

## **Biography - Fernando Botelho**

Fernando Botelho, an Ashoka Fellow, leads the F123 initiative, a service that provides high performance software, training, and technical support--at extremely competitive prices--to foundations and organizations helping the blind and visually impaired. He has extensive experience managing projects in the areas of poverty reduction, technology, and disability. He specializes in tools and strategies that are inherently low cost and scalable.

Fernando's experience includes managing the Visionaris Award, a partnership between Ashoka and UBS AG, in Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. Before his work for UBS Philanthropy Services in Zurich, Fernando worked for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, an agency of the United Nations in Geneva. At ITC, Fernando managed export-promotion projects in Africa and Latin America. Before joining ITC, he was Director of Technology at a New York NGO where he led the development of eSight Careers Network, a groundbreaking online community for the professional advancement of people with disabilities.

Fernando has published and spoken on social entrepreneurship, open source software, public policy, and disability topics in over 20 countries in four continents. He has degrees from Georgetown University and Cornell University. Fernando also has three decades of first-hand experience with blindness.