Poverty Eradication and the Role of ICTs

Media, Education and the Marketplace
Dilemma’s of Developing Nations

- Healthcare
  - HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB etc.

- Education
  - Poor/limited resources

- Gender Equality
  - Women remain underrepresented

- Governments
  - Corrupt and not representative
Can ICTs help?

• ICTs can play crucial roles in
  – Governance
    • Access to knowledge creates political empowerment
  – Productivity
    • Cost effective and scalable solutions
  – Information Flow
    • Dissemination of content
  – Technology transfer
    • Collaboration between developed and developing nations
There is more

• Capacity building in
  – Environmental solutions: cleaner water, energy conservation etc.
  – Wildlife conservation and research
  – Policy and decision making
  – Other low cost alternatives
Some challenges

• Poor infrastructure
• Restrictive laws
• Science and engineering curriculums
• No expertise
• No incentives for private sector
• Foreign investments limited
ToDo List

• Educate governments
• Encourage innovation
• Create technology platforms that have wide applications
• Leverage existing technologies: mobile networks
• Include developing nations in ICT initiatives
• Collaboration with developed world
Who is Responsible

• United Nations
• Governments
• Private Sector and Multinational Corporations
Conclusion

• We are very far away from poverty eradication but with a few critical steps, ICTs can provide sustainable and scalable solutions. Today, ICT cuts across all fields of life and governance. Therefore it is imperative to address the digital divide using affordable and appropriate technologies