Innovate Now

Lessons from Africa's First Assistive Technology Accelerator

Global Disability Innovation Hub

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Global Disability Innovation Hub

GDI Hub Accelerate

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa
"Unlocking Literacy for Life"

AT4D

Norad

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Cover: Assistive technology user testing, reflecting Innovate Now's focus on developing solutions alongside users.

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Reference: World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2022). Global report on assistive technology. Geneva: WHO and UNICEF.

Executive Summary

The Programme

Innovate Now, Africa's first accelerator dedicated to assistive technology, was established in 2019 through a partnership between GDI Hub and Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa (KBTA). Over more than six years and ten cohorts, it supported more than eighty ventures from eleven countries, testing whether sustained, specialist support could help locally developed assistive technology reach scale.

The Evidence

Innovate Now exceeded many of its original programme targets and continued to expand its reach, venture pipeline and capital mobilisation through its latest phase and its alumni mobilised more than USD 3 million in follow-on funding. Alongside these outcomes, the programme generated a unique body of longitudinal evidence about the conditions that shape whether assistive technology ventures grow. It showed that strengthening founders and ventures is essential, but insufficient on its own. Long-term growth also depends on the markets, financing, infrastructure, and institutions that surround them.

The Response

These lessons informed the creation of GDI Accelerate, GDI Hub's platform for venture building and ecosystem development. Building on the experience of Innovate Now, GDI Accelerate combines venture support with market development, strategic partnerships, financing, shared infrastructure, research, and capacity building to strengthen the wider systems in which disability innovation develops.

Innovate Now at a Glance

Programme Scale

80+	ventures supported or currently in incubation
10	cohorts
11	countries represented
40+	partner organisations engaged
540+	accelerator applications received

Programme Reach

40,000+	direct users reached
9,000+	indirect users reached
200+	AT founders engaged
1,000+	mentoring & office hours delivered
500+	part-/full-time jobs created

Programme figures are drawn from Innovate Now monitoring data and venture reporting, as of January 2026.

Capital and Investment

$3M+	in follow-on funding mobilised by alumni ventures
600+	investors engaged

The Path Ahead

The experience of Innovate Now demonstrates that venture support is most effective when it is complemented by investment in the wider systems that enable innovation to succeed. Translating these lessons into long-term institutional commitment will require governments, funders, investors, and delivery partners to strengthen the markets, financing, infrastructure, and local capacity on which disability innovation depends.

The Challenge

Access to assistive technology (AT) remains one of the widest unaddressed gaps in global disability inclusion.

The markets, financing, and systems needed to deliver AT at scale remain underdeveloped, leaving millions of people without the technologies they need to participate fully in everyday life. In low- and middle-income countries, coverage can be as low as three percent, with the greatest gaps found across Sub-Saharan Africa, where limited manufacturing capacity, fragmented markets, and uneven policy implementation continue to restrict access to essential products and services (WHO & UNICEF, 2022).

Across Africa, entrepreneurs have long been developing products and services for mobility, communication, education, employment, transport, hearing, vision, and independent living. Many demonstrate strong technical capability, deep user understanding, and clear social value, yet relatively few have reached sustainable scale. Access to specialist venture support tailored to the unique challenges of developing and commercialising AT has historically been limited.

Innovate Now, Africa's first accelerator dedicated to AT, was created to address that gap. Launched in 2019 through a partnership between GDI Hub and Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa (KBTA) under the UK Aid-funded AT2030 programme, it was designed to help early-stage ventures develop, test, and scale locally relevant AT solutions.

Over more than six years, Innovate Now supported more than eighty ventures across eleven African countries, becoming the continent's longest-running programme of its kind.

This report follows that journey, from the launch and implementation of Innovate Now through the evidence it generated and the organisational response that emerged from it. While grounded in the African context, its lessons have relevance wherever innovation is expected to succeed before the markets, financing, institutions, and infrastructure needed to support it are in place.

People with disabilities participating in an Innovate Now session, bringing lived experience into the innovation process.

Act I: Activation
(2019–2021)

The most important challenges in innovation rarely concern technology alone. They lie in creating the conditions that allow good ideas to become products, organisations, and markets.

Building the Foundations

By 2019, Africa's startup ecosystem was expanding rapidly. Investment in entrepreneurship was increasing, technology hubs were emerging across the continent, and locally developed solutions were gaining traction in sectors ranging from finance and agriculture to health and education. This momentum, however, had yet to extend meaningfully into AT. Despite the scale of unmet need across the continent, entrepreneurs working in AT had few opportunities to access sustained support, and there was little evidence about how disability-focused ventures could be successfully developed and scaled.

Established through the UK Aid-funded AT2030 programme, Innovate Now was designed by GDI Hub and KBTA as Africa's first accelerator dedicated to AT. It was built on the premise that African entrepreneurs, supported by technical expertise, specialist venture support, and co-design with people with disabilities, could develop locally relevant AT capable of expanding access across the continent.

Testing that hypothesis called for deliberate choices about where the programme would be based, who would deliver it, and how entrepreneurs would be supported throughout the innovation journey.

Starting with a Strong Ecosystem

Kenya was selected as the programme's home because it combined many of the ingredients needed to test a new model. Nairobi had an active innovation ecosystem, with startup networks, universities, investors, disability organisations, and public institutions already engaged in innovation. Locating the programme there provided a strong operational base while creating opportunities to attract ventures and partners from across the region. Although delivery began in Kenya, the programme was designed from the outset with a continental outlook, with the goal of generating evidence that could inform disability innovation ecosystems across Africa.

The programme was built on local partnership from the outset.

Building Through Partnership

Innovate Now was built through partnership, recognising that lasting innovation ecosystems depend on local institutions with the relationships, contextual knowledge, and credibility to sustain them over time.

GDI Hub conceived and designed the programme, bringing together international evidence, technical expertise, and global partnerships. Delivery was anchored within organisations already embedded in Kenya's disability and innovation landscape. AMREF Health Africa hosted the programme during its formative years, providing an established operational platform, while KBTA played a central role in programme delivery, contributing deep expertise in AT and longstanding relationships with disability communities.

As the programme evolved, stewardship progressively transitioned to KBTA, reflecting a deliberate commitment to locally led ownership. Throughout that transition, GDI Hub continued to provide strategic direction, evidence generation, and international convening, strengthening local leadership while helping connect the programme to the wider global disability innovation ecosystem.

Designing With Users

A defining feature of Innovate Now was the active role that people with disabilities played throughout the innovation process.

At the centre of the programme was Live Labs, a structured co-design methodology that brought entrepreneurs together with people with disabilities, clinicians, carers, and organisations of persons with disabilities from the earliest stages of product development. Through workshops, user testing, needs assessments, and iterative feedback, ventures refined ideas alongside the communities they were designing for, allowing products to evolve in response to real-world experience rather than assumptions.

Over time, Live Labs became one of Innovate Now's most distinctive contributions. Beyond strengthening individual ventures, it demonstrated how lived experience can improve product design, strengthen commercial relevance, and create more responsive innovation processes. The methodology has since informed disability innovation practice well beyond the programme itself.

Early Signals

The first cohorts provided encouraging evidence that the model was working. Founders entered the programme with strong technical capability, a deep understanding of local challenges, and ambitious ideas across mobility, communication, education, employment, hearing, vision, transport, and independent living. As ventures matured, so did confidence that disability innovation could become a meaningful part of Africa's wider entrepreneurial ecosystem.

By the end of 2021, the programme had answered the question it was created to test. African entrepreneurs were building innovative, locally relevant AT, and dedicated support could help those ventures develop.

Success, however, brought a new question into focus. If ventures could be strengthened, what would determine whether they ultimately reached scale?

Act II: Momentum (2022–2025)

Scaling the Model

By 2022, Innovate Now had moved beyond its initial proof of concept. With support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the programme entered a new phase of growth, expanding its reach across Africa while continuing to refine the model established during its early years. More entrepreneurs joined each cohort, the geographical reach widened, and the diversity of ventures continued to grow. Innovate Now went on to support more than eighty ventures from eleven countries, creating one of Africa's largest dedicated pipelines of AT innovation, with women founding nearly a third of those ventures and founders with lived disability experience represented in roughly one in ten.

The Ventures Leading the Way

As the portfolio expanded, the ventures themselves became the clearest evidence of the programme's impact.

Founders developed solutions spanning mobility, communication, education, employment, hearing, vision, transport, and independent living, including 3D-printed bionic limbs, solar-powered hearing aid kits, and AI-driven speech therapy tools. Some entered the programme with early concepts, while others arrived with products already being tested. Through venture support, mentorship, and Live Labs, ideas became stronger businesses, products became more responsive to user needs, and partnerships opened new pathways to growth.

