ACFID’s Communities of Practice

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs (ATSIP) Community of Practice is a forum through which ACFID Members working with Indigenous communities can engage on common issues, share knowledge and learning, and engage with the government on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander development issues.

The group works together to:

- share experience on effective development approaches to working with ATSI communities
- surface examples of best practice in projects, research, and development
- maintain a Practice Note on Effective Development Practice
- collaborate on advocacy, advice and submissions to influence policies

Convenor: Jane Holden, World Vision

Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Community of Practice is a forum for ACFID Members with an interest and/or operational presence in Afghanistan. The Community of Practice provides a forum for information sharing and a platform for joint lobbying to ensure that Australian aid to Afghanistan is as effective as possible in meeting the needs of the Afghan people in adherence with humanitarian principles, and that the Australian government plays a role in advocating for women’s rights.

ACFID Members have a long history of working in Afghanistan, with many having been working in-country since before the 1980s. ACFID has produced a report about delivering Australia’s aid to Afghanistan In it for the Long Haul?

The Afghanistan Community of Practice meets annually in Canberra, in addition to ad hoc phone conferences with members, and regularly collaborates on joint work.

Convenor: TBC

Africa

The Africa Community of Practice provides a platform for ACFID member organisations contributing to development programs/projects in Africa to share experiences. The group comes together to share information and to develop advocacy strategies to inform the Australian aid and development agenda in the region.

Convenors: Matthew Phillips, Oxfam and Annabel Dulhunty, World Vision
**Business-NGO Partnerships**

The Business-NGO Partnerships Community of Practice provides a space for ACFID members to share, discuss, critically reflect on and further the development of partnerships with the private sector.

**Convenor:** Simon Watson, Australian Business Volunteers

**Child Rights**

The overarching goal of the Child Rights Community of Practice is to promote the rights of children and child rights based approaches to development within the Australian international development sector. This is achieved through technical advocacy, training and workshops.

The group is involved in national and international advocacy campaigns and works closely with DFAT on their child protection policy and framework.

**The group works together to:**

- Ensure Australian government aid follows a child rights based approach as required by international law
- Increase the ability for both the INGO sector and the government to effectively implement a child rights based approach to development
- Raise the profile and knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child within Australia

**Convenors:** Fiona Williams, Save the Children Australia and Laura Healy, Fred Hollows Foundation

**Climate Change**

Climate change poses significant challenges to the achievement of development objectives across all sectors. The Climate Change Community of Practice brings together a diverse range of ACFID members who are interested in the interface between climate change and poverty.

**The group works together to:**

- Share experience on climate change adaptation and mitigation programs in the international development context
- Contribute to mutual learning of programming tools and resources for improved program effectiveness and best practice
- Engage with the government and strengthen the NGO role and voice in government climate change programming
- Facilitate relationships and communication with wider climate change programming actors
- Represent a resource of expertise on climate change policy and practice to ACFID.

**Convenor:** Pia Treichel, PLAN International Australia

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Community of Practice is an Australian forum to champion DRR within humanitarian and development work. The COP brings together representatives from ACFID Member agencies to share information and examples of best practice and provides a platform for
the coordination of joint messages and positions on key areas in the DRR space. The COP works closely with global counterparts, including the Global Network for Disaster Reduction. The DRR Community of Practice meets on an ad hoc basis and regularly shares information via email.

**Convenors:** Sanwar Ali, ChildFund and Nick Ireland, Save the Children

## Education

The Education Sector Community of Practice works to enhance the focus on, and quality of, education programming within the Australian development sector, based on the [Education For All](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_for_All) goals. The group aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration across the sector, and to maximise the attention paid by decision-makers to the EFA goals, including in regard to access to education; quality of education; inclusive education; early childhood care and development; and technical and vocational education and training.

**Convenors:** Katherine Fell, Plan International Australia and Richard Geeves, ChildFund Australia

## Finance

The Finance Managers Community of Practice aims to share experience and best practice around issues of a financial nature impacting the Australian aid and development sector. The group also facilitates training and information sessions in the sector. Key focus areas for the group include:

- annual and financial reporting sections of the Code of Conduct and Implementation Guidance;
- financial management matters more generally (such as insurance for staff in the field);
- DFAT accreditation and related regulatory matters;
- relevant Senate Committee inquiries as might impact the sector; and
- relevant taxation and related Commonwealth/State policy reviews as might impact the sector.

