

Call for Expressions of Interest: Development Futures Workshop Series

The Research for Development Impact Network (RDI Network) is calling for expressions of interest from international development and humanitarian practitioners to participate in our Development Futures Workshop Series C in 2021.

Key Dates

Submissions close	Submissions for our Workshop Series B are now closed Submissions for our Workshop Series C close 11 April 2021
Workshop series dates	Workshop Series B: 17 March – 12 May 2021 Workshop Series C: 21 April – 2 June 2021

Background

The RDI Network is a network of practitioners, researchers and evaluators working in international development. Working in close partnership with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the Network functions as a key cross-sector platform for shared learning and action in the international development sector. The Network is supported by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

In the wake of significant challenge and disruption driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, the RDI Network aims to generate in-depth conversations about development effectiveness and the future of aid and development. The far-reaching effects of the pandemic have also compounded the effects of other recent changes in global aid and the Australian development industry. These changes include the rise of the private sector, climate change, growing instability, trust in institutions and renewed calls for genuine localisation processes.

What is the opportunity?

Our 2021 *Development Futures Workshop Series* aims to create space for those working or teaching in international development and humanitarian aid to deconstruct, discuss, and debate potential trends, hazards and challenges affecting the sector, and reimagine future development solutions.

We understand that development and humanitarian practice do not take place in a vacuum – that they are informed and influenced by the context in which they occur. Yet the day-to-day lives and schedules of policy makers and implementers often leave little room to question and debate current development directions, or systematically explore ideas guiding programming.

What will the workshop series cover?

The *Development Futures Workshop Series* will introduce participants to the field of foresight, providing an overview of the discipline and a base and context for thinking about the future.

Facilitators will guide participants through the six key steps of Foresight thinking, including:

- *Framing, scanning and forecasting* – understanding the scope of the work to be done, collecting information and scanning for hazards and trends, and starting to describe plausible alternative futures
- *Visioning, planning and acting* – choosing a preferred future, designing organisation; strategies, options and plans to achieve your vision, and planning for implementation

Upon completion of the workshop series, participants will:

- be familiar with foresight concepts, approaches, methods, and tools;
- be capable of applying foresight a tool to develop proactive strategies that are future-focussed and future-proof for their role and their organisation;
- be comfortable utilising foresight thinking and supporting others to think through alternative futures;
- have the tools, knowledge, and confidence to analyse and incorporate emerging issues, trends, impacts, and their implications into organisational strategy;
- have access to a suite of online teaching/learning tools to help them to engage effectively with their current and future stakeholders;
- be able to come out of a crisis not only surviving but also stronger – able to reimagine themselves and their career

Who should submit an expression of interest?

RDI Network is calling for interested organisations to nominate two to three individuals to attend one of our Development Futures Workshop Series. We encourage organisations to nominate a diverse mix of staff, board members and/or key stakeholders to apply for this workshop series. Individuals are also welcome to submit an expression of interest.

The RDI Network values the experience and contribution of people from all cultures, genders, bodies and abilities. Ideal participants will have an open-minded approach, a willingness to be challenged and a commitment to engaging with insights from outside their own perspectives and areas of expertise.

Flexibility, including a willingness to recognise, accept and analyse a rapidly changing environment will be key.

All participants will also require reliable internet access.

What commitment is required from participants?

Participants will commit to an approximate total of 36 hrs engagement over a period of 7-8 weeks. Required commitments for each of the available Workshop Series are noted below.

Participant Engagement	Workshop Series B (now closed)	Workshop Series C (register by 11 April)
Workshop preparation (12 hrs) Online - contains an introduction to relevant foresight tools, training through pre-recorded and tailored visual materials using a range of software tools. There are readings, podcasts, and videos. Can be done at your own pace prior to the first live workshop.	17-30 March 2021	21 April – 4 May 2021
Supplementary curated content (12 hrs) Online – further information is available beyond the essential workshop preparation. This is curated content that is hard to find elsewhere in this format but is not essential for the workshops.	30 March – 12 May 2021	4 May – 2 June 2021
Participation in three ‘live’ online workshops (12 hrs) Online - these sessions will support participants to move from forecasting to foresight. Participant numbers are capped. There will be breaks during the live workshops.	<i>Wednesday afternoons</i> 31 March, 1-5pm AEDT 21 April, 1-5pm AEST 12 May, 1-5pm AEST	<i>Wednesday afternoons</i> 5 May, 1-5pm AEST 19 May, 1-5pm AEST 2 June, 1-5pm AEST
Optional Additional Support Participants have the option to develop an individual foresight plan with facilitator support following completion of live online workshops.	Facilitator support provided in May 2021	Facilitator support provided in June 2021

What is the cost for participation?

Following receipt and review of Expressions of Interest, the RDI Secretariat will issue an invoice for participant registration costs, as follows:

Registration costs, per participant

- General \$170, excluding GST
- Small ACFID member \$110, excluding GST

A limited number of scholarships may be available for organisations that do not have access to funding to cover participation costs. Please contact Ilona Hamilton (ihamilton@acfid.asn.au).

Workshop Series B is now closed for registration. To submit an expression of interest for Workshop Series C, please complete our [online form](#) by end of day Sunday 11 April 2021.

For more information, please contact: Ilona Hamilton, RDI Network Coordinator (ihamilton@acfid.asn.au).

The RDI Network acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land of which we work, play and live, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The RDI Secretariat work on the land of the Kulin Nation; this land is, was, and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.