

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Call for Proposals (CFP)

Q1. Have the governments of the selected countries been informed by ATscale of their selection and the next steps?

A1. Yes, ATscale held a virtual kick-off call to update the government representatives of the selected countries. Topics covered included grant amounts, timelines, the process for selecting implementing partners through the Calls for Proposals, and country missions.

Q2. What is the overall scope of the grant?

A2. The overall scope of the grant covers two areas: 1) Scaling up access to AT and directly related rehabilitation services for people with mobility-related injuries and disabilities; and 2) Strengthening the AT ecosystem by creating a favourable environment for the AT sector at national level. More details are provided below:

1. **Scaling up access to AT and directly related rehabilitation services for people with mobility-related injuries and disabilities: 85 per cent to 90 per cent of the grant budget:** The funding focuses on supporting effective expansion of access to AT services (screening, prescription, and fitting of assistive products such – but not limited to – wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, and prostheses and orthoses) into government-led programmes. In addition – and as a sub-component fully supporting access to AT services – rehabilitation interventions directly related to AT services can be included but should not be the focus. Approaches that are government-owned, based on past successes integrated into public health and social systems and that leverage the strengths of both the public and private sectors will be seen favourably. While it is not anticipated that complete nationwide scaling up can be achieved within this funding envelope and time frame, the country (Colombia) should be able to demonstrate quick outcomes for scaling up (ideally from year 1), and there should be clear pathways to achieving national scaling up in the medium term based on the lessons learned and increased government ownership in due course.

2. **Strengthening the AT ecosystem by creating a favourable environment for the AT sector at national level: 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the grant budget:** The funding is also intended to build a conducive environment in the selected country for wider AT ecosystem strengthening. The AT ecosystem can be strengthened according to the six health systems building blocks of leadership and governance, workforce, financing, service delivery, products and information management systems. Therefore, a small part of the grant can also go towards creating a favourable environment in the country through key strategic activities focused on the wider AT ecosystem. This may range from conducting national AT assessments to identifying a priority assistive product list, adopting product standards and specifications, developing investment cases and creating national AT procurement guidelines, among others. It may also include developing a costed national strategic plan for AT to address policy gaps, raise awareness of AT, and so on. In-country stakeholders from inter-sectoral ministries, non-governmental organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector must be closely engaged in these activities.

Q3. Which elements of AT and directly related rehabilitation services will the grant cover?

A3. Elements covered by the grant include, but are not limited to:

1. **Scaling up access to AT and directly related rehabilitation services for people with mobility-related injuries and disabilities:**
 - Service delivery
 - Human resources for health
 - Procurement
 - Financing
 - Data and information
 - Coordination with the private sector
 - Communication
2. **Strengthening the AT ecosystem by creating a favourable environment for the AT sector at national level**
 - Assessment of needs and system barriers
 - Policy and governance
 - Leadership, coordination and stakeholder management
 - Awareness and advocacy

Q4. Who are the expected beneficiaries of the grant?

A4. The expected beneficiaries of the ATscale-supported programme are people with mobility-related injuries and disabilities in need of AT and directly related rehabilitation services in the concerned country, regardless of age.

Q5. Who are the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the grant?

A5. The direct beneficiaries are people with mobility-related injuries and disabilities in need of AT and directly related rehabilitation services, and people who will benefit from capacity building (including training) activities. The indirect beneficiaries include family members or caregivers of the people with mobility-related injuries and disabilities receiving AT and directly related rehabilitation services, and people reached through advocacy and awareness generation activities or campaigns under the grant. More details will be provided during the agreement stage.

Q6. How will funding be channelled to the government, and what role will the implementing partner(s) play?

A6. Funding will be channelled to the government through the implementing partner(s), which could be a non-governmental organization, a United Nations agency, or a consortium. The implemented partner(s) will facilitate the disbursement and management of funds while working closely with the government to execute programmes and initiatives effectively.

Q7. What is the process for selecting an implementing partner, and how will the government be involved?

A7. ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, is hosted by the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and is mandated to follow UNOPS policies. The implementing partner(s) will be selected through a competitive call for proposals (CFP). Interested partners will submit proposals to ATscale, and a government focal point from the country in question will be involved in the evaluation process. This ensures alignment with the country's priorities and consultations with relevant stakeholders.

Q8. What role is expected of the government in guiding partners interested in responding to the CFP?

A8. In the CFP stage, the government is expected to lead and provide guidance to all interested partners regarding government priorities and interventions designed based on the country's context. This involves sharing insights, needs assessments, and strategic directions to ensure that the proposed interventions align with national goals and strategies. The government can also share with interested partners the Expression of

Interest document submitted to ATscale that resulted in the selection of the country for this programme.