Each venture followed a different journey, but together they demonstrated the breadth of innovation emerging across Africa and the value of specialist support tailored to AT.

Ace Mobility

Ace Mobility was created to address a challenge that many wheelchair users in Nairobi face every day: finding safe, reliable, and accessible transport. Working closely with users through Live Labs, the team refined its service model before expanding operations across the city. Since graduating from Innovate Now, Ace Mobility has delivered thousands of accessible journeys and established partnerships with organisations including Safaricom and Jumia, demonstrating how user-centred design can translate into commercially viable services.

Hope Tech

Hope Tech was founded with the conviction that blind and visually impaired people in Africa deserved navigation technology designed for their own environment. Its Sixth Sense wearable obstacle detection device was refined through Live Labs with blind users in Nairobi first, then across four continents before reaching the market. The venture has since secured more than USD 3 million in investment, becoming one of the most highly capitalised AT ventures to emerge from the African startup ecosystem.

Deaftronics

Deaftronics developed solar-powered hearing aid kits designed to make hearing technology more affordable and sustainable in settings where the recurring cost of batteries can limit access. The devices are assembled locally by people with disabilities and have since reached users across Africa and beyond, demonstrating how locally developed AT can combine inclusive employment, local manufacturing, and wider access to essential technology.

An Ecosystem Taking Shape

As the ventures matured, so did the ecosystem around them.

Innovate Now brought together entrepreneurs, investors, universities, government agencies, organisations of persons with disabilities, manufacturers, and development partners around a shared ambition to strengthen AT innovation in Africa. Over the life of the programme, more than six hundred investors engaged with ventures through demo days, investor nights, and conferences. These relationships created opportunities that few early-stage ventures could have accessed independently, opening pathways to expertise, investment, partnerships, and policy dialogue.

The programme also helped raise the profile of disability innovation more broadly. Ventures gained visibility through regional and international events, creating new opportunities for collaboration, investment, and recognition, while Kenya strengthened its position as a hub for inclusive innovation.

SignVRse

SignVRse develops AI-powered sign language avatars that make digital content more accessible to Deaf communities. Following its participation in Innovate Now, the venture gained international recognition through selection for the Google.org Accelerator in 2025 and later secured grant funding to support the continued development and scale of its technology.

Looking Beyond the Ventures

Outcomes were encouraging, but they also exposed an important insight. Some ventures secured significant investment and entered new markets. Others, despite strong products, clear user demand, and credible business models, struggled to sustain momentum. The difference could not always be explained by the quality of the founders or their ideas. Increasingly, the barriers appeared to lie beyond the ventures themselves.

The programme had demonstrated what structured support could achieve. It was now beginning to reveal where its limits lay.

Innovate Now participants during a programme workshop, building connections across the disability innovation ecosystem.

Act III: Inflection (2025–Now)

Following the Evidence

Since its launch, Innovate Now had supported ventures across multiple cohorts, countries, technologies, and stages of growth. More than six years of implementation had generated a substantial body of evidence, making it possible to identify patterns that only became visible across the portfolio over time.

Product demonstration and testing, supporting ventures to refine their solutions through practical feedback.

A Structural Pattern

Across the portfolio, regardless of sector or geography, ventures encountered similar structural constraints as they sought to grow beyond the accelerator. Appropriate finance for early-stage AT ventures remained difficult to access. Procurement systems favoured established suppliers, manufacturing and distribution remained fragmented across markets, and regulatory pathways added friction few founders could anticipate. Even efforts to link ventures directly to international investors, such as a bilateral partnership designed to connect Kenyan startups with Scandinavian capital, could not convert engagement into funding at scale.

Follow-on investment across the portfolio was heavily concentrated. A small number of ventures accounted for the majority of capital raised, while many others that entered the market equally well prepared struggled to attract meaningful investment at all. Investment readiness did not reliably translate into investment, and the accelerator was producing stronger ventures than the ecosystem was able to absorb.

What Partnership Structures Could and Couldn't Solve

The funding gap also revealed something about the partnerships created to address it. Connecting ventures with international investors was only the first step. Sustained investment depended on maintaining relationships over time, aligning priorities across organisations, and creating mechanisms that could support opportunities beyond an initial introduction. Innovate Now's bilateral partnership with Scandinavian investors generated strong early engagement, but this did not develop into a consistent pipeline of investment. The experience showed that investment partnerships require ongoing stewardship, not simply access.

