

Member Information - ACFID

Code Review 2022-23

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct (the Code) is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. The Code aims to improve international development and humanitarian action outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of ACFID's members.

It was developed in 1997 and comprehensively revised in 2010 and 2016. The Code is now due for another review process (the Review) between July 2022 to November 2023.

An overview of this Review project phases, timelines, and frequently asked questions is provided in this document.

Why are we reviewing the Code?

The ACFID Code of Conduct is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect good practice and the needs of ACFID and its members. Our sector and the work we do is constantly evolving and the aim of this review is to make sure the Code and associated Quality Assurance Framework remains relevant, coherent, useful and credible to members and external stakeholders.

What will the Review look at?

The Review will consider and revise, if required, the Quality Principles and Commitments in the ACFID Code of Conduct and the Compliance Indicators and Verifiers in the Quality Assurance Framework.

Key questions:

- *Are there gaps in the Code which have emerged since the last review of the Code?*
- *Are there opportunities for greater alignment with other international and domestic standards and regulations?*
- *Are there opportunities to remove redundancy and overlap within the Code itself?*
- *Are there areas of the Code which no longer reflect good practice, or require further clarification?*
- *Is compliance manageable for members and ACFID?*

The Review will be guided by the following overarching principles:

- Changes to the Code of Conduct or Quality Assurance Framework will be undertaken on the grounds of necessity not convenience, keeping in mind the impact of changes on members' compliance requirements;
- The overall architecture and structure of the Code and Quality Assurance Framework shall be maintained; and
- The triennial compliance assessment and reporting cycle shall be maintained

Read the full [Terms of Reference](#).



In 2017, the Code was changed significantly. Are we getting a completely new Code this time?

The short answer is no!

The ACFID Board and Code of Conduct Committee have heard clearly from members the impact of changes to the Code and Quality Assurance Framework on members' resources and workloads. This Review is about improving and streamlining the Code to make sure it is still relevant, appropriate and useful in an ever-changing context. Any proposed changes will consider the impact on members' compliance requirements.

How long will the Review take?

The Review will **start in July 2022** and is scheduled to finish in November 2023. An overview of the project phases and timelines is provided at the end of this document.

Any proposed changes to the Code are expected to be considered by ACFID Council at the 2023 AGM and would likely come into effect later in 2024.

How and when will my organisation be able to contribute?

All members will have the opportunity to provide feedback at various stages of the Review.

An initial **Discussion Paper** will be released in **August 2022**. Members will have the opportunity to provide written and verbal feedback on the key questions in the Discussion Paper through in-person and virtual consultation sessions.

Member consultations – Early September 2022

Locations: Sydney, Melbourne, virtual. Dates to be confirmed.

There will be further opportunities to provide feedback on any proposed changes to the Code and Quality Assurance Framework in early 2023, dates *TBA*.

Engagement with Communities of Practice

ACFID will engage closely with Communities of Practice as part of the Review, particularly those with expertise in areas directly relevant to the Code requirements, e.g. Finance, Human Resources, Safeguarding, or topic areas that may emerge as critical issues in the Review, e.g. Climate Policy and Practice Community. If you would like to join a Community of Practice please contact Raewyn Lans, membership@acfid.asn.au.

ACFID Conference 2022

There will be a session at the ACFID Conference on the progress of the Review with updates on proposed recommendations.

Who decides what, if any, changes are made to the Code?

ACFID Council (i.e ACFID members) is responsible for ratifying any changes to the Code arising from the review. Any proposed changes to the Code and Quality Assurance Framework will be drafted by



ACFID in consultation with members and key stakeholders, including the Code of Conduct Committee (CCC), Development Practice Committee (DPC) and ACFID Board.

Who is running the Review process?

The Review will be managed by the ACFID Standards and Code Team with the support of external consultants as required. A Reference Group consisting of members of the Board, CCC, DPC, DFAT and independent advisors will provide advice and support to ACFID staff and consultants over the course of the project.

Wait...isn't DFAT reviewing its Accreditation Criteria at the same time?

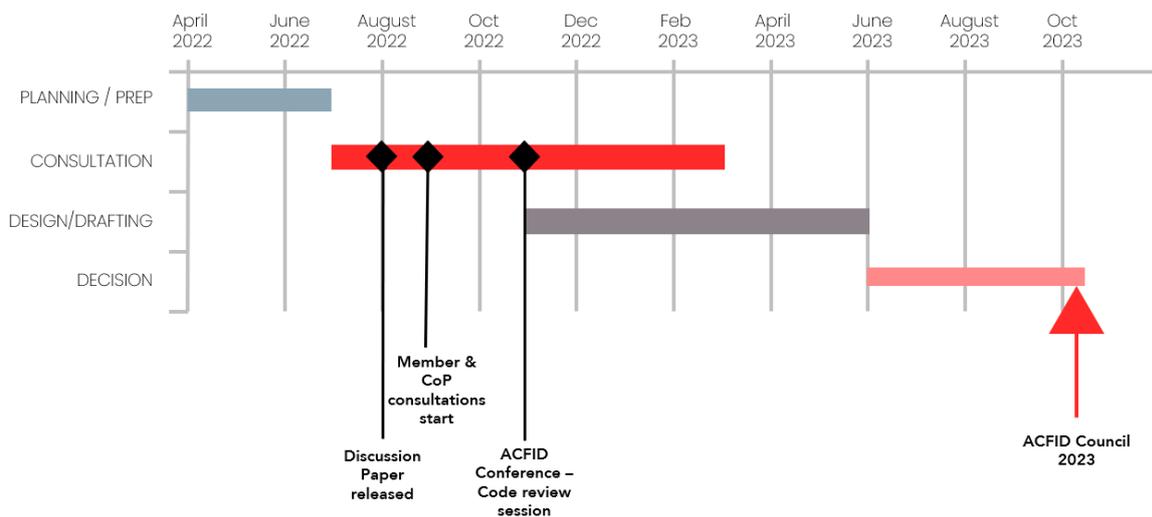
Yes! We understand that DFAT will be conducting an Accreditation review beginning August 2022. ACFID is looking forward to the opportunity this provides to encourage greater alignment and recognition of the Code and will be participating actively in the Accreditation Review. We appreciate the potential for 'consultation fatigue' and will be looking for ways to work with DFAT to streamline processes where possible.

Project Timeline

The majority of member consultation and input will take place from August 2022 – April 2023. Based on the outcomes of the initial consultations, the drafting of any proposed changes to the Code will take place from November 2022 – June 2023.

It is expected that any changes to the Code will be considered by ACFID Council at the ACFID AGM in 2023, and come into effect later in 2024.

Further detail can be found in the project [Terms of Reference available on ACFID's website](#).



Contact us

If you have any questions about the Code Review please contact Emily Moreton, Standards and Code Lead, at code@acfid.asn.au or (02) 8123 2237.

