

WHA71.8 on Assistive Technology



MS Information Session

3 March 2022 | Geneva, HQ



WHO Secretariat to:

- 1) Prepare a Global Report on Assistive Technology;
- 2) Provide technical and capacity building support for Member States in the areas of AT Policy and Programmes
- 3) Provide technical and capacity building support for Member States in Manufacturing, Supply and Procurement;
- 4) Contribute to development of minimum standards for priority assistive products;
- 5) Report on progress to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly and every four years until 2030.

1. Prepare a Global Report on Assistive Technology



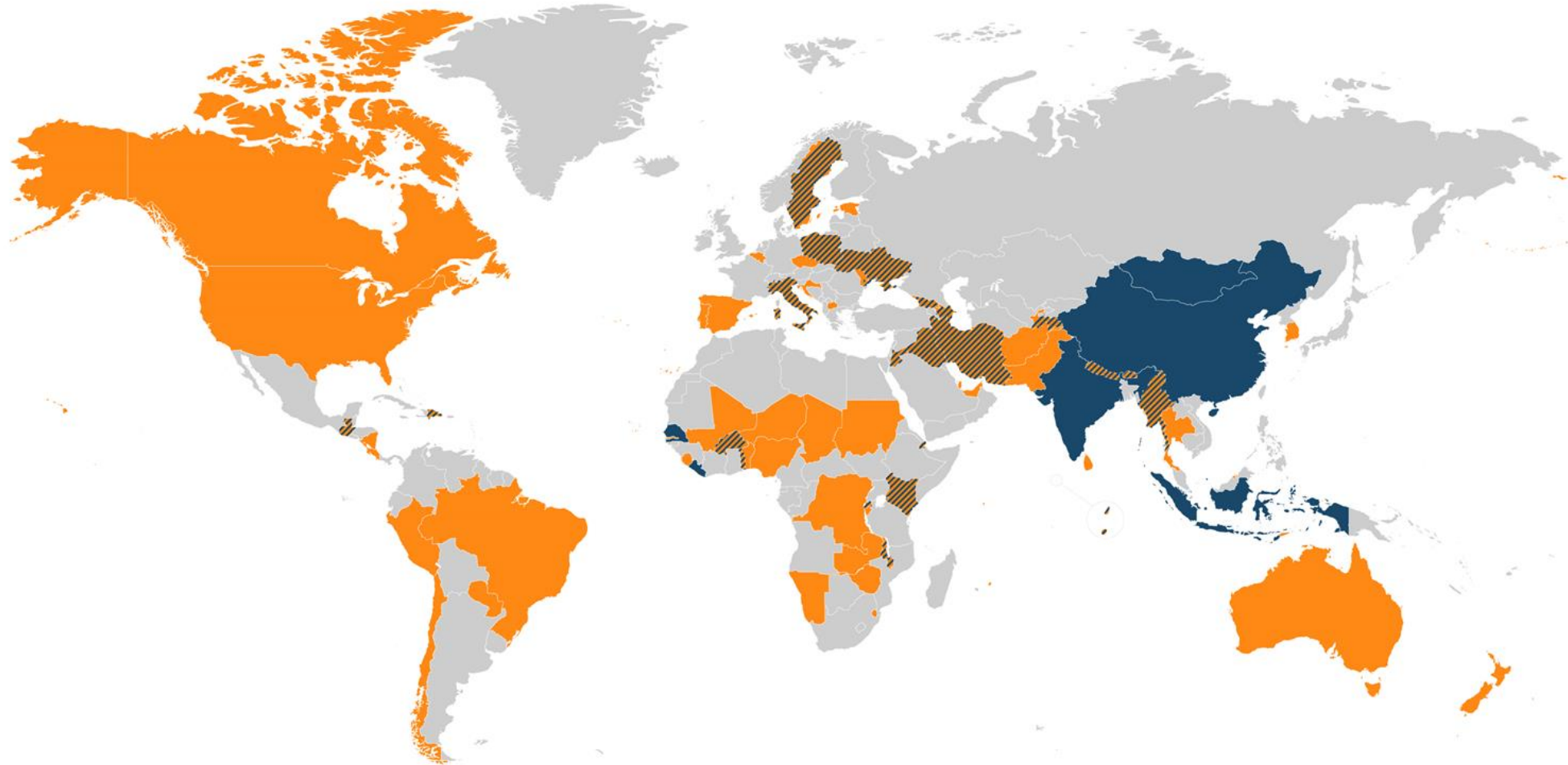
1. WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology: Data

Population based household survey to assess met and unmet need (rATA);

Government survey to explore system preparedness for assistive technology and progress made towards the implementation of the WHA resolution on assistive technology (Progress Indicators).



1. WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology: Data



■ Data measuring system preparedness

■ Data measuring population access to AT

1. WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology: Zero draft



- More than 500 experts including assistive technology users and their family members from over 100 countries are involved in the process;
- Population level data collected from 35 countries and system level data from 70 Member States;
- WHO and UNICEF jointly hosted 2 global and 6 regional consultations to develop the zero draft, including report recommendations;
- Presents data, evidence and analysis of current assistive technology access scenario and future trends and makes 10 recommendations;
- Launch date set for 16 May 2022.

2. Technical and capacity building support: AT Policy and Programmes

- Training in Assistive Products (TAP) trains primary health care personnel to identify those in need, provide simple assistive products, and refer where needed;
- Online, blended learning supported by local mentors – WHO Academy;
- 15 modules developed; 15 more underway 2022.



2. Technical and capacity building support: AT Policy and Programmes



Introduction

Assistive technology is life-changing for people in need. Access to assistive technology is a fundamental human right and the need is increasing as populations age globally and the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases rise. However, assistive technology is often disregarded on global health and development agendas, leading to limited and fragmented investment.

In response to this concern the Seventy-first World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA71.8 in 2018, urging Member States to develop, implement and strengthen policies and programmes to improve access to assistive technology (1). The World Health Organization is working to support Member States to implement the resolution and in turn fulfil their related commitments to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals (2, 3).

This brief is for policy-makers in any ministry involved in designing assistive technology policies and programmes (such as ministries of health, finance and social welfare), especially those involved in designing universal health coverage programmes (4). It is also relevant for all stakeholders working in these areas. The brief highlights key challenges in ensuring equitable access to high-quality, affordable assistive technology (Table 1) and suggests actions to improve access within universal health coverage or any other national health/welfare programme.

Assistive technology is the application of organized knowledge and skills related to assistive products, including systems and services.

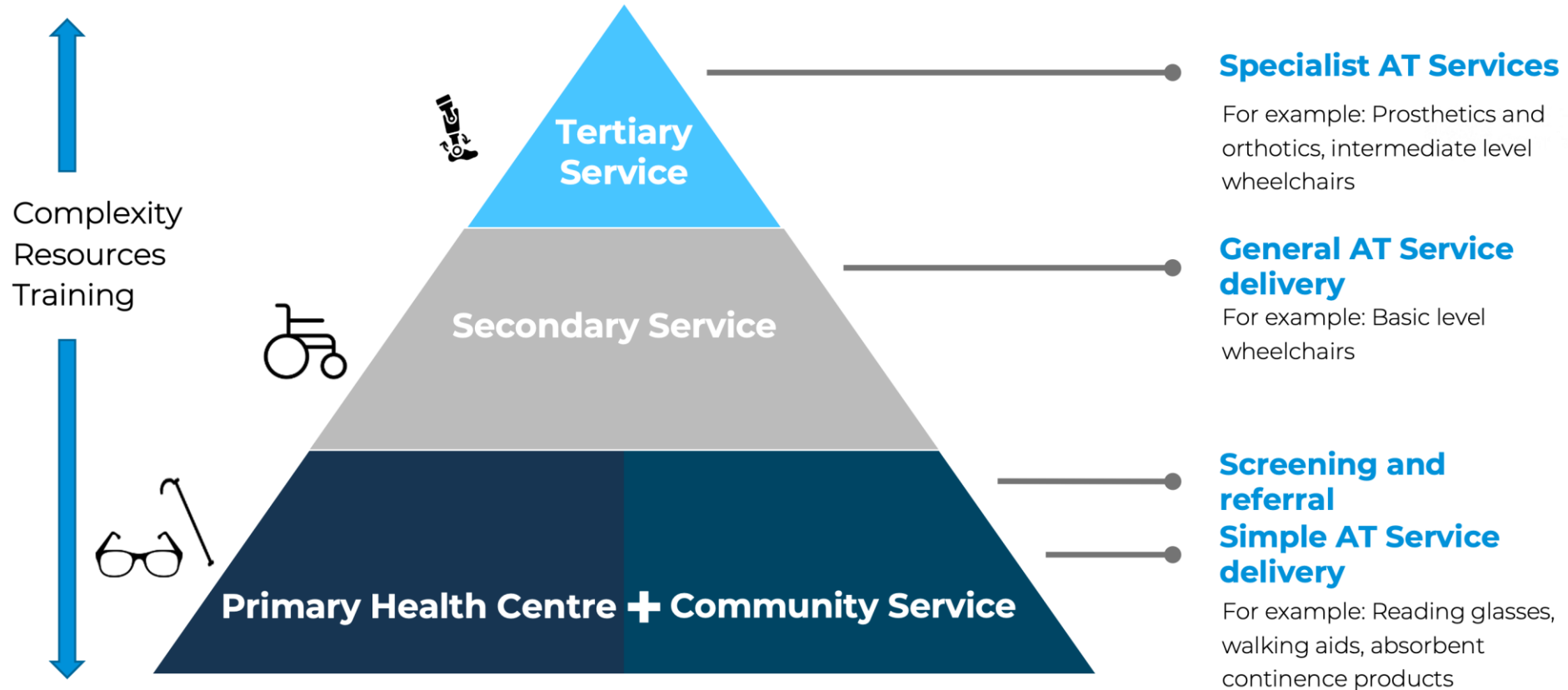
Assistive products maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence, thereby promoting their well-being. Examples of assistive products include hearing aids, wheelchairs, communication aids, spectacles, prostheses, pill organizers and memory aids (5).

