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MEDIA RELEASE

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Conrad N. Hilton Foundation supports IRC to plan for sustainable water services in three African countries

The Hague, 20 December 2016 – The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has awarded US\$ 1 million to IRC – a leading champion of universal access to sustainable water services. The aim of the investment is to develop a plan for a fourteen year programme of collective action to achieve universal access to safe, reliable and affordable drinking water in districts in Burkina Faso, Uganda and Niger.

The Hilton Foundation and IRC share the same strategic vision: focussing efforts at the District level to ensure universal access to safe water and the progressive upgrading of service quality. IRC will translate this joint vision into a plan, which will include the following elements:

- District level visions, strategies and plans for achieving universal access to safe, reliable and affordable drinking water.
- A shared theory of change.
- Clearly defined partnerships at district and national level.
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks to support the delivery of the plans in districts, and the extraction of lessons learned.

IRC's CEO Patrick Moriarty expressed his excitement at the opportunity the grant provides to support the Agenda for Change initiative.

The planning grant will draw on the experience of both IRC and the Foundation, along with our partners, in strengthening national water governance systems, as well as across IRC's other programmes.

IRC's aim is to use and promote a common set of methodologies for creating a district water master plan in all the countries where the Foundation works.

Read more about the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Safe Water strategy at:

<https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/priorities/water/our-approach?priority=water>

Read more about Agenda for Change at:

<http://www.ircwash.org/agenda-for-change>

About IRC

IRC is an international think-and-do tank that works with governments, NGOs, businesses and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene services. At the heart of its mission is the aim to move from short-term interventions to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.

With over 45 years of experience, IRC runs programmes and projects in more than 25 countries and large-scale projects in seven focus countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is supported by a team of over 80 staff across the world. For more information please visit www.ircwash.org

About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance use, helping children affected by HIV and AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters.

In addition, following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$2 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. In 2016, the Humanitarian Prize was awarded to The Task Force for Global Health, an international, nonprofit organization that works to improve health of people most in need, primarily in developing countries. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.5 billion in grants, distributing \$107 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2015. The Foundation's current assets are approximately \$2.5 billion. For more information, please visit www.hiltonfoundation.org

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