As Innovate Now matured, its impact extended beyond the ventures and partnerships it supported. Leaders emerging from within the programme established Assistive Technologies for Disability Trust (AT4D) in 2024 as an independent Kenyan organisation, with their own vision for the future of assistive technology innovation in Africa. Building on the foundations of Innovate Now, AT4D brought together local expertise, relationships and experience to pursue new opportunities, strengthen the innovation ecosystem and shape its development according to locally defined priorities. This marked an important evolution: from locally delivered programming towards independent, locally led institutional leadership. For GDI Accelerate, AT4D's emergence illustrates a central principle of its approach: that lasting impact comes not from retaining ownership of programmes or prescribing their future, but from enabling the people and institutions closest to the challenges to develop the capability, confidence and independence to lead in their own way. That transition has required time, investment and adaptation, but represents one of Innovate Now's most significant legacies.

The Limits of the Accelerator

The evidence clarified the limits of what even an effective accelerator could achieve. Innovate Now had strengthened founders, products, and businesses. It could not, on its own, build the procurement systems, manufacturing capacity, distribution networks, investment markets, or partnership architecture that ultimately shaped those ventures' opportunities for growth.

Those conditions required institutions, policy, partnerships, and sustained investment, beyond the scope of any single accelerator.

The implication was clear: strengthening ventures remained essential, but so too did strengthening the ecosystem around them. That insight became the foundation for the programme's next phase.

Act IV: From Evidence to Ecosystem Building

Innovate Now participants taking part in a co-design session, integral to the programme's user-centred approach.

From Accelerator to Platform

The evidence generated through Innovate Now shaped more than the future of the programme. It informed a broader evolution in how GDI Hub approaches disability innovation, leading to the creation of GDI Accelerate, its platform for venture building and ecosystem development.

Established in response to these lessons, GDI Accelerate extends GDI Hub's work beyond venture acceleration to support the wider development of disability innovation ecosystems. Its work spans venture development, research, strategic partnerships, market development, and capacity building, creating stronger connections between the people, institutions, and systems that influence how innovation develops.

This broader approach is delivered through several connected areas of activity that respond to the practical challenges identified through Innovate Now.

Building Stronger Markets

For many AT ventures, the path to growth depends on reaching governments, health systems, schools, humanitarian organisations, and other institutional buyers. Demand is often distributed across these actors, while procurement requirements, quality standards, and regulatory processes can be difficult for early-stage ventures to navigate.

GDI Accelerate works with public institutions, delivery partners, standards bodies, and organisations of persons with disabilities to strengthen these pathways. This includes supporting market research, identifying unmet demand, informing procurement and policy processes, and generating evidence that helps buyers assess locally developed products and services. Stronger connections between innovators and purchasers create clearer routes to adoption while improving confidence across the wider market.

Seizure Assistant

Seizure Assistant was developed to improve epilepsy care in low-resource settings through digital monitoring and support. After participating in Innovate Now, the venture secured support from Zambia's Ministry of Science and Technology to scale its platform nationally. Beyond providing funding, this public investment created a pathway for integration into the country's health system, illustrating how engagement with government can help locally developed innovations move towards wider adoption.

Supporting Disability-Led Innovation from the Earliest Stages

Innovate Now demonstrated the value of structured venture support and sustained engagement with people with disabilities throughout the innovation process. It also highlighted the importance of working before a solution or company is fully formed, particularly where significant unmet needs remain without corresponding entrepreneurial activity.

GDI Accelerate combines problem exploration, co-design, technical expertise, and venture development to support disability-led innovation from the earliest stages. People with lived experience contribute throughout the process, helping define priorities, test assumptions, and shape products, services, and business models. Live Labs and related co-design approaches continue to provide an important foundation for this work, ensuring that innovation develops alongside the communities it is intended to serve.

This creates multiple pathways for disability innovation to develop. Existing ventures continue to benefit from specialist support, while new collaborations emerge around challenges that require dedicated attention.

Expanding Access to Appropriate Finance

AT ventures often progress through long development cycles involving user testing, product validation, regulatory requirements, manufacturing, and engagement with institutional buyers. Financing needs evolve across these stages, while commercial investment frequently becomes appropriate only after substantial technical and market development.

