



## ACFID Communities of Practice Cross-sector Evidence Grants Call for Proposals March 2018

The Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) are inviting proposals from Communities of Practice (CoPs)<sup>1</sup> to advance an evidence-driven agenda on their focus theme or topic by producing a new knowledge product.

### Background

The RDI Network exists to foster opportunities for cross-sector learning in development, particularly between ACFID NGO and affiliate university members. In line with this goal, the Network has created an online directory of expertise in development: Find an Expert (<https://rdinetwork.org.au/find-an-expert/>), facilitating connections and collaborations.

The ACFID CoPs represent self-managed peer learning groupings of academics and practitioners around thematic priorities, operating on the basis of shared desire to solve problems together and contribute to the development of the topic-based body of knowledge.

### Cross-Sector Evidence Grants

In 2018, the RDI Network and ACFID are offering **Cross-sector Evidence Grants** of up to **\$10,000** for CoPs to bring together **academic and practical expertise** within their thematic focus areas to collaboratively produce an evidence-based paper or output. This output will have direct implications for policy or practice.

The format of the output from the grant is not prescribed, but options may include:

- A foundational or pre-research study
- A practice note
- A synthesis of existing evidence
- A data gap analysis
- A collection of resources or evidence-informed tools

CoPs are encouraged to propose other outputs, as suit the aims of the proposed project.

The project must be inclusive of a proposed engagement plan with relevant stakeholders, based on the output and/or a proposed future research agenda.

The grant funding will be allocated to the CoP through a contract agreement between the lead individual/organisation and ACFID.

### Project Timeframe:

Call for Proposals Closes	6 April
Successful proposals accepted	April

<sup>1</sup> For more information and a current list of ACFID's Communities of Practice, see here: <https://acfid.asn.au/about/communities-practice>.



Projects undertaken	April – August
Draft output submitted	12 September
Final outputs submitted	30 September

## Call for Proposals

Any current ACFID Community of Practice (CoP) is eligible to submit a proposal. Proposals should be submitted to Jenny Vaccari at [jvaccari@acfid.asn.au](mailto:jvaccari@acfid.asn.au) by **6 April 2018**.

Completed proposals must contain:

- A brief description of the CoP, including its constituency and its thematic focus area.
- A draft project plan, inclusive of:
  - Description of the project
  - Project timeline
  - Details of planned output e.g. position paper, evidence synthesis etc.
- An explanation of how this output will add to the existing body of evidence and meet an identified knowledge demand.
- A description of how the CoP will work collaboratively to ensure cross-sector input and engagement throughout the project (e.g. use of Find an Expert)
- A brief engagement plan outlining how the output will be used by the CoP beyond project completion
- Details of the individual and organisational members advancing the project on behalf of the ACFID CoP, including one identified lead contact person.
- A draft budget<sup>2</sup>.

***Total submissions should not exceed four pages.***

## Selection Criteria

Successful proposals will be judged based upon:

- Evidence of planned representation and utilisation of both academic and practice expertise throughout the project.
- Demonstrated value-add of new evidence or synthesis produced in the focus area of the CoP.
- Demonstrated plans for engaging key stakeholders with the product for potential impact in policy and/or practice.
- Accordance with the proposed timeframe and grant amount.
- Alignment with priority objectives and outcomes for ACFID and RDI Network<sup>3</sup>.

## More Information

Any questions regarding this call can be directed to Jenny Vaccari, RDI Network Communications Coordinator, at [jvaccari@acfid.asn.au](mailto:jvaccari@acfid.asn.au) or 02 8281 3158.

<sup>2</sup> Note that project budgets may go above the grant value of \$10,000 if complementary funding sources can be acquired and confirmed from within the CoP.

<sup>3</sup> See here: <https://acfid.asn.au/our-focus> and here: <https://rdinetwork.org.au/about-us/>.