



Society for International Development  
Washington Chapter



# FY 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

Information, Communications, & Technologies (ICT)  
for Development Workgroup

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## Dear Members of the Information, Communications, & Technologies (ICT) for Development Workgroup,

Our Fiscal Year 2020 was an unusual one for us, as it was for so many, ending during a global pandemic. Despite this hurdle, the Workgroup still produced several great events including [Gender and the Digital Divide](#) and [Emerging Technology in MERL – What is out there, and how is it being used?](#)

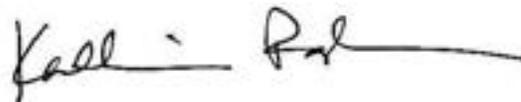
We would like to thank outgoing Co-Chair Elizabeth Corley (Abt Associates). She helped us put on many fantastic events during her tenure. We wish her the best in her future endeavors. We welcomed Bobby Jefferson (DAI) as the new Co-Chair. We are excited to work with him over the next few years.

Now that we have mastered the art of virtual programming, we look forward to offering more events accessible to a wider audience and providing an even more dynamic community for interaction. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. You can see all of our programs on our [website](#) – and please check back often as we add new ones regularly.

Please note that we changed the name of this Workgroup after the end of FY 2020. This change will be discussed in the FY 2021 Annual Report.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our Workgroups. If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please feel free to send an email to [events@sidw.org](mailto:events@sidw.org). We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events!

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul Sherman





**Bobby  
Jefferson**

Vice President,  
Chief Technology Officer,  
Global Health, DAI

Bobby, a leader in information and communications technology for development (ICT4D), has a relentless entrepreneurial passion for using ICT4D solutions and technology innovations to address the health needs of the poor and most vulnerable in LMIC and rural areas. Bobby serves as Board Advisor for health technology startups THINKMD, ClickMedix, CodePartners, DataElevates, Covelocity Health, and MobileODT. He performs technology reviews of early-stage companies, startup innovations, and early-stage social ventures to apply digital health solutions to address key issues in international development. He has performed technology due diligence of pre-revenue startups, early-round innovators, niche digital solutions in collaboration with incubators and accelerators in Maryland, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. He uses private-sector digital health, interoperability, and cybersecurity solutions to support international development projects for the U.S. Agency for International Development and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



**Christopher  
Light**

Chief Technology Officer,  
Senior Vice President,  
Ogimaa Inc.

Chris Light is a seasoned C-level Executive, Technologist, Program Manager, and Entrepreneur with 25 years experience featuring an emphasis on ICT for Development. He has a global reach and global result set. He handles a multi-agency Federal portfolio, specializing in the 3Ds (Defense, Development, and Diplomacy) and Foreign Affairs. He has undertaken ICT activities worldwide, in support of all USAID Bureaus, in a variety of thematic areas, including multi-donor. His work has been previously recognized by the White House Communications Agency, the Department of State, and the USAID Administrator. Chris Light has a MSc Degree from Boston University and has a double Major/double Degree from the University of Maryland.



**Elizabeth  
Corley**

Director of Communications,  
International Development  
Division, Abt Associates

Elizabeth Corley is the Director of Communications for the International Development Division at Abt Associates. Prior to joining Abt, she was the Director of Communications for Development Gateway from 2006 to 2010, and Communications Manager for Futures Group from 2004 to 2006. Elizabeth has a BA in International Relations from Boston University and a MA in International Policy Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

**Wednesday, July 10, 2019**

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET | SID-Washington

Information, Communications, & Technologies (ICT) for Development Workgroup Planning Meeting

**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET | SID-Washington

Libra: Facebook's Digital Currency and International Development

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM ET | SID-Washington

ICT4Ag for Smallholders: How do public and private sector partnerships enable ICT for agriculture (ICT4Ag) for smallholders?

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM ET | SID-Washington

Emerging Technology in MERL – What is out there, and how is it being used?

**Thursday, March 26, 2020**

4:00PM - 5:30 PM ET | Online via Zoom

Gender and the Digital Divide

**Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM ET | Online via Zoom

Information, Communications, & Technologies (ICT) for Development Workgroup Planning Meeting

# Information, Technology, & Communications (ICT) for Development Workgroup Planning Meeting

Workgroup **Elizabeth Corley**, Director of Communications, International Development, Abt Associates  
 Co-Chairs: **Chris Light**, Chief Technology Officer, Senior Vice President, Ogimaa Inc.

