

# Achieving Social & Economic Development Goals with 3G Technologies

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The introduction of GSM services has significantly addressed pent-up demands for basic telephony in most major cities of Africa. Mobile penetration today has far exceeded fixed-line tele-density on that continent despite the much higher cost of GSM handsets and tariffs. However, most secondary cities and rural areas continue to suffer from inadequate access to telecommunications services mainly because of (1) poor or non-existent landline infrastructure; (2) GSM's high entry barriers. Given the correlation between GDP and tele-density, telecommunications play a significant role in a country's social & economic development efforts. This presentation will explore how the benefits of 3G technologies can help emerging countries in Africa achieve its social & economic development goals, by simply providing low-cost voice and high-speed data services to today's hard-to-reach areas of the continent.