

Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology



Expert Meeting on Disability – Inclusive Technology and Innovation

Bangkok , Thailand , August 30, 2018

Inception and Secretariat

- The 10th General Assembly of the COMSTECH, February 16 - 18, 2002, Islamabad, Pakistan established INIT.
- Host Government ~ Pakistan through Ministry of Information Technology;
- Host Institution ~ COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad

Raison d'être

Issues faced by the OIC Member States:

- Inadequate investment in HRD in ICT;
- Lack of skilled workforce/infrastructure;
- Shortage of Regional IT professionals;
- Dependence for IT equipment & services on western countries;
- Having standards different than West on freedom of expression/morality;
- Inadequate support for marginalized communities.

Objectives

- Utilizing, directing and encouraging the use of Information Technology and associated systems;
- Promoting collaboration and cooperation among member states;
- Building human resources and institutional capacity; and
- Automating the governmental and business processes through the mediation of ICTs.

INIT Membership

- The INIT offers two kinds of memberships:
 - Country Membership to the OIC Member States;
 - Associate Membership to the Higher Education Institutions/R&D Organizations from OIC World working in the fields of ICTs.

Activity Debrief

Activities organized/co-organized by the INIT can be broadly classified into the following:

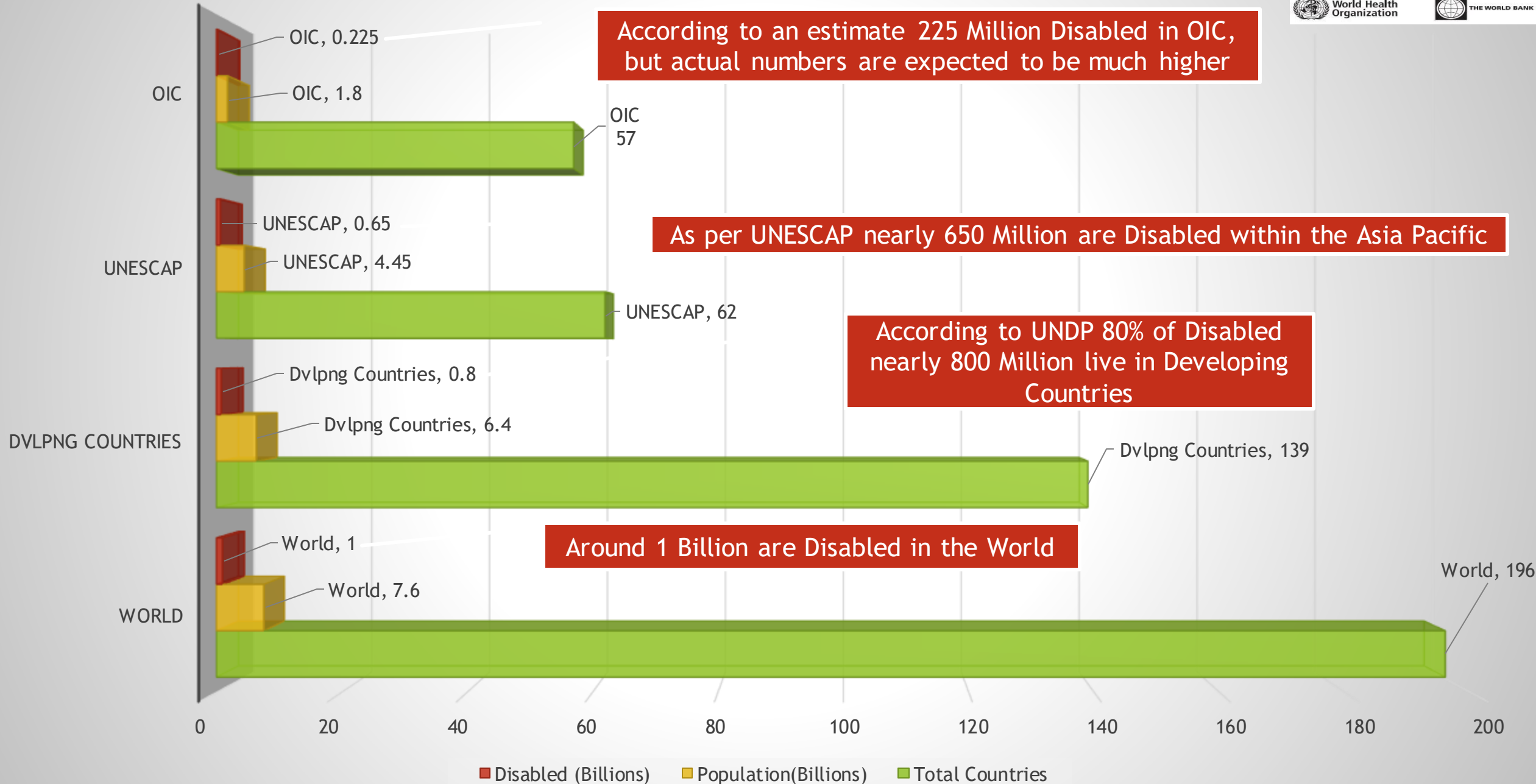
- ▶ Education and Training
- ▶ Policy and Capacity Building
- ▶ Institutional Strengthening