**Event Description:** The Information, Communications, & Technologies (ICT) Workgroup met on Wednesday, July 10th, 2019 at 4:00 PM to plan events for the group in the next year. In recent months, the group organized events on topics such as [Machine Learning in Global Health](#) and [Digital Solutions — Integrating Gender from Design Through Delivery](#).

## Key Takeaways:

- » Internet of Things (IoT)
- » Cyber Security Series
- » Gamification in Development
- » Advanced Analytics/Digital Transformation

## Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome/Introductions*
- II. Past Events*
- III. Present Events*
- IV. Future Events*
- V. Next Steps and Adjournment*

## Discussion

### I. Welcome/Introductions

### II. Past Events

- Events:
  - » [Navigating the ICT4Dev Field](#)
  - » [Machine Learning in Global Health](#)
  - » [Digital Solutions - Integrating Gender from Design through Delivery](#)
  - » [Navigating the Revised ADS 579](#)

### III. Present Events

- Events already at some stage in planning
  - » ICT4D Opportunities - This idea will build off of last year's event
  - » Gender Digital Solutions - This idea will build off of last year's event
  - » Knowledge Management
  - » Responsible Data Series
  - » Public/Private Partnerships - ICT4AG
- New event ideas from discussion
  - » Libra/Cryptocurrency - transfers for people who are unbanked but have a Facebook account
  - » USAID New Digital Strategy
  - » Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Robotics
  - » Fail Fest
  - » The Cloud

### IV. Future Events

- Favorite Ideas after voting
  - » Libra/Cryptocurrency
  - » AI, ML, Robotics
  - » Advanced Analytics/Digital Transformation
  - » USAID New Digital Strategy
- Discussion
  - » Libra is important, as it could provide a great user experience for those in the developing world who need access to transfers, remittances, payments, etc.
  - » It is a timely issue with questions surrounding trust of the program and Facebook.
  - » AI, ML, and Robotics is important, as it provides insight and technology for early warning systems, program evaluation, and larger scale analysis of historical data. Questions still arise surrounding access to talent, bias, inclusivity, and ethics specifically in ML.
  - » Advanced Analytics/Digital Transformation go hand in hand as tools to drive new value in development. However, questions still arise regarding security and scalability of these projects.
  - » USAID New Digital Strategy is also a favorite event on which the co-chairs will take the lead.

### V. Next Steps

- Based on the discussion, the Co-Chairs will compile the feedback from the meeting and coordinate with SID-Washington Staff to roll out exciting events over the course of the next year.

# Libra: Facebook's Digital Currency and International Development

Moderator: **Gabriel Krieshok**, ICT for Development Specialist, Abt Associates

Speakers: **Chris Watson**, Business Development Manager, Premise Data  
**Galia Nurko**, Associate Digital Specialist, DAI  
**Martin Corzempa**, Research Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics  
**Ric Shreves**, Director, Emerging Technology, Mercy Corps

**Event Description:** One of the challenges with international development is getting money to where it is most needed. People may be unbanked, lacking Identification, or the financial system may be down post-disaster. Could a mobile phone accessible, single global digital currency be the solution? Libra, as planned by Facebook, intends to “reinvent” money by making a financial transaction as cheap and simple as “sending a text message or sharing a photo.”

Formally announced June 18, 2019, Libra is a permissioned blockchain digital currency proposed by the social media company Facebook. A first version of Libra is expected to be released in 2020. The project, currency, and transactions are to be managed and cryptographically entrusted to a newly formed association called the Libra Association, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. This membership association consists of Facebook’s subsidiary Calibra and 27 others across a broad spectrum of payment, technology, telecommunication, online marketplace, venture capital, and non-profits. On July 15, 2019, Facebook announced that the currency will not launch until all regulatory concerns and “appropriate approvals” have been met. In a further meeting on September 18, 2019, Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg said that Libra would not be launched anywhere in the world without first obtaining approval from United States regulators.

Against this backdrop and as part of the SID-Washington’s role as a neutral convener of forums for international development, we look forward to a lively panel and discussion on Libra including participation by Libra Association member Mercy Corps and Premise Data.

