



Project Title: Small Grants Programme for World Day for Assistive Technology

Project Duration: 6 months (April - September 2026)

Implemented by: Bangladesh Disabled Development Trust (BDDT)

Supported by: ATscale - the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology

Administered by: United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, supported Bangladesh Disabled Development Trust (BDDT) through its Small Grants Programme for World Day for Assistive Technology 2026, administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Through this initiative, BDDT worked with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) across Asia to raise awareness about assistive technology and promote the rights of assistive technology users.

About the Project

The Small Grants Programme for the 3rd World Day for Assistive Technology 2026 was implemented by Bangladesh Disabled Development Trust (BDDT) from **April to September 2026** with support from ATscale, administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The project aimed to strengthen the Assistive Technology (AT) movement across Asia. Through awareness campaigns, advocacy activities, and public engagement, it engaged more than **1,000 AT users** and reached over **two million** people around the 3rd World Day for Assistive Technology, observed on 4 June 2026.

Assistive Technology is essential for ensuring independence, dignity, participation, and inclusion for persons with disabilities, older persons, and others who require support products and services. Despite the growing global need for assistive technology, millions of people continue to face barriers in accessing these life-changing products and services. Through this initiative, BDDT worked closely with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) across Asia to raise awareness, amplify the voices of AT users, and strengthen advocacy efforts aimed at improving access to assistive technology.

What BDDT Has Done Under the World AT Day 2026 Initiative

Bangladesh Disabled Development Trust (BDDT) is an Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) and civil society organization that has been working since 2009 to promote disability rights, rehabilitation services, assistive technology access, inclusive development, education, livelihoods, gender equality, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian response. Under this regional initiative, BDDT coordinated a network of OPDs across Asia to celebrate World Day for Assistive Technology and advance collective advocacy for greater access to assistive products and services.

A. Promoting Access to Assistive Technology Across Asia

BDDT selected ten eligible OPDs from five Asian countries, signed grant agreements, and provided technical support throughout project implementation. Through this initiative, participating

organizations enhanced their capacity to advocate for improved access to assistive technology while contributing to a coordinated regional movement. The ten OPDs from the five countries are:

- Bangladesh: Down Syndrome Society of Bangladesh (DSSB); Mymensingh Disabled Peoples Organization to Development (Mymensingh-DPOD); Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL)
- India: Garden Reach Institute for the Rehabilitation and Research (GRIRR); All Tribal Disabled Union Manipur (ATDUM)
- Nepal: National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, Gandaki Province; Center for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities Kathmandu (CIL-Kathmandu)
- Pakistan: Zunnorain Welfare Society (ZWS); Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP)
- Philippines: Philippine Federation of the Deaf Inc.

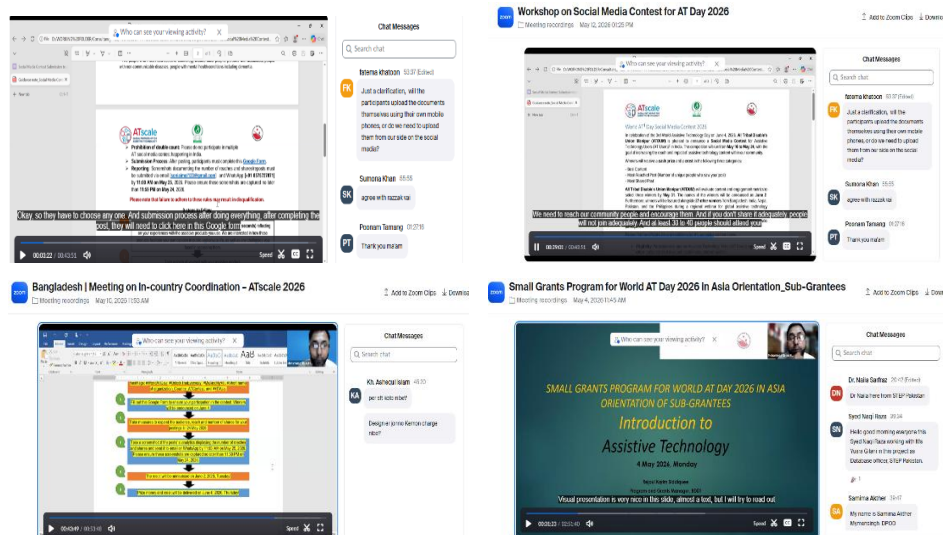
[Photo to be added: Representatives of Partner OPDs from Five Asian Countries]

