



DISASTER RELIEF 2.0

THE FUTURE OF INFORMATION SHARING IN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES



Vodafone Foundation



HARVARD HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE





REPORT PARTNERS

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UN OCHA is the arm of the United Nations Secretariat that is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort. OCHA's mission is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies; advocate for the rights of people in need; promote preparedness and prevention; and facilitate sustainable solutions.

<http://ochaonline.un.org>

The United Nations Foundation & Vodafone Foundation Technology Partnership

Created in October 2005, the United Nations Foundation & Vodafone Foundation Technology Partnership leverages mobile technology programs to support and strengthen UN global health and disaster relief work. Our core areas of focus are to: (1) strengthen communications in humanitarian emergencies through capacity building and support for disaster response missions that connect aid workers and the affected community; (2) support the development of mobile health (mHealth) programs that tackle critical public health challenges and improve public health systems, decision making and, ultimately, patient outcomes; and (3) promote research and innovation using technology as a tool for international development.

www.unfoundation.org/vodafone

Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

The mission of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) is to relieve human suffering in war and disaster by advancing the science and practice of humanitarian response worldwide. HHI is a leader in providing applied research, education and training on disaster man-

agement, humanitarian assistance, and humanitarian action. As an inter-disciplinary organization it has a history of producing high impact research that translated directly into evidence-based policy and programming.

<http://hhi.harvard.edu/>

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FOREWORD BY TED TURNER

Individuals everywhere are interconnected by technology as never before. In 2011 more than 5 billion mobile phone subscriptions are in use worldwide, creating connectivity in many parts of the globe where previously we talked only of a digital divide.

Mobile uptake, including access to the mobile Internet, is creating new market forces and reshaping businesses around the world, including the business of humanitarian aid.

The global response to the January 2010 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti showed how connected individuals are becoming increasingly central to humanitarian emergency response and recovery. Haitians trapped under rubble used text messaging to send pleas for help. Concerned citizens worldwide engaged in a variety of ways, from sending in donations via SMS, to using shared networks to translate and map requests for assistance.

Powered by cloud-, crowd-, and SMS-based technologies, individuals can now engage in disaster response at an unprecedented level. Traditional relief organizations, volunteers, and affected communities alike can, when working together, provide, aggregate and analyze information that speeds, targets and improves humanitarian relief. This trend toward communications driven by and centered on people is challenging and changing the nature of humanitarian aid in emergencies.

Since 2005, the United Nations Foundation and Vodafone Foundation Technology Partnership has leveraged the power of mobile technologies to support and strengthen UN humanitarian work in the fields of global health and disaster response. We commissioned this report—the sixth in the United Nations Foundation and Vodafone Foundation Technology Partnership's Access to Communications publication series—to examine the challenges and opportunities an increasingly networked world presents for delivering disaster relief in the immediate aftermath of large-scale humanitarian emergencies.

Our hope is that this report will spur dialogue and action to harness the potential of evolving communications technologies to transform how the world responds to disasters. This work is part of an ongoing conversation and we welcome your comments at: www.unfoundation.org/disaster-report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Turner".

Ted Turner, *Chairman*
United Nations Foundation