

## **Bridging the digital divide with increased access to voice and data services**

Working in partnership with the GSM Association, Accenture Development Partnerships is applying Accenture's core consulting skills to help reduce the estimated 4 billion people worldwide who currently lack connectivity, through Shared Access to Voice and Data programmes.

Shared Access to Voice projects are underway in communities in Algeria, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda - connecting thousands of people to information that can radically improve their lives. At the same time these projects provide platforms for local entrepreneurs and livelihoods for disadvantaged groups. For example a mobile street phone service, equipping disabled Kenyans with specially-adapted mobile pay phone wheelchairs allows them to make a living while providing low-cost access to phones within the community.

Eight Shared Access to Data sites have been set-up around Johannesburg, and in Kenya five secondary schools now have internet connectivity for the first time as a result of this initiative.

All projects work with a local mobile operators to ensure that the model is self-sustainable and scalable.

## **About Accenture Development Partnerships**

Through its Accenture Development Partnerships programme Accenture provides access to its management consulting and technology services expertise to the not-for-profit sector, using a sustainable business model and engaging employees from across its organisation.

To date Accenture Development Partnerships has engaged in 140 projects with 40 partners and clients, involving nearly 300 Accenture employees. In Africa alone, Accenture Development Partnerships has worked in 20 different countries, applying management consulting and technology skills in system design, supply chain strengthening, strategy, process improvement, and organizational design. Examples include: