



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter



FY 2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Monitoring & Evaluation Workgroup

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MONITORING & EVALUATION WORKGROUP

The SID-Washington (SID-W) Monitoring and Evaluation Workgroup is a group of individuals actively engaged in the processes of data monitoring and program evaluation. With events ranging from the consultation process of the SDGs to performance monitoring webinars, this workgroup aims to inform on the evolving practices and strategies of monitoring and evaluation.



Dear Members of the Monitoring & Evaluation Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another exciting year! As we reflect on last year, the workgroups produced several great events, including topics such as [Navigating the Revised ADS 579](#). We are currently working on events for FY2020, so stayed tuned for more information!

This workgroup focuses on processes of data monitoring and program evaluation in international development.

Lastly, we would like to thank former Co-Chair Steven Hansch. He helped SID-W put on many fantastic events during his tenure. We wish him the best in his future endeavors

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





**Steven
Hansch**

Director,
International Business and
Technical Consultants, Inc.

Steven Hansch has 35+ years of experience working in the NGO, evaluation, public health and humanitarian assistance sectors internationally, including work in over 100 refugee and IDP camps and in a range of historic crisis zones (Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Iraq, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Bosnia, Kosovo, Burma, Cambodia, Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, etc.). He leads Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) projects at IBTCI in humanitarian aid, working closely with OFDA. Previously Steven worked at the Refugee Policy Group as Program Director. He has taught public health of refugee and disaster relief at a number of university graduate schools (Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, GW, AU and others) and specializes in epidemiology and nutrition. Currently he is leading an evaluation for USAID of the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.



**Erica
Holzaepfel**

Program Director,
Performance Evaluation,
Social Impact

As Director of Performance Evaluation, Ms. Erica A. Holzaepfel provides leadership, strategic direction, contractual and budgetary oversight, quality assurance, technical support, and supervision to a portfolio of projects, programs, and staff.

Ms. Holzaepfel has 14 years of experience working in the field of international development acquired through positions with the UN, USDA, private and non-profit organizations, universities, and international NGOs. She has served as Team Leader, Primary Investigator, and Evaluation Specialist on more than 25 evaluations, assessments, and reviews conducted in 20 countries around the world. Through these assignments, she has honed her technical expertise in research and evaluation design, implementation, and management with specializations in livelihoods, food security, nutrition, agriculture, forced migration, human rights, and humanitarian assistance. She is committed to enhancing learning to strengthen the design, implementation, and effectiveness of programs and organizations that seek to improve the lives and livelihoods of disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerable populations.

Ms. Holzaepfel holds a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School and a Master of Science in International Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University as well as a Graduate Certificate in Impact Evaluation from the School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

EVENT CALENDAR

Thursday, April 4th, 2019
4:00pm - 5:30pm | SID-Washington

Navigating the Revised ADS 579



Navigating the Revised ADS579

Moderator: **Ben Mann**, Global Practice Lead, Development Results, DAI

Speakers: **Siobhan Green**, Co-Owner, CEO, Lead Technology & Data Strategist, Sonjara
Carmen Tedasco, Technology Manager and GIS Specialist, Development Results, DAI
Chip Temm, Chief Technology Officer, MSI, a Tetra Tech Company

Event Description: Information and communication technologies (ICT) are changing the face of development and driving impact like never before. The possibilities for innovation seem limitless. Companies are increasingly looking for the next innovator or ICT expert. Could that be you? On August 15th, SID-W's ICT for Development Workgroup and the Young Professionals in Development Network (YPN) learned about the field of ICT4Dev, how to develop expertise in the field (without being a techie), and the tools needed to obtain a job in this fast-evolving sector. Three experts—an entrepreneur, a recruiter, and an ICT specialist—led us through an engaging and participatory discussion, which left them with practical tools and an increased understanding of ICT4Dev.

This was a joint event with the Information, Communications & Technologies Workgroup.

Key Takeaways

1) To develop a career in ICT4Dev, you need to understand the actors and issues in the space and possess various skills that organizations want.

To understand the actors and issues in the ICT4Dev space, the speakers underscored the importance of networking and reading up on issues. Ms. Baptista mentioned that many events take place in DC where individuals can network with people in the ICT4Dev field, such as monthly happy hours. At these events, job seekers can learn the types of skills for which companies are looking and then highlight those skills in their resumes when applying for jobs. Mr. Duarte stressed researching the activities of different ICT4Dev actors and current issues to prepare for interviews. Ms. Méndez Castillo and Mr. Duarte also emphasized the necessity of having at least two different skillsets, including communication skills, proposal writing, and language skills. Each speaker also highlighted how invaluable field work can be.

2) The ICT4Dev field needs people to build the bridge between project teams and technologists

As technology continues to advance, more skilled engineers and technologists are needed to develop and operate ICT equipment. However, program implementers are often unfamiliar with the terminology and operations of the ICT field, so bridge-builders between technologists and project teams are necessary according to Ms. Baptista. Because using ICT in development is about working more efficiently, these bridge-builders must understand both the programming and technical sides of ICT4Dev projects to better manage said projects and communicate effectively.

3) ICT is a tool for development actors to solve a problem

In the field, the use of ICT allows development actors to work more effectively and efficiently. Ms. Baptista made clear that the goal is not necessarily to increase the application of ICT in development projects, but to improve the sector's operations. According to Mr. Duarte, every use of ICT in development must be connected to a mission or goal. For example, Akvo used data and mapping technology to improve the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector in nine west African countries according to Ms. Méndez Castillo. The data collection and the mapping of these water points have enabled governments to reveal the non-functional ones and to find patterns in the problems that they encounter.

4) While adding more ICT to development projects may bring many benefits, actors must realize that technology can also do harm

Using ICT in development projects may have unintended consequences. For example, Ms. Méndez Castillo mentioned that the privacy and security of data varies among countries, so collecting data could make people more vulnerable to malicious actors. Furthermore, Mr. Duarte commented that the collection of data could alienate host government actors if it reveals corruption or the misuse of funds, which could lead to increased online censorship.



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Acknowledgement

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