



Strengthening Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) through Assistive Technology (AT)

Country-Level Strategy: Kenya

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Submitted and led by the Kilimajiro Blind Trust Africa KBTA



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Abbreviations

OPD	Organization of Persons with Disability
AT	Assistive Technology
NGEC	National Gender and Equality Commission
NCPWD	National Council for Persons with Disability



Foreword

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are central to advancing disability inclusion in Kenya. They serve as the primary vehicles through which the voices, priorities, and lived experiences of persons with disabilities are articulated and integrated into development planning, service delivery, and governance processes. However, many OPDs continue to face systemic challenges, including limited institutional capacity, inadequate access to Assistive Technology (AT), and constrained opportunities to effectively influence policy, National Resource Allocation, and program implementation.

This Strategy for Strengthening Organizations of Persons with Disabilities through Assistive Technology responds directly to these challenges. It comes at the backdrop of a thorough [Needs Assessment](#) that was carried out by the Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa (KBTA) as part of the UK International Developments AT2030 programme, led by Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub). The [Needs Assessment](#) was conducted across three counties in Kenya, that is Kisumu – located in the western part of Kenya on the shores of Lake Victoria, Nairobi- the capital city, and Mombasa – a city located on the coastal region of Kenya. The three counties were carefully selected to represent three regions with unique characteristics.

The strategy provides a clear and actionable framework to enhance the institutional strength, sustainability, and influence of OPDs across Kenya. The strategy identifies priority areas for intervention, including capacity strengthening, access to appropriate and affordable Assistive Technology, improved participation in governance structures, and enhanced resource mobilization mechanisms.



Central to this strategy is the recognition of Assistive Technology as a critical enabler of inclusion. Beyond addressing individual functional needs, Assistive Technology strengthens OPDs' ability to communicate, access information, engage in decision-making processes, deliver services, and operate effectively as organizations. Integrating Assistive Technology within OPD systems and broader public service frameworks is therefore essential to achieving meaningful participation and equitable development outcomes.

This strategy is grounded in evidence and informed by extensive consultations with 38 OPDs, government institutions, such as the National Council for persons with disability (NCPWD) and National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), and other stakeholders in the technology and disability spaces such as TINADA, a Community-Based Organization in Kenya that initiates, grows, sustains, and upscale successful community health development programs to enhance the wellbeing of vulnerable young people.

It reflects the diverse realities and priorities of persons with disabilities at community, county, and national levels. By adopting a systems-based approach, the strategy positions OPDs as active partners in governance, service delivery, and development, while promoting stronger coordination and alignment among stakeholders.

Effective implementation of this strategy will require sustained commitment and collaboration among government, OPDs, development partners, research institutions, service providers, and the private sector. It will also require increased, predictable, and well-coordinated investment, alongside deliberate



efforts to mainstream Assistive Technology within sectoral policies, planning, and budgeting processes.

This strategy sets a clear direction for strengthening Kenya’s disability inclusion ecosystem. It provides a practical foundation for coordinated action, institutional growth, and the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in national development.

This strategy has been created and written by Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa (KBTA) in collaboration with OPDs across Kenya. Funding has been provided by UK International Development’s AT2030 programme, led by Global Disability Innovation Hub to test ‘what works’ to improve access to life-changing Assistive Technology (AT) for all.



Executive Summary

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are central to advancing inclusive governance and development in Kenya. Evidence across counties consistently shows that OPDs are already playing critical roles, linking communities to services, supporting participation in governance processes, and strengthening accountability at local and national levels. This strategy builds on what is already working and focuses on scaling, structuring, and sustaining the role of OPDs within Kenya's development systems. There is a significant opportunity to further strengthen and formalize these contributions within formal systems.

This strategy positions OPDs as essential actors within Kenya's governance and development architecture, with the potential to bridge the gap between policy commitments and practical implementation. While Kenya has established a strong legal and policy framework for disability inclusion, including the Constitution (2010) and the Persons with Disabilities Act (2025), implementation remains uneven. Further strengthening the role and effectiveness of OPDs presents a clear pathway to translating these commitments into tangible outcomes for persons with disabilities.

The strategy focuses on six interconnected priorities:

- 1. Strengthening institutional capacity of OPDs**
- 2. Enhancing OPD participation and influence in governance processes**
- 3. Improving access to and integration of Assistive Technology**
- 4. Strengthening partnerships and coordination**
- 5. Expanding sustainable financing**
- 6. Promoting the use of data and digital tools for evidence-based action**



Together, these priorities provide a structured pathway for strengthening OPDs as effective and sustainable actors within the disability inclusion ecosystem.

This strategy also addresses recommended implementation focused on a phased approach, that includes system strengthening and alignment, integration and expansion, and the next steps required to institutionalization and sustainability of OPDs within public systems. The strategy also defines clear roles for key actors and promotes coordinated action across government, OPDs, development partners, private sector, and research institutions.

By shifting from fragmented and informal engagement toward a more structured and system-oriented approach, this strategy recommends a practical roadmap for positioning OPDs as key contributors to inclusive development in Kenya. It suggests a foundation for stronger participation, improved access to services and Assistive Technology, and more responsive and accountable systems.



Strategic Positioning of OPDs within Kenya's Governance and Development Systems

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are not only representative bodies; they are critical system actors within Kenya's governance and development architecture. Evidence from KBTA's [Needs Assessment](#) carried out in 2025 has provided the foundation to this strategy, alongside County Case Studies captured during extensive engagement and consultation with OPDs in the development of this strategy. This co-design evolution demonstrates that OPDs are already performing functions that are essential to effective, inclusive systems.

This strategy positions OPDs across four core roles:

1. Service Connectors and Access Enablers

OPDs function as a bridge between communities and formal systems, supporting persons with disabilities to navigate services, access assistive technology, and engage with institutions. At community level, they are often the first point of contact and play a critical role in ensuring last-mile delivery of services.

2. Governance and Accountability Actors

OPDs contribute to strengthening governance by facilitating participation, monitoring service delivery, and supporting accountability. Their engagement



in public participation processes, budget discussions, and policy dialogue enables disability inclusion to move from policy commitments to practical implementation.

3. Data and Evidence Contributors

OPDs generate and hold valuable real-time insights on barriers, service gaps, and lived experiences of persons with disabilities. This positions them as important contributors to evidence-based planning, monitoring, and adaptive decision-making at county and national levels.