## Key Takeaways:

### 1) The Technology of Libra

**Martin Chorzempa** (Peterson Institute for International Economics) believed that Facebook and the other organizations participating in the development of Libra are trying to copy the model of mobile money used in China by WeChat and Alipay. Chorzempa argued that Libra will probably have a marginal effect on the market, as it is still far from a real launch.

**Chris Watson** (Premise Data) said that he was already using a coin base as a payment platform for his work and sees Libra as an opportunity to open a new payment platform in South America and the Middle East, where digital currency is lagging far behind.

### 2) Identification and the Unbanked

**Galia Nurko** (DAI) was concerned with the ability for the unbanked to have access to Libra because of a lack of identification. She noted that many of those who do not have an I.D. may already be financially vulnerable, as many of them are migrants or refugees.

**Ric Shreves** (Mercy Corps) said smaller financial transactions on Libra would not require an I.D.; only when trying to make larger payments would this technology require an I.D. He also argued that the global use of Know Your Client (KYC) rules would help alleviate identification and security problems.

### 3) Digital Literacy

Nurko was most concerned with digital literacy and saw Libra as an opportunity for development organizations to ensure that more people understand the various aspects of technology and digital currency in the modern economy.

Chorzempa also raised highlighted digital literacy with respect to having access to technology like Libra if someone does not have a cellphone. Without access to mobile money options with SMS or some other process, the need for digital literacy only increases with the complexity of the technology.

### 4) Final Thoughts

Each speaker provided their closing thoughts to end the session:

- Shreves argues that even if it doesn't take off, Libra has already had a positive effect. It has woken up the regulatory environment to the prospect of digital currency becoming a large part of international finance.

- Watson believed it was still too early to see how Libra might be used. However, he can already see possible uses for Libra in his own work and in international development in general.
- Nurko sees this as a potential opportunity to solve many problems in development – such as how to include the unbanked and how to give people stored value – but she is committed to the idea that this will only work if people are given tools for digital literacy.
- Chorzempa is interested to see if Libra can break into the digital currency market, considering how dominant Chinese companies have been so far. He is wary of governmental oversight and wants us to consider who might have the power to regulate an organization as large and international as Libra.



## ICT4Ag for Smallholders: How do public and private sector partnerships enable ICT for agriculture (ICT4Ag) for smallholders?

Moderator: **Chris Light**, Chief Technology Officer, Senior Vice President, Ogimaa Inc.

Speakers: **Kees de Ruiter**, Head of Corporate Strategy and External Relations, ICCO  
**Dr. Ephraim Nkonya**, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**Event Description:** This session will focus on partnerships at the intersection of technology and agriculture in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). At a time when partnerships between the public sector, private sector, and development actors are increasingly viewed as critical to achieving development outcomes in LMICs, how do these partnerships enable smallholder farmers to benefit from ICT4Ag? How are ICT4Ag solutions designed for smallholders in mind, and how can the average smallholder benefit from them? What other types of partners are needed to create effective solutions in ICT4Ag for smallholder farmers? Presenters from 3-4 organizations – including NGOs, tech start-ups, and others – will discuss how they have co-created ICT4Ag tools or are using technology to improve agricultural outcomes through innovative partnerships.

This event was followed by a reception sponsored by GeoPoll.

### Key Takeaways:

#### 1) Mobile Money

**Dr. Ephraim Nkonya**, a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), explained that mobile money, which is the transfer and storage of funds through a mobile phone, was invented in Kenya, and that about half of all farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are using mobile money as a primary means of finance. It can also be a means of disseminating information about weather, pesticides, and micro-finance.

Nkonya explained how the use of mobile money as a means of gathering information also helps to convince insurance companies to insure rural and low-income farmers by understanding the actual risk associated with that insurance. Nkonya elaborated that by including insurers in the research and discussion, insurance companies are more likely to insure low income farmers.

Nkonya then described how mobile phones and mobile money present an opportunity for the inclusion of normally hard-to-contact groups, such as the Maasai tribe of east Africa. Nkonya expressed that even though this tribe is very conservative and often does not use technology, they were quick to adopt mobile phones for convenient access to communication, credit, and information.

#### 2) Empowering Farmers with Better Information

**Kees de Ruiter**, Head of Corporate Strategy and External Relations at ICCO, explained how mobile technology and finance can be used to empower farmers by giving them access to better information. De Ruiter explained how they contacted one hundred thousand farmers, mostly in the central part of Indonesia, and asked them about soil, weather, noise, disease, and many other aspects of agriculture. De Ruiter said that ICCO can repackage this information and help farmers to increase yields, use less fertilizer, and make better decisions about environmental impact. De Ruiter explained that ICCO uses SMS to communicate and gather data, which makes it easier to communicate with rural and low-income farmers.

