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## S4 : Public Health and Prevention / Digital Health Opportunities

# The challenges of Digital Accessibility in the Arab Region

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# What is accessibility?

One of the best definitions is:

“Usability for people with disabilities”

Famous quote from Sir Tim Berners-Lee, W3C Director and inventor of the World Wide Web:

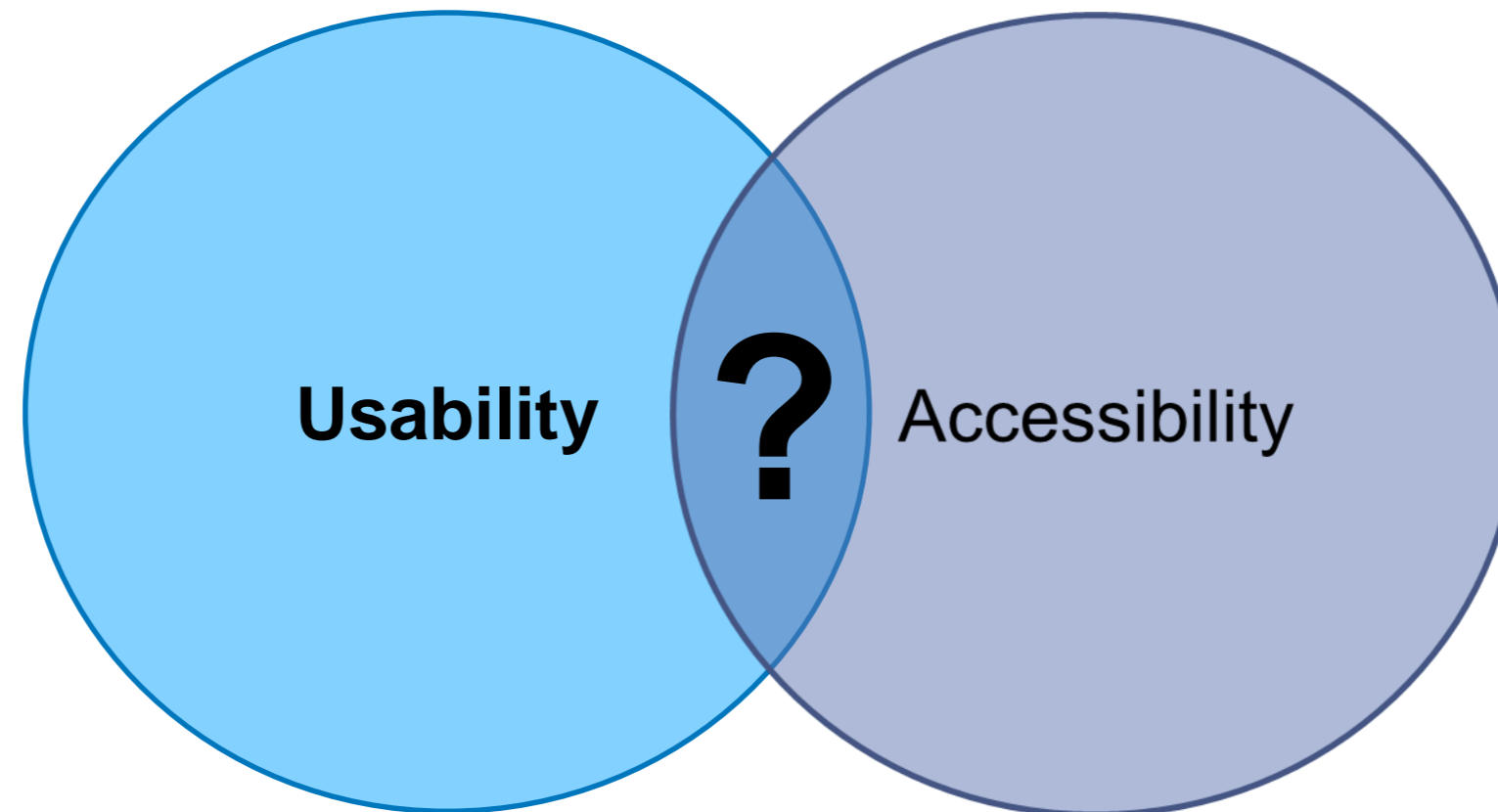
“The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect”

# Flexible is Accessible

- Think of assistive technologies as just another kind of device. When a site or app is designed to be flexible, it works better on all devices



# Accessibility and usability



# Who does accessibility benefit?

Everyone, but especially:

- People with disabilities
- Older users
- People with mobile devices
- People living in areas with lower bandwidth
- People with different cultural and linguistic backgrounds

# Web accessibility guidelines

- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has **established a set of standards and guidelines;**
  - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1)
  - Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines (ATAG)
  - User Agent Accessibility Guidelines (UAAG)

# Issue of accessibility guidelines

- There is limited access and examples of WCAG2.1 in Arabic language.
- Lack of Arabic language accessibility resources and exemplars
- Lack of in-depth discussion and how-to guides in a developer's native language would make the task particularly daunting



# Challenges with the Digital Accessibility

- Challenges with **Tools**
  - The assistive technology itself
  - Most automated evaluation tools have a certain level of issues regarding language, including Arabic
- Challenges with **Resources**
  - Limited resources in Arabic language
- Challenges with **Knowledge**
  - Limited training and workshop in Arabic language
- Challenges with **Policy and Law**
  - Government sector
  - Private sector

**THANK YOU!**

**Accept the challenge!**