4. Advocates and System Influencers

OPDs play a central role in shaping policy, influencing priorities, and advancing inclusion within development processes. Their proximity to communities, combined with their growing engagement in governance spaces, positions them as key actors in driving systemic change.

Recognizing these roles requires a shift from viewing OPDs as beneficiaries or implementing partners, toward positioning them as co-creators and contributors within systems. This strategy therefore focuses on strengthening the capacity, coordination, and enabling environment required for OPDs to effectively perform these roles at scale. This recognition also acknowledges the diversity of OPDs across regions, including variations in resources, technical capacity, and areas of specialization, and emphasizes the need to align roles, responsibilities, and support mechanisms to these contextual realities.



Introduction and Background

Disability Inclusion in Kenya

Kenya has established a strong legal and policy foundation for disability inclusion, including the Constitution (2010), the Persons with Disabilities Act (2025), the National Disability Policy (2024), and the Rehabilitation and Habitation Strategy (2023–2026). The country is also a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), reflecting its commitment to promoting the rights and participation of persons with disabilities.

These frameworks provide a clear basis for advancing inclusive development across sectors, supported by institutions such as the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the National Gender and Equality Commission. Together, they create an enabling environment for strengthening access to services, participation in governance, and protection of rights.

The next phase of progress presents an opportunity to strengthen the translation of these commitments into consistent practice. Evidence from county-level engagements and need assessments, which were conducted by KBTA in the year 2025 across Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi counties indicates that gaps persist in access to services, Assistive Technology, and inclusive systems. Addressing these gaps requires strengthening the link between policy frameworks and implementation at community, county, and national levels.



Within this context, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) play a critical role in bridging systems and ensuring that inclusion efforts are responsive to lived realities. Strengthening their capacity and positioning within existing structures is therefore essential to advancing effective and sustainable disability inclusion in Kenya.

Role and Contribution of OPDs

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are uniquely positioned within Kenya's governance and development systems due to their direct connection to communities and their lived experience of disability. Beyond representation, OPDs play multiple system-level roles that are essential for effective and inclusive development. They act as connectors between communities and services, contributors to governance and accountability, sources of real-time data and evidence, and advocate shaping policy and implementation.

Evidence confirms that OPDs are already performing these roles across community, county, and national levels. Strengthening and formalising these contributions presents a significant opportunity to improve the responsiveness, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of development systems across Kenya.

Linking communities to services: The needs assessment shows that many persons with disabilities face barriers in accessing essential services. In several assessed households, individuals relied on informal networks and OPD support to access basic assistive devices and navigate services. OPDs help bridge this



gap by connecting individuals to available services and facilitating access to support.

Strengthening participation in governance: The OPDs are actively engaging in public participation processes, although often informally. In Kisumu, participants emphasized that meaningful engagement goes beyond attendance, highlighting the importance of influencing decisions on budgets and policies. This reflects the role OPDs play in ensuring that the voices and priorities of persons with disabilities are reflected in governance processes.

Supporting accountability and monitoring: OPDs play a key role in identifying gaps in implementation and raising concerns at community level. In Mombasa, for example, OPDs highlighted delays in the implementation of disability-related policies and services, demonstrating their role in tracking progress and advocating for accountability.

Providing local-level data and insights: The needs assessment highlights persistent gaps in disability data, particularly at household level. OPDs contribute valuable real-time information on barriers, such as unsafe living environments, lack of assistive support, and limited access to services. This positions them as key actors in supporting more responsive and evidence-based planning.

Mobilizing communities and raising awareness: Across all counties, OPDs are actively promoting disability rights and encouraging participation in community



processes. Consultations showed that OPDs play a central role in raising awareness and strengthening inclusion at a local level.

Driving innovation and use of assistive technology: Evidence from Nairobi, Kenya's capital, shows how OPDs are adopting digital tools and assistive technologies to improve communication, coordination, and documentation. In some cases, organizations have shifted from manual to digital systems, enabling more efficient operations and broader reach.

Structure of organization of persons with disabilities across different levels

OPDs operate at different levels and perform distinct but complementary roles within Kenya's governance and development ecosystem. Treating OPDs as a uniform group overlooks these differences and limits the effectiveness of engagement and support.

In practice, OPDs vary in scale, capacity, and function, with their roles shaped by their proximity to communities, level of organization, and area of focus.

At the community level, grassroots and community-based OPDs play a critical role in supporting individuals and households. Many persons with disabilities rely on local networks to access services, assistive devices, and day-to-day support. These OPDs often act as the first point of contact, providing peer support, facilitating access to services, and helping individuals navigate complex



systems. Their close connection to communities positions them as essential actors in addressing immediate needs and ensuring inclusion at household level.

At the county level, OPDs and networks take on a more structured role in advocacy and coordination. Evidence from Kisumu, Nairobi, and Mombasa shows that these organizations engage in public participation forums, consultations, and planning processes, although often in an informal or inconsistent manner. Their role is critical in linking community-level realities to county-level decision-making, ensuring that the needs and priorities of persons with disabilities are reflected in planning, budgeting, and implementation processes.

At the national level, OPDs and federations operate within broader policy and coordination spaces. They engage with government institutions, contribute to policy discussions, and represent disability issues at national platforms. These organizations play an important role in shaping policy direction, influencing national priorities, and coordinating efforts across counties.

Specialized OPDs, including those focused on specific disability groups or technical areas, provide targeted expertise and support. Consultations highlight their role in addressing specific needs, advancing technical knowledge, and contributing to more inclusive and responsive interventions.



Implications for the Strategy

These distinctions have important implications for how OPDs are engaged and supported within this strategy.

First, interventions must be tailored to different levels. Grassroots OPDs require support to strengthen service linkages and community engagement, while national-level OPDs require support to influence policy and coordinate at scale. A one-size-fits-all approach is unlikely to be effective. Second, stronger linkages between levels are needed. Improving connections between community, county, and national OPDs will enhance the flow of information, strengthen advocacy, and support more responsive decision-making.

Third, coordination across OPDs should be strengthened. Consultations highlighted the need for more structured collaboration across different types of OPDs to reduce duplication, align efforts, and amplify collective influence. Finally, recognizing differentiated roles allows for more effective positioning of OPDs within governance systems. By aligning these roles with existing structures OPDs can contribute more effectively to inclusive development outcomes.

