

RDI Network Workplan events and activities Nov 2020 to Oct 2021

This document provides a brief outline of RDI Network’s key activities and events November 2020 to October 2021 being Year 3 of the current DFAT funded grant.

The activities are framed under the Network’s three core outcome areas aligned to the Networks Program design and 2018 – 2021 Workplan.

If you would like any more information about any of these initiatives, or to get involved, please send an e-mail to: rdi@acfid.asn.au.

Outcome 1: RDI Network members are actively debating and synthesising current development thinking and ideas.

	Activity
A)	RDI Sector wide Conference: Transformational Ideas of Development.
B)	Engaging with future professionals of development in coordination with Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA) including DSAA Conference and Annual General Meeting.
C)	Undertake a collaborative policy-practice research piece on a topic identified with DFAT priorities.
D)	Identify, plan and collaborate with sector actors to host dialogues, and events which advance sharing of ideas on development futures and alternative development methodologies.
E)	Cross sector collaboration including managing contractors, government actors, and private sector towards testing new and innovative development future models.

Outcome 2: RDI Network members are identifying and addressing opportunities, incentives and barriers to the production and use of policy-practice-relevant research.

	Activity
A)	Advocates are developing and implementing an action research project that enables them to identify opportunities and barriers as regards institutional incentives and structures that affect the production and use of policy-practice-relevant research.
B)	Improving ethical research practice through the Ethical Practice Workshops and modules. Including development of Research and Evaluation Ethics Guidelines for DFAT, adaptive module for in-country training, and production of national standards/guidelines on a forward impact ethics in research
C)	Individuals in implementing organisations are engaging on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practice across scales and using strategic-level M&E (beyond project M&E) in programming decisions
D)	RDI Network members are using improved practices when commissioning, producing and selecting research to ensure such research is ethical and impactful.

Outcome 3: RDI Network member skills in research communication and uptake are improving.

	Activity
A)	RDI Network members, other sectors and international organisations are included in a review of good practice (tools and approaches) and the production of a compendium of case studies for learning, knowledge translation, and communication and engagement strategies that increases uptake of evidence into policy and practice.
B)	Research producers are increasing their understanding and capacity on how to more effectively engage with users and communicate evidence, outputs, results and recommendations from their research through targeted capacity building activities and guidance.
C)	Research users are increasing their skills in accessing relevant evidence to inform their policy and practice, and their capacity to more effectively judge its quality and uptake evidence through targeted capacity building and guidance

Monitoring and Evaluation:

	Activity
A)	Regularly collate, record and report on activity feedback, results, outputs, outcomes and impact utilising RDI Network Program MEL Framework
B)	Annual Report against Program Outcomes