of the discussions during the two-day forum and does not necessarily reflect UNICEF’s opinion or position on the themes discussed.
The Assistive Products for Children with Disabilities (APCD) Forum was held in the Innovation Centre of UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen on 6-7 July 2015. The Forum gathered over 80 experts from government, NGOs, academia, equipment manufacturers, and, of course, UNICEF and its UN partners.
The session was opened by Supply Division Director Shanelle Hall together with Rosangela Berman Bieler (Programme Division) and Doreen Mulenga (Supply Division) and then the participants were welcomed by Abia Akram of the Youth Council of the Global Partnership of Children with Disabilities.

Dan Newman of the Value Web, who facilitated the two-day Forum introduced the agenda and invited participants to introduce themselves. Then an overview of the current scenario of assistive products was provided by Dr Johan Borg of the University of Lund.

At this point, participants chose among three parallel sessions addressing contextual issues. Chapal Khasnabis introduced WHO’s GATE Initiative while Gopal Mitra (UNICEF PD) presented results from a survey of assistive products and Shauna Mullaly (UNICEF SD) outlined the challenges associated with procurement and supply of these products in emergency and low-resource settings.

**What is assistive technology?**

 Assistive technology is used as an umbrella term for both assistive products and related services. Assistive products are also known as assistive devices.

Our Journey

At this point, participant teams were established that would serve as sounding-boards and information-exchange platforms – so-called patches – throughout the two days.

After lunch, participants moved into four moderated discussions on vision, hearing, mobility, and cognitive impairments. The participants in these parallel discussions were then mixed to form four new groups, this time looking at themes that concern all four impairment areas: availability and cost, production, distribution, and scale-up, facilities and maintenance, and services.

These themes were developed further in a plenary discussion.
The afternoon ended with five parallel sessions on ecosystem, economics and regulation, and a plenary discussion. The five sessions were led by Mark Zlot and Terje Sund on the service ecosystem, by Johan Borg on classification and regulation, by Josephine Bundoc on cost recovery and payment systems in different settings, by Xavier Lemire on availability repair and maintenance, and by Michael Allen on distribution.

Among the issues raised in the plenary discussion were the following:

- **People with disabilities have expertise and we should include them in design and maintenance of Assistive Devices (ADs)**
- **Designers must encourage local and regional manufacturing of ADs – plus after sales support**
- **When the list of essential products is finalised, work out what can be produced locally and what needs to be imported**
- **Focus on the most marginalised children**
- **Beware unintended consequences. When things are free, the local market for these goods might be undermined**
- **We need to identify ways to mitigate risks of misuse of tax payers money and corruption through procurement**
- **We need to empower the parents as caregivers by providing them more information**
- **Most of the information available now in the public domain is in English and it is hard for non-English speakers to access the information**
Our Journey

At the end of the day, the patches met again to discover what other patch members had learned and began to develop a patch ‘identity’.
Gopal Mitra (UNICEF PD) opened the second day of the Forum with a recap of the previous day’s work. This was followed by parallel sessions on specific country case-studies: Tedla Gebrehiwet (UNICEF Eritrea) spoke about distribution in low-resource countries such as Eritrea while Zafar Mirza (WHO) discussed small-scale and local production of assistive products. Rosangela Berman Bieler presented Sheila Salgado’s work on local manufacturing. Sheila, a physiotherapist specialized in Assistive Technologies, was unable to attend the workshop.
Our Journey

The rest of the morning was devoted to innovation. Four parallel sessions were led by Kristoffer Gandrup-Marino (UNICEF SD), Anil Gupta (India National Innovation Foundation), David Constantine (Motivation UK) and Howard Weinstein (Solar Ear). These four speakers then anchored an extended plenary discussion – a so-called fishbowl – in which participants were invited to the innermost circle of several rows of chairs to participate in a conversation about innovation in this field.
Two rounds of parallel sessions were held after lunch; the first on ICT for the visually impaired, led by Dipendra Manocha (Daisy Consortium); by Anthony Bloome (USAID) on a challenge initiative; and by Rosangela Berman Bieler on the Learning Together initiative. The second round concerned design and the physical environment, with a session on universal design concepts by Betty Dion (GAATES); a session on buildings with Claudia Melani (UNICEF SD); and a session on a highly-accessible building by Jesper Boesen (No Barriers) who had introduced the theme in plenary before lunch.

After a final Patch discussion, the whole group met for an extended plenary discussion about the short- to mid-term future of this work and this budding community.

After a brief closing from Abia Akram and Gopal Mitra, Shanelle Hall invited the participants to visit an Expo of cutting-edge assistive products that had been assembled in the next room.
Seven Key Themes

Over the course of two days of intense debate among 81 participants from across the world around how AT needs of children with disabilities could be better addressed, seven key themes emerged. While there was convergence on many issues, some areas of disagreement remain, requiring further consultation and clarity.
Rights-based Approach

At the very outset of the gathering, Shanelle Hall, Director of UNICEF Supply Division, emphasised that the agenda for helping children with disabilities rests on the twin pillars of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989) and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CRPD, 2006). The second convention in particular has placed children with disabilities (CWD) “front and centre” in a way not done before.

Consequently, access to AT must be seen as a right not an option, and UNICEF has a leading role to play in raising awareness around the rights of CWD. This includes advocacy with governments to encourage them to ratify the relevant conventions and live up to their requirements. Equally, by working with families with a member who has a disability to increase their awareness of rights, UNICEF can drive the demand for assistive products which the market needs. A rights-based approach is also useful in avoiding charity-based interventions which lead to often inappropriate donations during disasters.

“Accessibility is not the goal. The goal is to create equal opportunities – accessibility is a tool to achieve that goal”

– Jesper Boesen, No Barriers
Rights-based Approach

The CRPD also enshrines the principles of “Universal Design” seen as critical for ensuring the accessibility of buildings for people with disabilities. As one participant noted: “Disabled is not something that you are. You only get a disability when there is a barrier in the environment that prevents you from doing what you want to do”.

Key takeaways

• UNICEF to encourage governments to ratify the CRC and CRPD and to address the issues seriously, following the examples of Norway or the Philippines

• Participants to drive market demand by working with families to raise awareness of their rights and the assistive technology available

• Support the development of costed policy implementation plans and advocate for national budgetary allocation
Partnerships & Ecosystems

Collaboration between partners is vital for a number of reasons. Partners who cooperate can bring their comparative advantages to the table while avoiding duplication of effort. It is clear that no single organisation can sufficiently address the issue of AT for children with disabilities worldwide. To scale up action in this area, UNICEF will need to work with multiple stakeholders, including governments, international organisations, donors and local service providers to mainstream AT through policies and programmes. Shanelle Hall encouraged participants to engage with UNICEF country teams, which are the key drivers of demand up the chain to Supply Division.

AT is not simply a matter of designing better products and sending them to the field in a neat brown box. An ecosystem around AT needs to be developed – not just for production and distribution, but also for the range of support services including training, fitting, adapting, repair and maintenance. Assistive devices will fail without a supportive ecosystem.

• Key takeaways
  • It’s vital for NGOs and DPOs to engage with UNICEF’s country teams to drive demand back up the chain to Supply Division
  • UNICEF and partners to work in partnership with government and local organisations to build in-country capacity for production, distribution, training, repair & maintenance of AT
Participation and Involvement of Persons with Disabilities

It is critical that children with disabilities (CWD) are included at the heart of any process to introduce assistive technology (AT), from the design phase right through to training, delivery, maintenance and impact assessment. This was perhaps the most repeated theme over the two-day journey. For example, all the successful software for blind people globally has been developed by blind people themselves. “I’m pained to see the amount of money being wasted on so-called innovation that is not connected to the end-users”, observed one participant.

While UNICEF Supply Division may be used to dispatching “schools-in-a-box” and health kits around the globe, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for assistive devices. Consequently, end-users of such devices – as well as their families and care-givers – must contribute their expertise and knowledge throughout the design, procurement and delivery process. Currently, observed one participant, “that expertise is not being used as well as it could be”.

“It’s easier to teach programming to a blind person than to tell a programmer what a blind person needs”

– Dipendra Manocha, DAISY Consortium
Participation and Involvement of Persons with Disabilities

In line with the “leave no one behind” mantra of the UN’s new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015), UNICEF’s current strategic plan focuses specifically on reaching the last 20 per cent of the most excluded, poorest of the poor – many of whom will be children with disabilities. UNICEF is also getting its own house in order with a range of inclusive employment and accessible building policies on the table.

Key takeaways

• UNICEF and partners to integrate the expertise and knowledge of end-users of AT into the design, procurement and delivery process

• UNICEF and partners to negotiate inclusion of AT as a target within the Sustainable Development Goal for education

• UNICEF to ensure its own employment policies are inclusive and every one of its buildings is accessible by 2020
The debate around assistive technology is surprisingly “fact-free”. No accurate global data exist on how many children are affected by disability generally, let alone as a result of emergencies. Nor are there data on the proportion of children who require an assistive device. According to Rosangela Berman Bieler from UNICEF’s Programme Division, the organisation will roll out a tool for data collection in many countries by the end of this year. Strengthened data through the implementation of the module could provide a better basis for planning and provisioning of AT.

Partial data do exist however. Within UNICEF, 3.4 per cent of staff self-identified as having a disability. Estimates suggest that up to one in three out-of-school children has a disability. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that between 5 and 15 per cent of needs for assistive devices (ADs) have been met in developing countries. That means approximately 9 out of 10 people needing an AD in the developing world have not received one. Meanwhile, in Pakistan, between 10 and 15 per cent of the total population is living with disabilities, according to Abia Akram of the Youth Council of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities.
Better Data – better Awareness

FAST FACTS

Estimated global needs
Prosthetic or orthotic device – 5 out of 1000 people
Wheelchair – 10 out of 1000
Hearing aid – 30 out of 1000

Children's needs
7-9% of school kids in Chile and China would benefit from spectacles
0.2% of kids aged 0-17 years in Sweden use wheelchairs
1 in 3 out-of-school children have a disability
1 in 10 children have a disability

Needs met?
Less than 20% of needs for AD’s in Malawi and Namibia met
WHO estimates that only 5-15% of AD needs in low resource settings are met
Only 1-15% of CWD in Pakistan have access to assistive technologies

Return on investment?
In Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia & Philippines, returns on investment in the education of CWD are up to 3 times higher than for children without disabilities

Sources: Johan Borg, WHO, Abia Akram, UNICEF

Gathering accurate data is a vital first step which the AT community can take in building awareness around disability in general and, more specifically, the need for ADs within a more accessible environment. Barriers to understanding the needs of CWD are often in the mind – better awareness will break down those barriers.
Better Data – Better Awareness

Building an evidence-based case for the cost-effectiveness of investment in CWDs is another critical challenge for UNICEF.

Participants heard that WHO is working with the UK’s Department for International Development on creating an impact assessment methodology – ready within two years – which will assess how the top 50 ADs can be included in national policy and what kinds of training and service provision are needed to make this happen.

Key takeaways

• UNICEF to roll out tool for standardised needs assessment & data collection on children with disabilities by end of 2015

• Participants to build evidence-based cases for the cost-effectiveness of investment in children with disabilities

• WHO to create impact assessment methodology for the top 50 assistive devices by 2017
Innovation, Design and Standardisation

Innovation is a key role at UNICEF Supply Division. Making ICT infrastructure more accessible is another vital priority.

It’s not just about innovation in products – innovation in training is just as important, to ensure appropriate delivery of those products. While training packages exist for development contexts, there is a need to create new training methodologies using digital technology to deliver rapid training in emergency settings. “If you provide an appropriate device with an inappropriate service you might cause death”, observed one participant. Tools without the skills to use them are useless.

