

One-stop-shop for accessibility technologies in Qatar

Mada, a public-private partnership in Qatar, is a one-stop-shop for all accessibility technologies for persons with disabilities. It offers direct services, works on website accessibility certificates and establishes a library of accessible books. Currently it is beginning to influence regional services in other Arabic-speaking countries.

«Mada suggests a model of delivery that is holistic, integrating services across ages, settings and need for greatest impact.»
(David BANES)

Mada - Qatar Assistive Technology Center

Organisation:	Mada
Country/region of origin:	Qatar
Beneficiaries targeted:	Persons with disabilities
Approach/model/solution:	One-stop-shop for assistive technology in Arabic

FACTS & FIGURES

- Over 20 assistive technology products developed in Arabic
- Commercial and open-source projects to reduce cost
- 120 books available at bookshare.org, accessed by people in Qatar, the UAE and Egypt
- Over 1,000 people supported in Qatar in three years
- Award for 'technological innovation', Hamad Medical Corporation (2011)

PROBLEMS TARGETED

By placing assistive technologies in classrooms, workplaces, and homes throughout Qatar, persons with disabilities will be able to work, attend class, and connect with peers from around the world.

PROJECT

Mada was established by the Supreme Council for Information and Communication Technology (ictQatar) in June 2010 as a public-private partnership with Qtel, Vodafone Qatar, Qatar National Bank and Microsoft. Mada is a one-stop-shop for all aspects of accessible technology for persons with disabilities. As well as delivering direct services, the centre has sought to introduce a range of technology to support Arabic speakers, introducing website accessibility certification, establishing the first major repository of accessible books online for Arabic users and supporting Arabic innovation and research in access technologies.


CURRENT SITUATION & OUTLOOK

The Mada model of services is already influencing regional services in Oman, Dubai, Kuwait and Shahjah, with interest and relations building in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The availability of free technology for Arabic speakers supported by Mada has an impact throughout the Arabic-speaking world.



Mada is a one-stop-shop for all aspects of accessible technology for persons with disabilities: a young man explores using an iPad with two Mada team members.

CONTACT Mr. David BANES
Mada (Qatar Assistive Technology Center)
Al Nasr Tower B, 7th Floor, Al Corniche Road
24230, Doha, Qatar | +974-4459 4050
dbanes@mada.org.qa
www.mada.org.qa

EXPERT VOTING Top marks for:


- Access to services

Nominated by: Axel LEBLOIS, The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict)