



*Ability Meets Mobility*





# Mission

*“To empower wheelchair users and their families by being the global coordinator of the wheelchair sector.”*

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# Vision

*“Wheelchair users and their families have access to appropriate wheelchairs and services within an empowering and supportive environment.”*

The International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) was born out of the need for greater coordination in the wheelchair sector in terms of collaboration, product knowledge, and testing and training. Incubated under the University of Pittsburgh for the last 8 years, ISWP has now officially transitioned to being an independent not-for-profit with seed funding from USAID. A 13-member Founding Board consisting of an experienced cross-section of clinicians, research scientists, humanitarian organizations, and manufacturers provides direction and counsel for ISWP's programs.

Committees of over 50 representatives from the international wheelchair community meet regularly to develop and implement action plans related to improving access to wheelchair services and raising standards.

ISWP advocates for appropriate wheelchair services through representation on several global platforms, including at the WHO (e.g., Rehab2030 & GATE activities), the UN (e.g., COSP, Civil Society Conference), and on ISPO's Wheelchair Advisory Group. ISWP also coordinated with USAID and World Learning to host the 2018 Wheelchair Consensus Conference held in Bangalore, India and in 2022 held a follow meeting in Geneva together with ATScale.

**At ISWP, we focus on improving the quality of lives of wheelchair users, especially those in less-resourced countries, by focusing on 3 pillars:**



Advocating for governments to pay for appropriate wheelchairs and services.



Training professionals on assessing and fitting clients with appropriate wheelchairs and training wheelchair users on how to use and maintain their wheelchairs.



Improving the quality of wheelchairs by working with manufacturers, suppliers, and wheelchair technicians to raise the standards.

As of 1 November 2023, 9,005 users from 122 countries have a profile on the ISWP website. Over 1,254 individuals from 18 countries have been trained in the basic, intermediate, and managers and stakeholders' package. There are 203 certified wheelchair service providers from 29 countries.

Photo by: David Constantine



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