In terms of standards, there is a tension between global standards and local requirements which remains unresolved. While many participants felt that UNICEF should be seen to embrace the “gold standard” in terms of product quality, another participant observed that “standardisation to western standards may not always be the best way to go forward”.

Innovation, Design and Standardisation

The cost implications of designing to western standards may mean not only fewer ADs make it into the field for a given budget, but repair and maintenance of high-specification ADs may be challenging in a developing world context. Conversely, the risk of designing to lower standards is that the end-users may suffer unnecessarily. The “race to the bottom” in terms of the quality of ADs seen in many developing countries is a trend which UNICEF needs to reverse.

“The innovation of training is as important as the innovation of products. If the quality isn’t there, who suffers? The end-user”
– David Constantine, Motivation UK

Key takeaways

• UNICEF and partners to put end-users at the heart of the design and innovation process – both for products and service delivery
• UNICEF and partners to identify gaps in assistive device provision and facilitate innovation to fill those gaps
• UNICEF should use universal design as a criteria for procurement
• Participants to create digital training modules for use in emergencies
• Participants to insist on highest standards in design of assistive devices
• UNICEF and partners to design to international standards and open-source specifications with mainstream components to facilitate local repairs
• UNICEF and WHO to engage more closely with civil society in generating innovative solutions – social innovation is as important as product innovation
Scaling up Delivery

The problem of supply bottlenecks was raised. This will only get worse as governments in developing countries start placing larger-scale orders for assistive devices (ADs). While some participants favoured centralised procurement and production of ADs because of economies of scale and quality control, other participants argued that scaling up delivery of ADs in sufficient quantities globally will require local production hubs. However, ensuring that local production meets required levels of quality remains an area of concern and may require support from UNICEF.

Though local and domestic production of AT would be ideal, we know that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. While certain products lend themselves to domestic production, other devices and products can be produced more cost effectively at a regional or global level.

“The model of centralised production and decentralised consumption is passé. We need decentralised manufacturing and distribution. We need scale of platform, not scale of product”

- Professor Anil Gupta, National Innovation Foundation, India
Scaling up Delivery

Manufacturing the products is less than half the task. Getting them the final mile to the most vulnerable is even more of a challenge. Add in the need for support services, such as training and maintenance, and it’s clear that the only way to scale up delivery is through local partners. Participants argued that it is vital to develop in-country human resources around repair and maintenance, not just production.

It would be helpful to map what is available at national and community levels in terms of production and service delivery and work with these local resources to improve their capacity.

Key takeaways

- Map capacities for local production and service delivery and build capacity of partners for high quality performance
- Participants to work with existing community healthcare and rehabilitation structures to improve service delivery of AT
Financing Assistive Technology

When it comes to financing assistive devices (ADs), the entire lifecycle of the product needs to be costed out, including the product itself and its delivery, the cost of support services such as training, fitting and adaptation of devices, as well as costs for repair and maintenance. Very few transparent data are currently available on the full financing required for delivering ADs in emergencies and developing countries.

Participants proposed some innovative ways of financing ADs – for example, differential pricing would see wealthier users subsidising the cost for poorer users. National governments may need to contribute and even insurance companies have a role to play. Customs duties levied on the import of ADs remain a major concern. According to World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, assistive products should only be subject to an 8 per cent customs duty. If individual countries try to levy higher taxes, the WHO can take the issue to the WTO for review.
Financing Assistive Technology

UNICEF and other disability-focused organisations need to engage in more active advocacy to convince politicians that financing assistive technology is not a cost but “an investment in people, for people, for society” as one participant put it. UNICEF has a lead role to play in documenting case studies to illustrate that the benefits of AT far outweigh the costs.

Much can be done with more resources. As one participant observed: “Something that is very tangible that would change this industry is money”.

