



Building Capacity in Assistive Technology for Arabic speaking people with a disability, challenges and next steps

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مدا mada

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Assistive Technology



Scale of the issue

- Always greater than estimated
- Issues of non disclosure
- Diagnosis does not accommodate functional limitation
- Hidden disabilities may be unreported
- Learning disabilities poorly defined
- International comparisons would suggest 1 in 5 of population has additional needs at some stage

Issues of Adoption

- Awareness
 - Confidence
 - Availability
 - Cost
 - Support
 - Language
 - Literacy
-
- Poor information is a risk

Services



- Advice
- Assessment
- Training
- Consultancy
- Provision
- Support

2011-2012

- Visitors to Center 763
- People assessed 450
- Provision Licenses/solutions 644
- AT localised 8
- Factsheets produced 30
- Training provided 55/695
- Accredited professionals 30
- eAccess audits 16

AT in Arabic

- The development of assistive technologies for Arabic speakers is a crucial element in delivering inclusive education
- Such Assistive technology must encompass a full range of needs and embrace both commercial and open source solutions to reduce the cost of entry level and build a market

Support for Visual Impairment

- Screen readers



- Portable Aids



- Magnification



- Mobile devices



Support for Literacy

- Clicker 5

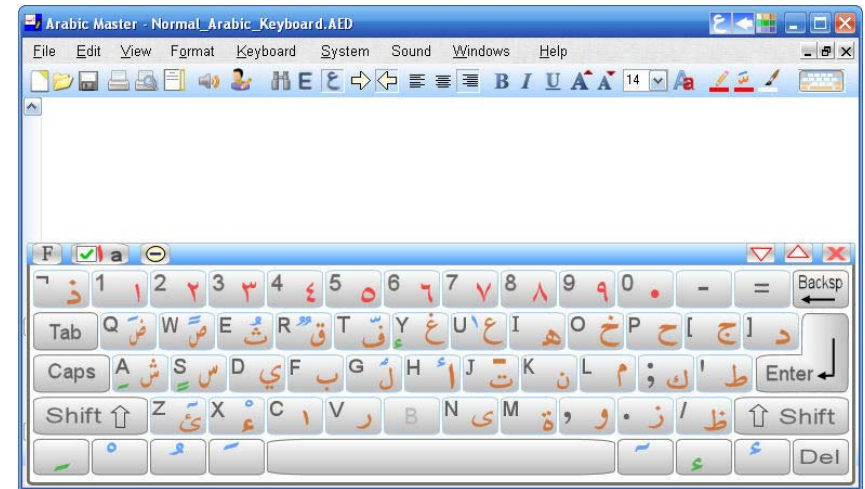


- Word Prediction



Support for Physical Needs

- Keyboards and Mice
- On Screen Keyboards



Support for Hearing Loss



Growth of Open Licences

- AT Bar
- FXC Software
- Open Source and freeware
- Creative Commons
- OER



Accessible Digital Content

Websites

- Standards
- Learning platforms
- Information sources

Content

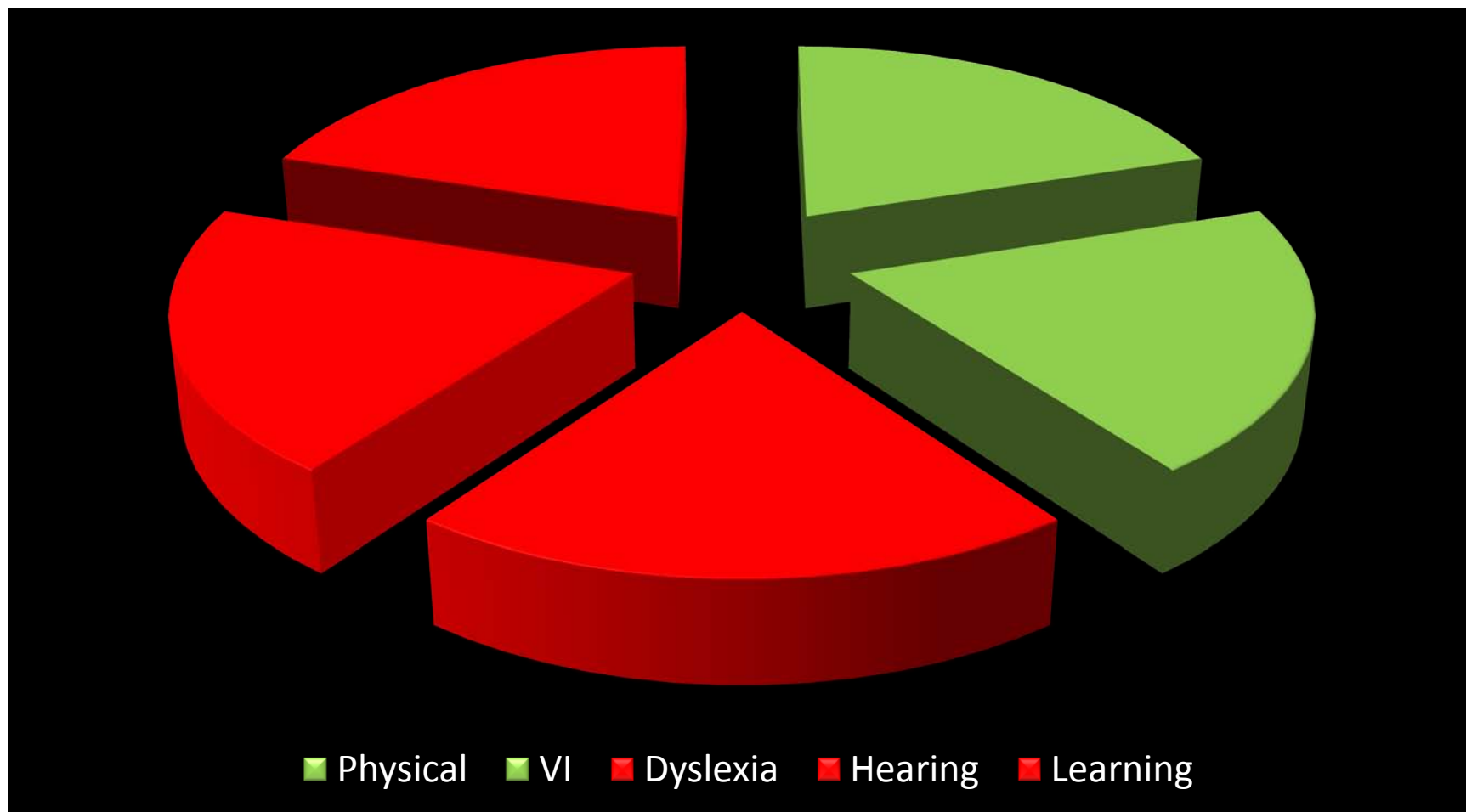
- Ebooks
- Word
- Powerpoint
- Video

Accessible Content

- Bookshare
- Robobrain
- Easyconverter

- Creating and storing accessible Arabic resources in
 - Daisy
 - Mp3
 - Braille

Gaps



Research and Development

Technology

- Voice recognition
- Free Text to Speech
- OCR
- Wayfinding

Needs and Impact

- Implementation
- Best practice
- Priorities

Networks and Collaboration

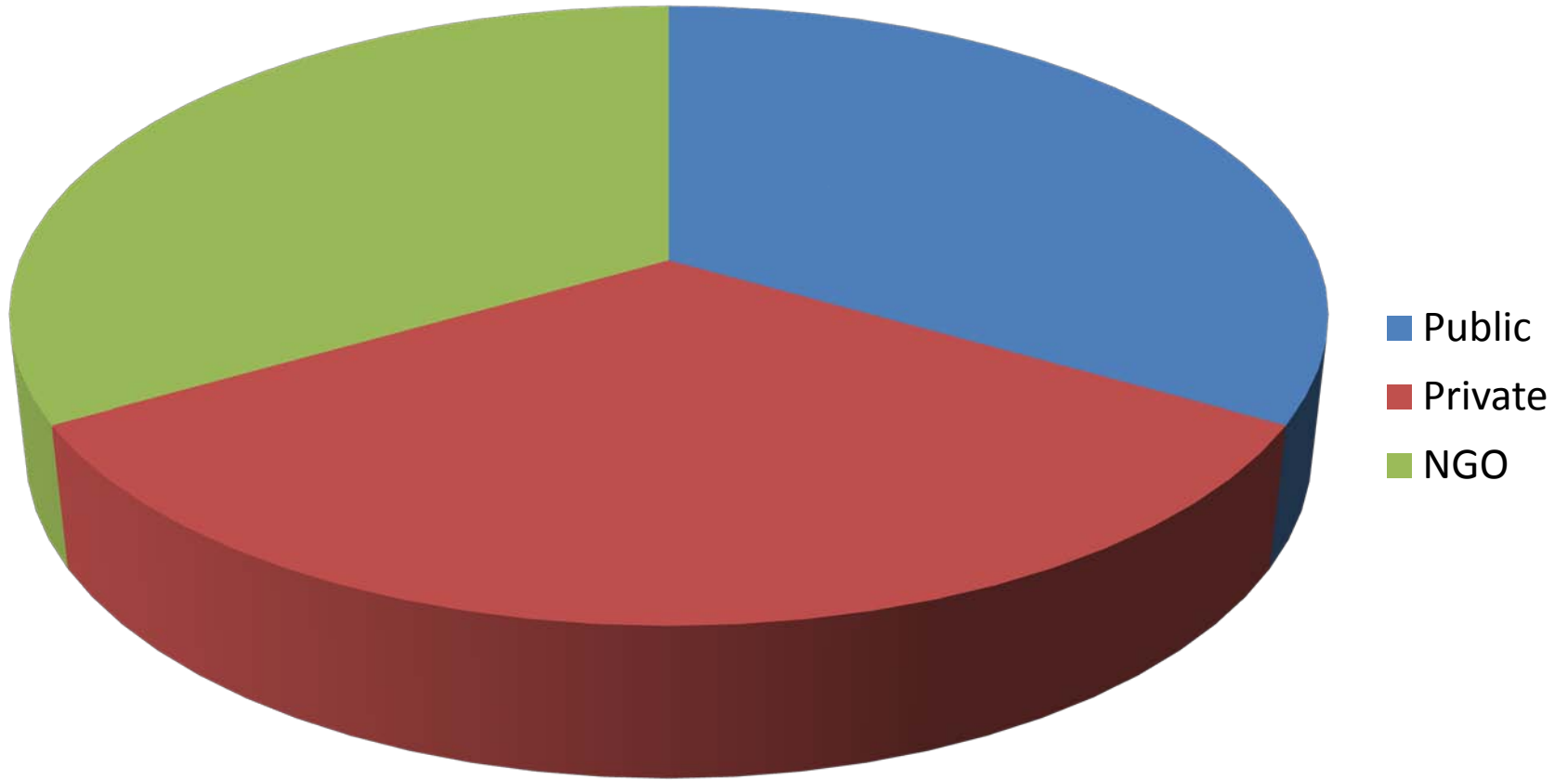
Global

- G3ICT
- Daisy
- ATIA
- W3C

Regional

- Link to Global Initiatives
- Research
- Development of solutions
- Localisation
- Training materials
- Building Arabic Capacity