In addition, dissemination of information & exchange of personnel were facilitated under the aegis of different programs

INIT Regional Scoping Study on ICTs for People With Disabilities

- ▶ INIT with Mr. David Banes , and UNESCO Chair IN ICT4D has launched a Scoping Study to investigate and identify gaps across policy, and the corresponding implementation and practice using the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with a Disability (UNCPRD)
- ▶ The study aims to understand the key elements of an accessibility ecosystem that are needed across the OIC Member States;
- ▶ The Study aims to identify where technology can play a role in ensuring delivery against the UNCPRD and suggest possible pilot projects based upon models of delivery.

Population analysis



INIT Regional Scoping Study on ICTs for People With Disabilities

- ▶ The first phase of the study has been successfully completed in Five OIC Member States , Pakistan , Qatar , Tunisia , Malaysia and Jordan;
- ▶ The INIT Team comprising of Prof. Tim Unwin , Mr. Tahir Naeem , Mr. David Banes & Dr. Akber Gardezi have conducted a preliminary analysis via semi-structured interviews of experts from nearly Fifty (50) Government Organizations , NGOs , Private Sector Firms , International Donor Agencies , Academic Institutes , and Social Enterprises working for PWDs within the selected OIC Member states.

Scope

- ▶ To provide an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision of accessible technologies for persons with disabilities in five developing OIC countries.
- ▶ The focus throughout is upon the role of accessible technology in ensuring that people with a disability have full access to the opportunities that technology offers to all, with due regard to language and cultural issues.
- ▶ Such opportunities are viewed within the wider context of human rights as suggested by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability (UNCRPD).

Methodology

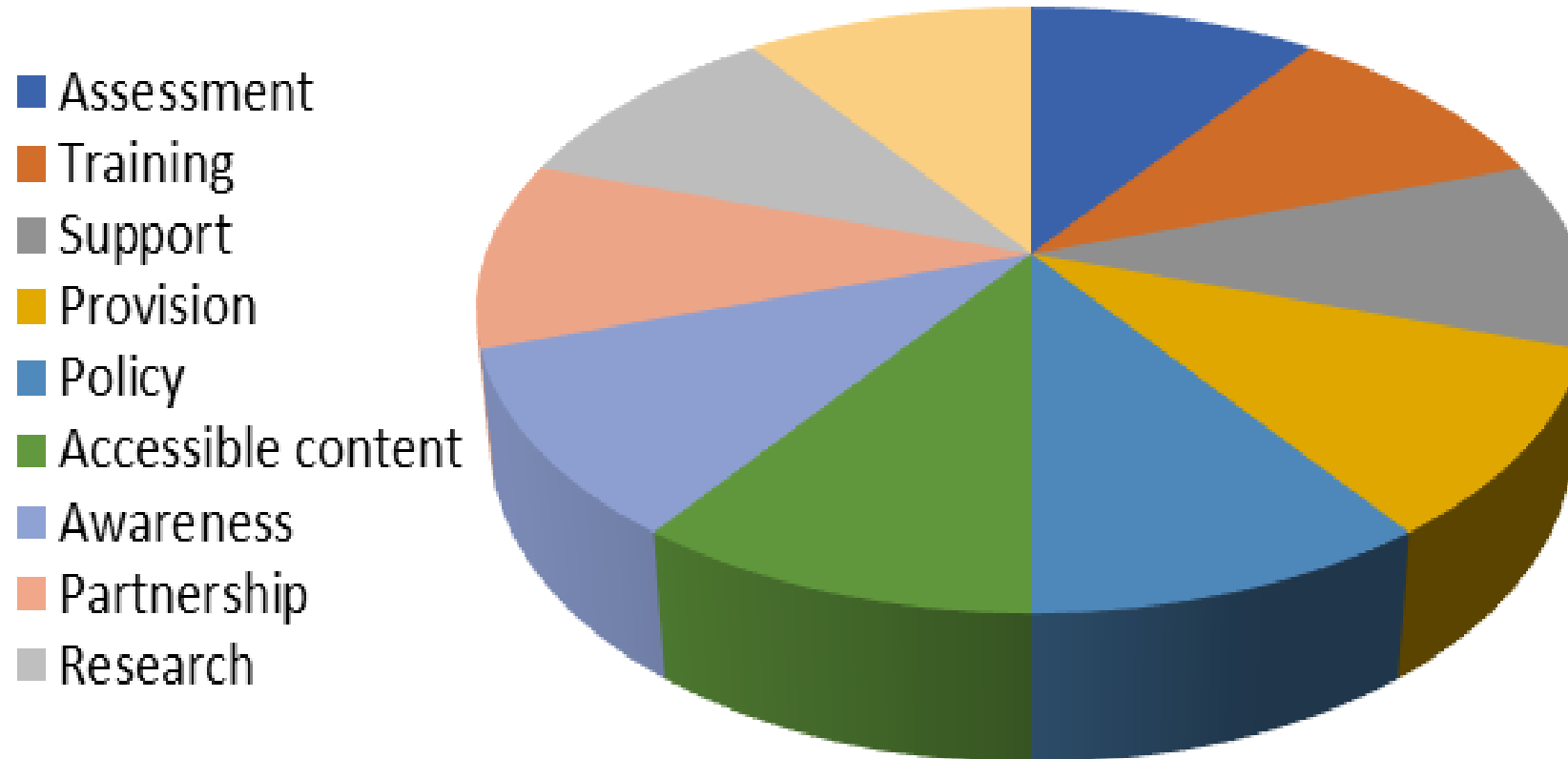
- ▶ Identification of International good practices against which benchmarking can take place
- ▶ Desk research on public information on provision of accessible technology and related information from member states
- ▶ An electronic survey to stakeholders within a country
- ▶ Workshops and Focus Groups in the nominated locations to gather information and validate any existing information

Criteria for Inclusion as practice

- ▶ Professionalism of approach
- ▶ Validated Success
- ▶ Cost effectiveness
- ▶ Scalability
- ▶ Impact on provision and people with a disability

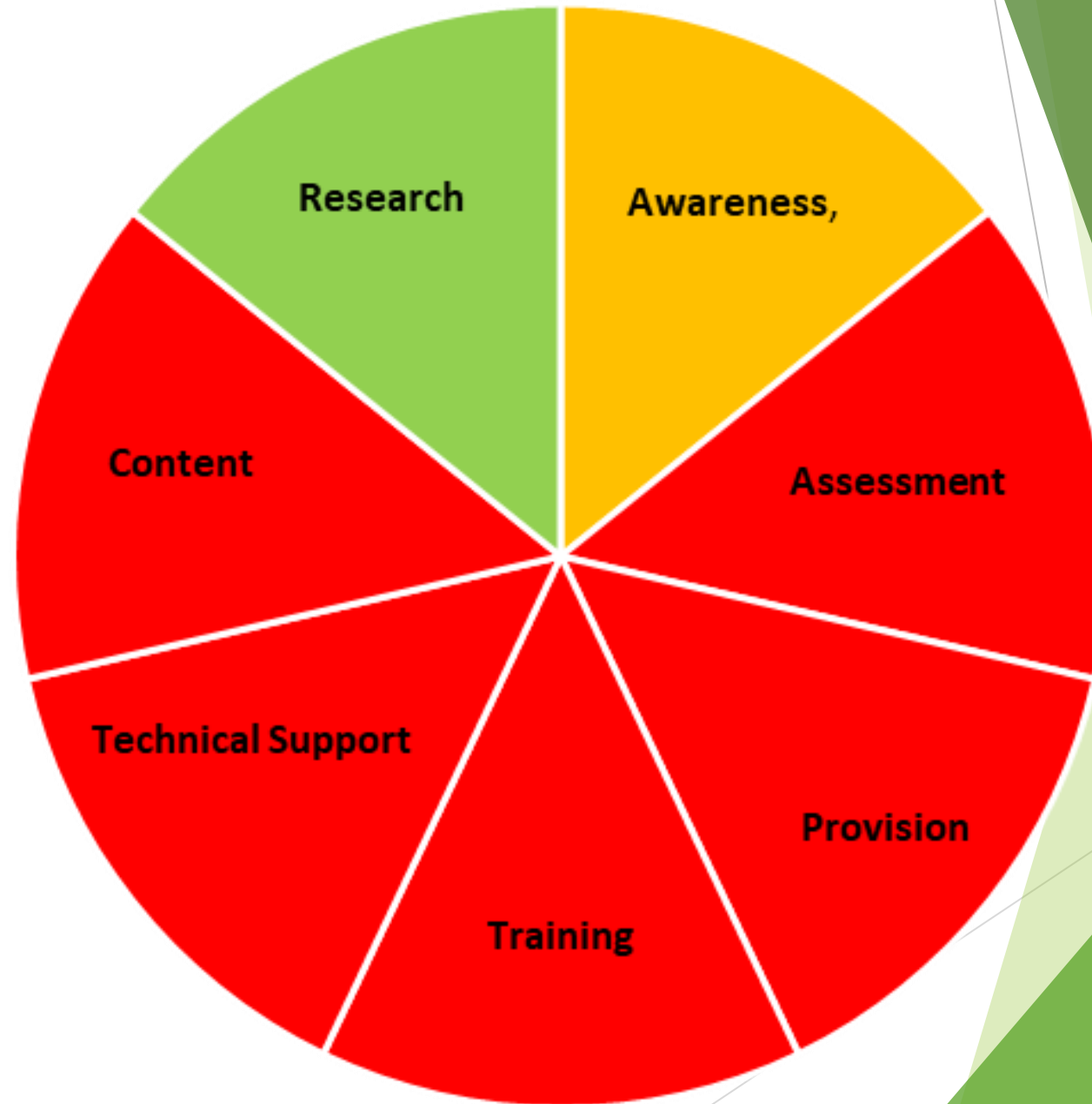
System