“This is a defining moment for us – we want to seize this opportunity to incorporate universal design in our products and facilities, and to make our products more available, affordable and appropriate”

Doreen Mulenga, Supply Division, UNICEF

Key takeaways

• UNICEF to cost out entire lifecycle of assistive devices from production and delivery to training, repair & maintenance
• Participants to explore innovative ways to finance AT through differential pricing or insurance policies
• Participants to change politicians’ mindsets and lobby governments to finance AT and ensure assistive devices are on official lists for medical supplies
• WHO to ensure countries do not levy excessive customs duty on assistive devices
• UNICEF to make the case with governments for the benefits of investing in AT
Annex 1: Participants

Abia Akram
Michael Allen
Neringa Aponienė
Ana Lucia Arrellano B.
Jose Miguel Arteaga Arellano
Deborah Backus
Bishnu Bhakta Mishra
Kasper Bergmann
Rosangela Berman Bieler
Raoul Bermejo
Anthony Bloume
Jesper Boesen
Johan Borg
Cynthia Brizuela
Josephine Bundoc
Rafael Bundoc
Brooke Chimto
David Constantine
Melanie Coronel Santillan
Secundino Correia
Sharmini Constantinescu
Giulia David
Betty Dion
James Dykstra
Katinka Forbord
Kristoffer Gandrup-Marino
Tedla Gebreselassie
Katalin Godony
Anil Gupta
Berit Hamer
Soeren Hougaard
Tamara Kaldor
Pablo Kaplan
Marcin Karkut
Chapal Khasnabis
Abdulkhahim Kolov
Xavier Lemire
Shona MacDonald
Emmanuel Majole
Maryam Mallick

Youth Council UNICEF & Disabled People' International
UCP Wheels for Humanity
Lithuania Ministry of Social Security and Labour
RIADIS (Latin American Network of Org. of Persons with Dis. and their Fam.)
RIADIS (Latin American Network of Org. of Persons with Dis. and their Fam.)
World Vision
Bhutan Country Office
Danish Deaf Association
UNICEF PD
UNICEF Philippines
USAID
No Barriers
University of Lund
UNICEF Paraguay
Physicians for Peace, Philippines
Department of Orthopedics, General Hospital, University of the Philippines
Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe
Motivation
Philhealth
Imagina
Diversability Development Organisation
UNICEF Tunisia
GAATES
Solar Ear
UNICEF SD
UNICEF SD
UNICEF Eritrea
UNICEF SD
National Innovation Foundation of India
OttoBock
EHIMA
PLAY is work
Wheelchairs of Hope
Motivation
WHO
Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan
Handicap International
UHAMBO Foundation / Shonaquip
LOREWO
WHO
Dipendra Manocha  Saksham Trust
Claudia Melani  UNICEF SD
Kylie Mines  Motivation Australia
Rehan Mirza  UNICEF SD
Zafar Mirza  WHO
Gopal Mitra  UNICEF PD
Jeffrey Montes  Physicians for Peace, Philippines
Jan A. Monsbakken  Rehabilitation International
Robert Morse  Warwick University
Shauna Mullally  UNICEF SD
Ammara Niyaz  Grand Challenges Canada
Tone Oderud  SINTEF
Ilona Ogurcova  Lithuania Ministry of Social Security and Labour
Maheshkumar Patel  National Innovation Foundation of India
Jinaydullov Pirov  Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of Tajikistan
Andrea Pupulin  WHO
Christopher Rushman  Motivation
Dovile Sabaliauskaité  Ministry of Social Security and Labour
Kalandarov Safo  WHO CO, Tajikistan
Virginia Sande  UNICEF SD
Amrita Sankaranarayanan  UNICEF SD
Edgard Seikaly  UNICEF SD
Bengt Soderberg  ISPO International
Bo Strange Sorensen  UNICEF SD
Terje Sund  Department of Assistive Technology, Norwegian Labour and Welfare Serv.
Paul Thompson  Able Net
Julija Vasilevskaja  Vaivari National Rehabilitation Centre
Aune Victor  UNICEF Namibia
Natalie Wheeler  Motivation
Howard Weinstein  Solar Ear
Arnoud van Wijk  International Federation of Hard of Hearing People
Muhammad Zaeem  Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, Pakistan
Mark Zlot  ICRC

Facilitation Team  The Value Web

Lucia Fabiani
Dan Newman
Carlo Alberto Pratesi
Jonathan Walter
## Annex 2: Agenda

### Monday 6th July

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00</td>
<td><strong>0</strong> Arrival and Registration</td>
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| 9:00 – 9:30   | **1** UNICEF SD Welcome and importance of the APCD Forum (Shanelle Hall – UNICEF SD)  
**Introducing UNICEF’s work on Disability** (Rosangela Berman Bieler – UNICEF PD / Doreen Mulenga – UNICEF SD) | • UNICEF SD Welcome and importance of the APCD Forum.  
• UNICEF’s programmatic focus on disabilities and an equity-based approach from a PD and SD perspective. |
| 9:30 – 9:45   | **1a** Importance on the Renewed and Intensified Focus on Children with Disabilities (Abia Akram - Youth Council of the Global Partnership of Children with Disabilities) | • Importance on the renewed and intensified focus on children with disabilities.                     |
| 9:45 – 10:15  | **2** Introductory Session for Participants (Dan Newman- Value Web)        | • Overview of APCD Forum.                                                                            |
| 10:15 – 10:35 | **3** Plenary: Current Scenario of Assistive Products in the World (Dr Johan Borg – University of Lund) | • Overview of a wide range of APs from industrialized to low-resource settings.                     |
| 10:35 – 10:45 | **3a** Plenary: Brief Description of Upcoming Sessions.                   | • 90 second introduction on the upcoming sessions.                                                   |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | **3b** Parallel Sessions: Context  
• **Introducing WHO’s GATE Initiative** (Chapal Khasnabis - WHO)  
• **Results from Global Survey on Most Critical Assistive Products for Children with Disabilities** (Gopal Mitra – UNICEF PD)  
• **Supply and Procurement Challenges of Assistive Products in Emergency and Low-Resource Settings** (Shauna Mullally – UNICEF SD) | • Knowledge of WHO’s Global Cooperation of Assistive Technology (GATE) initiative.  
• Learning about the purpose and outcomes of the Global Survey  
• An understanding of SD’s procurement strategies and possible challenges for Assistive Products. |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | **3c** Group Discussions                                                  |                                                                                                    |
| 11:45 – 12:15 | **3d** Plenary                                                            |                                                                                                    |
| 12:15 – 13:15 | **LUNCH and Warehouse Tour**                                              |                                                                                                    |
13:15 – 14:00  4  Group Discussions by Impairment Group:
- **Vision**  
  (Gopal Mitra – UNICEF PD)
- **Mobility**  
  (Jan A. Monsbakken – RI Global)
- **Cognitive, Psychosocial & Communications**  
  (Ana Lucia Arellano – RIADIS)
- **Hearing**  
  (Kasper Bergmann - WFD)

- “Free discussion” between participants to cover all four areas and find challenges for development, procurement and maintenance of AP’s in low-resource settings.

14:00 – 14:30  4a  Group Discussions:
- Availability & Cost
- Production, Distribution, Scale-up
- Facilities & Maintenance
- Opportunities & Challenges
- Services

14:30 – 15:00  4b  Plenary

15:00 – 15:30  COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 16:15  5  Parallel Sessions: Ecosystem, Economics & Regulation
- **How can a “service ecosystem” be fostered along with Assistive Products supply?**  
  (Mark Zlot – ICRC / Dr Terje Sund – The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service)
- **Classification, regulation impact of Assistive Products in different settings**  
  (Dr Johan Borg – University of Lund)
- **Cost recovery/payment mechanisms for Assistive Products in different settings**  
  (Dr Josephine Bundoc – Physicians for Peace)
- **Key issues in Assistive Products provisioning: availability, repair and maintenance**  
  (Xavier Lemire – Handicap International)
- **Key issues in Assistive Products Distribution**  
  (Michael Allen – UCP Wheelchairs for Humanity)

How to build a practical and assistive ecosystem for AP’s
Understanding of possible context inhibitions for APs and how to overcome those
AP maintenance cost implications
Understanding of the availability, repair and maintenance of assistive products in low resource settings.

