

FACT SHEET



financial inclusion

Connecting Peoples and the Global Economy

Electronic payments pioneered by Visa have helped transform currencies and commerce, dismantle economic barriers and transcend national borders by freeing people and businesses to buy, sell and remit with ease and security. Today, we connect hundreds of millions of people, governments and businesses in more than 170 countries that use our products to pay for goods and services safely, conveniently and reliably.

Inclusive Economic Growth

There are billions of people worldwide who have no access to formal financial services. Their exclusion from the financial system is an economic and social challenge that impacts countries' abilities to increase opportunities for their citizens. Visa believes that access to secure electronic payments is a vital first step toward financial inclusion and economic growth and is critical to the development of strong, modern economies. These forms of payments promote transparency and accountability, reduce transaction costs, increase the number of people with access to formal financial services and decrease the size of the gray or informal economy — all of which help stimulate economic growth and employment. In developing economies in particular, electronic payments are beneficial for providing people with security, convenience, access and choice in payments.

A Helping Path

Creating a path to help the unbanked become part of the formal financial system is an important component of inclusive economic growth. We bring Visa products and services — including our emerging technologies—to communities in need to help expand access to financial services. These products and services include:

- **Prepaid** - Visa prepaid products can help provide secure financial tools to reach unbanked or under-banked consumers, benefits recipients, healthcare recipients and others who have relied on paper-based processes.
- **Money Transfer** - Global cross-border remittances totaled \$397 billion in 2008 according to the World Bank. Visa Money Transfer solutions enables consumers to initiate secure payments through a variety of channels, including bank branches, ATMs, the Internet, kiosks and mobile phones.
- **Mobile** - There are more than 4 billion mobile devices worldwide, and Visa is working with wireless partners around the world to drive the convergence of two of the world's most ubiquitous consumer technologies for face-to-face transactions, money transfer and online mobile payments.

Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency

We believe in the importance of supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses that are in need and willing to help themselves and are key players in helping communities achieve greater prosperity and self-sufficiency. As we work toward our goal of inclusive economic growth, Visa looks for opportunities to invest in programs that focus on entrepreneurs.

Productive Capital

We provide access to financial services to low-income people who would otherwise be forced to rely on the expensive and risky informal sector. Visa products can help increase the efficiencies of microfinance institutions; provide a secure way for individuals to store, send and access their funds; and spur growth through more productive use of capital.

Visa's Partnerships

We recognize that we cannot do all of this alone and need the help of others to expand the reach of our programs. We have partnered with leading organizations that have expertise, experience and the ability to help individuals in vulnerable communities — in funding their programs and in co-developing others that involve integrating our payments expertise, financial literacy experience and products and services.



Working Together

Visa has partnered with FINCA International over the past seven years on a variety of microfinance programs for the world's lowest-income entrepreneurs so they can create jobs, accumulate assets and lift themselves out of poverty. Examples include the development of pilot programs in Uganda, Mexico and Nicaragua to determine how best to utilize electronic payment solutions to deliver financial services to micro-entrepreneurs. Visa also has provided several hundred thousand dollars in in-kind technical assistance to develop these pilots and has assisted FINCA in securing \$1.3 million in grants and contracts from government agencies.

Lifted from Poverty

Visa has partnered with ACCION International, a global microfinance organization that provides micro-loans, business training and other financial services to individuals in financial need who start their own businesses. Visa has worked with ACCION since 2006, helping Visa financial institutions serve poorer clients.

Partners in Prosperity

Since 2005, Visa has been working with the IFC, part of the World Bank, on its Global Credit Bureau Program. Since the launch of the program, IFC has supported the development of credit bureaus in more than 40 countries through technical assistance and investment. As part of this effort, the IFC has supported the regional credit bureau in Central America and the first private credit bureau in Egypt, worked on the legal and regulatory framework in Kenya and Panama, and provided ongoing assistance toward the development of a private bureau in Vietnam.