

Got a usable 3G phone in good condition? Pass it on to 2G phone users in need ahead of April 1

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My phone Nokia, model.

That's when the 2G network will be shut down, but more than 130,000 users are still on it.

Now, this most likely won't affect you, but come April 1, Singapore will shut down its 2G mobile network.

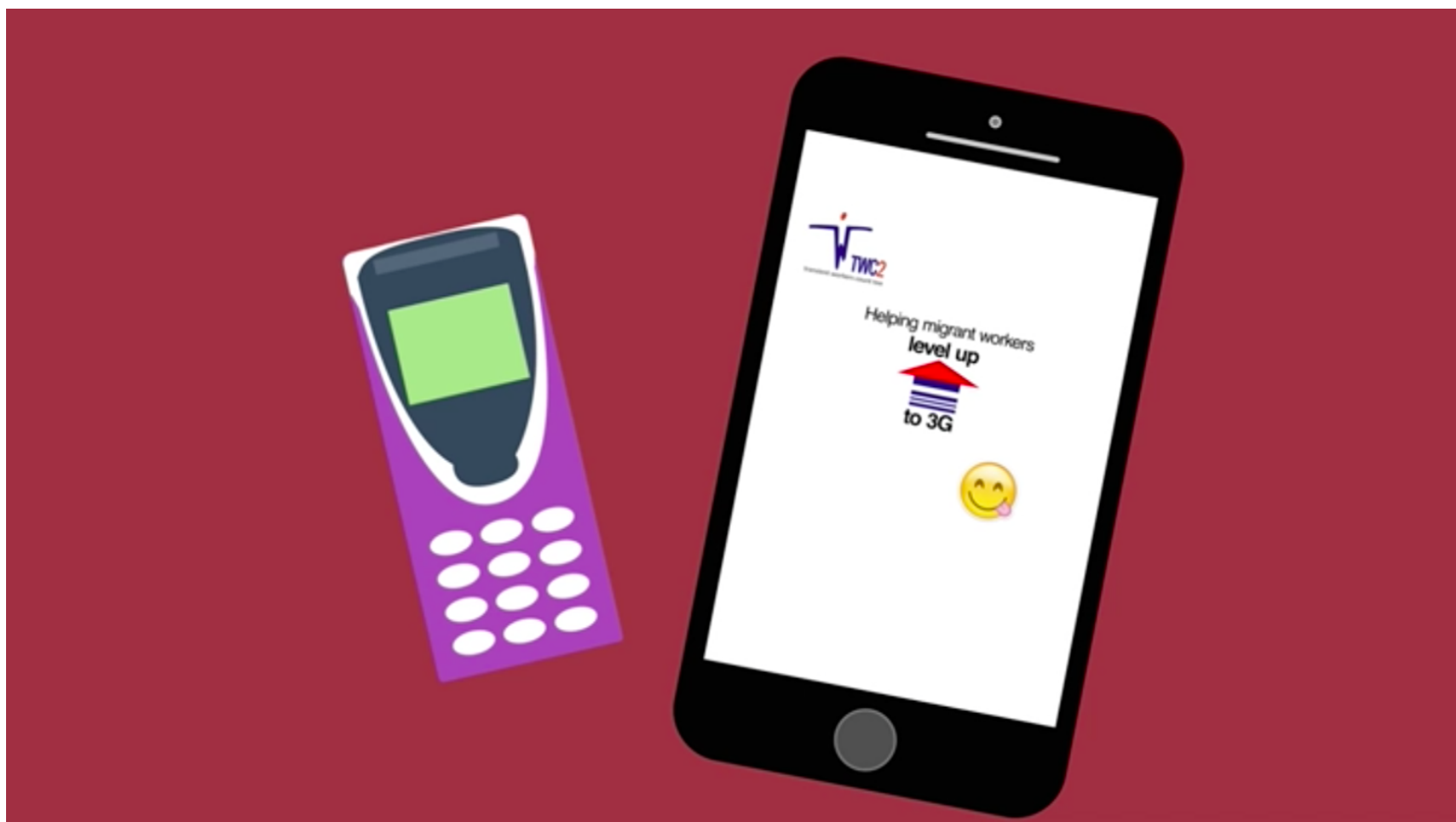
It *will* impact more than 130,000 people who are still using it, though — some of these are foreign workers, who don't have the means to get themselves upgraded to 3G.

There are also elderly who are still on the 2G network, who might not even be aware of this impending change.

Thankfully, a number of groups are taking part in the effort to help them all get onto 3G as the cut-off date looms less than two weeks away (and

here's how you can help too):

1) TWC2 will hand out 250 phones to migrant workers



Screenshot from TWC2 video

On Tuesday, for instance, migrant worker NGO and advocacy group Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) distributed its first batch of 50 3G phones to a chosen group of needy migrant workers.

Some of these folks are out of work because of injuries they sustained on the job, or because of unsettled claims against their former employers who for some reason or other withheld their salaries, for instance. Many have not seen their families in a long time (we're talking years) and so would really benefit from being able to contact them.

In [donation drives for physical phones](#) and also money to buy brand-new handsets and SIM cards, TWC2 received 300 phones, half of which were good enough to redistribute, and [raised \\$11,458 in a fundraiser](#), which they used to buy another 100 handsets.

With the supply of phones they've got now, representatives from TWC2 have told us that they have enough for every worker who has registered

with them and who is in need of a phone. They are sharing with other groups and will also stockpile reserve handsets for new workers they might meet who have none to use.

2) HOME distributing 100 phones to migrant workers

Another migrant worker NGO, the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME), are expecting to collect about 100 phones by early next month, and will also receive a boost of 100 brand-new handsets from a fundraising drive by photographers Darren Soh, Chia Aik Beng and Mindy Tan, who raised \$5,700 from prints they sold:

They still are collecting used phones, though, and you can bring used handsets you might have to their drop-off point at Lucky Plaza. Details below:

Where: Lucky Plaza, #06-22

When: 10am – 6pm (Monday to Friday); 12pm – 5pm (Sunday)

If you'd like to donate to support their purchase of brand-new handsets instead, you can do so [at this link](#).

3) Singapore Lasallian family of schools, organisations collecting phones, donations for elderly, migrant workers



Screenshot from [website](#)

In conjunction with their 165th year in Singapore, the schools and organisations under the Catholic De La Salle brothers' network are

organising a joint effort to collect used (and usable, please) 3G handsets as well as donations in cash or cheques for the same cause.

These (phones, new SIM cards, workshops for those who require assistance in learning how to use the new phones) will go toward elderly who are living in one-room flats in Toa Payoh and Jalan Kukoh, as well as migrant workers who have just arrived or are unable to afford new phones.

They're also [looking for volunteers](#) to check, distribute and help teach beneficiaries how to use the new phones.

Their last donation point will be open on **Thursday, March 23, from 10am to 1pm at St Joseph's Institution**. Check out [more details on their website here](#).

If you're eyeing [that red iPhone 7](#), perhaps, now might be a good time to raid your closet and dig up your old phones in storage to see if they're good for donating — go bug your friends and family too.

Top photo: screenshot from TWC2 video

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