

GSMA Thrive Africa

Mobile for Development

Welcome to the Thrive Africa summary, which will highlight the key events together with the respective links to replay the event's sessions. The content will be available on the virtual platform for three months, however, please note you will need to be registered on Thrive to be granted access, if not already. Please follow the [link](#) to sign in or sign up.



Thrive Africa opened on Monday, 28 September, exclusively for Mobile for Development (M4D) funding partners. The day commenced with:

A Virtual Field Trip 'Innovators Creating Impact'

UHD – supported by FCDO and the GSMA, UHD is currently providing mobile enabled access to energy security, mobile banking and healthcare in remote and extremely resource poor settings in Uganda.

MTN Rwanda – supported by FCDO and the GSMA, MTN Rwanda has been piloting a digital solution to digitise the tea value chain for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.

Loowatt – supported by FCDO and the GSMA, Loowatt, a waterless sanitation service provider, developed a mobile app to track its waste collection processes, collect payments with mobile money and communicate better with its customers.

NuRan – supported by FCDO and the GSMA, the NuRan grant is focused on innovative new technologies focusing on backhaul and new ultra low power RAN solutions; seven sites will be built and run for 18 months with full technical & commercial evaluation by the GSMA.

Closed-Door Roundtable 'The role of public-private collaboration and digital technology to achieve the SDGs'

Co-hosted with the World Bank, M4D convened a closed-door roundtable. Opened by Mats Granryd, Director General of the GSMA, we welcomed 13 partner organisations together with the six top African Mobile Operators. The discussion will continue at MWC Barcelona 2021.

During this session, we officially announced the new **partnership** with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), as the leading implementing organisation of German Development. This partnership will further strengthen our drive for digital innovation for sustainable development.



Great content on our four main stage sessions across Tuesday, 29 September - Thursday, 1 October:



Accelerate Africa

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. African start-ups raised \$2.02 billion in funding in 2019, a 74 per cent year-over-year growth (Partech). Ecosystem acceleration is key to strengthening the entrepreneurship in Africa and holds the answer to mass youth job creation.



One People, One Purpose

This explored how both public and private sectors collaborate with mobile to serve climate action and life services such as government services, healthcare, agritech, financial inclusion and humanitarian initiatives.

Part 1 and Part 2



Policy Leaders Forum

This session explored how governments and regulators use investment-friendly policies to help coverage and usage grow.

Part 1: Role of Policy In Pandemic Preparedness
Part 2: Trust, Privacy & Data In Digital Africa
Part 3: Improving Mobile Broadband Access and Adoption



Mobile Money Leadership Forum

This year's Leadership Forum focused on how to build a resilient future, with discussions on crafting emergency policy response measures; digitising cash transfers for those affected by crises; refreshing business models for a sustainable future; and turning crises into opportunity through technological innovation.



The M4D teams hosted a total of 13 side sessions and two closed-door roundtables:



Accelerating Digital Inclusion



Humanitarian Innovation in Africa: Focus on Resilience to Climate Change



Co-creating for Accessibility: Inclusive Methodologies for Humanitarian Contexts



Transforming Agriculture in Africa: Digital Innovations in Action



Africa's Transition to Green Energy for Off-Grid Mobile Base Stations



Digital Utility Solutions for the Urban Poor



Digital Protection in the Design and Delivery of Digital Humanitarian Assistance



Reaching Women at Scale to Accelerate Digital and Financial Inclusion



AI for Impact: Using Mobile Big Data Analytics and AI to combat COVID-19



Breaking Down the Barriers for People with Disabilities through Innovation in Africa



The Humanitarian Connectivity Charter: Partnerships in Crisis



Empowering Women and Girls: Understanding and Addressing the Gender Gap in Official Identification



The Future of Pay-as-you-go Partnerships

Exploring the Mobile Money Regulatory Index

A closed-door roundtable to discuss and navigate the intricacies of the index and help the development community identify subject areas where technical assistance may be provided to governments, with the aim of identifying markets where philanthropic capital may have the greatest impact for financial inclusion.

COVID-19 and the Future of Informal Employment through Mobile Industry in Africa

A closed-door roundtable to discuss the drivers and challenges for informal employment through the mobile industry, focussing on the impact of COVID-19 on the future of work in Africa.



Over the three days of Thrive Africa, we saw four of our donor partners release Thrive Shorts:



FCDO Supporting Inclusive Markets Through Mobile Technology



BMZ and GIZ Digital Transformation Center Rwanda



BMZ and GIZ Entrepreneurship in Cultural and Creative Industries



GIZ Data4Mobility in Dar es Salaam



GIZ Tunisian Startups - Accelerate Africa Through Advocacy



BMZ and GIZ #SmartDevelopmentHack



Norad Using Mobile Technology to Attain SDG4



So what's next?

Announced by our Director General, Mats Granryd, during the opening keynote on Tuesday 29, **MWC Africa** will launch in Kigali from 28 to 30 September 2021.

Would you like to know what the GSMA and Mobile for Development are doing in Asia Pacific? We are pleased to announce **Thrive Asia Pacific** from 3 to 5 November 2020. We will share the full agenda of M4D activities in the coming weeks.

We hope you found the above useful and we look forward to welcoming you at Thrive Asia Pacific.