Call for papers

AT EXPO AFRICA 2027
The first African platform for assistive technology
3 to 5 June 2027 | Dakar, Senegal

AT EXPO AFRICA aims for broad public engagement, bringing together assistive technology users, civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), with clinicians, service providers, manufacturers, and innovators, alongside governments, regional bodies, UN agencies, and strategic donors. Combining an African and international exhibition with a high-level programme, the event serves as a platform for exchange, partnership building, innovation, and system strengthening.

IMPLEMENTATION & IMPACT STAGE (Pillar 2)

The AT EXPO AFRICA dialogue invites submissions for the IMPLEMENTATION & IMPACT STAGE – the event's central platform for sharing practical implementation experience, programme outcomes, and system-level learning across assistive technology systems.

This stage focuses on **projects, programmes, policies, and service delivery models** that have improved, or are actively working to improve, access to assistive technology in real-world settings. We welcome contributions from both completed initiatives with demonstrated results and ongoing efforts that can share valuable implementation experiences, emerging outcomes, and lessons learned to date. We are particularly interested in national, regional, and community-level initiatives that demonstrate impact, show promising progress, and offer insights for replication, adaptation, and scale.

Rather than showcasing individual products or technology, **submissions should focus on how assistive technology systems are designed, implemented, strengthened, and sustained** across diverse contexts.

AREAS AND TOPICS OF INTEREST

Submissions may address any assistive technology domain, including:

- Prosthetics, Orthotics & Mobility
- Hearing & Vision
- Digital assistive technology

RELEVANT TOPICS INCLUDE:

- National assistive technology strategies, governance, and policy implementation
- Country-wide service delivery reforms
- Integration of assistive technology into health, education, social protection, and employment systems
- Community-based rehabilitation and outreach programmes
- Workforce development and training initiatives
- Procurement and financing mechanisms
- Supply chain and distribution models
- Regional and cross-country implementation initiatives
- Local manufacturing and assembly initiatives
- African-led innovation and entrepreneurship in assistive technology: from development to market adoption and scale
- Youth-led initiatives in the assistive technology sector
- Scale-up and sustainability models

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT?

We welcome submissions from individual organizations as well as collaborative initiatives, partnerships, and consortia. Contributions may be submitted by a single organization or jointly by multiple partners.

- Organizations of persons with disabilities
- Disability-inclusive youth-led organizations
- Implementing organizations and NGOs
- Development partners and international agencies
- Innovative companies, social enterprises, and start-ups
- Service providers and rehabilitation centres
- Academic and research institutions, universities
- Professional associations
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships and consortia
- International societies
- Public-private partnerships

SUBMISSION FRAMEWORK

To facilitate meaningful comparison and cross-country learning, presentations should address the following five elements:

1. CHALLENGE/NEED
What challenge, system gap, or unmet need was identified?

2. INTERVENTION IMPLEMENTED
What programme, policy, service model, partnership, or implementation approach was introduced?

3. RESULTS AND OUTCOMES
What results were achieved? Presenters are encouraged to provide evidence of impact, reach, system strengthening, or improved access.

4. LESSONS LEARNED
What barriers were encountered? What did not work as expected? What would you do differently? What challenges remain?

5. SUCCESS FACTORS AND PROMISING APPROACHES
Which approaches, strategies, or implementation pathways proved effective? What worked particularly well, and why? What insights or practices could be replicated or adapted in other contexts?

PRESENTATION FORMAT AND DURATION

Presentations should be designed for a session of approximately 45 minutes, plus time for discussion and audience engagement where appropriate.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Preference will be given to submissions that:

- Demonstrate measurable outcomes or system-level impact
- Provide evidence-based implementation experience
- Reflect openly on implementation challenges
- Share actionable lessons for replication and scale
- Offer practical relevance for policy and programme design in other contexts
- Reflect African perspectives and showcase locally led innovations, programmes, and system-strengthening efforts

We particularly encourage contributions that strengthen learning across countries and sectors and support the development of more effective, sustainable, and inclusive assistive technology systems across Africa and beyond.

All submissions will be reviewed by the AT EXPO AFRICA Steering Committee.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT VIA THIS LINK

https://forms.gle/CET31mau8nXRuLbZ8

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit a structured abstract of a maximum of 250 to 300 words via the online submission system. The following structure should be followed:

1. ORGANIZATION AND CONTEXT
Briefly describe your organization (e.g. government agency, NGO, service provider, company, social enterprise, start up, academic institution) and the context in which the initiative was implemented.(40 to 50 words suggested)

2.INITIATIVE, PROGRAMME, OR INNOVATION
Describe the project, policy, service, partnership, or innovation and the challenge it aimed to address. (100 to 150 words suggested)

3.RESULTS AND IMPACT
Summarise key achievements, outcomes, or lessons learned. Where possible, provide evidence of impact. (80 to 100 words suggested)

4.TRANSFERABILITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Describe how the experience, innovation, or approach could inform policy, practice, or programme design in other contexts. Share key recommendations for replication or adaptation. (40 to 50 words suggested)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND CONTACT

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 15 JANUARY 2027

CONTACT

Ms Imke Ostermeier-Kittel
Tel.: +49 151 18839346
contact@atexpoafrica.com

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YOUR ABSTRACT
VIA THIS LINK

ORGANIZERS

REPUBLIQUE DU
SÉNÉGAL

OADCPH
ORGANISATION AFRICAINE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
DES CENTRES POUR PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES

ATscale
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
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