



mHealth for Development

The Opportunity of Mobile Technology for Healthcare in the Developing World

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About The United Nations Foundation and Vodafone Foundation Technology Partnership

The United Nations Foundation and Vodafone Foundation Technology Partnership is a leading public-private alliance using strategic technology programs to strengthen the UN's humanitarian efforts worldwide. The Partnership has three core commitments: (1) to support the use of rapid response mobile telecommunications to aid disaster relief; (2) to develop health data systems that improve access to health data thereby helping to combat disease; and (3) to promote research and innovative initiatives using technology as an agent and tool for international development. Further information can be found at: www.unfoundation.org/vodafone.

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The United Nations Foundation and The Vodafone Foundation are working together to harness the power of mobile technology in support of United Nations programs across the globe. Since 2005 our £15 million Technology Partnership has funded the use of wireless communications to advance global health and disaster relief work, and to further public discourse about how wireless technology can address some of the world's toughest challenges.




This fourth publication, “mHealth for Development: The Opportunity of Mobile Technology for Healthcare in the Developing World,” in our Access to Communications series evidences, through its research and selection of case studies, the potential of mHealth—the use of mobile communications (mobile phones and PDAs) for health services and information. This field has the potential to transform the approach to a variety of healthcare challenges in the developing world by accelerating the collection and storage of patient data, training rural professionals with health updates and guidance, and personalizing to new levels the process of patients receiving and engaging in available medical treatment.



As the case studies in the report demonstrate, governments, companies, and non-profit groups are already developing mHealth applications to improve healthcare and consequently save lives. These new mobile applications, bypassing the fixed-line solutions, are creating new pathways for sharing health-related information, even in the most remote and resource-poor environments.

We invite you to review the potential of this area of activity and join the discussion of mHealth for development. We would welcome your comments and ideas at www.unfoundation.org/mHealth-report.


Vittorio Colao, CEO
Vodafone


Ted Turner, Chairman
United Nations Foundation

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