



TOOLS

FrontlineSMS

An open source software that turns a laptop and a mobile phone into a central communications hub. Once installed, it enables sending and receiving SMS with individuals or groups of people by attaching a mobile phone (with a SIM card) to a laptop. SMS will be sent from the phone number and charged at the rate of the service provider. All phone numbers and incoming/outgoing SMS will be recorded.

• Methods

- Seeds of inspiration
- Refresher messages
- Newsflash
- Mobile Needs Analysis
- Mobile Word Cloud
- Mobile Help Desk
- Mobile Pop Quiz

• Requirements

- **NO Internet required:** very useful tool for use on the field, where connectivity issues are commonly experienced.
- **VCD trainer** needs: a mobile phone with a SIM card, a computer, a serial cable
- **Participants** need: a mobile phone with a SIM card
- **Everywhere** available.

• Step-by-step

Preparation:

To install FrontlineSMS, the VCD trainer or facilitator will need the following:

- a computer in which he needs to have the administrative permissions to install softwares and connect peripheral devices. The computer will also need a USB available in order to connect a mobile device.
- a mobile phone
- the USB or serial cable to connect the mobile phone to the computer
- a sim card with either a service plan or credit that allow it to send and receive SMS. The sim card should be installed in the mobile device intended to use.





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The trainer should then:

- go to FrontlineSMS website: www.frontlinesms.com
- click the download button
- fill out the form and follow instructions for downloading the software (the download size is about 30 MB)
- install the software on the computer by double clicking on the setup executable (.exe)
- start menu and under "FrontlineSMS" click the software executable and icon
- select the preferred language.

Now that the software is installed, the trainer should plug in his mobile phone into the computer using the usb cable, then restart FrontlineSMS.

It may take several minutes for it to recognize the phone and get the settings. Eventually, the mobile phone will be listed in the working devices area.

The trainer will be now ready to send and receive SMS.

Implementation:

SMS can be quickly sent to learners through the "Send SMS" area of the screen.

The "Contacts" tab let the trainer accesses his mobile address book. To facilitate sending group messages, the trainer should gather all learners' mobile numbers in one group. To create a new group, the trainer should highlight all needed contacts in the "Groups" window, then click on the "New group" button and type in the name for the new group e.g. VCD Training.

Once the group is created, the trainer can send an SMS to all participants by selecting the VCD Training group, compose a text message and then send the SMS.