16:15 – 16:45  Buffer

16:45 – 17:15  5a  Group Discussions

17:15 – 17:30  5b  Plenary
  (Dan Newman – Value Web)

17:30 – 19:00  6  Launch of Discussion Paper: Assistive Technology for Children with Disabilities
  (Shanelle Hall – UNICEF SD, Rosangela Berman Bieler – UNICEF PD, Zafar Mirza - WHO)

Reception
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:30</td>
<td>Recap of the Previous Day</td>
<td>(Gopal Mitra – UNICEF PD / Dan Newman – Value Web)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>Parallel Sessions: Small Country Production of Assistive Products</td>
<td>Learning more about local production in low resource settings and how to overcome challenges</td>
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<td><strong>Eritrean Experience: Key issues Assistive Products distribution in Low-Resource Settings</strong> (Tedla Gebrehiwet – UNICEF Eritrea)</td>
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<td><strong>Identification of and Support for Small/Local Production of Assistive Products in Low-Resource Setting: Challenges and Opportunities</strong> (Zafar Mirza - WHO)</td>
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<td><strong>Local Manufacturing</strong> (Sheila Salgado – Independent Expert)</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:15</td>
<td>Plenary: Introduction to Innovation</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:45</td>
<td>Parallel Discussion: Innovation</td>
<td>Learning about innovation processes at SD.</td>
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<td>Kristoffer Gandrup-Marino – UNICEF SD</td>
<td>Understanding of Honey Bee Network: knowledge-sharing and opportunities for participants.</td>
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<td>Prof Anil Gupta – National Innovation Foundation</td>
<td>Motivation mandate and the innovation process for designing a wheelchair suitable for use in Bangladesh and other developing countries.</td>
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<td>David Constantine – Motivation UK</td>
<td>Understanding of Weinstein’s business model which gives access to low-cost, high quality hearing aid technology in developing countries</td>
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<td>Howard Weinstein – Solar Ear</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:45</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
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<td>11:45 – 12:00</td>
<td>Introduction to Accessibility Sessions</td>
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<td>(Jesper Boesen – No Barriers)</td>
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<td>12:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>LUNCH and Warehouse Tour</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 13:45</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Sessions: Accessibility Group Discussions</strong></td>
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<td>1. <strong>Accessibility to the Physical Environment and Universal Design:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Universal Design Concept</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Betty Dion – GAATES)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Buildings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Claudia Melani – UNICEF PD)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The most accessible building in the world</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Jesper Boesen – No Barriers)</td>
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<td>1. **The use of ICT to Advance Access to Information, Communication</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and Learning:**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Access to Information through ICT for persons who are</td>
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<td></td>
<td>blind or visually impaired</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Dipendra Manocha – Daisy Consortium)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- All Children Reading Grand Challenge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Anthony Bloome – USAID)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Learning Together Initiative</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Rosangela Berman Bieler – UNICEF PD)</td>
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<td>13:45 – 13:45</td>
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<td><strong>EXPO / Networking</strong></td>
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<td>13:45 – 14:15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Group Discussion</strong></td>
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<td>14:15 – 15:25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Plenary</strong></td>
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<td>15:25 – 15:40</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>15:40 – 16:00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>**Next Steps for Advancing the Availability of Assistive Products in</td>
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<td>Emergencies and Low-Resource Settings**</td>
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<td>(Shanelle Hall – UNICEF SD /Gopal Mitra – UNICEF PD / Abia Akram -</td>
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<td>Youth Council of the Global Partnership of Children with Disabilities)</td>
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<td>16:00 – 16:10</td>
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<td><strong>Closing Remarks</strong></td>
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<td>(Shanelle Hall – UNICEF SD)</td>
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<td>16:10 – 17:00</td>
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<td><strong>EXPO / Networking</strong></td>
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**To develop a clear understanding of the infrastructure needs in order to successfully distribute and maintain APs that reduce children with disabilities’ marginalization and vulnerability.**