



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

WHO WE ARE

Mission

Empower wheelchair users and their families by being the global coordinator of the wheelchair sector.

Vision

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

Global Community

ISWP aims to mobilise a global community of dedicated, trained professionals who promote and support appropriate wheelchair provision.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, ISWP strengthened global wheelchair service systems through training, certification, research, and policy advocacy. We worked alongside key stakeholders to improve quality, access, and equity of wheelchair provision.

Together, we advanced safe, appropriate wheelchair provision aligned with evidence-based standards and user-centered design.



Photo credit: Cielo de Amor



Photo credit: Rolando en Red Latam

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

This year affirmed the power of collaboration and community-building. From expanding training pathways to scaling evidence-based practices that strengthen health systems, and from international to local advocacy efforts, our community has played a vital role in advancing quality wheelchair service delivery worldwide.

We remain deeply committed to equipping wheelchair professionals, elevating service and product standards, and amplifying wheelchair service user voices, so that everyone who needs a wheelchair receives the right product, the right services, at the right time.

On behalf of ISWP, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Board, staff, partners, funders, members, and the wheelchair users who guide and inspire our work every day. Your trust, leadership, and collaboration make this progress possible — and give us hope for what we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Silvana Contepomi

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has been one of momentum, meaning, and renewed belief in what is possible when a global community comes together with shared purpose. In 2025, ISWP celebrated a decade, which is quite a milestone. Throughout the year, the Board and community were represented at global events where they celebrated with members and highlighted the importance of ISWP.

We welcomed 1,236 new members, growing our community to 11,556 wheelchair professionals, advocates, researchers, and allies worldwide. Each new member strengthens a collective commitment to improving lives through safe, appropriate, and user-centred wheelchair provision. Across the year, 667 learners enrolled in and completed our online training courses, while 20 face-to-face training courses were supported across the globe.

Through these efforts, 809 professionals achieved certification, expanding the workforce equipped with the knowledge and skills to deliver quality wheelchair services aligned with evidence-based standards.

Our work reached across borders, with active programs and partners in 11 countries. These numbers represent people — wheelchair users, families, and communities — experiencing greater dignity, mobility, and participation in daily life.

We also strengthened our voice and visibility. Our community grew to 3,781 followers on LinkedIn and 1,017 on Instagram, helping us amplify evidence, advocacy, and lived experience. We published four key publications, presented at or had a presence at 10 major events, and deepened impact through a growing number of strategic collaborations.

In addition, we proudly hosted seven events, including International Wheelchair Day, OSS, and ISS breakfast events, creating spaces for dialogue, learning, and connection.

This year, ISWP was honoured to be awarded the RESNA Leadership Award — a recognition that belongs to our entire community and affirms the importance of our shared mission. Together, we advanced safe, appropriate wheelchair provision aligned with evidence-based standards and user-centred design.



More importantly, we reaffirmed that progress is strongest when it is grounded in partnership, accountability, and the voices of wheelchair users themselves. Thank you to our Board, volunteers, staff, consultants and most importantly to our members and those they serve.

Together we continue to demonstrate that wheelchair professionals are needed and that ISWP has a strong role to play in realising this ambition. We will continue to implement our 3 year strategy and build on this in coming years.

Alex Kamadu

2025 AT A GLANCE

Created a new **strategic plan 2025 - 2027**

20 face-to-face training courses

+32% LinkedIn followers
+ 39% Instagram followers

+1236 new members =
11,556 members

Certified **809** wheelchair professionals

Co-authored **4** publications

667 online training participants

Facilitated training in **11** countries

Represented ISWP at **10** international events

Potential impact: If every certified ISWP professional (809) in 2025 saw 5 clients a day, 5 days a week, across 40 weeks, and provided appropriate wheelchairs, 809,000 wheelchair users could have been impacted!



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

New Strategic Plan

International Society of Wheelchair Professionals

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025 - 2027

ABILITY MEETS MOBILITY

VISION

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

MISSION

Empower wheelchair users and their families by being the global coordinator of the wheelchair sector.

1 OBJECTIVE
Advocate for integrated wheelchair provision in national health and social care systems

KEY RESULTS

- Disseminate an advocacy resource to relevant stakeholders in a minimum of six countries.
- Assist stakeholders in at least two countries to utilise the resource to advocate for integrated wheelchair provision.
- Host at least two annual online wheelchair users' rights-based campaigns.