B. Training and Orientation for Partner Organizations

Following the selection process, BDDT organized orientation and capacity-building sessions for all partner organizations on project implementation, safeguarding, and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH). These sessions focused on:

- Understanding the objectives of World Day for Assistive Technology
- Using the Unlock The Everyday campaign toolkit and communication materials
- Developing accessible and inclusive advocacy messages
- Planning awareness events and media engagement activities
- Building coordination among OPDs across participating countries
- Following strict guidelines for maintaining safeguarding codes and the PSEAH policy throughout project activities

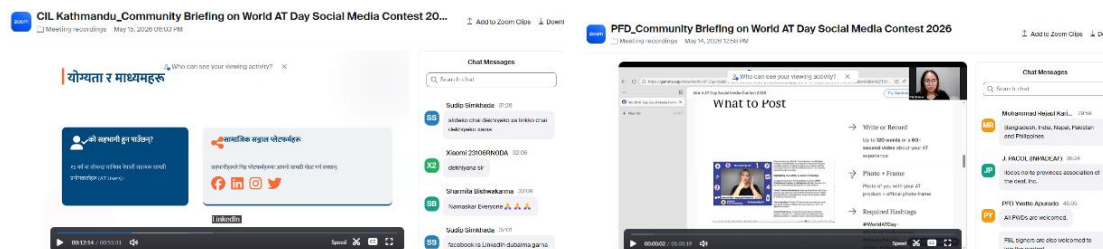
The sessions created a shared understanding of the campaign and ensured that organizations can effectively engage AT users, communities, media, and policymakers.



Picture: Orientation and Capacity Building Sessions with Partner Organizations

C. Engaging Assistive Technology Users Through Awareness and Advocacy

The project places AT users at the center of all activities. Through a range of online and offline events, BDDT and partner organizations engaged at least 1,000 assistive technology users across the region.

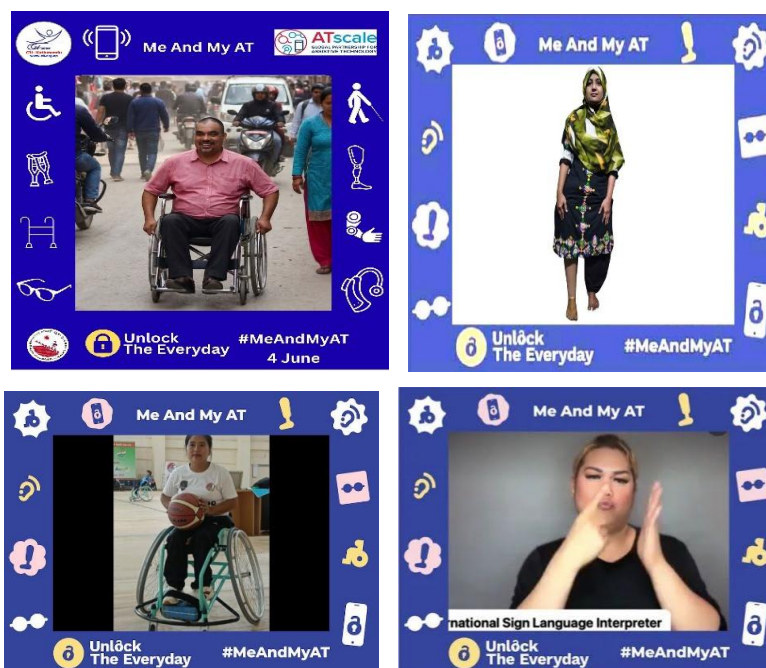


Picture: Assistive Technology Users Engaged in Regional Awareness Activities

D. Social Media Contest

AT users were invited to participate in a regional social media campaign by sharing stories, experiences, and advocacy messages using resources from the Unlock The Everyday campaign. The competition encouraged participants to:

