
Development community perceptions of ICT4D

Photo by: Sam Phelps for Catholic Relief Services
Devex conducted an online survey to test the development community’s perception on Information Communications Technology for Development (ICT4D) for the upcoming ICT4D Conference in Zambia, May 8-10, 2018.

Tapping into the global Devex community of over 800,000 professionals, Devex distributed the survey to a target recipient group of senior development professionals in donor agencies, government, development consulting firms, NGOs, foundations and corporations.
The online survey was conducted from April 6, 2018 to April 16, 2018.

The survey was sent to 18,260 senior development professionals in donor agencies, government, development consulting firms, NGOs, foundations and corporations.

A total of 619 respondents answered the survey for a response rate of 3.4%.

To provide actionable information, the survey data was analyzed across different demographic questions and showed percentage changes for year-on-year comparisons, where available.
WHO ARE THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS?

The survey respondents work for..

- 36% Independent Consultant
- 19% NGO
- 11% Development Consulting Firm
- 9% Donor Agency or Government Department

The majority of respondents are senior and executive level development professionals.

..and have the most extensive experience in..

- 35% Project Management, Finance & Other Administrative
- 31% Economic Development
- 27% Agriculture & Food Security
- 25% Education
- 22% Democracy, Public Sector Reform & Governance

53% Africa
38% Asia
WHAT ICT TREND WILL POSITIVELY IMPACT THE AID/DEVELOPMENT SECTOR OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

Chart shows % of responses for ratings 8-10

- Connectivity: 90%
- Ultra-low-cost Smartphones: 77%
- Data Analytics: 77%
- Geospatial Analysis / Mapping: 75%
- Big Data: 68%
- Cloud / Software-as-a-Service: 65%
- Internet of Things: 63%
- Biometrics: 55%
- Platform Economy: 53%
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles / Drones: 52%
- Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning: 51%
- 3D Printing: 48%
- Blockchain: 41%
- Virtual Reality: 41%
OVER THE PAST YEAR, WHAT % OF PROGRAMS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION INCLUDE AN ICT4D COMPONENT?

- Less than 25%: 34%
- 25% to 49%: 30%
- 50 to 75%: 22%
- More than 75%: 14%

Chart shows % of responses
TO WHAT DEGREE DO DIGITAL TOOLS BENEFIT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF AID/DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS?

Chart shows % of responses for ratings 8-10

- **Timely data**: 82%
- **Higher quality data**: 81%
- **Improve program accountability**: 76%
- **Improve program decision making**: 73%
- **Cost savings**: 69%
WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN WITH ICT4D?

Chart shows % of responses for ratings 8-10

- Information security / data privacy: 72%
- Retaining skilled staff: 64%
- Resistance to change: 59%
- Difficulty aligning technology with improved project results: 57%
- Return on investment is not compelling: 54%
WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE TOP 3 MOST POWERFUL ENABLERS FOR AID/DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO DEEPEN A CULTURE OF DATA USE?

Chart shows % of responses

1. Easier tools for data collection and analysis - 81%
2. Executive leadership modeling data use - 54%
3. More capable data producers within the organization - 54%
4. Institutional donors demanding better data - 49%
5. More savvy data consumers within the organization - 39%
WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ORGANIZATION’S VIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT?

Chart shows % of responses

- **27%**: We do not intentionally follow the principles
- **17%**: We endorsed the principles but do not yet rigorously adhere to them
- **13%**: We promote and try to follow the principles
- **20%**: We promote, proactively follow and invest financial/human resources to align to the principles
- **23%**: We take a best effort approach to adhere to the principles when possible
WHAT BEST CATEGORIZES ICT4D/DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR ORGANIZATION

Chart shows % of responses

- 36%: ICT4D decision making and support primarily resides within each project
- 27%: We are working towards a central ICT4D support function
- 24%: We have an established unit to centrally support our programs with ICT4D resources and standards
- 13%: We have decentralized our ICT4D support to the region or country level
WHAT BEST CATEGORIZES THE ICT4D TOOLS USED IN YOUR ORGANIZATIONS?

- **28%**: People choose from a centrally curated set of tools that are supported by the organization but have liberty to deviate.
- **44%**: People choose from a centrally set of tools that are supported by the organization and do not have the liberty to choose other tools.
- **28%**: People use different software and devices across the organization and make decisions as they see fit.

Chart shows % of responses
WHICH TYPE OF PARTNERS ARE MOST LIKELY TO CONTINUE USING ICT4D TOOLS AFTER THE PROGRAM IS OVER?

Chart shows % of responses for rating 8-10

- Businesses: 74%
- Universities: 73%
- Non-Profit organizations: 63%
- Medical institutions: 62%
- National government: 45%
- Local government: 31%
- Religious institutions: 14%
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