

ICT4D Collective

The ICT4D Collective Charter

This document summarises the main purposes and principles of the ICT4D Collective, as it was reconstituted in 2026 following earlier revisions in 2023. It builds on the [ICT4D Collective: membership and partnership principles](#) revised in 2009, and the ethical guidelines and governance structures formulated by the [Digital Environment System Coalition](#) in 2021.

The Collective's aim

1. Our aim is to undertake the highest possible quality of research and practice together in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (also referred to as “digital technologies”) for Development (ICT4D).

Our approaches

2. We are a Collective of “equals”. We respect each other as having different skills and expertise that all contribute to the Collective's overall aim and wellbeing, and we do not differentiate between individuals within the Collective based on age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, or any other such criteria.

3. We adopt diverse multi-disciplinary approaches to ICT4D, and do not seek to impose any one curriculum or definition of ICT4D on its meaning.

3. We place particular emphasis on ways through which ICTs and digital technologies can be used to empower poor people and marginalised communities.

4. We aim to work collaboratively together, seeking to engage in partnership with like-minded individuals, organisations and networks.

Our ethical principles

5. We work collaboratively and openly in support of each other and the communities in which members of the Collective live and work.

6. We seek to treat others as they would like us to treat them and as we would in our turn like to be treated.

7. Members participate in the work of the Collective both for what they can contribute to it, but also for what they can benefit from such participation.

8. We treat each other with mutual respect, and do not knowingly engage in activities that might harm the Collective or its Members.

9. We seek to uphold the following generally accepted ethical principles, and individual Members aim to be:

- Honest and behave with integrity;
- Rigorous in all our activities;
- Transparent and retain confidentiality wherever possible;
- Caring and respectful of others, including Members of the Collective and all those encountered in our research and practice;
- Accountable;
- Professional; and
- Fair in our treatment of others.

Practicalities, membership and leadership

10. Membership is by one of two routes: (a) recommendation and invitation from existing members, or (b) on request through submission of CV and <250 word outline of why they wish to become a member and what they could contribute. Applications by route (b) are reviewed by at least two members of the Collective's leadership. Details of all Members of the Collective are listed on the Collective's web-site (<https://ict4d.org.uk/members>).

11. Leadership and management of the ICT4D Collective is undertaken by its most active members, guided by the following principles:

- The three - five most active members each take responsibility for a particular area of our work (yet to be defined, but possibly research, practice, social media and website, partnerships, publications)
- The collective leadership meets twice a year (with brief formal minutes being recorded and made available to the full membership)
- There is a Rotating Chair on an annual basis among the Collective Leadership – but with renewal permitted.
- Decisions made by unanimous vote, with at least 3 members present
- New actions (such as convening a conference, applying for grants etc) can be recommended by any member, but must be agreed by the Collective Leadership.
- Membership of the Collective Leadership is for a three-year term, renewable.
- Election to the Collective Leadership is by a vote of all members of the ICT4D Collective, on a simple majority voting system.

12. The Collective's Secretariat is currently based at Royal Holloway, University of London, but may in the future change depending on the membership

13. All Members of the Collective are encouraged to share details of their activities through the Collective's blog (<https://ict4d.org.uk/>), publication series (<https://ict4d.org.uk/publications/>), and other means (including social media, such as

the Facebook ICT4D group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2553350463>, and the Collective's Twitter account <https://twitter.com/ICT4DCollective>).

14. Much of the Collective's work is undertaken in partnership with other entities (see Partnership Framework for details).

15. All Members seek to follow the safeguarding principles and practices of the organisations to which they belong and with which they work.

16. Members volunteer for particular roles and activities that they wish to participate in and on behalf of the Collective, and are not remunerated for such work.

17. Members of the Collective aim to meet together on an annual basis, and invite each other to participate in some or all of their ongoing activities (such as conferences, research projects, interventions and other initiatives).

18. The original founder of the ICT4D Collective in 2004 was Professor Tim Unwin, who retains a role as its catalyst.

27 August 2026