



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hello World awarded Internet Society Foundation grant to expand community connectivity in Uganda

*Kampala, Uganda – 29 August 2025*

[Hello World](#) has been selected as one of nine global grantees under the [2025 Connecting the Unconnected Funding Program](#), supported by the [Internet Society Foundation](#) and the Internet Society. This is a more cost-effective and adaptable version of our award-winning Hello Hub model, designed to bring sustainable connectivity to even more underserved and marginalised communities.

Through this grant, [Hello World](#) will deploy **three Hello Hub Lites** across Iganga and Kasese districts in Uganda. This new model builds on Hello World's experience developing community-owned digital infrastructure and offers a flexible, scalable way to connect more people at lower cost.

#### What makes the Hello Hub Lite powerful?

- **Rapid, affordable deployment:** solar-powered Wi-Fi hotspots that can be set up anywhere — in refugee settlements, schools, health centres, markets, or alongside community centres.
- **Community-owned and maintained:** local “network stewards” will be trained to manage and maintain the infrastructure, building practical digital and technical skills.
- **Sustainable from the start:** free, time-limited internet access alongside affordable connectivity packages that generate revenue to keep services accessible and community-run.

“Connectivity is not just about getting online, it’s about creating opportunity,” said **Fiona Komugisha Esther, Director Of International Programs and Implementation**. “With the support of the Internet Society Foundation, we can test a model that will help more communities take ownership of their digital future. The Hello Hub Lite is designed to scale quickly, opening doors for education, economic opportunities, vital health information, and stronger community ties.”

The three Hubs will be built in September to October 2025, with community engagement activities leading the process. On average, a Hello Hub reaches around 1,250 people, meaning these three new Hubs are expected to connect thousands of



households, schools, and small businesses, while also building technical skills and capacity within the community.

This innovation helps us move faster toward our mission: ensuring more communities have meaningful, sustainable internet connectivity.

The Connecting the Unconnected program supports community-based organisations across Africa, Latin America, and Asia to build Internet infrastructure in rural, remote, and low-income areas. Hello World joins eight other grantee partners in delivering locally owned solutions that strengthen connectivity worldwide.

For more information on the Connecting the Unconnected program and the full list of 2025 grantees, visit: <https://www.isocfoundation.org/2025/08/announcing-a-new-group-of-9-grantee-partners-to-connect-the-unconnected-worldwide>

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