De Ruiter also explained that the strength of their platform is in making it interactive. By ensuring their technology and communications model will work for all farmers, even those who have limited access to a phone, or those who use one without internet access, they can still be a part of the information-sharing done by ICCO. De Ruiter shared his belief that it is vital for the information given to farmers to be accurate and useful, and to be considerate of the the situation of each individual. Otherwise, the farmers and their families will no longer trust the organization and will not act on the information ICCO provides.

### 3) Gender and the Broad Issue of Access

**Meera Sawkar**, the Business Development Manager at GeoPoll, weighed in on barriers to access and equality of access. Sawkar shared how GeoPoll always tries to ensure that they contact farmers during times they are not working, explaining that it is not just about reaching rural farmers but also reaching them at the right time. Sawkar spoke about how researchers from GeoPoll recommend a mode of communication, usually SMS or a phone call, and that call centers in-country then do interviews with farmers to learn about their experience.

Sawkar gave an example of the importance of access by discussing how many women in rural agricultural families are unable to access a cellphone or the internet.

Sawkar explained that GeoPoll will often use a phone call when trying to reach women so that if a man picks up the phone, the caller can ask to speak to the man's wife or daughter in order to speak to the women of the house. Callers may tell the men that they are asking about food and nutrition, and because preparing food is often seen as a woman's duty, the questions will be perceived as something only the women can answer.

Dr. Nkonya also brought up the issue of literacy, and how many of the farmers they are trying to contact are older and are often only semi-literate. He explained how the IFPRI will often try to include a child in the messaging since many children are in school and are literate. Nkonya said that his organization often use voice messages, or messages in a local language, so that they are able to contact the farmers in a means they can understand.

### 4) Other Uses of Crowdsourced Data

Because both ICCO (represented by Rees de Ruiter) and GeoPoll (represented by Meera Sawkar) are using models of data collection through mobile phones, questions from the audience included how this data is used and who has ownership.

Sawkar gave an example of how GeoPoll uses their data collection model to help rural communities during natural disasters. Speaking about a pilot project that was started in Nigeria to see if they could predict violent conflict, and another program in Tanzania that gathered information on household readiness for flood, Sawkar explained how the latter study found that 27% of households they polled were not prepared for a flood, and GeoPoll was able to ask them what their needs would be in the event of a flood.

Dr. Ephraim Nkonya described how the IFPRI was able to partner with a Dutch NGO that uses satellite data to find out where water can be found in dry parts of Africa. Nkonya shared how this information can be sent to pastoral communities who rely on cattle so that they can find sources of water during a drought, and how the whole program is fairly cheap because the satellite data is so easily available.

Rees de Ruiter explained how ICCO is hoping to use this model of data collection to show microfinance institutes the economic situation of the rural farmers who they may choose to invest in. By creating these partnerships, de Ruiter explained, the risk for financiers is lower and the access to credit for farmers is higher. De Ruiter also told us that use of Geodata can help microfinance institutes to track their capital all the way to the farmer and all along the supply chain.



## Emerging Technology in MERL – What is out there, and how is it being used?

Moderator: **Dr. Peter Richards**, Senior Economist, Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL), USAID

Speakers: **Alexandra Lily Robinson**, Consultant, Independent  
**Dr. Hua Ni**, Principal Data Scientist and Associate Partner, IBM GBS Public Services Advanced Analytics  
**Kerry Bruce**, CEO and Founder, Clear Outcomes  
**Melissa Persaud**, Director of New Business for Global Development, Fraym

**Event Description:** There are an increasing number of emerging technologies that are being used in the MERL space. This session explored these technologies, using research from two groups of practitioners in the MERL Tech space and practical examples from two companies using innovative methods in the field. The event featured:

- A review of the key emerging technologies in the field today, based on research and practice, specifically in the areas of big data, applications, remote sensing, blockchain, text analytics and machine learning
- Two case studies of applications of emerging technology from the field, specifically the use of secondary data and machine learning, and another example focusing on text analytics and natural language processing

### Key Takeaways:

#### 1) The Rising Importance of Artificial Intelligence

**Dr. Hua Ni** (IBM) presented on varying topics in data utilization, and more specifically on the best methods and practices for sorting data. He discussed the importance of artificial intelligence, a field that has become essential to data analysis in the last few decades and will continue to grow exponentially. Dr. Ni highlighted that experience with artificial intelligence makes an individual a strong candidate for employment in the field of data and communications, as there is always an incredibly high demand for data analysts and artificial intelligence analysts.