Core elements of service and provision that are required to effectively implement accessible technologies



Country Findings Policy and Practices

National Findings for Pakistan

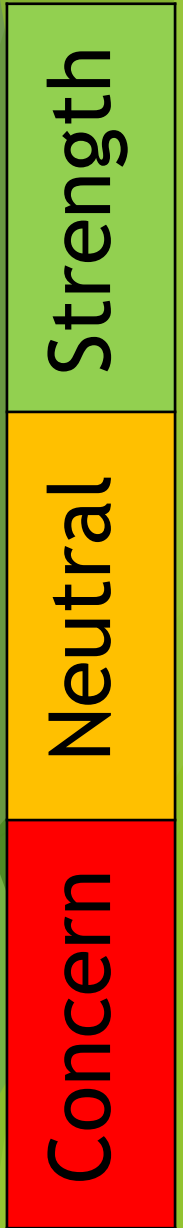
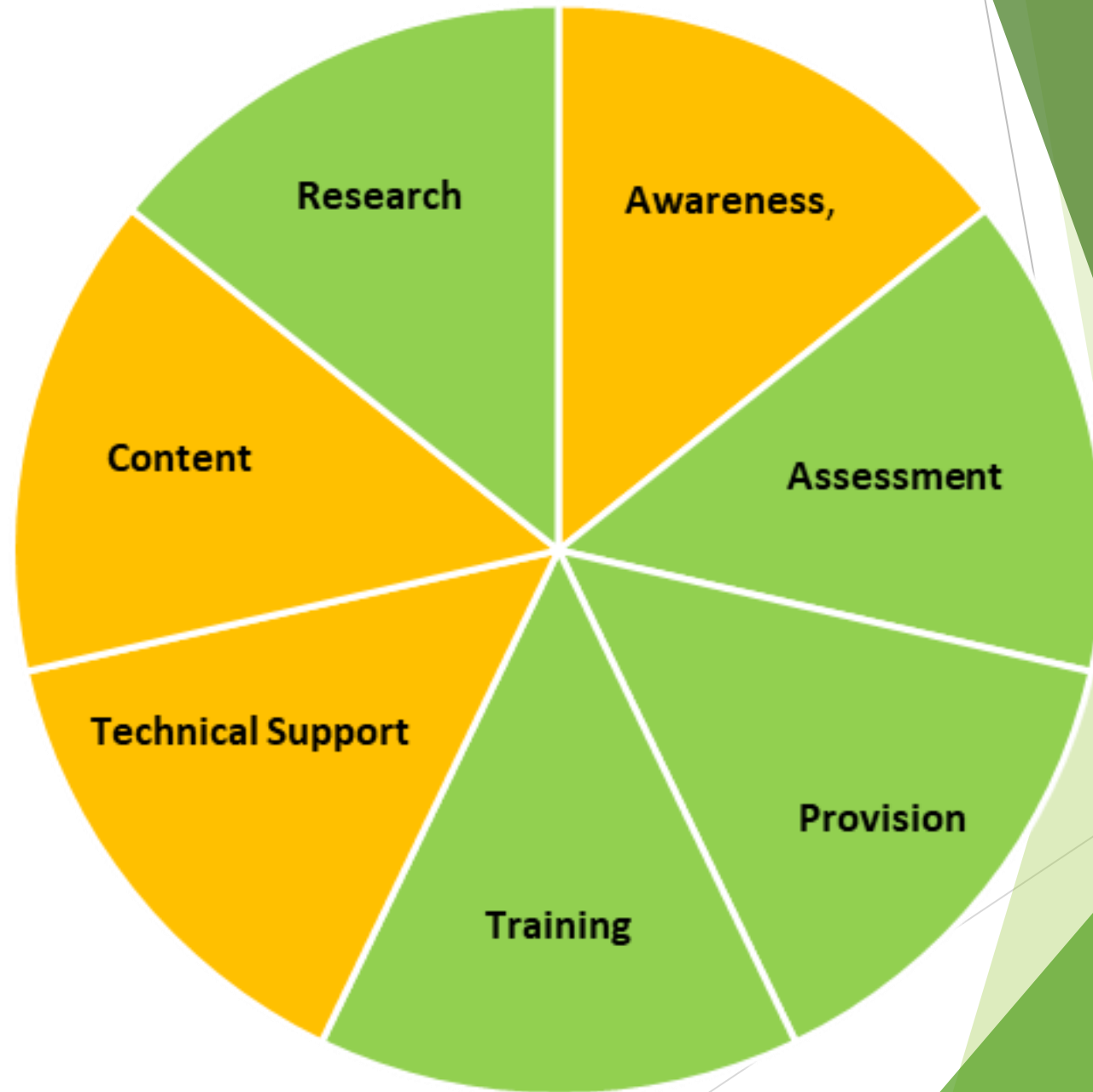