2 OBJECTIVE
Build and sustain strategic partnerships

KEY RESULTS

- Develop a stakeholder engagement plan to enable sustainable partnerships.
- Expand online engagement through targeted marketing strategies.
- Start ISWP Chapters in six countries.

3 OBJECTIVE
Optimise and promote education, training and certification within the wheelchair sector

KEY RESULTS

- Review at least five established ISWP resources to identify areas for improvement.
- Update and refine at least three ISWP resources.
- Implement knowledge translation of the updated ISWP resources.

5 OBJECTIVE
Support and advocate for the improvement of appropriate wheelchair production, supply and maintenance

KEY RESULTS

- Track participant knowledge transfer during ISWP led online learning events.
- Develop at least three resources on appropriate wheelchair production, supply and maintenance.

4 OBJECTIVE
Embed the lived experiences of wheelchair users and their support circles in all our work

KEY RESULTS

- Include the insights of at least one wheelchair user in each of the ISWP initiatives, relative to their experiences.
- Amplify wheelchair users' voices by sharing at least 20 stories across all ISWP platforms.

ISWP celebrated 10 years of operation and the new Board of Directors co-created and launched ISWP's new strategic plan.

Through an extensive member engagement and collaborative Board input, ISWP identified 5 key objectives to work towards during the 3 year period.

Many of the key results have been actioned already in 2025 and ISWP looks forward to celebrating the achievements of the next 2 years.



10-YEARS OF IMPACT



Reflections from our Board



“I am proud of ISWP’s achievements in enhancing the quality and reliability of wheelchairs provided globally.”

- Arne Compernelle



“I’m proud of the increased awareness and capacity-building in wheelchair service provision.”

– Marie B. Abou Saab



“I’m proud that ISWP has become a global organisation providing networking support with a strategic plan.”

- Silvana Contepomi

Training & Certification



2025 was a year of strengthening our relationships with key training partners across the globe to deliver face-to-face training.

We assisted in facilitating training in **11 countries** and both through our online and face-to-face certification programs had **809 certifications awarded** [738 Basic, 14 Intermediate, 14 ToT, 12 recertifications].

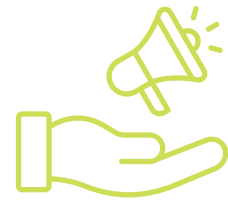


Photo credit: Silvana Contepomi, Rolando en Red Latam



Photo credit: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Advocacy & Systems



ISWP continued to commit to strengthening advocacy efforts around appropriate wheelchair provision, adequately trained professionals and ensuring appropriate wheelchairs are provided through key partnerships.

Throughout 2025 ISWP worked collaboratively with international organisations such as the Global Alliance of Assistive Technology (GAATO), World Health Organization (WHO), ATscale, World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) as well as a variety of regional and national organisations to advocate for appropriate wheelchair provision, inclusion of wheelchair provision within health systems and supporting the development of the wheelchair workforce through appropriate training.

Our biggest campaign for 2025 was our **International Wheelchair Day** Campaign where we celebrated #Unstoppable wheelchair users and professionals. Throughout the campaign, we had engagement from over 30 individuals and organisations across 8 countries that shared their #Unstoppable stories.

Research & Standards



ISWP staff and Board members were involved with 4 publications in 2025 which demonstrates our commitment to education, research and systems strengthening.

Pragmatic recommendations to improve access to rehabilitation robots, assistive technologies and neurorehabilitation services in Africa: proceedings from ICORR-SASNET Ghana neurorehabilitation workshop, 2024 <http://www.frontiersin.org/journals/stroke/articles/10.3389/fstro.2025.1565651/full>

Wheelchair service provision training during armed conflict: preliminary results from a pre-post study in Ukraine <http://www.frontiersin.org/journals/rehabilitation-sciences/articles/10.3389/fresc.2025.1723913/full>

ATscale Assistive Product Market Report 2025
<https://atscalepartnership.org/atscalepartnership.org/assistive-products-market-report>

ISWP's Wheelchair Provision in Humanitarian Situations Position Statement <https://iswp.org/position-statements/>



Community & Membership



At ISWP we believe in community and uplifting those around us.

In 2025 ISWP introduced paid memberships for individuals and organisations and maintained a free associate membership. We welcomed 1236 members, with a total of 11,556 members across the globe.