Additionally, Dr. Ni elaborated on the differences between microanalysis – identifying the finer elements of data such as text, words, phrases, parts of speech – and macroanalysis – involves larger-scale ideas, themes, meanings, key words and context – in artificial intelligence. Both types of analysis are crucial to understanding the data community and affect findings and research. Even small differences can significantly alter data, which is why Dr. Ni emphasized the importance of training individuals in the field of artificial intelligence and proper data analysis.

#### 2) Accessibility in Data

**Kerry Bruce** (Clear Outcomes) discussed patterns in emerging technology and highlighted market changes in terms of data processing. She believes that technological advancements in GIS/satellite data and drones make data technology more accessible and practical to use and understand. In her presentation, she stressed the importance of creating spaces and programs for data learning and management. Making data more available through proper documentation and development libraries is critical in reaching larger audiences.

Through these resources, data that is collected and evaluated is used more frequently and practically. Bruce explained that often after data collection is complete, the data is not fully utilized. Bruce firmly believes that accessibility and inclusivity is the direction data management and development programs should be moving in in order to support and promote emerging technology.

### 3) Strategies for Organization

**Alexandra Robinson** (Independent Consultant) suggested different methods of inquiry when organizing and compiling data. The first primary method of inquiry is making sure both qualitative and quantitative analyses are completed, followed by collection of focused, specialized data. Robinson believes that the leading method of data collection is done through technology (i.e. satellites, remote sensors, mobile phones, and computers). She highlighted that technology has shaped the course of data collection and processing. When completing a data analysis, Robinson shared the best strategies for collection: remote sensors, visualization, and geospatial tools. However, even with today's advanced technology, there are still significant barriers.

Some of these include organizational relevance and the lack of resources, staff, funding, data infrastructure, and protection gaps. Additionally, Robinson discussed the apparent disconnect and power differential between private and public sector actors, who often violate ethics, privacy, and bias of subjects.

### 4) Data Strengthening and Utilization

**Melissa Persaud** (Fraxm) primarily uses satellite imagery for data analysis in her work and explained the ways in which she uses data to finish large project assessments. Persaud emphasized how data collection is often a wasteful process; so much data is collected, yet only a small sample is ever used. Persaud is committed to making the most of data when it is collected, believing in the importance of proper planning beforehand. Specific data will most likely be fully utilized and strengthen a project. From a development perspective, Persaud highlighted the ways in which Fraxm uses data when planning initiatives in other countries. First, Fraxm looks at security and other factors of vulnerability for the locations of each project. Next, Fraxm takes an environmental perspective using satellite and remote data to track patterns between communities that reveal common struggles and weaknesses. Persaud emphasized that specific data are critical to obtain accurate and impactful results when working with developing communities and identifying a pattern.



## Gender and the Digital Divide

Speakers: **Jennifer Johnson**, Strategic Partnerships, Cell-Ed  
**Rebecca Rouse**, Program Director, Financial Inclusion Program, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)  
**Revi Sterling, Ph.D.**, Director, W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge, USAID

**Event Description:** Digital technology is revolutionizing the world by broadening access to information, services, networks and opportunities. Across developing countries, mobile is the primary way most people access the internet. For women, access to the internet is critical to reaching their full economic potential. However, in low to middle income countries, 300 million fewer women than men use mobile internet. The internet user gap is as high as 70% in some countries.

Advancing women's digital connectivity is key to promoting their empowerment in an increasingly digital world. Yet the persistent gender digital divide is reinforcing, and even exacerbating, existing socioeconomic gaps between men and women. While some studies show the gender gap decreasing, others show just the opposite. What is the true state of the gender digital divide? Can technology address the technology gap? In some cases, yes. This panel looked at how technology can be used to change restrictive gender norms, address literacy and digital literacy, and create new algorithms for sustainable gender equity.