Strength

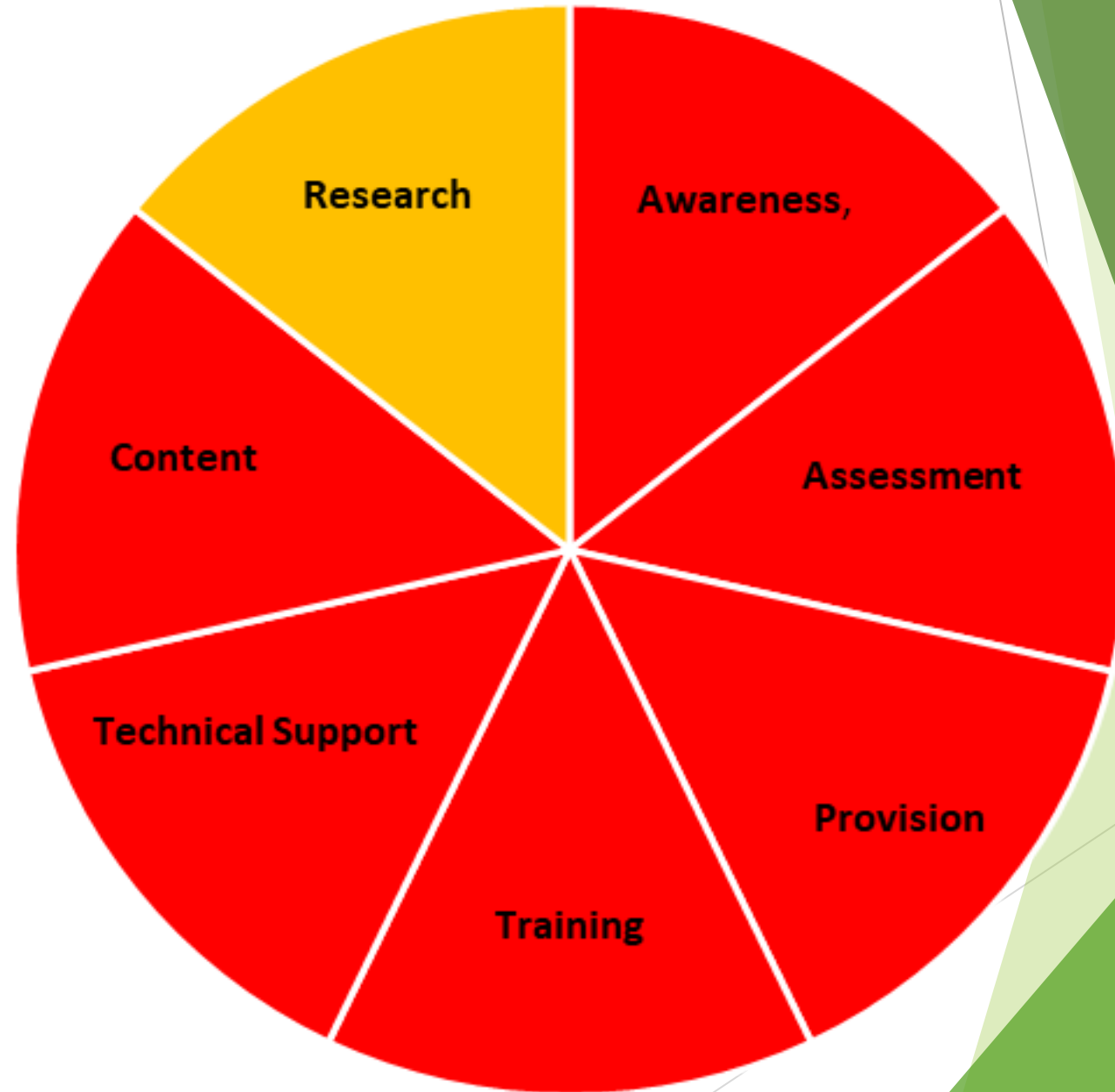
Neutral

Concern

National Findings for Qatar



National Findings for Tunisia



Strength

Neutral

Concern

National Findings for Malaysia

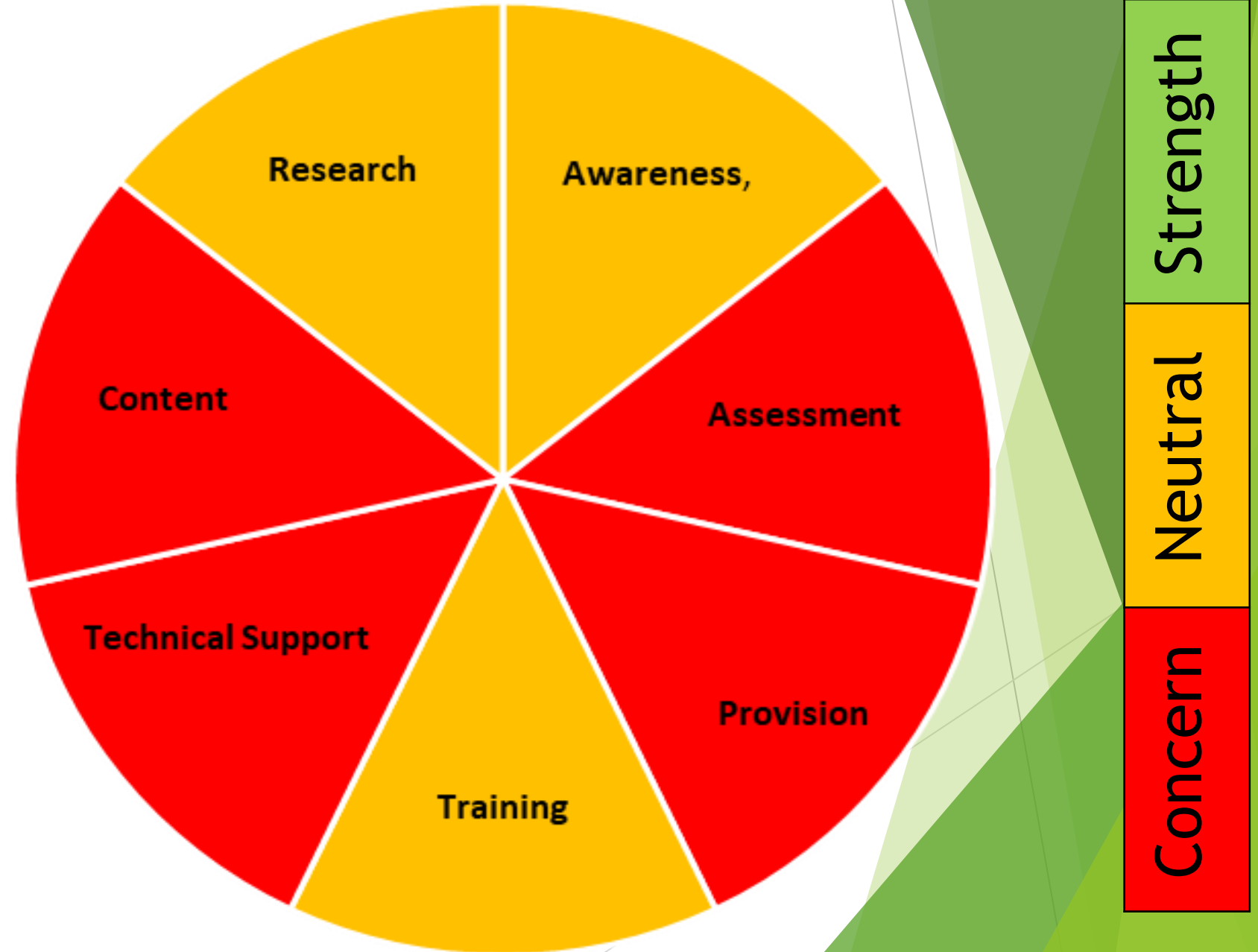


Strength

Neutral

Concern

National Findings for Jordan



Common Needs

Needs

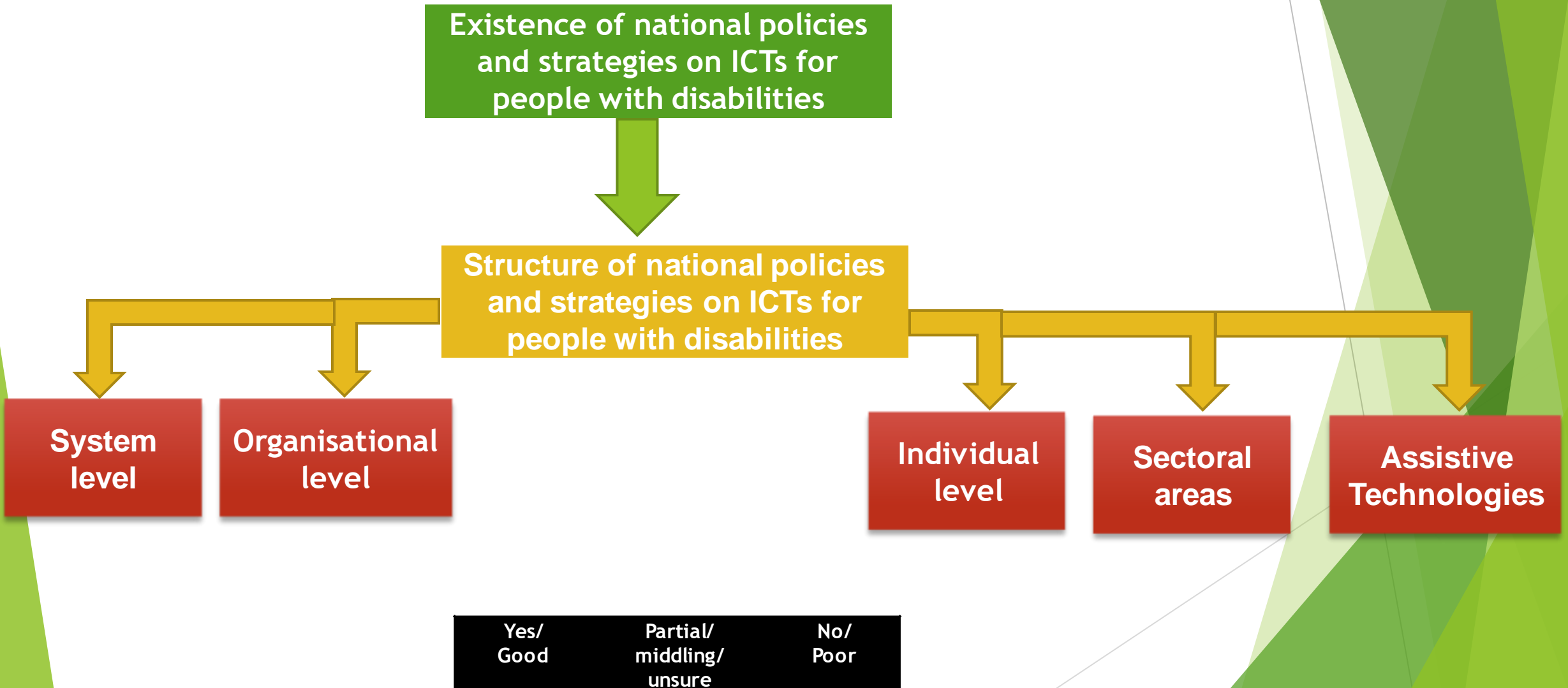
1=Low, 2=Medium 3= High

| | Policy | Awareness | Assessment | Provision | Training | Support | Research | Content |
|----------------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Pakistan | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Qatar | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Tunisia | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Malaysia | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Jordan | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| COMMON NEED | 10 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 10 |

Greatest common strength

Areas of Greatest common need

Assessment Framework



Indicators: Existence of national policies and strategies on ICTs for people with disabilities