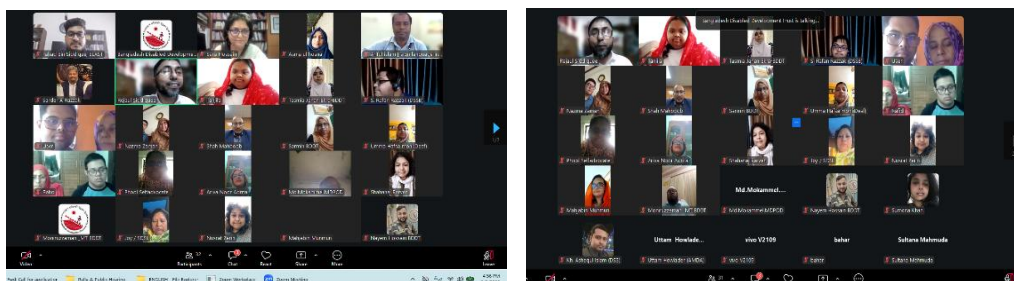
- Raise awareness about assistive technology
- Share personal experiences and unmet needs
- Promote inclusion and accessibility
- Advocate for improved policies and services



Picture: Social Media Contest Posts by AT Users and Partner Organizations

E. Online Public Hearings

Partner organizations organized public hearings in five countries where AT users shared their experiences regarding barriers to accessing assistive technology. Representatives from government institutions, civil society, OPDs, and AT stakeholders participated in discussions aimed at highlighting challenges and identifying solutions for improving access to assistive products and services.



Picture: Online Public Hearings on Assistive Technology Access

F. Assistive Technology Users' Rally

BDDT, along with three partner organizations in Bangladesh (Down Syndrome Society of Bangladesh, Mymensingh Disabled Peoples Organization to Development, and Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users), organized a public rally with 150 AT users in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This rally involved organizations of persons with disabilities, AT users, civil society actors, and development partners in Bangladesh, and aimed to promote the importance of assistive technology and equal participation.



Picture: Assistive Technology Users' Rally in Front of the National Press Club, Dhaka

G. Regional Webinar on World AT Day 2026

On the 3rd World Day for Assistive Technology, 4 June 2026, BDDT hosted a regional webinar bringing together stakeholders from across Asia. The event provided a platform for sharing country experiences, discussing policy challenges, highlighting success stories, and celebrating 30 AT user champions from 10 partner organizations.



Picture: Regional Webinar Marking World AT Day 2026

H. Expanding Public Awareness Through Media and Digital Campaigns

To maximize outreach and public engagement, BDDT and partner organizations implemented a comprehensive communication strategy. Activities included:

- Publication of social media content by AT users and partner organizations
- Dissemination of advocacy statements promoting universal access to assistive technology
- Engagement with print, electronic, and online media outlets
- Production of news stories highlighting AT user experiences
- Collaboration with disability advocates and community leaders to amplify campaign messages

Through these efforts, the project aimed to reach more than two million people across Asia and contribute to greater public understanding of the importance of assistive technology.

Key Outcomes

Through this initiative, BDDT successfully:

- Promoted the assistive technology movement across five Asian countries
- Supported and strengthened ten OPDs through regional collaboration
- Engaged more than 1,000 assistive technology users in awareness and advocacy activities
- Increased public awareness regarding the importance of assistive technology
- Increased recognition of the voices and experiences of AT users
- Enabled meaningful dialogue between AT users, policymakers, and service providers
- Increased media coverage and public attention on assistive technology issues through World Day for Assistive Technology
- Contributed to advocacy efforts aimed at improving access to assistive technology in low- and middle-income countries

BDDT's Commitment

BDDT believes that access to assistive technology is a fundamental human right and an essential component of inclusive development. Through this partnership with ATscale and UNOPS, BDDT is committed to strengthening regional collaboration, empowering assistive technology users, and advancing advocacy efforts that promote equal access to assistive products and services for all.

By working alongside organizations of persons with disabilities, AT users, governments, civil society organizations, and development partners, BDDT seeks to contribute to a future where everyone can access the assistive technology they need to participate fully and equally in society.