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11th ICT4D Conference to Focus on Trends in Youth Engagement, Data Security and Digital Diversity

Global conference will feature nearly 300 speakers from across the globe

KAMPALA, UGANDA, April 9, 2019 –The 11th Information Communications Technology for Development (ICT4D) Conference, which brings together experts from the international aid industry, government, as well as business and academic sectors, will take place April 30 to May 3 with a focus on trends in youth engagement, data security, and digital diversity. The conference was founded in 2010 by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the international humanitarian and development organization of the U.S. Catholic Church, to advance the use of technology in the delivery and evaluation of humanitarian aid and development services.

“It’s exciting to know that some of the smartest people working in the field today will be coming together again to share best practices for leveraging the latest cutting-edge technology to help some of the most marginalized people in the world,” said Jennifer Poidatz, vice president of humanitarian response for CRS and the conference’s keynote speaker.

This year’s conference will be held in Kampala, Uganda, one of the cities where the youth population is expected to dramatically rise by the year 2050.

“Understanding the relationship between youth and technology is particularly critical in countries like Uganda, which has the second youngest population in the world, with over 78 percent of Ugandans under the age of 30,” said Niek de Goeij, CRS’ Uganda country representative.

The more than 1,000 expected attendees include experts and representatives from the government sector; United Nations agencies; non-governmental organizations; as well as leaders from the business and academic sectors.

“CRS founded the ICT4D Conference to bring together a community of practitioners, share experiences openly and learn from each other about how to best apply rapidly evolving digital technologies to help accelerate the end of poverty, hunger and preventable disease,” said Steve Hellen, CRS’ ICT4D and GIS Director. “Each year I am amazed by the incredible examples of effective tech and data used to reach the most isolated communities.”

Strategic partners for the conference include NetHope and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Chemonics International, DAI Global Health, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the International Corps Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Plan International, The National Union of Disabled People of Uganda (NUDIPU), SOS Children’s Villages, the U.N. Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and World Vision International (WVI) are conference partners this year.

Among those speaking at the conference will be representatives from CRS, the Special Olympics, Hellen Keller International, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, and AirBnB.

To see a full list of this year’s plenary speakers, visit the conference’s [website](#).

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***Catholic Relief Services** is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. CRS’ relief and development work is accomplished through programs of emergency response, HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peacebuilding. For more information, visit www.crs.org or www.crsespanol.org and follow Catholic Relief Services on social media in English at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#); and in Spanish at: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).*

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