GDI Accelerate works with funders and investors to strengthen financing pathways that reflect these realities. Grants can support research, prototyping, and early validation. Patient and catalytic capital can help ventures establish operations and enter initial markets. Procurement-linked finance, guarantees, and commercial investment can support later stages of growth as products become established.

Connecting these forms of finance creates a more continuous pathway from early innovation to market expansion while helping investors and funders understand where different forms of capital can contribute most effectively.

Developing Shared Infrastructure

Bringing AT to market depends on infrastructure that extends beyond any single organisation. Product testing, clinical validation, manufacturing, regulatory approval, distribution, repair, maintenance, and after-sales support all depend on specialist expertise, facilities, and long-term partnerships. Recreating or developing these independently for every venture increases costs, slows growth, and limits expansion across markets.

GDI Accelerate works with partners to strengthen these shared capabilities. Depending on the context, this includes connecting ventures to technical and clinical expertise, supporting common approaches to testing and validation, developing manufacturing and distribution partnerships, and strengthening local capacity for maintenance and delivery.

Shared infrastructure enables knowledge, facilities, and networks to support multiple ventures over time while helping local institutions retain the capabilities required to sustain innovation beyond individual programmes.

Syna Solutions

Syna Solutions developed the Utulav accessible toilet to improve sanitation for people with disabilities in schools, clinics, and humanitarian settings. Following Innovate Now, the venture expanded deployment through partnerships in Uganda, while feedback from users informed the development of additional assistive products. The journey demonstrates how long-term partnerships and continuous user engagement can strengthen innovation beyond the accelerator itself.

Gathering Evidence To Inform Action

The findings presented throughout this report became visible because Innovate Now generated evidence across multiple cohorts, countries, technologies, and venture journeys. This long-term perspective made it possible to identify recurring barriers, compare outcomes, and understand where additional support was required.

Evidence now underpins GDI Accelerate's approach to ecosystem development. Research and evaluation inform programme design, partnerships, financing strategies, and market development. Venture and ecosystem data help identify gaps in demand, policy, infrastructure, and investment, while lessons from implementation are translated into practical tools, methods, and guidance that can be applied across different contexts.

This creates a continuous relationship between delivery and learning, allowing experience from ventures to inform ecosystem interventions while generating evidence that helps governments, funders, investors, and delivery partners make more informed decisions. This shared evidence strengthens confidence, reduces uncertainty, and supports more coordinated action across the ecosystem.

An Integrated Approach

These areas reinforce one another. Stronger markets improve the environment for investment. Appropriate finance enables ventures to complete validation, enter markets, and expand delivery. Shared infrastructure reduces the cost and complexity of growth. Evidence helps institutions identify where resources can have the greatest impact, while partnerships create the long-term relationships required to sustain progress.

GDI Accelerate connects these areas through a single approach to disability innovation, applying the lessons of Innovate Now to strengthen the ecosystems in which ventures develop and grow.

Mobility devices and equipment, highlighting the shared infrastructure needed to support AT development and delivery.

Act V: The Path Ahead

A Shared Agenda for Disability Innovation

The next phase of disability innovation depends on coordinated action across the institutions that shape markets, finance, infrastructure, and delivery. Each has a distinct role, and progress becomes more likely when these contributions are aligned around shared priorities and sustained over time.

The experience of Innovate Now provides a practical foundation for this work. It identifies where venture support creates value, where wider constraints continue to limit progress, and where investment in shared capabilities can improve outcomes across multiple ventures. These lessons point towards a broader agenda for governments, funders, investors, delivery organisations, and ecosystem partners.

Governments and Public Institutions

Governments and public institutions shape many of the conditions that determine whether locally developed AT reaches the people who need it. Procurement rules influence which suppliers can enter the market. Standards and regulatory processes affect the time and cost required to gain approval. Public policy determines whether disability innovation is integrated into health, education, employment, transport, and social protection systems.

Stronger support for AT innovation begins with clearer demand. Governments can identify priority needs, create accessible procurement pathways for early-stage suppliers, support pilots within public services, and strengthen coordination between regulators, purchasers, and innovators. Public institutions can also use procurement more strategically, creating early opportunities for locally developed products to demonstrate value and build the track record required for wider adoption.

Consistent policy implementation is equally important. Clear standards, predictable regulatory processes, and stronger coordination across markets reduce uncertainty for ventures, buyers, and investors while creating a more stable environment for long-term growth.

