

Simplified mobile phone

Mobile phone that is simplified in its functionality, user interface, and features. Primary product features include the ability to make and receive mobile phone calls and send and receive text messages. Simplified mobile phones require a subscription to cell phone service. Additional features may include extra loud and clear sound, large accessible keys, and high contrast display. In addition to the basic features described above, simplified mobile phones can vibrate in response to incoming calls. Many mobile phones include the ability to have a phone book of contacts. In conjunction with a phone book, a mobile phone may have the capability of designating a few contacts with speed dial short cut keys. Phones can be water-resistant. Typical additional features of simplified mobile phones may include calendar, calculator, alarm, camera, flashlight, and stopwatch.

- **Product Classification**

- APL (WHO Assistive Product Priority List): 36 (Simplified mobile phones)
- ISO 9999:2022: 222407 (Devices mainly for speech communication)

- **Possible configuration variants**

None specified.

- **Possible accessories or optional components**

- Single emergency SOS button (to enable the person to activate a single key to summon emergency care).
- Compatibility with hearing aids.
- GPS locator.
- Charging station.
- Headset (the headset connection may be cabled or wireless, typically through Bluetooth).
- Wi-Fi (a phone that includes wi-fi will enable the user to access the Internet and send and receive email).
- Android Go (simplified version of the Android operating system, which gives users access to simplified version of apps such as YouTube, Google Maps, Facebook making them easier to use).
- Voice output (to make navigating phone functions easier).
- Voice recognition (voice commands simplify access to phone functions).

- **Product goals**

Activities or functions the product is mainly intended to support, according to WHO ICF Classification:

- Using communication devices and techniques [\[d360\]](#).

- **Indicated impairments**

Difficulties the product is mainly intended to address, according to the WHO ICF Classification:

- Intellectual functions [\[b117\]](#).
- Seeing [\[b210\]](#).
- Hearing [\[b230\]](#).
- Fine hand use [\[d440\]](#).

- **Contraindicated impairments**

Difficulties for which the product may be inappropriate:

- Difficulty in fine hand use.

- **Indicated environments**

Specific environments in which the product should be used:

None specified.

- **Contraindicated environments**

Environments in which the product may be inappropriate:

- Areas with no or limited cell phone coverage.
- Places where electricity is not available to maintain battery charge.
- **Other indicated factors**
Other factors or situations the product is intended to address:
 - Use by people with limited familiarity with modern technology.
 - Phoning and messaging.
 - Accessing the Internet
- **Other contraindicated factors**
Other factors or situations in which the product may be inappropriate:
 None specified.
- **Points to be considered in product selection**
 - The size of the screen and the size of the font should be appropriate for the user's abilities.
 - The input technique and user interface should match the individual's functional abilities, i.e. the size of the buttons or the necessity of a physical keyboard.
 - A phone service must be available and paid for.
 - Appropriate emergency contacts must be identified.
- **Points to be considered in product fitting**
 - Configuring simplified interface.
 - Programming short cut keys.
 - Appropriate emergency texts and messages must be programmed. The user may require assistance to perform these tasks.
 - The user should be trained in the proper use, programming, and maintenance of the device.
- **Points to be considered in product use**
 - Person needs the psycho-social abilities to use the phone appropriately.
 - The phone battery must be kept sufficiently charged.
 - Language of the device should be familiar to the user.
 - Device should have good connectivity to the mobile service.
- **Points to be considered in product maintenance / follow-up**
 - Maintain good battery life.
 - Maintain phone service: user should have the ability to pay for the service.
 - Maintain appropriate emergency texts and messages.
 - Availability of electricity to maintain battery charge.
- **Examples of products available on the market**
 - Live product search in the EASTIN website <https://www.eastin.eu/en/searches/products/list?iso=222407>

Source

This Fact Sheet was compiled in 2021 by an international team of experts, to provide the initial knowledge base for a project ("An online system to assist the selection of assistive product") supported by the World Health Organization in 2020-2021 within the GATE Initiative (Global collaboration on Assistive Product). Fact Sheets were compiled for each of the 50 types of products included in the WHO APL (Assistive Product Priority List).

The team was composed of Renzo Andrich (Italy, group leader), Natasha Layton (Australia), Stefan von Prondzinski (Italy), Jerry Weisman (USA), Silvana Contepomi (Argentina) and Hasan Minto (Pakistan).

The project led to a prototype online tool called ASPREX (ASsistive PROduct EXplorer). At the end of the project, it was transferred to a WHO collaborating center (the Global Disability Hub in the UK), in view of possible future developments.