Q9. How will the government lead programme implementation throughout the grant cycle?

A9. The government is expected to lead programme implementation with the support of the selected implementing partner(s). The government will assign a focal point to coordinate with in-country partners and ATscale. A multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial committee is expected to be set up with all relevant partners (non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, and organizations of persons with disabilities). The government is expected to lead the committee, and the implementing partner to play a secretariat role for the committee. The committee will provide strategic directions, oversee programme implementation and be responsible for decision-making about the programme.

Q10. What role and responsibilities are expected from the assigned government focal point?

A10. The role of the appointed government focal point is to serve as the primary liaison between the respective government entity or entities and:

- the ATscale Secretariat,
- the in-country coordinating partner, and
- the other implementing partner(s) and relevant stakeholders within the country.

The government focal point is expected to fulfil the following responsibilities:

- Serve as the main point of contact for the ATscale Secretariat and the government, facilitating communication and collaboration
- Engage closely with the implementing partner(s) and inter-sectoral ministries to ensure alignment of programme objectives and activities with national policies, priorities, and objectives
- Coordinate all activities related to the programme within the government entity, including as an observer in the process of evaluation of the Call for Proposals
- Set up a programme governance structure led by the concerned ministry(ies), assuming responsibility for coordinating with the implementing partner(s), defining an annual work plan with support from the implementing partner(s), and holding regular project governance meetings. The implementing partner can help facilitate such governance meetings as needed and as guided by the government focal point
- Facilitate the government's co-financing commitment to the ATscale programme for long-term sustainability
- Engage stakeholders at various levels and represent and act on behalf of the government/line ministry(ies) in discussions and meetings

- Oversee successful and timely programme implementation through the implementing partner and other implementing partners in accordance with the agreed country programme plan
- Participate in programme monitoring and evaluation activities, including periodic reviews of programme implementation, progress reports to be drafted by the implementing partner, and coordination of country missions
- Facilitate discussions with relevant ministry(ies) leadership, ATscale, and implementing partners
- Coordinate within the ministry(ies) and other government entities to ensure country representation at relevant national and international events, conferences, and workshops
- Facilitate the addressing of any issues or challenges that arise during programme implementation promptly and effectively
- Take an active role in leading and engaging in the formation of the programme management committee or steering committee

Q11. What is the duration of the initial grant cycle, and which factors will determine its continuation beyond the initial grant cycle?

A11. The initial grant cycle spans three years. Continued support beyond the initial grant cycle may be possible, but is contingent on the country's performance and resources available at ATscale. Factors such as the effectiveness of the interventions and the country's progress will influence the decision whether to continue support beyond the initial grant cycle.

Q12. How will co-financing or in-kind contributions be calculated and reported?

A12. For the purpose of estimating co-financing and in-kind contributions, ATscale will look at the elements of 'additionality' to the financial and/or in-kind contributions. The government may commit to additional co-financing and/or in-kind resources beyond existing/ongoing partner investments by sources such as United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and other development partners. As domestic budget allocation mechanisms differ across countries, the actual reporting of co-financing and in-kind contributions will be discussed with the government focal point.

Q13. How should the applicant procure assistive products, and how should the budget be estimated?

A13. Multiple channels can be used to procure assistive products. Regardless of the procurement channel, the assistive products must meet the International Organization for Standardization quality standards or their equivalent. When already known, the applicant

must describe the procurement process that will apply to the programme. The applicant may estimate the budget on the average unit price and quantity of each product in the country, and, when possible, through a competitive process (that is, a call for tender), in order to identify the most suitable supplier and guarantee the best value for money during programme implementation.

Q14. Are there other partners or resources available to support such initiatives?

A14. When seeking support for additional resources on AT, applicants should thoroughly research and identify potential partner organizations aligned with the government and programme priorities. Applicants may consult ATscale's work, including the Global Assistive Products Market Report as well as Products Narratives. Applicants may also leverage ATscale's network partners and their work, including the WHO Training in Assistive Products, the WHO Wheelchair Provision Guidelines, the WHO Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation, the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals training curriculum, the UNICEF supply catalogue, and others. Furthermore, applicants may consult multilateral agencies including development banks and international institutional donors and regional and local resources, including foundations and corporations available in the countries. These opportunities may vary from country to country. Where relevant, ATscale suggests that applicants proactively connect with partners to assess the potential for collaboration, and to share knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the programme.