The GATE Initiative



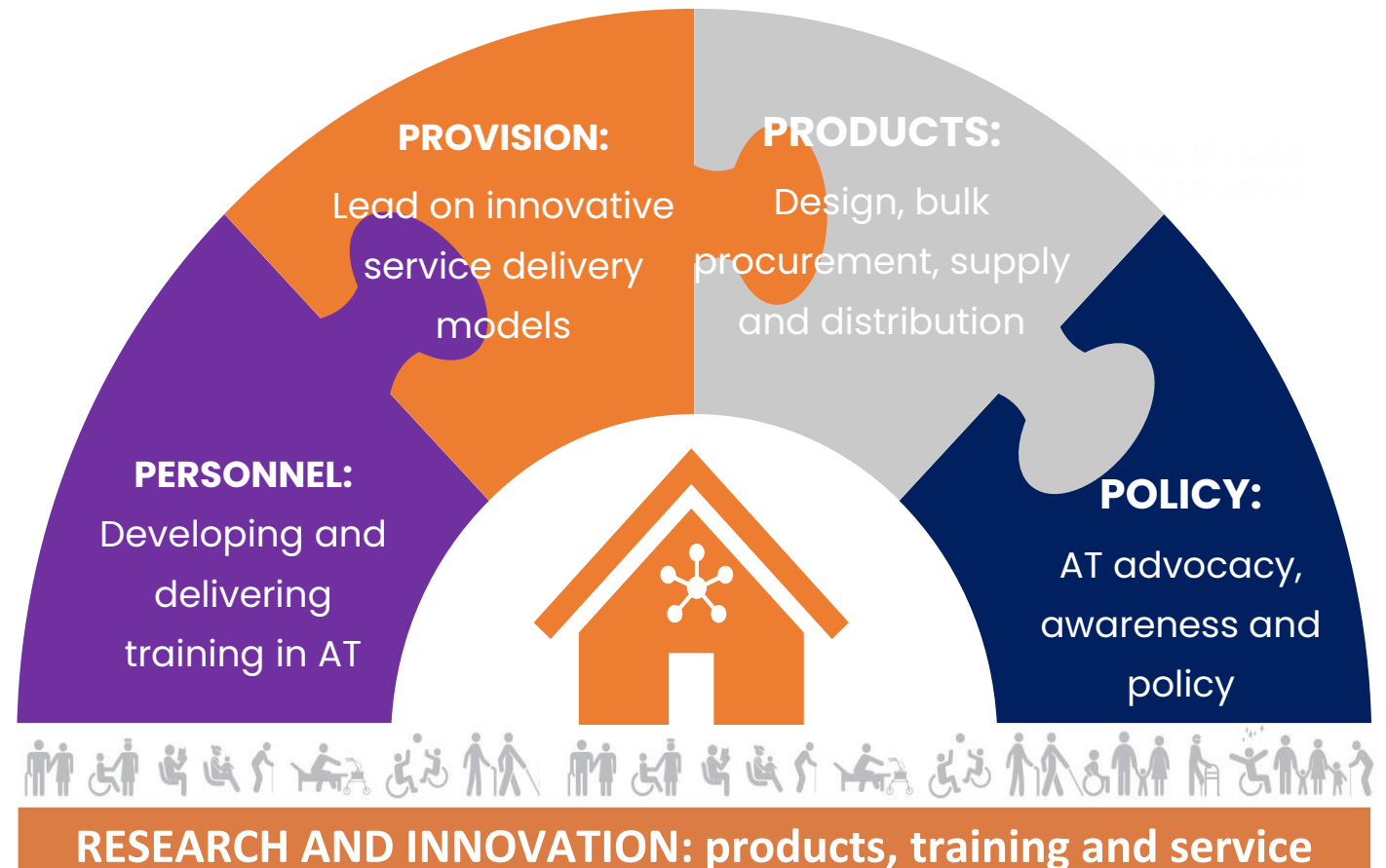
2. Technical and capacity building support: AT Policy and Programmes

