



Village Phone Direct Assistance Center

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Village Phone Direct At Work
Pilot success in the Philippines! Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation set to launch VPD [Read more...](#)

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Welcome to the Village Phone Direct Assistance Center!

Empowering MFIs to implement a Village Phone program

Village Phone *Direct* (VPD) is an innovative, microfranchise approach to **Village Phone** that allows virtually any microfinance institution (MFI) or other organization to directly and independently develop a Village Phone product for their clients. Village Phone *Direct* brings the benefits of telecommunications to local communities and micro entrepreneurs without the need for an institutional infrastructure to coordinate the operations in cooperation with an individual microfinance institution to serve small rural villages.

In poor, rural areas mobile communication is rarely available. With Village Phone *Direct*, MFIs directly empower their clients to launch profitable mobile communications businesses that fill that void. By applying technology in this innovative way, MFIs provide a valuable, sustainable opportunity for their clients to accelerate their escape from poverty.

A One-Stop Site

This VPD Assistance Center is a one-stop site to guide MFIs in launching a Village Phone Direct initiative. It includes:

- The **Village Phone Direct Manual**; a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to establishing a local Village Phone Direct program from *research* to *pilot* to *deployment*.
- **Hands-On Materials** to download and modify to meet your needs.
- A **Discussion Forum** for the Village Phone Direct Community to ask questions, share solutions, and contact other MFIs launch a VPD program.

News & Events

- ["Wireless Unbound" - McKinsey&Company](#)
- ["Economics Focus: To do With the Price of Fish" - The Economist](#)
- [02nd – 07th December 2007 - AFMIN Annual Conference \(Brazzaville, Republic of Congo\)](#)

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