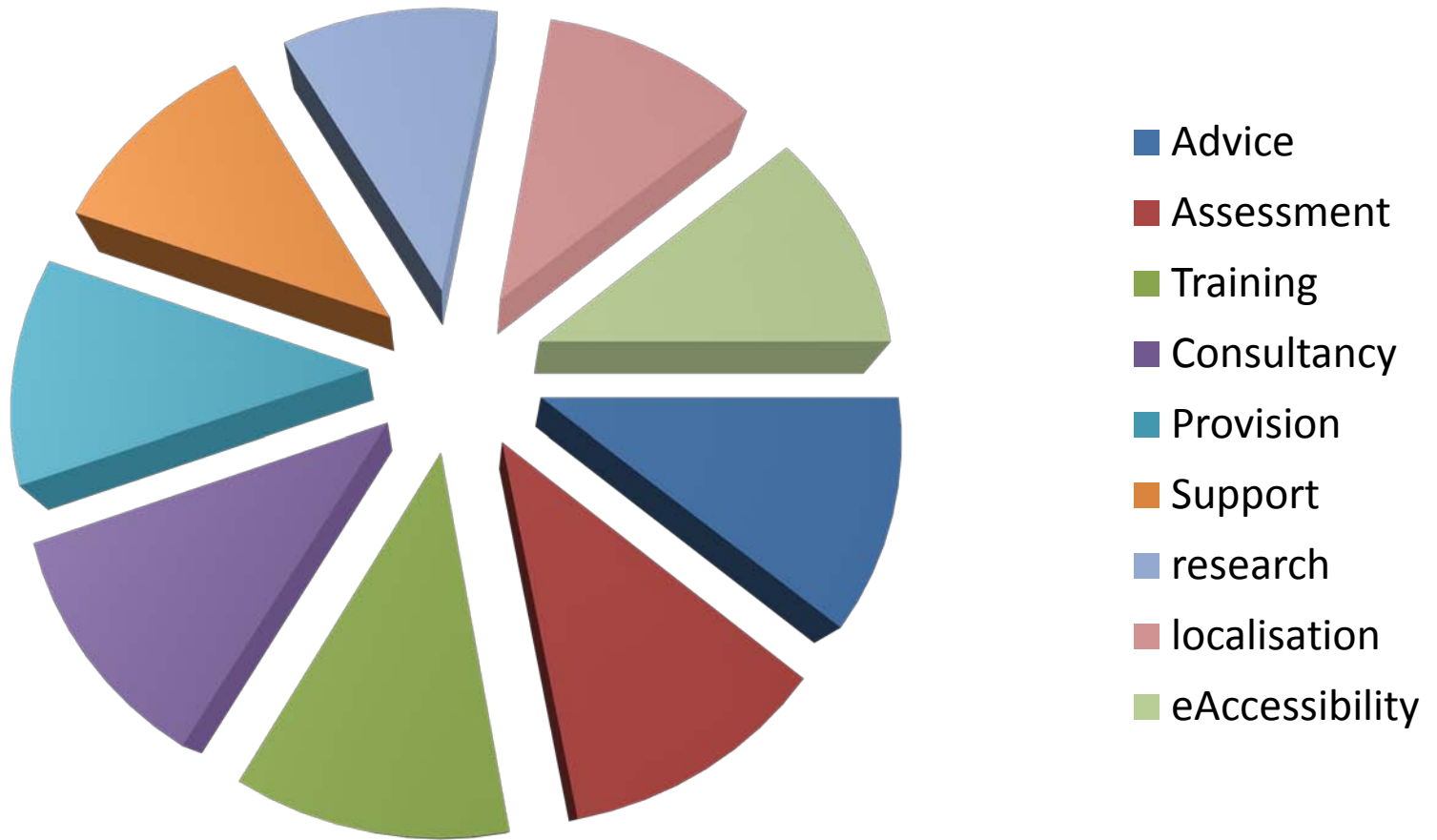
Building Blocks



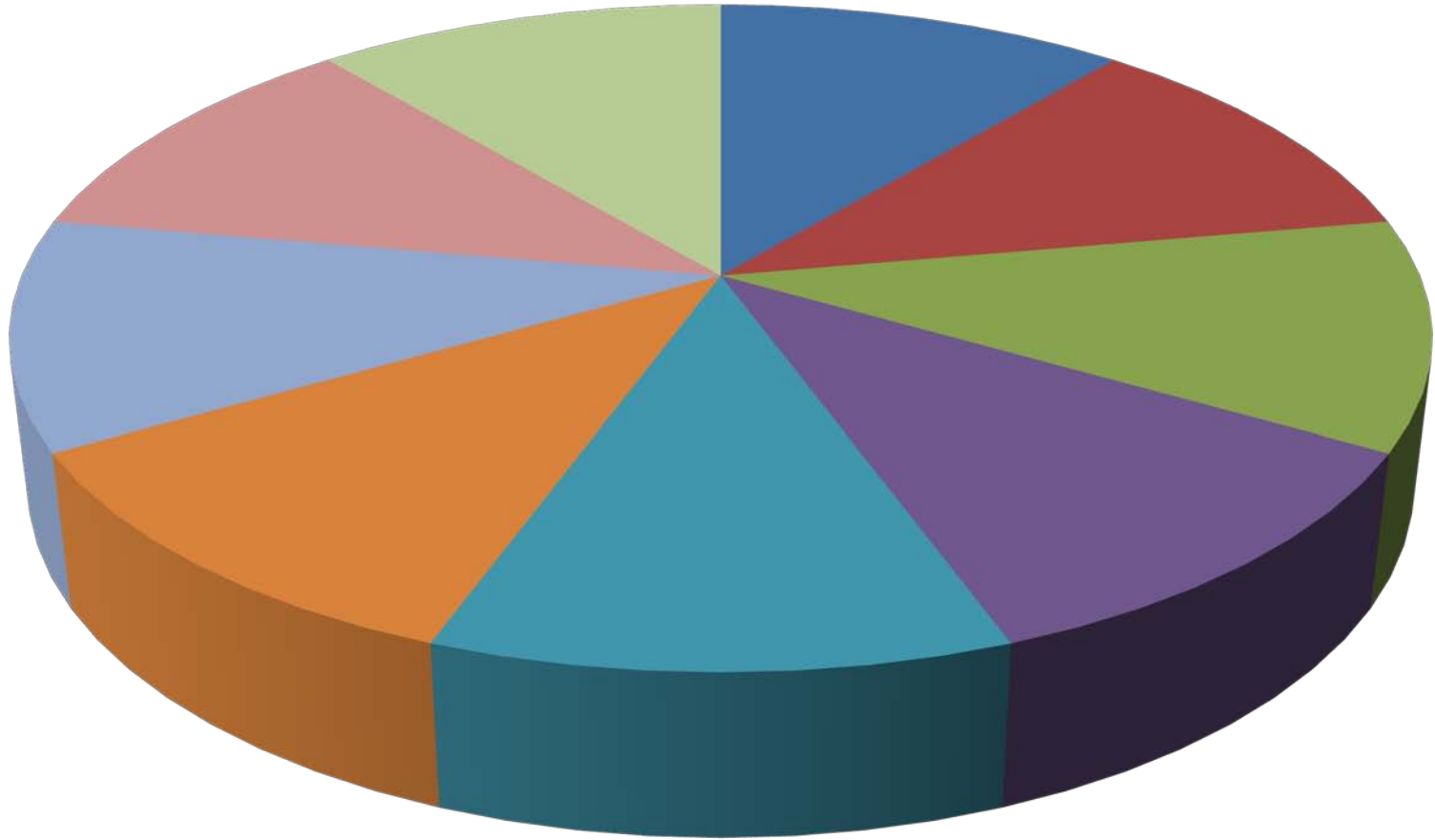
Ecosystem - examples

- Public
 - ictQatar launched eAccessibility policy for country
- Private
 - Qtel launched connected initiative for people with a disability
 - Microsoft launched Imkaan digital literacy materials
- NGO
 - Offer channels and resource to and for disabled people
 - Shaffalah, Al Noor, QSCCB, QSCCD, QSRSN, MS society etc