Participants working together during an Innovate Now workshop, embedding lived experience throughout the innovation process.

Funders and Development Partners

Funders and development partners play a central role in supporting the parts of the ecosystem that require patient and sustained investment. Venture programmes remain important, alongside investment in market development, shared infrastructure, local institutions, and the evidence required to guide future decisions.

Multi-year funding allows programmes and partnerships to respond to learning, support ventures beyond the end of a cohort, and build relationships that mature. Flexible capital can also help address gaps between programme delivery and commercial investment, supporting activities such as product validation, regulatory readiness, manufacturing preparation, and early market entry.

Investment in local institutional capacity is essential to the long-term sustainability of this work. Organisations embedded within disability and innovation ecosystems hold the relationships, contextual knowledge, and credibility required to support ventures over time. Resourcing their leadership, technical capabilities, and convening role helps ensure that progress continues beyond individual funding cycles.

Investors and Financial Institutions

The growth of disability innovation depends on a wider range of financing options across the venture journey. Early-stage AT ventures frequently require capital for user research, product testing, regulatory approval, manufacturing, and market development before conventional commercial investment becomes suitable.

Investors and financial institutions can help build more continuous financing pathways by combining different instruments across these stages. Catalytic grants, patient capital, guarantees, revenue-linked finance, and commercial investment each have a role. Procurement commitments and partnerships with public or institutional buyers can further reduce uncertainty by providing clearer evidence of demand.

Shared data and longitudinal evidence also support stronger investment decisions. Greater visibility into venture performance, market needs, procurement pathways, and funding outcomes can help investors assess opportunities with more confidence and develop approaches that reflect the realities of the sector.

Ecosystem and Delivery Partners

Organisations of persons with disabilities, research institutions, manufacturers, standards bodies, clinical partners, accelerators, and delivery organisations provide much of the practical infrastructure that disability innovation relies upon.

Their role includes identifying unmet needs, shaping priorities, supporting co-design, validating products, developing standards, and strengthening routes to manufacture, distribution, repair, and maintenance. Collaboration across these organisations can reduce duplication and make specialist expertise available to a wider group of innovators.

Long-term partnerships also create continuity. Relationships established through one programme can support future ventures, inform policy, generate new evidence, and strengthen local capacity. Treating these partnerships as part of the ecosystem's core infrastructure increases their value well beyond any single project.

The Role of GDI Accelerate

GDI Accelerate aims to continue to develop and test new approaches, connect local and global expertise, support disability-led innovation, generate evidence, and help partners translate learning into action. The form of this work will vary across markets, but its direction remains consistent: strengthening the conditions that allow disability innovation to grow and scale.

Working alongside governments, funders, investors, organisations of persons with disabilities, and delivery partners, GDI Accelerate will continue to apply these lessons in ways that reflect local priorities, strengthen local leadership, and contribute to more resilient disability innovation ecosystems.

Innovators and partners in discussion, strengthening the relationships that sustain disability innovation beyond individual ventures.

Participants and staff from across the Innovate Now programme.

The Opportunity Ahead

The opportunity now is to translate this evidence into long-term institutional commitment. Investment in stronger markets, better-aligned finance, shared infrastructure, and sustained local capacity can create the conditions for locally developed AT to reach more people, more ventures to grow sustainably, and disability innovation to become an established part of wider innovation and economic landscapes in Africa and beyond.

Partners and Acknowledgements

Global Disability Innovation Hub

Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) is a research and practice centre driving disability innovation for a fairer world. Working globally across research, innovation, programmes, teaching and advocacy, GDI Hub develops and tests approaches that strengthen access to assistive technology and disability inclusion globally. Its GDI Accelerate platform builds resilient systems that reach those most excluded.

Assistive Technologies for Disability Trust

Assistive Technologies for Disability Trust (AT4D) is an independent Kenyan charitable trust established from the legacy and experience of the Innovate Now programme. AT4D works to strengthen disability innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa through venture support, user and product testing, ecosystem development, community building and access to capital.

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa (KBTA) is a Kenya-based charitable trust working to expand access to digital literacy, skills and assistive technology for people with visual impairments across Africa. KBTA has played a central role in Innovate Now since its early years and continues to contribute its deep relationships with disability communities and its experience of inclusive technology delivery across the region.

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Young people engaging in programme activities, reflecting the communities at the heart of disability innovation.

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