



CALL FOR APPLICATION

Small Grants Program for World AT Day in Asia

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Access to Assistive technology (AT) is a human right and a prerequisite for equal participation and opportunities.¹ Various human rights instruments, UN reports and guidelines including United Nations Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993), CESCO General Comment No. 5 (1994), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), World Report on Disability (2011), Improving access to assistive technology (who.int) 2018 and Global Report on assistive technology (2022) have made references to the AT as part of right to access to support services for ensuring full and effective participation of persons with disabilities including those from underrepresented disability groups.

According to the global report on assistive technology, one in three people or more than 2.5 billion globally need at least one assistive product. As the global population ages and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases increases, this figure will rise to *3.5 billion* in 2050. Despite increased attention to efforts on AT, yet nearly one billion of them are denied access, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where access can be as low as 3% of the need for these life-changing products. The situation of accessing AT is worse for those from underrepresented groups including women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons who are deafblind.

In this backdrop, the first-ever [World Day for Assistive Technology](#) was launched on 4 June 2024 as part of the [Unlock The Everyday](#) campaign, **calling for organizations, policymakers, businesses, and individuals from across the world to take action to increase access to assistive technology.** The [Unlock The Everyday](#) campaign, led by ATscale, aims to raise awareness of assistive technology, foster media engagement, and develop champions who advocate for the issues at the core of ATscale's mission.

¹ Global report on assistive technology. Geneva: World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO



In 2026, ATscale- the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, aims to build on past results and continue to raise awareness for AT globally. Working with AT users, implementing partners, strategic partners, and the private sector, ATscale will support events and advocacy through both national events and global digital media to build greater understanding of assistive technology with a collective call to action to organizations, policymakers, businesses and individuals across the world.

To promote and support the celebration of World Day for Assistive Technology 2026 by organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), ATscale is running the Small Grants Program and is seeking a partner for the implementation of the grant in one region and up to ten countries.

Bangladesh Disabled Development Trust - BDDT is a Bangladeshi OPD having an outstanding track record of working on access of people with disabilities to rights of people with disabilities including rehabilitation health services and assistive technology in Bangladesh.

BDDT has been awarded with the small grants to celebrate the World Day for Assistive Technology 2026 by strengthening AT movement in Asia by engaging **1000 AT Users** in the celebration of World Day for Assistive Technology 2026. Ten OPDs will be selected from six Asian countries to attain the project's goal. Through media releases, rallies, public hearings, and social media contests, the BDDT along with the sub-grantee OPDs will reach **Two Million** people.

BDDT is proposing this sub-grants for organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct local and national initiatives advancing assistive technologies in six countries.

ACTIVITIES

The activities financed by sub-grants recipients will cover the following areas or actions:

1. Attend **08 (eight) online meetings** including orientation sessions, weekly catch up, project launch event and global webinar on World Day for Assistive Technology.
2. Each sub-grantee will host a **social media contest** following the concept produced by BDDT. Making a piece of content with the Unlock the Everyday campaign's resources will be the first stage of the competition. Each Sub-grantee will shortlist 100 contestants who will share the content on their social media accounts including Facebook. On June 4, the sub-grantee will reveal the names of the winners in the Global webinar on AT Day celebration.



3. Sub-grantee will host an online **Public Hearing** on 3rd June 2026 following the concept note as developed by BDDT. Sub-grantee's role will be to engage media, AT users, OPDs, and civil society members in this public hearing.
4. Organizing an **AT user rally** on 3rd June 2026. The event will be open to everyone, including leaders of public and private institutions.
5. Financial and program **reports** in prescribed format are required to be submitted at the end of the project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

General Information

Eligible Organizations: Organizations of persons with disabilities that are registered and operating in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and South Korea.

Maximum Number of grants: 10 (Ten)

Grants budget and Duration: Maximum 800 USD (per grant) for a period of 4 months (April to July).

Mandatory Organizational Requirements

Applicant organizations must meet the following requirements and qualifications:

- Being a non-profit legal entity
- Must be an organization of persons with disabilities.
- Being registered in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and South Korea (registration documents will be required).
- Must have necessary safeguarding policies including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy.
- Having a bank account in the name of the organization.
- Having project management skills, as evidenced by the successful delivery of projects and grants of similar size.
- Having a transparent financial management system
- Capacity to receive foreign funds
- Ability to work proficiently in English for project management and reporting purposes.



Evaluation Criteria

All completed applications will be evaluated and scored by BDDT's operational staff in line with the selection criteria below and weighing.

1. Organizational and operational capacity (40%), applicants should demonstrate adequate staff and presence in the target areas to implement the activities, have established connections with the target beneficiaries
2. Relevant technical knowledge and experience (40%), applicants should have relevant technical knowledge and experience of managing initiatives of similar size and nature in the field of awareness campaigns, production of reports, data collections.
3. Financial management, reporting (20%), applicants must demonstrate they implemented accounting and financial control systems ensuring sound financial management of the project and accurate reporting to BDDT. Applicants must also demonstrate their implemented systems to document and monitor the work that will be delivered. The key areas include keeping track of the number of events and participants, number of beneficiaries, outcomes of events and any other relevant details. BDDT expects to receive one narrative report covering the implementation period, outlining outcomes and deliverables achieved.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED DURING AGREEMENT

- Relevant Registration certificate
- Bank account details including details for wire transfers.
- Office address, contact details, email.
- List of Board Members, their contact details
- The most recent annual audited accounts.
- Name, designation, address, contact details of focal person for the project from the organization.
- Name, designation, address, contact details of signatories of the agreement.
- Necessary safeguarding policies including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy



Disbursement

- The disbursement of funds will be done in 3 instalments – first one will be disbursed soon after signing agreement (33.33%), second one will be after successful implementation of social media contest, public hearing and other activities till 4th June (33.33%) and the last one will be disbursed after submission of final report in prescribed format (33.34%).

How to apply?

Eligible applicants must complete the application form. Applications must be completed in English. The application form link is here: <https://forms.gle/tqYvoGN4maZyikjX6>

Deadline

Applications should be submitted by 5.00pm Bangladesh Time/12.00pm CET on **Friday, 17th April 2026**.

For further information please contact Mr. Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, Program & Grants Manager, BDDT, Email: advreja@gmail.com