



International Telecommunication Union
Telecommunication Development Bureau



Adaptive Technology Center for the Blind
(ATCB)

Project Budget Number: **7ETH/08-002**

Project Title: Computer Training and Braille transcribing service

Project Short Title:

Start Date: 2008

Estimated End Date: 2009

Government Coop. Agency: Ministries of Communications, Regulatory bodies, Ministries of Education.

Implementing Agency: Adaptive Technology Center for the Blind

Project Site: Addis Ababa, Arada subcity

Beneficiary Country: Ethiopia

ITU Project Manager: ITU/BDT

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS	
A) Project Budget	
Description	US\$
Personnel	5000
Equipment	80000
Monitoring & Evaluation	10000
Miscellaneous	5000
AOS (7.5%)	7500
Total:	107500
B) Cost Sharing	
ITU	107500 USD
C) Participating countries Contribution (in kind)	
ATCB:	
- Trainers	
- Training Room / Business Centre	
- Communication Facilities	
- Infrastructure	

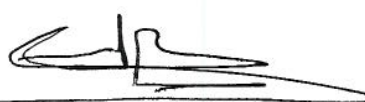
Brief Description:

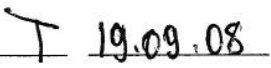
Under this project ITU will assist the ATCB by procuring the suitable equipment to be used for training blind individuals to operate computers with adaptive equipment such as speech synthesizers, magnifying hardware-software and Braille displays.

The main outputs of this project should be the following:

- Suitable equipment to be deployed in the centers identified;
- Identified equipment purchased, delivered and installed;
- Expert's missions to train the trainers in the centers in the use of the equipment conducted;
- Awareness among the general public related to the rights and privileges of the blind in Ethiopia in the usage of computers with adaptive technologies through organization of events etc.

On Behalf of Signature Date Name/Title

ITU:  09.10.08 S. Al Basheer Director of BDT

ATCB  19.09.08 Dr. Tamru E. Belay General Manager



1. Background & Context

1.1 General Introduction

The world we live in is designed to the people with sight. In this world of ours, the visually impaired are in disadvantage and minority, hence are not well served by the system. The problems the blinds face start from early ages, when they start schooling; they needed special education facilities and tools which are rarely provided, and when they somehow finish education, it is very difficult or close to impossible to find descent employment, had it not been for some affirmative action laws. Even the affirmative action laws are not in-place everywhere in the developed or developing world. But in the developed world, the blind and all other disabled people get better attention, and their governments afford to give the special consideration required.

In Ethiopia, the blind, like other disabled people do not get any special attention. Most disabled and blind are left to the mercy of nature and fate. A significant number of the blind in Ethiopia will never learn to use the Braille, some will never be allowed to leave their house because their parents think it is a punishment from God and still some will be victims of cult believes and harmful practices.

Blind people in Ethiopia are suffering from many social inequalities.

In the information society of today a very important one is the lack of information as well as the lack of accessibility to information technology compared to the rest of the society. But like for everyone else accessibility of information and communication technology today is one of the most important core keys for the intellectual, personal and professional development of a blind or visually impaired person too.

Adaptive technologies are the tools for the blind to enter into and to participate in the information society. They provide for them accessibility of information and freedom of communication. This means highly multiplied opportunities for educational, professional and economical participation.

ATCB, in cooperation with ITU and other partners has been doing its best to provide special computer training and computerized brail transcription services to as many beneficiaries as possible. Due to the enormity of meet for the services, little seems to have been achieved a greet deal more have to be done that is why this project agreement with ITU has been concluded. It is one more step for writing out to the thousand and thousand of blind persons that needs our services.



Problem statement/ Description of the problem

The Adaptive Technology Centre for the Blind [ATCB] is a dedicated computer trainer and Braille transcriber Center focusing on the needs of students and professionals in Ethiopia who are blind or visually impaired.

Currently, there is an urgent and great need for the skill in the use of adaptive technology. These calls for the provision of training in the application of information technology, which meets the required standard.

2. Project Objectives

The objective of this project is to assist persons with disabilities (PwDs), and in particular the blind people, to access and use the information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to facilitate the integration of this group into the civil society (e.g. schools, professional activities).

3. Expected Outputs

- 3.1 Suitable equipment to be deployed in the centers identified;
- 3.2 Identified equipment purchased, delivered and installed;
- 3.3 Experts' missions to train the trainers in the centers in the use of the equipment conducted;
- 3.4 Awareness among the general public related to the rights and privileges of the blind in Ethiopia in the usage of computers with adaptive technologies through organization of seminars/workshops created.

4. Main Activities

- 4.1 Preparation of technical specifications of the required equipment
- 4.2 Procurement and delivering of the equipment
- 4.3 Technical support and expert assistance

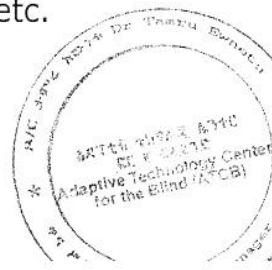
5. Inputs

ITU: 107500 USD in cash

ATCB: in-kind contribution through facilitation of project implementation.

6. Risks Management

- 6.1 Unavailability of specified equipment. This can be solved by finding different suppliers.
- 6.2 Insufficiency of the budget. In this case, the quantity of requested equipment can be reduced or specifications can be reviewed.
- 6.3 Readiness of local PwDs to use the service to be delivered by the Project. It must be resolved by supporting activities e.g. seminars, publications etc.



7. Project Management

7.1 ITU in close collaboration with ATCB will manage this project. ITU will take responsibility of procurement, delivery and supervision of installation of the equipment to be performed by ATCB.

8. Budget

Budget Line	Description	M/m	US\$
10	PERSONNEL COSTS		
15	<i>Evaluation</i>		
15.01	Final Evaluation Mission		10000
17	<i>National Professional Personnel</i>		
17.01	National Professional		5000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS		15,000
20	Equipment		
21	Equipment and installation		80000
	TOTAL EQUIPMENT		80000
30	MISCELLANEOUS COSTS		
31	<i>Promotion and Reporting Costs</i>		
31.01	Promotion and marketing material		5,000
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS		5000
	AOS (7.5%)		7500
	TOTAL PROJECT		107500

9. Work Plan

Activity	Dates
Project Coordination and Preparation	August-September 2008
Project Implementation	September 2008- February 2009
Evaluation of the project	March 2009

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