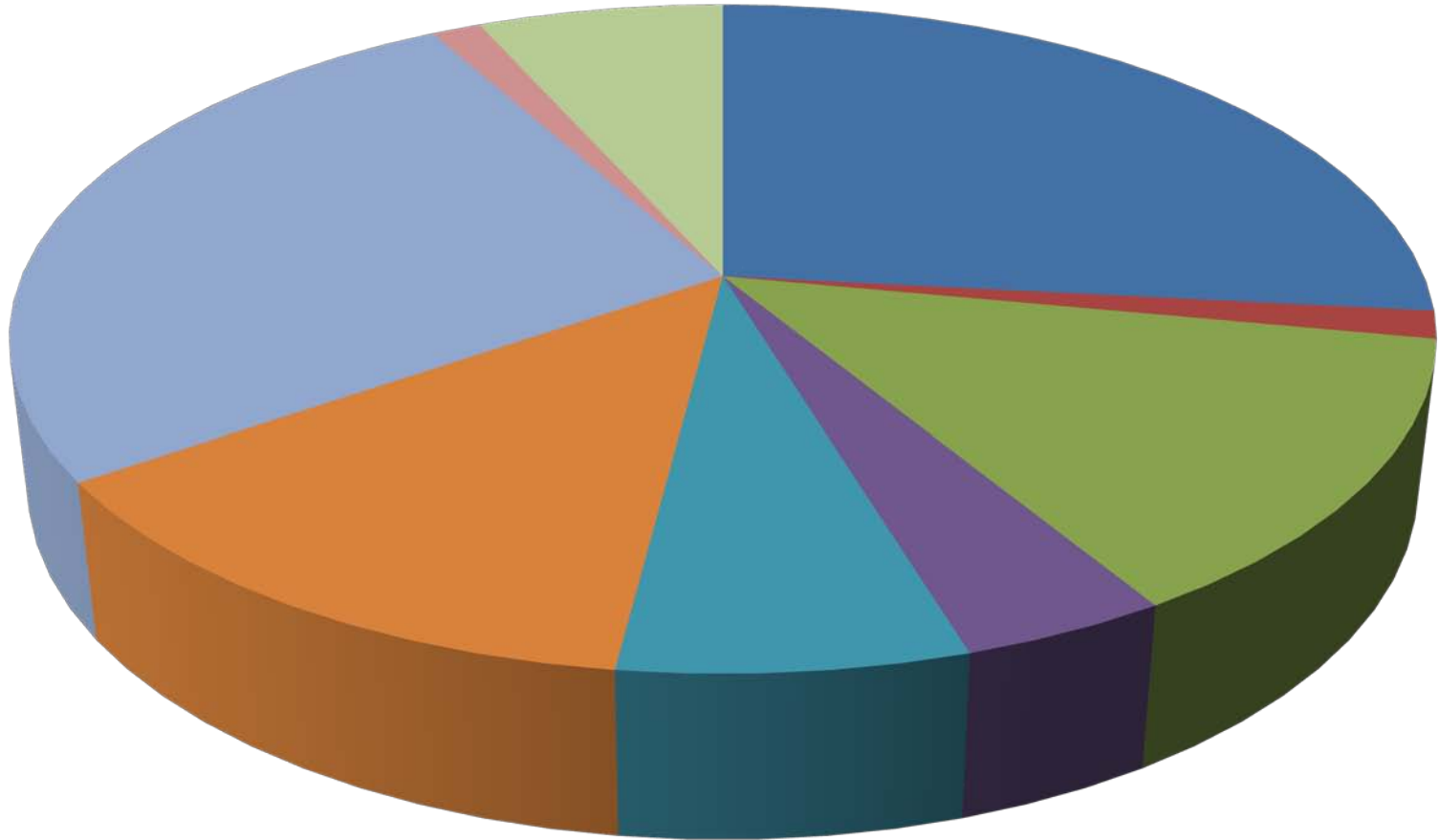
An Arabic Ecosystem - Mapping



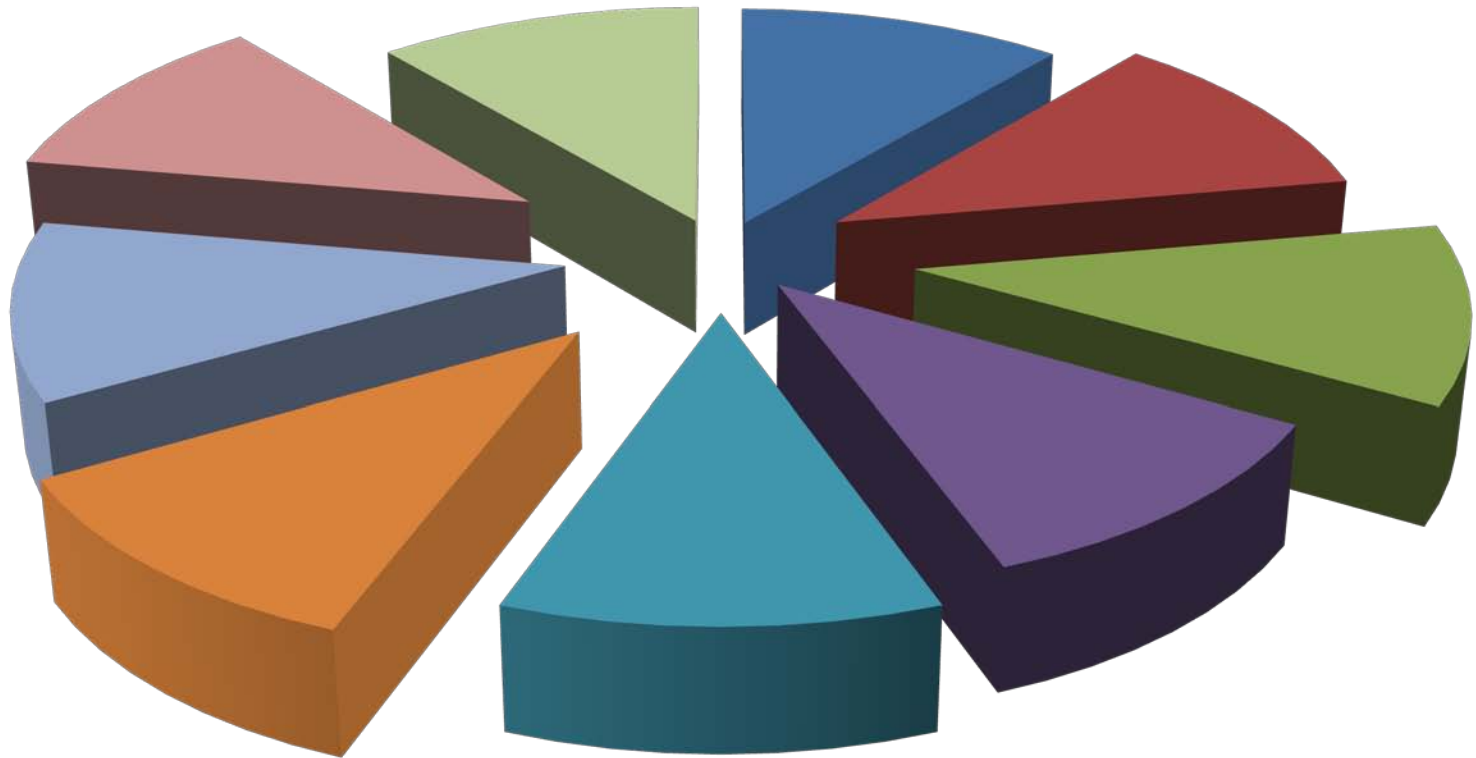
Mada



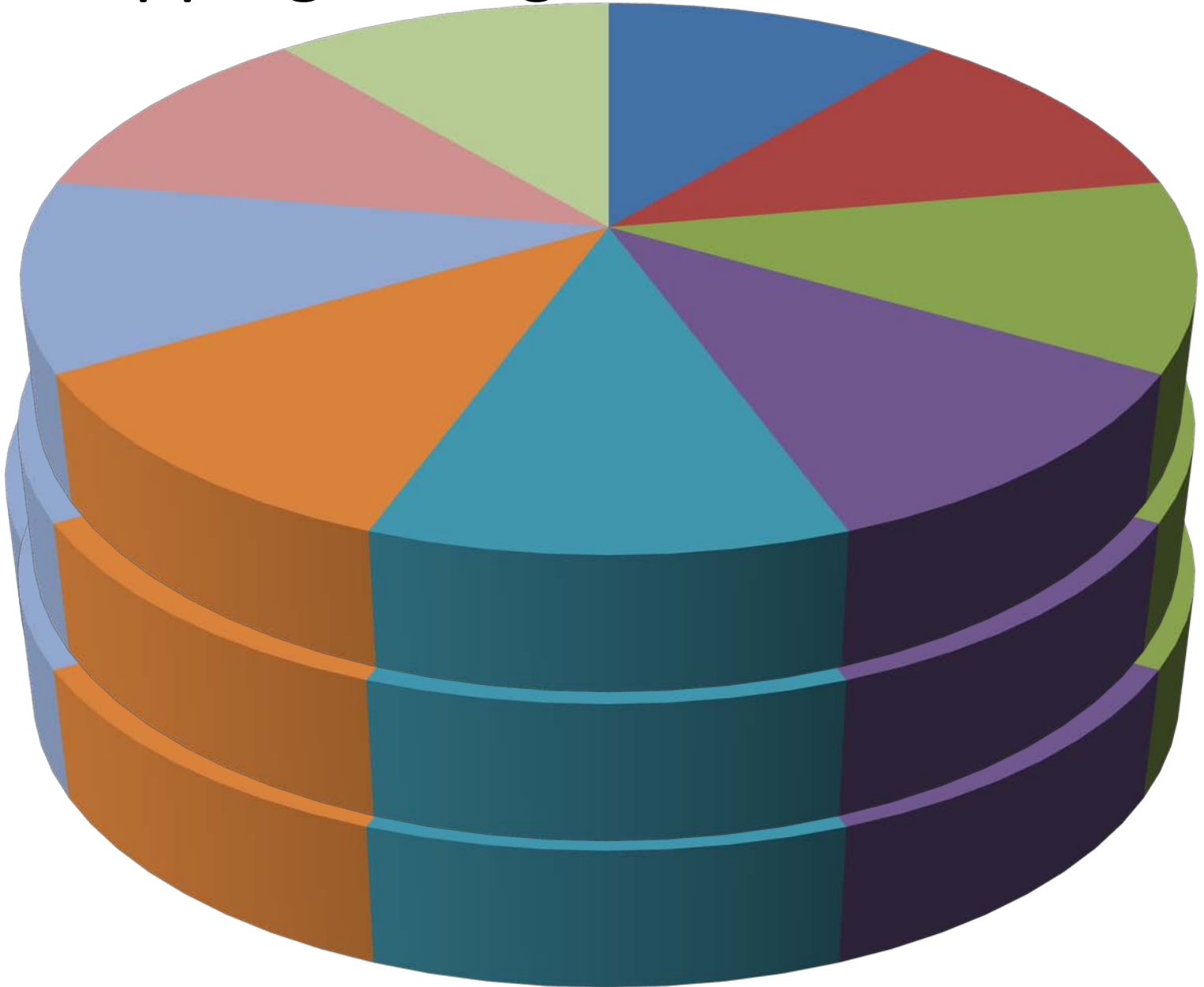
Organisation 1



