

Foreword

Mobilizing for Change

Four years ago, we stood together at the United Nations to announce a global partnership that would help bring innovative technology to bear on some of the world's most intractable problems. Since that time, through the United Nations Foundation–Vodafone Group Foundation Technology Partnership, we've brought the best of the business world together with dynamic UN agencies and other organizations to help collect and track health data in Africa, respond to humanitarian disasters across the globe, and drive forward policy changes related to technology and development.

This partnership is helping the United Nations achieve the Millennium Development Goals and tackle key health, social, environmental, and development challenges. Technology—especially wireless communication—is crucial to finding solutions to these problems. It can connect families separated by disaster, help emergency relief workers respond more quickly, empower farmers to ask for better prices in markets, help track the impacts of climate change, and so much more.

Our partnership is also constantly exploring new ways of applying technology to benefit developing countries, where mobile technology adoption rates are highest. To this end, we support original research to expand the discussion about how technology can help transform lives.

In this second publication in our Access to Communications Publication Series, the authors examine real-life examples of and trends in wireless technology solutions being used to drive change in the areas of health, humanitarian assistance, and environmental conservation. The compelling stories portrayed in this report demonstrate that telecommunications can be a powerful tool for positive change in our world.

We hope you'll join our efforts to harness technology and innovate on behalf of humanitarian causes and a better world.



Arun Sarin, CEO
Vodafone



Ted Turner, Chairman
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