Rationale for the Strategy

Kenya has a strong foundation for advancing disability inclusion, supported by policy frameworks and active Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). The next phase of progress presents an opportunity to strengthen coordination,



capacity, and system integration to translate these commitments into consistent practice. Evidence from prior research and stakeholder consultations highlights persistent challenges in coordination, institutional capacity, and access to Assistive Technology.

Efforts to advance disability inclusion present an opportunity for stronger coordination and alignment across stakeholders, with limited coordination across government, OPDs, and other stakeholders. At the same time, many OPDs face constraints in governance, sustainability, and technical capacity, limiting their ability to effectively engage in decision-making processes and sustain their work. Access to Assistive Technology also remains limited and is not well integrated into public systems, affecting both individual participation and organizational effectiveness.

In addition, support to OPDs is often short-term and project-based, with limited focus on long-term institutional strengthening and system integration. Financing remains unpredictable and insufficient, further constraining impact.

These challenges point to the need for a more structured and coordinated approach. This strategy responds by bringing together institutional strengthening, Assistive Technology, coordination, and sustainable financing within a unified framework to support more effective and sustained disability inclusion outcomes.



Purpose of the strategy

This strategy aims to strengthen the institutional capacity, coordination, and sustainability of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) as credible and effective actors within Kenya's disability inclusion ecosystem, while enhancing access to and effective use of Assistive Technology (AT) as a key enabler of participation and independence. By equipping OPDs with stronger governance, advocacy, and service delivery capabilities, the strategy positions them to better represent and respond to the needs of persons with disabilities. Government buy-in is essential to ensure alignment with national priorities, promote ownership, and facilitate integration into public systems and budgets. This not only enhances accountability and coordination but also supports long-term sustainability and scale, ensuring that disability inclusion and access to Assistive Technology are embedded within national development efforts rather than driven by short-term initiatives.

Scope of the Strategy

This strategy provides a framework to guide coordinated action among government institutions, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), development partners, research institutions, service providers, and the private sector.

Its scope extends across national and county levels, with a strong focus on strengthening linkages between community-level lived experiences and formal governance and service delivery systems. The strategy brings together key areas of action, including institutional strengthening of OPDs, access to and



integration of Assistive Technology, participation in governance processes, coordination across stakeholders, and partnerships to support inclusive development.



Strategic Opportunities for Strengthening OPDs and Assistive Technology Systems

Kenya's disability inclusion ecosystem presents a strong foundation for advancing the role and influence of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). Evidence from the needs assessment, county case studies, and stakeholder consultations highlights a set of practical opportunities that, if effectively leveraged, can significantly strengthen inclusive governance, service delivery, and system accountability.

Strategic Opportunities to be Leveraged

Leveraging Kenya's devolved governance system

Kenya's devolved governance framework provides clear entry points for structured OPD engagement through mechanisms such as County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Annual Development Plans (ADPs), sector working groups, and public participation processes. OPDs are already engaging in these spaces, presenting an opportunity to formalize and institutionalize their participation in planning, budgeting, and accountability processes.



Building a strong legal and policy framework

The Constitution (2010), the Persons with Disabilities Act (2025), and related policies provide a robust legal basis for advancing disability inclusion. These frameworks, alongside national and international commitments, create an enabling environment for positioning OPDs as key actors in supporting implementation, accountability, and system strengthening. The Government, therefore, must play a key role in building a strong legal and policy framework to advance disability inclusion.

Expanding the use of digital tools and Assistive Technology

The increasing adoption of digital platforms and assistive technologies presents an opportunity to strengthen OPD operations, coordination, and advocacy. Evidence shows that OPDs are already using these tools to improve communication, documentation, and participation, creating a pathway for scaling digital inclusion and organizational effectiveness. It's important that OPDs build their capacity in this area, with support from key stakeholders, and investment from government and development programmes.

Positioning Assistive Technology as a system enabler

Assistive Technology is increasingly recognized as essential to participation, access, and independence. Beyond individual use, it offers significant potential to strengthen organizational capacity and improve service delivery systems



when integrated into sectors such as health, education, and social protection. All stakeholders in this space will need to collectively advocate for Assistive Technologies, alongside the role of OPDs in the uptake and dissemination of these technologies. It's important that the visibility of OPDs as a systems enabler is enhanced.

Strengthening and localizing Assistive Technology systems

Emerging national-level coordination structures for Assistive Technology provide a foundation for system development. There is a clear opportunity to extend and operationalize these systems at county level, ensuring that they are responsive to user needs and effectively connected to community-level realities. Assistive Technology must often consider the regional contexts and customize innovations to suit the user needs. It's important for innovators to understand the unique environment the technologies will be used within and for what purpose, to ensure appropriate, sustainable solutions that can be repaired and maintained within the community.

Building on existing OPD leadership and community networks

OPDs demonstrate strong commitment, local knowledge, and established networks across communities. This provides a foundation for scaling structured engagement, strengthening advocacy, and enhancing their role within



governance and service delivery systems. Capacity building for OPD leadership is important, alongside further alignment to National Umbrella bodies and collaboration between OPD actors. TOPD leadership capacity will similarly be strengthened through active participation in governance processes, increased advocacy initiatives, and stronger coordination at county and national levels.

Expanding partnerships and multi-stakeholder coordination

There is growing collaboration between OPDs, government, civil society, and development partners. Strengthening and formalizing these partnerships, including engagement with the private sector, offers an opportunity to improve coordination, reduce fragmentation, and scale impact. This can be achieved through increased buy-in across all stakeholders, including OPD leadership and their Umbrella bodies at the county and national level. By building on examples of good practice, and learning through implementation, coordination can continue to evolve to advance the impact of multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration.

Strategic Priorities for System Strengthening

Building on these opportunities, several priority areas for system strengthening emerge to further enhance the ability of OPDs to operate effectively within



governance and development systems to operate effectively within systems and to realize their full potential.

Opportunity to institutionalize structured OPD participation.

Although entry points for engagement exist, OPDs are not consistently or formally integrated into planning, budgeting, and decision-making processes. Participation remains uneven and often informal, limiting influence on policy and implementation. The government must look to address this by putting in place structured ways of engaging and getting feedback from the OPD., Building mechanisms for engagement and pathways for influence are critical to success.

