



AT -INFO- MAP: SAFOD Webinar Seminar

Gubela Mji

Director: Centre for Rehabilitation Studies & Chair
AfrINEAD

Medicine and Health Science Faculty
Stellenbosch University

Outline of the presentation

- Introduction - brief synopsis of situation of AT in Southern Africa.
- The WHO Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology - GATE program
- Brief overview of the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies and AfriNEAD
- The Google challenge and call and response of SAFOD to the call
- SAFOD coordinated collaborative response to the google call -linking with partners
- End of the AT Google INFO - MAP - Sustainability and translation of the project to a program.
- The Webinar seminar - a platform to present research findings of INFO-MAP project and announce the AT EXPO in Namibia in October 2019.
- **The SAFOD AT EXPO - in Namibia - A wake up and do it yourself Call.**

Introduction - synopsis of situation of AT in Southern Africa

- Minimal to non-existent accurate statistical estimates on availability of AT for PWDs;
- Only 15-25% of People with disabilities (PWDs) who need AT have access to it (Matter et al, 2016);
- AT are not evenly distributed across the range of all impairments; primary barrier of high prices undermine availability;
- Challenge with donor agencies - inferior quality and not suitable to user needs and environmental requirements;
- Governments are responsible to ensure that appropriate assistive technology are made available to users (UNCRPD articles: 4, 9, 20 and 26);
- Provides a backdrop for the WHO GATE project and various regional and global initiatives.

The WHO Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology - GATE program

- **People:** need to measure impact, stigma and discrimination, user-centred design;
- **Products:** affordability, availability, and quality, standards needed, need for a critical mass of innovation;
- **Provision:** need for sustainable approach, fragmented services, donor dependent supply, low demand, high cost;
- **Personnel:** expanding & development of current AT workforce, harnessing the power of technology;
- **Policy:** Lack of coordination Policies without implementation Legislation to facilitate rather than to hinder, funding clarity;
- **Other:** Need for an accessible environment;
- The WHO Assistive Devices Priority List of **minimal** 50 devices.

Centre for Rehabilitation Studies & AfriNEAD

Centre for Rehabilitation Studies (CRS):

- Coordinates advanced interdisciplinary postgraduate studies in disability and rehabilitation;
- Focus on education and research in training of health professionals from a variety of backgrounds;
- Exit competency is the attainment and assuming positions of consultancy and leadership within the disability and Rehabilitation field.

The African Network for Evidence - to - Action in Disability (AfriNEAD)

- A regional disability network based at the **Centre for Rehabilitation Studies (CRS)**;
- Facilitates translation of disability research evidence to practice;
- Evidence is used as vehicle for realizing the rights of persons with Disability (PWDs) in Africa;
- Core driving engine - Partnerships, collaboration and Advocacy.
- AfriNEAD within the CRS re-thought AT area and to link with partners to create a response to the area of AT.

The Google challenge and call and response of SAFOD to the call

- AT-Info-Map funded by the [Google Impact Challenge](#): *‘big ideas that will use technology to expand opportunity and independence for people with disabilities’*.

- SAFOD’s response was to link with partners: AT-Info-Map a 3 year project (2016-2019) with the goal to:
 - Map availability of different types of assistive technology (AT) in 10 countries in Southern Africa and *WHERE* those products are located;
 - Connecting persons with disabilities to the available AT near their community;
 - Supporting key actors in identifying AT needs;
 - Key actors include public AT providers (clinics, community health centers, secondary and tertiary hospitals, schools), civil society, government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), disabled people organizations (DPOs) and businesses;
 - Inform AT suppliers, manufacturers, and designers of unmet public demand.

SAFOD coordinated collaborative response to the google call -linking with partners

- Connecting with partners to write the proposal stage;
- Got funding project design phase and drawing of experts - Dimagi;
- Project launch Phase - Cape Town and Botswana in Gaborone;
- Pilot phase in Botswana;
- Full roll out phase in stages to all 10 SAFOD countries;
- Project coming to an end - Webinar in Cape Town bringing project outcome to key stakeholders and planning for the SAFOD AT Expo - part of a sustainability strategy by SAFOD;
- **Main theme, "Wake up and do it for yourself - AT Expo to promote and advance local AT solutions for Southern Africa.**

SAFOD AT EXPO in Namibia - 23 - 25 October 2019

- The first SAATE event will be held at **Safari Court Hotel and Conference Centre** in Windhoek, Namibia, from **23 to 25 October 2019**;
- With the main theme, "Wake up and do it for yourself:
the **Southern Africa Assistive Technology EXPO (SAATE)** is part of the [Assistive Technology Information Mapping Project \(AT-Info-Map\)](#);
- A [Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled \(SAFOD\)](#) in partnership with the [African Network for Evidence-to-Action in Disability \(AfriNEAD\)](#) and the [University of Washington](#) which aim to promote and advance local AT solutions for Southern Africa;
- Attainment of most human rights affecting persons with disabilities may not be achieved without high-quality affordable assistive products and/or information thereof globally.

About the AT Expo in Namibia: "Wake up and do it for yourself"

- Whether it is the event in Namibia, or South Africa, or UK, the **SAATE** becomes an important component of the project seeking to bring together practical problem solvers, AT suppliers and service providers from Southern Africa and beyond;
- The event will also aim to facilitate improvements in the AT sector broadly through raising awareness about the need for better AT solutions and/or products particularly in Southern Africa;
- To have a cultural, contextual response that explores issues of suitability, durability, quality and availability using appropriate;
- Explore the rural versus urban divide regarding the acquisition of AP by persons with disabilities.

6 Thematic areas have been chosen for the EXPO

Thematic areas:

- Right to AT for inclusive education;
- Right to AT for inclusive employment (formal and informal);
- Right to AT for home living (daily living aids, adaptive environments);
- Right to AT for community living (moving about, accessible buildings transportation, voting, recreation);
- Right to AT for access to criminal justice system (police, courts);
- Right to AT for arts, crafts and other creative expressions.

More Details about the Expo: "Wake up and do it for yourself"

- The first SAATE event will be held at **Safari Court Hotel and Conference Centre** in Windhoek, Namibia, from **23 to 25 October 2019**;
- [Registration](#) to exhibit AT products in Namibia for both **free and premium** exhibitors is underway while those who want to present papers or facilitate a workshop, roundtable lecture;
- or other events can also [submit abstracts online](#) by 31 May 2019. In addition, those interested to view the exhibitions, or participate in assistive technology workshops, roundtables, lectures, and/or other side events can there will be opportunities to buy tickets.

THANK YOU