We introduced a virtual mentorship program for paying members and have had over 30 individuals (mentors and mentees) sign up for the program. ISWP members and the wider wheelchair community also benefited from ISWP's paediatric webinar series. With experienced facilitators, the series explored the basics of wheelchair provision through alternative mobility options for the paediatric population.

ISWP Chair, Silvana Contepomi, and Board members Marie Abou Saab and Mary Goldberg facilitated the ISSnetworking event in Pittsburgh.

In August 2025, ISWP co-hosted the Latin American 'Circles of Support LATAM at Expo Ortopédica' facilitated by the Chair of our Board, Silvana Contepomi.

Silvana shared ISWP's strategic plan, guided members on the new online sign-up process and explained how certifications will now be managed globally. She also led a full-day workshop on implementing the Wheelchair Guidelines, sparking important discussions and practical insights.

The ISWP Breakfast hosted during the Oceania Seating Symposium in November 2025 was a huge success! A key takeaway from the discussions: collaborative regional partnerships are essential to strengthening the workforce and ultimately achieving [#AppropriateWheelchairProvision](#). The event was sponsored by [Seating to Go](#), [Invacare](#) and [Permobil](#)



Photo credit: Silvana Contepomi



Photo credit: Oceania Seating Symposium



Photo credit: Silvana Contepomi, Rolando en Red Latam

FINANCIALS

TRANSPARENCY & STEWARDSHIP



2025 was a year of significant transition for ISWP. The early termination of our primary funding from USAID required the organisation to respond quickly to the changing financial landscape. Key operational improvements were made, particularly within our IT and certification systems, enhancing reliability and long-term sustainability. The organisation implemented cost saving activities to improve efficiency whilst remaining compliant as a registered 501 (c) 3 not for profit in the United States. Throughout this period, ISWP remained committed to strong fiscal stewardship and transparent governance.

We diversified revenue streams while maintaining reserves that safeguard continuity and growth. These include advertising space on the website, membership dues and certification fees, sponsorships and donations and continue to seek out collaborations with partners. ISWP has established good relationships with donors in the sector who support our mission through targeted grant funding. Through these measures, ISWP has reinforced its financial stability while remaining focused on advancing quality wheelchair provision globally.

Between 2024 and 2025, due to USAID funding cuts, revenue declined by approximately 33%, while expenses were reduced by approximately 46%, reflecting deliberate cost saving measures and strict financial management in response to reduced funding. Looking ahead, we are optimistic. The changes made in 2025 have strengthened our foundation and sharpened our focus. With tighter cost controls, a growing global community, and strong partnerships, ISWP is well placed to rebuild revenue, scale impact responsibly, and reach more people who need quality wheelchair services. We remain committed to practical, evidence-based action and to ensuring that every wheelchair user receives the right support, at the right time.

Financial Year 2025

Income:
\$382 949

Expenditure:
\$337 989

Net Revenue:
\$44 961





PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



Our impact is made possible through partnership. In 2025, we collaborated with universities, NGOs, organisations of persons with disabilities, ministries, standards bodies, and funders to build resilient wheelchair service ecosystems.

One of ISWP's biggest success stories for 2025 was the systems strengthening approach and collaboration with WHO Ukraine. From 2023 to 2025, we have seen over 270 professionals trained at a basic level, a selection of these were chosen for intermediate and trainer training. Ukraine now has 9 national trainers to support future trainings scheduled for 2026 which is a sustainable approach to capacity building.

Photo credit: WHO Ukraine

Another great example of collaboration is the partnership with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya, whereby 71 students from the Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Medical Social Work programs have completed their Basic Level Wheelchair Service Training Package (WSTPb) and Certification.

These students now have the foundational tools for basic wheelchair assessments within their communities when they start working!



Photo credit: Jomo Kenyatta University

CHALLENGES & LESSONS

ISWP's biggest challenge in 2025 was the early termination of the USAID grant and the need to create a more sustainable financial model for ISWP.