Opportunity to strengthen coordination of Assistive Technology systems

The provision of Assistive Technology remains fragmented, with limited coordination across actors. This results in uneven access, duplication of efforts, and gaps in service delivery, particularly at county and community levels. The Government agencies such as the National Council of persons with disability should take the lead to coordinate assistive technology systems.



Opportunity to further integrate Assistive Technology into public systems

Assistive Technology is not yet systematically embedded within key sectors such as health, education, social protection, and digital inclusion. This limits sustainability, access to public financing, and long-term system integration. The Government must look to prioritise actualizing this through policy and programme delivery.

Opportunity to strengthen sustainable and predictable financing

Financing for OPDs and Assistive Technology remains constrained and fragmented. Many OPDs rely on short-term, project-based funding, limiting their ability to sustain operations, plan strategically, and scale impact. To build the impact and capacity of OPDs, key actors such as the government, civil society and non-profits must support OPDs towards sustainable funding models. This stability is critical in enabling OPDs to grow their governance, and align to the needs of funders and sector actors to support future programmatic delivery.

Opportunity to strengthen institutional capacity of OPDs

Many OPDs face challenges related to governance, operational systems, and technical capacity. These gaps affect their ability to engage effectively in governance processes, manage resources, and deliver sustained impact. OPDs must be supported by government and sector actors to build core capacity and



knowledge in these spaces, while also exploring wider knowledge sharing and up-skilling, especially where new technologies are emerging in areas such as AI.

Opportunity to strengthen coordination across stakeholders

The absence of structured coordination mechanisms across government, OPDs, and other actors reduces alignment, limits knowledge sharing, and constrains collective impact. To build impact and influence OPD networks need support to advance clearer channels of engagement – with coordination toward collective advocacy. OPDs themselves, alongside civil society and non-profits, must actively engage in strengthening coordination.

Implications for the Strategy

These opportunities and system gaps highlight the need for a coordinated and system-oriented approach. Strengthening OPDs requires not only addressing institutional capacity challenges, but also improving their integration within governance systems, enhancing coordination across stakeholders, and embedding Assistive Technology within public service delivery.

The strategy therefore focuses on unlocking these opportunities while addressing systemic constraints, with the aim of positioning OPDs as effective, sustainable, and influential actors within Kenya’s inclusive development



ecosystem. These priorities directly inform the strategic framework that follows, which translates opportunities into structured actions for system strengthening.

Guiding Principles

The strategy is guided by a set of principles that define how interventions will be designed and implemented. These principles respond to the realities identified through the needs assessment, case studies, and consultations, and provide a clear direction for positioning OPDs within Kenya's governance and development systems.

1. Participation and Inclusion

OPDs are recognized as active contributors to governance, service delivery, and accountability. Evidence shows they are already performing these roles. The strategy therefore focuses on strengthening and formalizing their position within systems rather than treating them as recipients of support.

2. Systems Alignment and Sustainability

The strategy prioritizes working through existing governance, legal, and institutional structures rather than creating parallel or new systems. This ensures sustainability, alignment with national priorities, and stronger long-term impact.



3. Accountability and Results Orientation –

While strong legal frameworks and national commitments exist; the key gap lies in implementation. The strategy focuses on translating these into practical outcomes by strengthening accountability, supporting local-level action, and ensuring that OPDs play a central role in driving results.

4. Context Responsiveness and Localisation

Challenges are most visible at household and community level. The strategy emphasizes solutions that respond to these realities and strengthens the role of OPDs in connecting communities to services, systems, and opportunities.

5. Integration of Assistive Technology

Assistive technology is treated as a core enabler of participation, independence, and organizational effectiveness. The strategy promotes its integration across service delivery, governance engagement, and OPD institutional strengthening.

6. Partnership and Collaboration

Disability inclusion requires coordinated action across multiple actors. The strategy promotes strong partnerships between OPDs, government, civil society, private sector, and development partners to ensure alignment and scale.



7. Evidence-Based and Learning

The strategy is grounded in evidence and promotes continuous learning. Implementation will remain flexible and responsive, allowing for adaptation based on emerging insights and changing contexts.

These principles guide the design and implementation of the strategic framework outlined in the following section.



Strategic Framework

Building on the evidence, opportunities, and system gaps identified, this strategy provides a structured framework to strengthen the positioning, capacity, and influence of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) within Kenya's governance and development systems. It adopts a systems-level approach that aligns OPDs with existing institutional structures, enhances their role in decision-making processes, and integrates Assistive Technology as a key enabler of participation and inclusion.

Vision

A strong, well-positioned, and sustainable OPD sector in Kenya, actively shaping inclusive governance, influencing development outcomes, and enabling the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through equitable access to Assistive Technology.

Mission

To strengthen the capacity, effectiveness, and sustainability of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in Kenya through Assistive Technology, strategic partnerships, and system integration, enabling OPDs to actively participate in governance, influence decision-making, and advance inclusive development.



Strategic Pillars and Objectives

To achieve the intended outcomes, this strategy is structured around six interconnected strategic pillars, which also serve as the core strategic objectives. Each pillar represents both a priority area for intervention and a desired outcome, providing a coherent and system-oriented framework for strengthening the role, effectiveness, and sustainability of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) within Kenya’s governance and development systems. Together, these pillars enable coordinated, scalable, and sustainable action across national and county levels.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Sustainability of OPDs

This pillar focuses on building strong, accountable, and resilient OPDs with the institutional capacity to effectively deliver on their mandates. It seeks to strengthen governance structures, leadership, internal policies, operational systems, and financial management practices to enhance transparency, accountability, and performance. By improving organizational systems and investing in targeted capacity building—including advocacy, programme management, resource mobilization, and Assistive Technology—OPDs will be better positioned to manage resources, coordinate interventions, and deliver sustained impact. The pillar also promotes peer learning, mentorship, and the development of long-term sustainability strategies to reduce dependency on short-term support.



Enhancing Structured Participation and Influence in Governance

This pillar focuses on institutionalizing the meaningful participation of OPDs within formal governance systems. It aims to move engagement from ad hoc or informal involvement toward structured, recognized, and sustained participation in public planning, budgeting, and decision-making processes at both national and county levels. By strengthening pathways for representation and engagement, OPDs will be better equipped to influence policy development, resource allocation, and programme implementation. The pillar also emphasizes building OPDs' capacity in policy engagement, budget tracking, and evidence-based advocacy, as well as strengthening coordination and information flow across grassroots, county, and national levels to ensure that community priorities inform governance processes.

Improving Access to and Integration of Assistive Technology

This pillar focuses on expanding equitable access to Assistive Technology (AT) and embedding it within public systems and service delivery frameworks. It addresses existing fragmentation by strengthening coordination among stakeholders and integrating AT into key sectors such as health, education, social protection, and digital inclusion, as well as into national and county planning and budgeting processes. The pillar emphasizes localization of AT systems to ensure accessibility and responsiveness at community and county levels, while promoting user-centered approaches that reflect the needs and preferences of persons with disabilities. It also supports the development of sustainable supply chains, referral pathways, and awareness initiatives to improve availability, uptake, and effective use of Assistive Technology.



Strengthening Partnerships and Coordination Across Stakeholders

This pillar focuses on aligning actors and strengthening collective action to enhance efficiency and impact. It promotes structured collaboration among government institutions, OPDs, development partners, private sector, and research institutions through the establishment of coordination platforms, joint planning frameworks, and information-sharing mechanisms. Strengthening these partnerships will reduce duplication, improve resource utilization, and support the scaling of inclusive interventions. The pillar also emphasizes strengthening linkages across grassroots, county, and national OPDs to ensure coordinated representation and action across all levels.

Increasing Sustainable and Predictable Financing

This pillar focuses on ensuring the availability of adequate, predictable, and diversified financial resources to support long-term impact. It aims to strengthen public financing for disability inclusion and Assistive Technology by advocating for increased budget allocations and integrating these priorities into sectoral and development planning frameworks at national and county levels. In addition, the pillar supports OPDs to enhance their resource mobilization capacities, access diverse funding sources, and establish strategic partnerships with private sector actors and development partners. This approach reduces reliance on short-term funding and promotes financial sustainability and resilience.



Strengthening Data, Digital Inclusion, and Evidence- Based Action

This pillar focuses on enhancing the generation, management, and use of data and evidence to support effective planning, advocacy, and decision-making. It supports OPDs to develop and implement data collection and management systems, build capacity in data use, and leverage digital tools for communication, coordination, and engagement. The pillar also emphasizes the establishment of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems to track progress, assess impact, and inform adaptive implementation. In addition, it promotes documentation and knowledge sharing of good practices and lessons learned, fostering continuous learning and improvement across OPDs and stakeholders.



Recommendations

Recommendations on the Implementation

Approach

It is recommended that the Implementation of this strategy be supported through existing national and county coordination mechanisms for disability inclusion and Assistive Technology. The approach should prioritize strengthening and aligning with these mechanisms, rather than creating new institutional structures.

At the national level, the Government should oversee coordination through established platforms that provide strategic direction, policy alignment, and oversight. These may include structures such as national steering committees or similar high-level coordination forums that bring together government institutions, OPDs, development partners, private sector actors, and research institutions.

Technical coordination should be supported through relevant technical working groups and sectoral coordination platforms. These mechanisms will facilitate operational coordination, technical support, knowledge sharing, and alignment of implementation across stakeholders.

At the same time, the strategy recognizes the importance of informal and emerging coordination spaces, including networks, partnerships, and



community-level platforms. These will be leveraged to support collaboration, information flow, and responsiveness to local needs.

At the county level, coordination should align with existing governance and service delivery structures, with a focus on strengthening local mechanisms and supporting the localization of Assistive Technology governance systems. It is important that OPDs play an active role in these processes to ensure that implementation reflects local priorities and lived realities.

Across all levels, coordination mechanisms should support joint planning, resource alignment, information sharing, and tracking of progress. This flexible approach will help to ensure that coordination remains inclusive, adaptive, and responsive to different contexts.

Recommendations for Phased Implementation

It is recommended that the implementation of this strategy should follow a phased approach to support progressive system strengthening, integration, and long-term sustainability. While the phases provide structured progression, they are not strictly linear and may overlap to allow for flexibility, learning, and adaptation based on context.



Phase 1: System Strengthening and Alignment

The first phase should focus on strengthening the foundational systems required for effective implementation. This includes aligning stakeholders, strengthening the institutional capacity of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), and reinforcing coordination and governance mechanisms at national and county levels.

During this phase, emphasis should be placed on strengthening governance, operational, and financial systems within OPDs, as well as mapping existing services, stakeholders, and gaps in Assistive Technology access and service delivery. Efforts must also focus on initiating the localization of Assistive Technology governance structures at county level and establishing initial data systems and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) processes. Overall, this phase is aimed at creating the conditions necessary for coordinated and system-level implementation.

Phase 2: System Integration and Expansion

Building on these foundations, a second phase should focus on integrating interventions into existing systems and expanding access and participation. This includes embedding OPDs within governance processes such as planning, budgeting, and decision-making, and operationalizing coordination mechanisms, including technical working groups and multi-stakeholder platforms.

Efforts must also focus on expanding access to Assistive Technology through strengthened referral systems, distribution mechanisms, and service delivery



channels. At the same time, partnerships across government, OPDs, service providers, and private sector actors will be strengthened, alongside scaling the use of digital tools, data systems, and Assistive Technology within OPD operations. This phase emphasizes the transition from initial system strengthening to more consistent and coordinated implementation across sectors and counties.

Phase 3: Institutionalization and Scaling

It's recommended that the third phase should focus on embedding systems within existing structures and scaling successful approaches across counties. This includes institutionalizing OPD participation within governance and planning systems and integrating Assistive Technology into sector policies, plans, and budgeting frameworks.

In addition, this phase should prioritize strengthening sustainable financing mechanisms, including increased public investment, and scaling effective models of service delivery, coordination, and OPD engagement. Coordination across national and county systems will be further strengthened to ensure consistency and alignment. This phase ensures that the strategy moves beyond initial implementation to sustained, system-wide impact.

Phase 4: Sustainability, Learning, and Adaptation

The final phase should focus on sustaining gains, strengthening long-term systems, and embedding continuous learning. Efforts must be directed toward strengthening the long-term sustainability of OPDs, including both institutional



and financial sustainability, and consolidating lessons learned and good practices from implementation.

Data use, monitoring, and learning systems should be strengthened to support adaptive implementation, while coordination and governance mechanisms must also be continuously improved. Lessons generated through implementation can also inform future policy and strategy development, ensuring that the strategy remains responsive, relevant, and capable of sustaining impact beyond the implementation period.

Recommendations on Roles and Responsibilities of Key Actors

Role of Governments

It is recommended that Government institutions provide overall leadership and an enabling environment for implementation. Their role will include integrating Assistive Technology and disability inclusion within sector policies, planning, and budgeting processes, ensuring alignment across national and county systems, and facilitating coordination across sectors. Government will also support the operationalization of governance and service delivery systems through which the strategy will be implemented.



Role of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

OPDs should play a central role as representative bodies and as active actors within implementation. They should contribute to identifying priorities, facilitating participation of persons with disabilities in governance processes, and supporting engagement at community level. OPDs should also play a key role in advocacy, feedback, and monitoring, ensuring that implementation remains responsive to lived realities.

Role of Technical and Implementation Partners

Technical and implementation partners should provide specialized expertise to support the design and delivery of interventions. This includes technical assistance in areas such as Assistive Technology systems, digital inclusion, capacity development, and programme implementation. They should also support knowledge sharing, innovation, and the scaling of effective approaches across contexts.

Role of the service providers

Service providers should contribute to implementation through the delivery of inclusive services, including rehabilitation, Assistive Technology provision, and community-based support. They can support the operationalization of referral and service delivery systems, and work closely with OPDs and government to expand access, particularly at community level.



Role of Development Partners

Development partners are needed to support implementation through financial and technical contributions. Their role will include supporting system strengthening, capacity development, and innovation, as well as promoting alignment across programmes and supporting coordinated approaches.

Role of the Private Sector

The private sector should contribute through innovation, investment, and service provision, particularly in the development and distribution of Assistive Technology and digital solutions. This would also support the expansion of accessible and affordable products and services and contribute to scaling through partnerships.

Role of Research and Innovation Institutions

Research and academic institutions should support implementation by generating evidence, strengthening data systems, supporting innovations, and contributing to learning processes. They will likely play a key role in informing decision-making, documenting experiences, and supporting adaptive implementation.



Coordination Mechanisms

Coordination of implementation should be facilitated through structured mechanisms operating across national, technical, and county levels. These mechanisms should bring together key stakeholders to support alignment, joint action, and accountability, while remaining flexible to different contexts.

At the national level, coordination should be undertaken through high-level multi-stakeholder platforms, which may include national steering committees or similar forums. These platforms can bring together various stakeholder including, Governments institutions, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), development partners, private sector actors, and research institutions. This can be complemented at the technical level by coordination through technical working groups and sectoral platforms, which bring together relevant actors to support operational coordination and alignment of implementation.

At the county level, coordination should be anchored within existing governance and service delivery structures, strengthening linkages among stakeholders and enabling implementation that is responsive to local priorities and realities. The strategy also recognizes informal and emerging coordination structures, particularly at county and community levels, and the need to leverage these to complement formal mechanisms and enhance responsiveness.

Across these levels, coordination mechanisms are recommended to perform the following key functions:



1. Collaboration

Collaboration should be promoted through regular multi-stakeholder platforms at national and county levels, enabling joint planning, information sharing, and alignment of interventions among government, OPDs, development partners, technical partners, and the private sector.

2. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance should be coordinated through the Technical Working Groups and partner networks, which can mobilize expertise from technical and implementation partners to support capacity development, Assistive Technology integration, and delivery of interventions. This can help to ensure that OPDs and other stakeholders receive timely, relevant, and context-appropriate technical support.

3. Resource Coordination

Financial and technical resources should be aligned through coordinated planning and partnership mechanisms, Governments are well placed to take a lead role in allocating and mobilizing domestic resources to support implementation of priority interventions, while development partners and the private sector can play a complementary role through financial contributions, technical support, and innovation.



4. Knowledge sharing and learning across stakeholders:

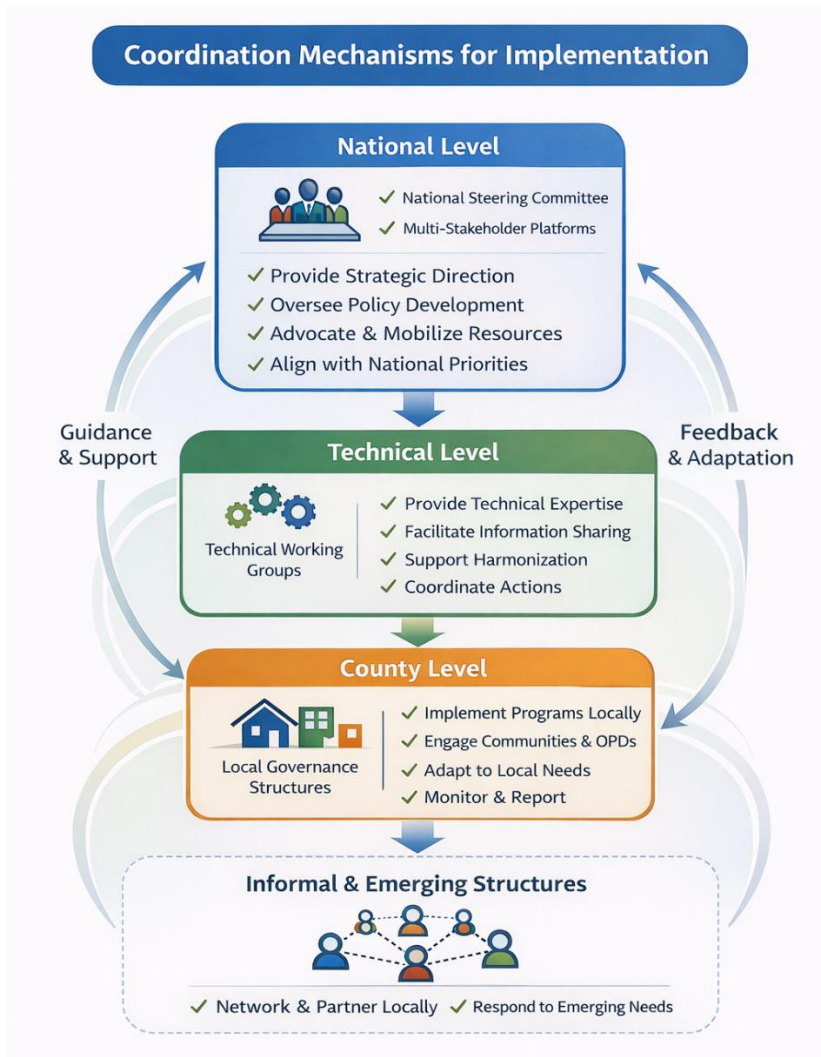
Coordination platforms can facilitate continuous exchange of knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned among stakeholders through regular learning forums, communities of practice, and documentation of experiences. This approach can support adaptation of interventions, promote innovation, and strengthen evidence-based decision-making across the Assistive Technology and OPD ecosystem.