14 countries
integrating
assistive
technology
into PHC



3. Technical and capacity building support: Manufacturing, Supply and Procurement

National or regional centers of excellence:
Kenya and India



4. Standards, Specifications and Procurement

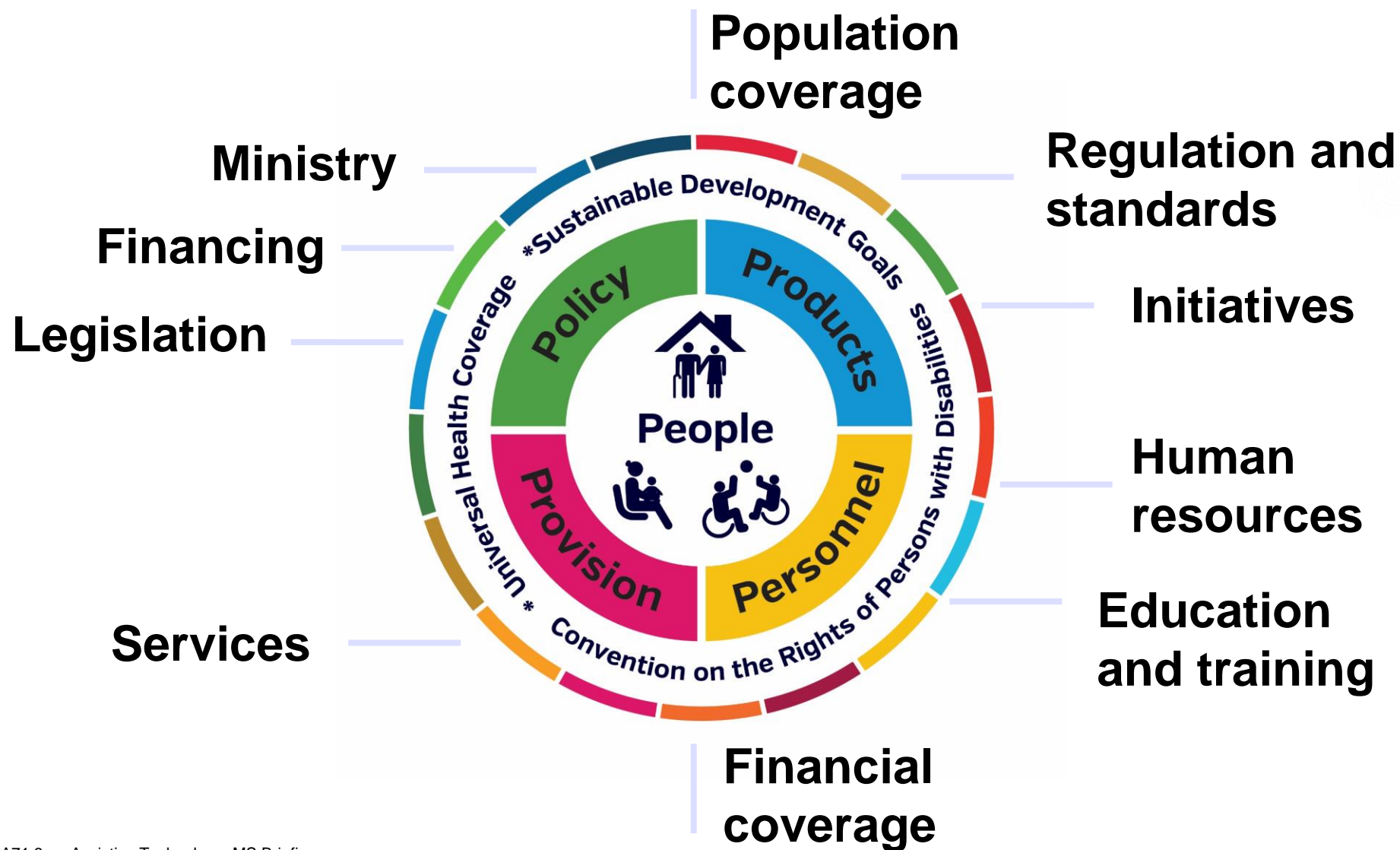


Assistive product specifications and how to use them

A manual for public procurement of assistive products, accessories, spare parts and related services



5. Progress indicators (10)





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**With my Wheelchair
I can do anything**

**Assistive Technology
#LifeChanger**



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Thank you