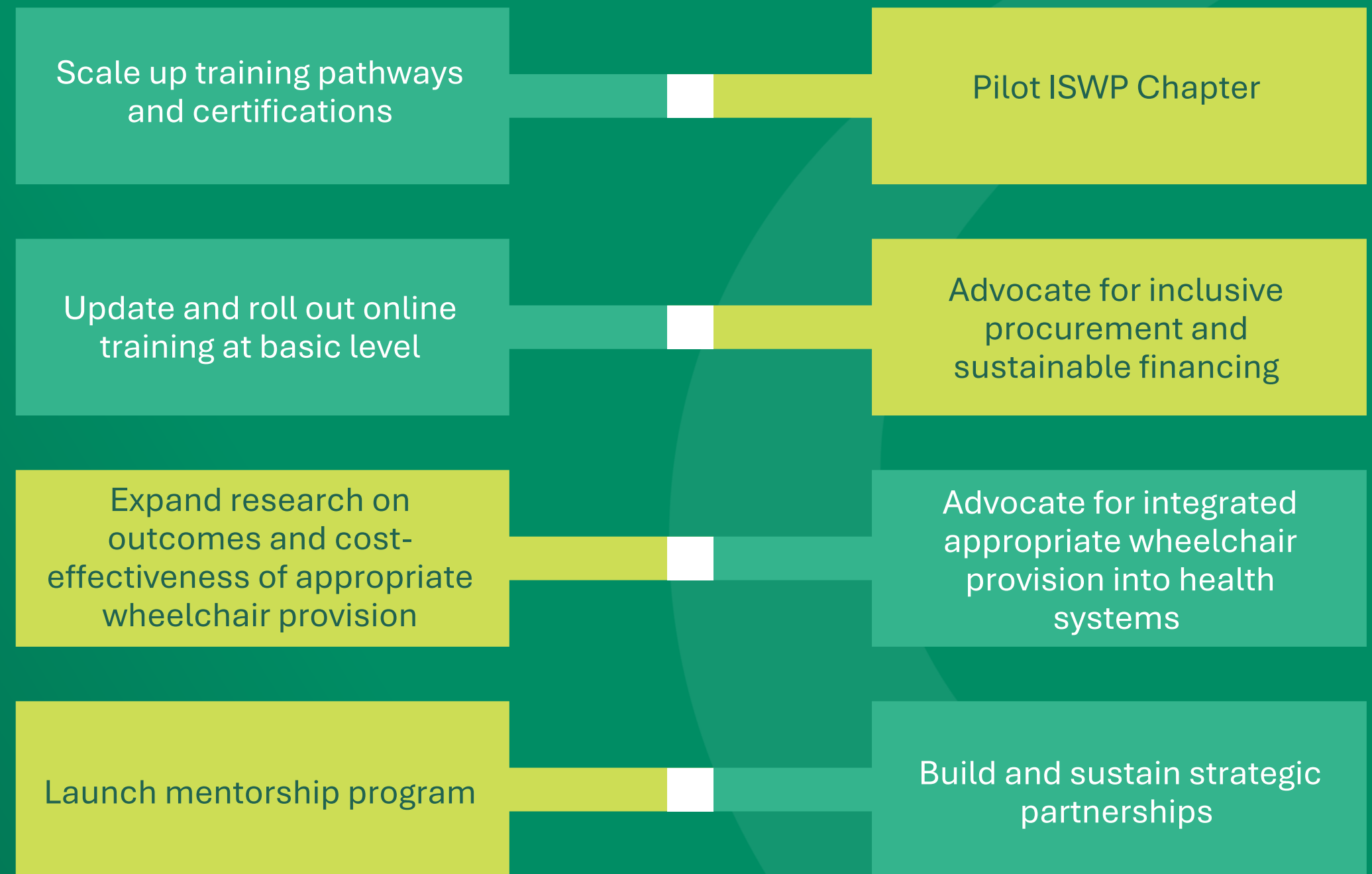
Whilst the biggest challenge, ISWP was able to create new partnerships with donors, manufacturers and key advocates of ISWP to keep the organisation in a position to continue supporting old and new programmes.

Our success stories in our trainer models, new mentorship network, training and certification programs will continue to be enhanced as we scale up these efforts in 2026.



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2026, we will deepen our focus on quality, equity, and sustainability—ensuring every wheelchair user has access to appropriate products and services that enable meaningful participation.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our donors, partners, and the wheelchair users and providers who guide the path forward. Your leadership and commitment make this work possible.

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[International Society of Wheelchair Professionals](https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-society-of-wheelchair-professionals)



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Photo credit: Shonaquip Social Enterprise