5. Joint planning and review platforms:

It's recommended that regular multi-stakeholder planning and review forums at national and county levels are implemented to support joint priority setting, alignment of interventions, and tracking of progress.



6. Coordinated monitoring and reporting systems



To build streamline evidence and outputs harmonized monitoring, reporting, and review processes are important. This would include shared indicators and reporting tools that can to track progress, support resource utilization, and capture results data across stakeholders.

Figure 1 coordination mechanisms for implementation



Strategic Results Framework

The strategy is guided by a results framework to strengthen the role and effectiveness of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) as key actors in advancing inclusive governance and development in Kenya.

At the impact level, the strategy is aimed at contributing to a more inclusive society where persons with disabilities are able to participate meaningfully and access services, opportunities, and Assistive Technology. At the outcome level, the strategy follows a progressive and reinforcing pathway that reflects the phased approach to implementation. It begins with strengthening the institutional capacity and sustainability of OPDs, including governance, operational, and financial systems. This provides the foundation for more effective engagement within broader systems.

Building on this foundation, the strategy recommendations have the potential to enhance the participation and influence of OPDs in governance processes by supporting their structured engagement in planning, budgeting, and decision-making at both national and county levels. At the same time, the strategy can improve access to and integration of Assistive Technology by embedding it within public service delivery systems and strengthening referral, distribution, and service delivery mechanisms across sectors and levels.

These efforts must be reinforced through strengthened coordination across stakeholders, supported by structured mechanisms that enable collaboration, alignment of resources, technical support, and continuous learning. This will help



to ensure that implementation is coherent, reduces fragmentation, and connects national priorities with county-level delivery.

To sustain these gains, the strategy recommends more predictable and diversified financing, including increased public investment and improved access to complementary funding sources. Finally, the strategy intends to strengthen the use of data, digital tools, and learning systems to support evidence-based advocacy, coordinated monitoring and reporting, and adaptive implementation by the OPD, umbrella bodies and Government institutions tasked with this responsibility such as the NGEC. The feedback should be shared back to OPDs and Assistive Technology innovators in order to strengthen areas that are weak.

Together, these intended outcomes will mutually reinforce and reflect a progression from system strengthening, to integration, to institutionalization, and ultimately to sustainability. This contributes to a more effective and well-positioned OPD sector that is able to influence systems, improve access to services, and drive inclusive development outcomes.

A detailed results framework, including indicators, baselines, and targets, is provided in Annex 1.



Financing the Strategy

Implementation of this strategy is a long term ambition, and should be supported through a coordinated financing approach that must prioritize domestic and International resource mobilization and strategic partnerships.

The Government must play a central role in creating an enabling environment in the implementation of this strategy by supporting from a policy level. Support and goodwill from key government institutions will be key in ensuring a successful implementation.

Development partners, especially those with a focus on Disability inclusion and assistive technology, will need to continue to seek and provide financial and technical support to accelerate implementation, support innovation, and strengthen capacity development. The private sector must also contribute through investment, innovation, and provision of accessible Assistive Technology products and services.

Securing coordinated financing is important to align investments with national priorities, and reduce fragmentation of resources. Innovative financing approaches and partnerships should also be explored to expand resource availability and support scaling of interventions. The strategy promotes a gradual shift toward increased domestic financing for Assistive Technology and disability inclusion, reducing reliance on external funding over time.



Priority Investment Areas

Implementation of the strategy will require sustained investment across key priority areas aligned with the strategic pillars. These include strengthening institutional capacity of OPDs, improving access to and integration of Assistive Technology, enhancing participation in governance processes, strengthening coordination and partnerships, and promoting data systems and learning.

Investment in these areas reflects the need to build both institutional systems and service delivery capacities, while ensuring that Assistive Technology is embedded within broader development and governance processes.

Financing Pathways

Financing of the strategy can be pursued through multiple pathways, including:

- Public financing through Integration into national and county budgets across relevant sectors.
- Development partner support: through grants, technical assistance, and programmatic funding.
- Private sector engagement through Investment in Assistive Technology solutions, service delivery, and innovation.
- Blended and innovative financing that leveraging partnerships to combine public, private, and partners resources.
- Philanthropic and foundation funding to support targeted initiatives, innovation, and capacity development.



Partnership and Investment Opportunities

Building on the financing approach outlined above, the following areas present key opportunities for strategic investment and partnership. The strategy presents opportunities for partners and investors to contribute to high-impact areas, including:

- Scaling access to Assistive Technology and digital accessibility solutions
- Strengthening institutional capacity of OPDs
- Supporting innovation, research, and locally relevant Assistive Technology solutions
- Enhancing inclusive service delivery across sectors such as health, education, and social protection
- Strengthening data systems, monitoring, and evidence generation

These opportunities position the strategy as an investable framework that enables coordinated action, partnership alignment, and measurable impact in advancing disability inclusion in Kenya.



Strategic Recommendations for Key Stakeholders

Realizing the objectives of this strategy requires coordinated and deliberate action across key actors within Kenya's disability inclusion ecosystem. The following recommendations outline priority actions for each stakeholder group to strengthen the positioning of OPDs and advance inclusive systems.

National and County Governments

Government institutions play a central role in institutionalizing inclusion and ensuring sustainability. Key recommendations for National and County Governments include:

- Institutionalize OPD participation by embedding representation within planning, budgeting, and decision-making structures at national and county levels.
- Integrate Assistive Technology into sector systems (health, education, social protection, and digital inclusion), including within policies, plans, and budgets.
- Establish dedicated budget lines for disability inclusion and Assistive Technology within national and county financing frameworks.
- Operationalize Assistive Technology governance structures at county level, ensuring clear mandates, coordination mechanisms, and OPD participation.



- Strengthening inter-ministerial and county coordination mechanisms to align implementation and reduce fragmentation.

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

OPDs are central actors and must strengthen their role as system contributors and influencers. Key recommendations for OPDs include:

- Strengthen governance and accountability systems, including leadership structures, internal policies, and financial management practices
- Develop and implement strategic and sustainability plans to guide long-term growth and reduce reliance on short-term funding
- Engage proactively in governance processes, including policy dialogue, public participation, and budget advocacy
- Systematically document and use community-level evidence to inform decision-making and strengthen advocacy
- Leverage digital tools and Assistive Technology to improve coordination, communication, and outreach



Service Providers and Implementing Organizations

Service providers are critical to translating systems into accessible services. Key recommendations for Service Providers and Implementing Organizations include:

- Integrate OPDs into service design and feedback mechanisms to ensure services reflect lived experiences.
- Establish and strengthen referral pathways linking communities, OPDs, and public systems.
- Align service delivery with national and county Assistive Technology systems, including coordinated distribution and service provision
- Prioritize last-mile delivery models to expand access in underserved and community-level settings.
- Generate and share service-level data to inform planning, monitoring, and system improvement.

Development Partners

Development partners play a key role in enabling scale and system strengthening. Key recommendations for Development Partners include:

- Shift from short-term project funding to long-term, system-focused investments that strengthen OPD sustainability.



- Align funding with national and county priorities, reducing fragmentation and duplication.
- Invest in Assistive Technology systems, including access, integration, and service delivery models.
- Support data systems and evidence generation, including strengthening OPDs' capacity to collect and use data.
- Promote coordination across funded programmes to maximize impact and learning

Private Sector

The private sector is critical for innovation, scale, and sustainability. Key recommendations for Private Sector include:

- Invest in the development and distribution of affordable Assistive Technology solutions, informed by user needs.
- Embed accessibility within products, services, and digital platforms.
- Partner with OPDs to co-design inclusive solutions, ensuring user-centred approaches.
- Strengthening supply chains and distribution networks to improve last-mile access
- Explore innovative financing models to support scaling of inclusive technologies and services.



Research and Academic Institutions

Research institutions are essential for evidence generation and system learning. Key recommendations for Research and Academic Institutions include:

- Generate implementation-focused evidence on strengthening OPDs and integrating Assistive Technology into systems.
- Support OPDs in data collection, analysis, and use, particularly at community level.
- Document and scale practical models and lessons learned from county-level implementation.
- Ensure research is grounded in lived experiences and informs policy and system change.

Cross-Cutting Priority

Establish and operationalize coordinated platforms for collaboration, information sharing, and joint accountability across all stakeholders, aligned with national and county systems.



Conclusion

This strategy provides a structured and practical framework for strengthening Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) as key actors in advancing disability inclusion in Kenya. It builds on evidence, existing systems, and the demonstrated role of OPDs in bridging the gap between policy commitments and lived realities.

By focusing on institutional strengthening, participation in governance, access to Assistive Technology, coordination, financing, and data systems, the strategy outlines a coherent pathway toward more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable systems. Its emphasis on integration within existing national and county structures ensures that implementation is both practical and scalable.

Successful implementation will depend on sustained commitment, coordinated action, and shared responsibility among government, OPDs, development partners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Strengthening collaboration and aligning efforts across these actors will be essential to achieving meaningful and lasting impact.

Ultimately, this strategy contributes to a more inclusive society in which persons with disabilities are able to participate fully and equally in all aspects of life, and where OPDs are effectively positioned to influence systems, improve access to services, and drive inclusive development outcomes.



Annex

Figure 2 Strategic Results Framework (RF)

Strategic Objective	Strategic Outcome	Key Outputs / Priority Actions	Indicative Indicators	Baseline (2025)
1. Strengthen institutional capacity and sustainability of OPDs	Stronger, more resilient OPDs with improved governance, systems, and sustainability	Governance frameworks, internal policies, leadership structures; financial management systems; operational systems; capacity-building programmes; peer learning platforms; sustainability plans	% of OPDs with functional governance structures	To be established
			% of OPDs with strategic plans and internal policies	Low (<30%)
			% of OPDs applying basic financial management practices	Low
			# of OPDs participating in capacity-building programmes	0
			% of OPDs implementing sustainability plans	Minimal
2. Enhance participation and influence of OPDs in governance processes	Increased and institutionalized participation of OPDs in planning, budgeting, and decision-making	Structured participation mechanisms; inclusion in governance and sectoral committees; advocacy and policy training; dialogue platforms; coordination across OPD levels; use of community evidence	# of OPDs participating in planning and budgeting processes	Limited
			# of OPDs represented in governance and sectoral committees	Low
			# of OPD-led advocacy initiatives influencing decisions	Minimal
			# of documented cases of OPD influence on policy/plans	Few
3. Improve access to and	Increased access to	AT coordination mechanisms;	# of sectors integrating AT into services	Limited



integration of Assistive Technology	affordable AT integrated into public systems and services	integration into service delivery, planning and budgeting; expanded community access; referral systems; supply chains; awareness initiatives	# of persons with disabilities accessing AT services	Low
			# of counties with functional AT referral/distribution systems	Very few
			% increase in awareness and uptake of AT	Low awareness
4. Strengthen partnerships and coordination	Improved coordination, alignment, and collaboration across stakeholders	Multi-stakeholder platforms; defined roles; joint planning and implementation; information-sharing systems; strategic partnerships	# of functional coordination platforms established	Few/none
			# of joint initiatives implemented	Minimal
			# of formal partnerships (MoUs, agreements)	Low
			Frequency of coordination/knowledge-sharing meetings	Irregular
5. Strengthen sustainable financing and resource mobilization	Increased and more predictable funding for OPDs and AT systems	Public funding advocacy; integration into budgets; resource mobilization strategies; diversified funding access; private sector partnerships; pooled funding mechanisms	Amount of public funding allocated to disability inclusion/AT	Limited
			# of OPDs accessing diversified funding sources	Low
			# of OPDs with resource mobilization strategies	Minimal
			# of partnerships supporting financing	Few
6. Strengthen data, digital inclusion, and learning (MEL)	Improved use of data, digital tools, and learning systems to support	Data systems; digital tools adoption; MEL systems; documentation and knowledge sharing	% of OPDs using data systems for planning and advocacy	Low
			% of OPDs using digital tools for coordination/advocacy	Limited



	decision- making and advocacy		# of knowledge products developed	Few
			# of programmes with functional MEL systems	Minimal