**Convenors:** Andrew Cameron, CARE and Ashley Humphries, TEAR

## Gender & Sexual Diversity

Acknowledging the persecution, violence and marginalisation experienced by people around the world based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, our goal is to ensure that issues of gender, sexuality and rights are fully addressed in all international development policy and practice and that no-one is left behind as we strive to attain the Sustainable Development Goals. Work in progress includes:

- A practitioners forum leading to lessons learned, guidelines and training module
- Awareness raising at Board/senior leadership level in ACFID member agencies
- Changes to the Code of Conduct to better reflect gender and sexual diversity
- Revising existing institutional assessment/analysis/design tools to better recognise & therefore improve response to the intersections of gender & sexuality

**Convenors:** Dennis Altman, La Trobe University and Gillian Fletcher, La Trobe University
**Gender Equity**

The Gender Equity Community of Practice plays an important role in promoting best practice on gender in development amongst ACFID Members, peer support and facilitation of networking, and supporting sector-wide collaboration on gender policy. Members of the group work closely with ACFID to engage with DFAT through the twice yearly joint DFAT-ACFID Gender Workshop.

**Convenors:** Grace Nicholas, ActionAid and Tracy McDiarmad, World Vision

**Health & Nutrition**

The ACFID Health and Nutrition Community of Practice provides a space for ACFID members to review health and nutrition issues in the region as part of a community of practice, to surface and encourage best practice based on the evidence of current health and nutrition needs, and to develop a shared health agenda to advocate for a prioritised investment by the Australian Government.

**Convenors:** Susan Anderson, World Vision and Alison Macintyre, WaterAid

**Human Resource**

The Human Resources Community of Practice provides a forum for human resources and people and organisational development managers working in the humanitarian aid and development sector. The HR COP initiated the Development and Humanitarian Assistance Project. The Project aims to provide a competency framework to underpin work in the development and humanitarian assistance sector. The HR COP engaged strongly with the Industry Skills Council of Australia as they sought to develop the Certification IV in Development and Humanitarian Assistance. That Certification IV framework is now complete.

The HR COP meets over a two day period, three times a year in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra and is focused on sharing best practice, tools and resources and working collaboratively on issues of common interest.

**Convenor:** Jenny Bond, Fred Hollows Foundation and Xavier Hennekinne, Child Fund

**Indonesia**

The Indonesia Community of Practice provides a forum for ACFID Members to discuss the ever-changing Indonesian development context, share insights and advice on working in Indonesia, and coordinate advocacy and policy engagement on Indonesia-related issues.

**Convenor:** Paul Toni, WWF

**Middle East**
The Middle East Community of Practice provides a forum for the coordination of NGO program and advocacy activities in this region.

**Convenors:** Darren Raeburn, World Vision Australia and Jeremy Smith, Union Aid Abroad APHEDA

## Myanmar

The Myanmar Community of Practice provides a forum for ACFID Members to discuss the working environment within Myanmar and on the Thai–Burma border and share information about programs implemented by working group agencies and their partners. The types of issues addressed by programs implemented by working group agencies include health, water and sanitation, HIV, education, child rights, human security, internally displaced people, human trafficking and migration, landmines, gender, food security, micro economic development and local partner capacity building for development.

**Convenor:** Mark Deasey, AVI

## Nepal

The Nepal Community of Practice brings together ACFID Members working in Nepal to share experiences, facilitate learning and surface best practice.

**Convenors:** Eleanor Trinchera, Caritas and Philip Morris, International Nepal Foundation

## Pacific

The Pacific Community of Practice provides a forum for ACFID Members to discuss the Pacific development context, share insights and advice on working in the Pacific, coordinate advocacy and policy engagement on Pacific-related aid and development issues, and facilitate stakeholder engagement with other government, multilateral and private sector actors in the region.

The functions of the Group include advocacy and engagement to inform the policies and practices of the Australian Government’s aid program in the Pacific, facilitating the sharing of inter-agency knowledge about development issues in the Pacific and relevant technical expertise, and facilitating stakeholder engagement where ACFID NGOs can engage with other key actors such as contractors, private sector businesses and multilateral organisations.

**Convenors:** Anne Lanham, Australian Doctors International and Bronwyn Tilbury, IWDA

## Pakistan

The Pakistan Community of Practice is a forum for ACFID Members to share information and updates related to work in Pakistan. The COP also provides a platform for ACFID Members to engage with the Australian Government on foreign policy and aid investments related to Pakistan.

The Pakistan Community of Practice regularly shares information via email and meets on an ad hoc basis.

**Convenor:** Casey McCowan, ActionAid
Security & Risk Management

The Security Risk Management Community of Practice allows members to share information, lessons learnt and advice across a number of programs and geographical locations. The purpose of the group to coordinate and share best practice and provide fellow members with a robust risk management and security framework to mitigate potential threats.

Convenors: Ram Ramzan, AVI and Stuart Adam, Save the Children

Shelter

The Shelter Community of Practice brings together Australian-based development and humanitarian actors engaged in shelter programming, to share lessons, encourage innovative practice, build collaborative partnerships, leverage resources, and highlight the importance of shelter.

The SRG aims to operate as a knowledge sharing hub, a vehicle for policy engagement with government, and a group to promote shelter & partner for resources and support.

Convenor: Bernadette Boloduthy, Habitat for Humanity

Small Member

The Small Member Community of Practice (COP) is comprised of staff working in ACFID’s small member agencies- those organisations that remit less than $1 million annually in overseas aid & development programs. The Small Member COP provides a forum for shared learning on the unique set of challenges and opportunities that small organisations grapple with. The purpose of the group is to facilitate mutual learning on relevant programming tools and resources for improved program effectiveness and good practice amongst small member organisations. The Small Member COP holds quarterly teleconferences and one face-to-face meeting each year.

Convenor: Jackie Lauff, Sport Matters and Denise Cauchi, Diaspora Action Australia

Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Community of Practice brings together ACFID members working in Sri Lanka. The group exchanges information, enhances their analysis and coordinates their advocacy to bring about positive change for the people of Sri Lanka. Focus issues include peace and reconciliation, sexual and gender based violence, land rights, resettlement, disaster risk reduction, disability, education and health.

The group works together to:

- Share experiences on the ground and build strategic alliances with fellow NGOs and international networks in order to enhance and maximize the impact of their program work
- Engage in public policy discussion and debate with the Australian Government with regards to Australia’s bilateral relationship with the Government of Sri Lanka and mechanisms for development policy and aid delivery to Sri Lanka
- Promote reconciliation and strong human rights standards in Sri Lanka
Convenors: John Ball, ACT for Peace and Kate Greenwood, Oxfam

Sudan/South Sudan

The Sudan/South Sudan Community of Practice is a forum for ACFID Members who have an interest and/or operational presence in Sudan and South Sudan. While the mandate includes both Sudan and South Sudan, the Community of Practice focuses primarily on South Sudan because of the operational presence of many ACFID Members in that country, and thus, capacity to contribute meaningfully to policy dialogue. The COP provides a forum for information sharing and discussion, as well as a platform for joint lobbying with the aim of ensuring that Australian aid is as effective as possible in meeting the needs of the Sudanese and South Sudanese people, and that the Australian Government plays a role in advocating for principled humanitarian assistance.

Convenors: Ben Murphy, Oxfam

Syria

The Syria Community of Practice serves as a coordinated platform for information sharing, learning, policy development and advocacy regarding the Syria crisis – including issues in Syria and in neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees. The Syria Community of Practice also provides a platform for engagement with the Australian Government, to improve dialogue between the Australian Government and NGOs working in Syria and neighbouring countries, with the aim of improving the effectiveness of Australia’s humanitarian response to the crises. Due to the sensitivities of issues discussed, the Syria Community of Practice is open only to ACFID Members with an operational presence in the crises.

Convenors: TBC