

FIRST HUMANITARIAN TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE (HTC) WORKSHOP DEFINES SOLUTIONS:

On 26-28 October 2009, the first Humanitarian Technology Challenge (HTC) workshop was held, a follow-up to the 1-2 June 2009 HTC Conference. It comprised a series of working sessions that focused on defining field test plans for solutions to specific humanitarian challenges in impoverished areas that could be addressed through technology, such as Reliable Electricity, Data Connectivity of Rural District Health Offices, and Individual ID Tied to Health Records.

Approximately 70 people attended the workshop from around the globe, including Africa and the United Arab Emirates, along with 20 humanitarians, foundation, and government representatives. Panelists guided attendees on how they could best plan field tests for their own solutions to challenges they faced.

The workshop concluded with basic plans established for four field tests.

*Provide an integrated power-on-demand electricity supply and management system.

*Establish a network of 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz Wi-Fi data communications links among small rural outposts.

- Identify patients by facial characteristics in a clinical setting.
- *Link Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to medical records.
- In all four cases, test locations were identified, NGO and/or equipment suppliers were identified as likely candidates, timelines were established, and individual volunteers committed to next-step actions. To review the workshop agenda, supporting materials and presentations on Spigit, an online collaboration tool, and/or get involved in the project, contact <"MailTo:htc@ieee.org"> and request a Spigit ID.