- ▶ Is there a formal national *policy* on ICTs for people with disabilities
- ▶ Are these policies/strategies enshrined in law, or have legal status?
- ▶ Is there a clear section in the national ICT policy (or strategy) on the empowering use of ICTs for people with disabilities

- Clear statement of overall aims and goal
- Overall focus is on accessibility and inclusion (not just on assistive technologies)
- Evidence that it was based on widespread consultation with people with disabilities
- Existence of clear implementation plan and key steps that need to be taken
- Includes clear targets (with timelines)
- Monitoring and evaluation are addressed
- Financing is addressed
- Highlights the wider benefits to a society and its economy of empowering people with disabilities through the use of ICTs
- Role of a champion for ICTs for people with disabilities is specified
- Mention is made of assistive technologies
- Has a clear awareness raising element
- Includes creation of a national portal on ICTs for people with disabilities been created
- Refers to UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 2006

Indicators: Structure of national policies and strategies on ICTs for people with disabilities

System Level

| |
|---|
| ➤ Clear lines of organisational responsibility are indicated |
| ➤ Responsibilities of different organisations are clearly stated |
| ➤ Government role is specified |
| ➤ Private sector role is specified |
| ➤ Civil society role is specified |
| ➤ Contains specific recommendations for people with different types of disabilities |
| ➤ Includes mention of procurement policies to encourage inclusive design |
| ➤ Includes mention of training programmes for different sectors |

Indicators: Structure of national policies and strategies on ICTs for people with disabilities

Organisational Level

**Indicators: Structure
of national policies
and strategies on ICTs
for people with
disabilities**

Individual Level

- | |
|--|
| ➤ Focus is on supporting inclusion of individuals within society |
| ➤ Specifically addresses economic empowerment and employment of people with disabilities |
| ➤ Includes information about where individuals can find information that will support them in their daily settings |
| ➤ Addresses learning needs of individuals with disabilities |