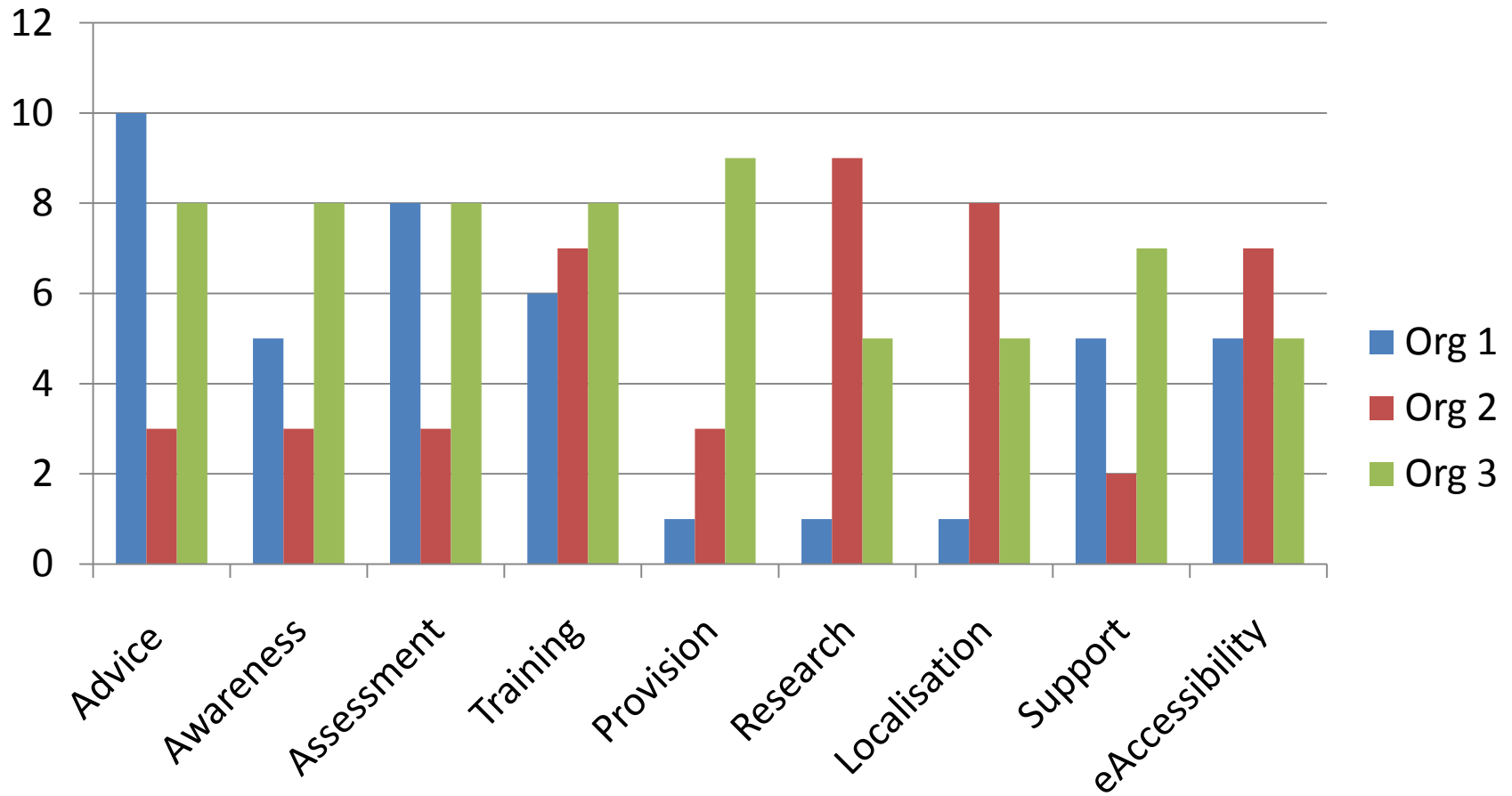
Organisation 2



Overlapping strengths and weaknesses



Mapping across organisations



Next steps

- Mada offers its materials under Creative commons for all to use and reuse
- Mada continues to seek to stimulate the development of Arabic Assistive Technologies
- Mada seeks to establish an Arabic AT network to undertake joint projects to meet the needs of all Arabic persons with a disability
- Invites expressions of interest in an initial meeting in Doha Autumn 2012

Thank You

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