This event featured a conversation about this divide, recent improvements, and where advancement is still needed.

This was the first event in our [Series on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion](#).

### Key Takeaways:

#### 1) Closing the Gender Digital Divide

**Revi Sterling** (USAID) began the event by describing the gender digital divide as the lack of access to technology that women have in different communities around the world. Tech organizations and non-profits often take the approach of introducing technology and allowing for access to the internet as an important tool for education and poverty alleviation for numerous communities globally. Sterling stated that in certain communities and regions, women are still unable to access technology due to societal issues, gendered stereotypes, and cultural norms.

Sterling drew attention to how digital development can be navigated within such communities, thus emphasizing the need for technologists to understand the underlying issues that the women in these communities face. According to Sterling, co-creating tech literacy or digital development programs with the women from the community is essential in closing the gender digital divide and making technology more accessible to women.

#### 2) Barriers to Women's Financial Inclusion

**Rebecca Rouse** (Innovations for Poverty Action or IPA) introduced IPA's project in the Dominican Republic, which focuses on developing a gender-differentiated credit scoring model.

Building on the gender digital divide that Sterling talked about, Rouse introduced how this phenomenon affects women when applying for loans as technology and finance merge. Low-income women around the world often have an inadequate financial history due to factors such as informal jobs and pay, inability to prove income history, or inability to fill credit applications. IPA is therefore working to ensure that factors that lead to this gender-differentiated credit scoring can be taken into account through digital development. Rouse therefore stressed the need to design financial models in which the gendered biases — specific to the communities from which they stem — can be removed from the algorithm that supports credit scoring.

#### 3) Using Technology to Educate

**Jennifer Johnson** (Cell-Ed) presented how Cell-Ed was designed as educational programming that would be accessible to women. Cell-Ed operates through portable devices such as tablets, mobile phones and flip phones to provide lessons on topics such as financial literacy and maternal health through a system of text messages and call-backs. This makes lessons accessible, as it reduces some of the barriers to education that women face, namely travel and time. Johnson explained that lessons provided by Cell-Ed are customizable to the needs of the individual accessing them, and the trainers are often women from the same communities, ensuring linguistic and cultural familiarity for the individuals accessing the lessons. Johnson also emphasized the importance of adapting the lessons to issues relevant to women and gave an example of how Cell-Ed is developing lessons for women and children to access education that may have been halted due to COVID-19.

## Information, Technology, & Communications (ICT) for Development Workgroup Planning Meeting

Workgroup Co-Chairs: **Bobby Jefferson**, VP, Chief Technology Officer, Global Health, DAI  
**Chris Light**, Chief Technology Officer, Senior Vice President, Ogimaa Inc.

**Event Description:** The Information, Communications, & Technologies (ICT) for Development Workgroup met on Wednesday, June 17th at 11:00 AM to plan events for the group in the next year. In recent months, the group organized events on topics such as [Gender and the Digital Divide](#) and [Emerging Technology in MERL – What is out there, and how is it being used?](#) All members are encouraged to join and to bring ideas for event formats and topics.

### Key Takeaways:

Workgroup Co-Chairs **Bobby Jefferson** (DAI) and **Chris Light** (Ogimaa Inc.) began with a warm welcome to all participants, immediately creating a collaborative and effective workspace. After the group discussion, five key themes emerged for future events:

#### 1. Race, Diversity, and Technology:

This event, which will likely occur later in the summer, will offer a space for international development professionals to discuss race and diversity in the tech industry. Jefferson and Light will work with the Young Professionals in Development Network (YPN) Co-Chairs to co-host this event.

#### 2. Cybersecurity

This event would discuss the role of data collection, privacy, disinformation, and other COVID-19 data solutions.

#### 3. COVID-19

How will the international development community adapt to the new normal? This event idea would extend to working in virtual teams, the importance of virtual leadership skills, and working from home.

#### 4. E-Government

How will the emergence of ICTs (microservices, new technological innovations, etc.) help streamline governance in the COVID-19 era?

#### 5. Innovation/Startups

This event could address emerging technologies from both small businesses and mainstream organizations, the innovation of back-office tools, overall digital transformations, and artificial intelligence/machine learning.

#### Next Steps

Based on the discussion, Jefferson and Light will compile the feedback from the meeting and coordinate with SID-Washington Staff to roll out exciting events over the course of the next year.



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**Photo Credit**

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