Indicators: Structure of national policies and strategies on ICTs for people with disabilities

Sectoral Areas

| |
|--|
| ➤ Includes mention of telecommunications/ICTs sector |
| ➤ Includes mention of education sector |
| ➤ Includes mention of health sector |
| ➤ Includes mention of employment sector |
| ➤ Includes mention of transport sector |
| ➤ Includes mention of e-government services |
| ➤ Includes mention of broadcasting sector |
| ➤ Includes mention of emergency services |
| ➤ Includes a web-accessibility element |
| ➤ Addresses public procurement |

| |
|--|
| ➤ Includes mention of use for education |
| ➤ Includes mention of use for independent living |
| ➤ Includes mention of use for personal mobility |
| ➤ Includes mention of use for employment/work |
| ➤ Includes mention of use for communication |
| ➤ Includes mention of Open Source solutions |

**Indicators: Structure
of national policies
and strategies on ICTs
for people with
disabilities**

Assistive Technologies

- | |
|--|
| ➤ Documents mention a clear implementation plan |
| ➤ Evidence exists that the policy/strategy is indeed being implemented |
| ➤ Evidence exists that the policy/strategy has had a positive impact |

**Indicators: Structure
of national policies
and strategies on ICTs
for people with
disabilities**

Monitoring & Evaluation

Recommendations

- ▶ It is recommended that INIT members should seek to address actions that build capacity across members states through open licenced resources and products.
- ▶ The focus of that attention should be on seeding knowledge, advice and awareness. Such interventions would increase overall awareness of assistive technology, address the needs of significant numbers of people with a disability and allow individual countries to establish services on a firm foundation.
- ▶ The creation of an INIT access digital hub to bind many of the actions would be an important step to ensuring access and inclusion across member states.

Recommendations

- ▶ INIT should actively encourage cooperation across member states, including the creation and curation of resources of mutual benefit.
- ▶ INIT should draft and distribute a model policy framework for digital inclusion for use in member states and to support advocacy efforts.
- ▶ INIT should seek build capacity across member states in assistive and accessible technologies through the creation of a digital hub to support access of people with a disability including any aging population.

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The word "Thanks" is centered in a large, bold, green sans-serif font.

Thanks

Furthermore

- ▶ Establish an online repository of research and development projects to encourage cooperation and collaboration of researchers;
- ▶ Establish an accessible online open licenced repository of information and knowledge resources increasing awareness of solutions to support access and inclusion through technology;
- ▶ Draft and distribute briefings on open licence and the benefits inherent to people with a disability.
- ▶ Establish a repository of open training resources including presentations, videos and activities that can be adapted and localised in individual countries to support the understanding of people with a disability and professionals in the use of accessible and assistive technologies.

Furthermore (Contd.)

- ▶ Establish a repository of open licensed assistive technologies for localisation, distribution and use, including both products and guidance on the localisation of code to meet language and cultural needs.
- ▶ Disseminate and curate international access awareness materials available under open licence to assist civil society groups to participate in global events.
- ▶ Translate and localise the Future learn MOOC on digital accessibility into multiple languages to build capacity in universal and accessible digital design
- ▶ Seek to encourage the development of an online market place for digital assistive technologies

INIT Activities (Last 6 Years)

From July 2011 to December 2017

- ▶ INIT organized/co-organized and participated in numerous activities within the country and abroad ~ briefly selected activities are presented in succeeding slides
- ▶ INIT organized/co-organized activities in Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey , Malaysia , State of Qatar , Jordan and Kazakhstan

INIT-FAO Collaboration



- ▶ INIT is joining hands with Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO);
- ▶ FAO has agreed on sharing its extensive E-Learning Center database comprising of 23 categories of courses with INIT accessible through INIT website;
- ▶ INIT would devise an outreach program to facilitate wider dissemination of the acquired courses in terms of creating Master Trainers.

INIT Regional Study on ICT Curriculum for Universities

- ▶ Subsequent to discussion with numerous academics, INIT identified a need for a thorough review of the ICT curriculum to conform it to the interests of the universities (and industry) in the OIC Member States;
- ▶ The exercise will result into a set of recommendations for improvement in the ICTs curriculum within the OIC Member States.

INIT-UNESCO Collaboration



- ▶ Two workshops have been conducted to date in Islamabad 10-11 January 2016 & 5-6 October 2017 in Islamabad;
- ▶ Subsequent discussions with Prof. Unwin UNESCO Chair in ICTs for Development (ICT4D) and INIT team led to the development of a program for People with Disabilities.

INIT-UNESCO Collaboration (Contd...)

- ▶ The collaboration entails Three (03) broad areas of activities;

