

# RQ+

RESEARCH QUALITY PLUS

RQ+ provides a systems-informed approach to defining and evaluating the quality of research, and its positioning for use and impact. It allows tailoring to context, values, mandate and purpose, and can support planning, management and learning processes at any stage in the lifetime of a research project, program or grants portfolio.

PART 1

## RQ+ Framework Components

The RQ+ Framework operationalizes the three tenets of the RQ+ Approach.

### 1 CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

Constraining and enabling contextual factors – within or external to the research effort – most likely to affect research performance are identified.

Examples from IDRC experience:

**External factors**

1. Maturity of the research field
2. Data environment
3. Political environment

**Internal factors**

4. Organizational research environment
5. Research capacity strengthening

### 2 QUALITY DIMENSIONS & SUBDIMENSIONS

The four dimensions and their subdimensions encapsulate the quality assessment criteria. Tailored for IDRC:

**1. Scientific Rigour**

- 1.1 Protocol
- 1.2. Methodological Integrity

**2. Research Legitimacy**

- 2.1 Addressing potentially negative consequences
- 2.2 Gender
- 2.3 Inclusiveness
- 2.4 Engagement with local knowledge

**3. Research Importance**

- 3.1 Originality
- 3.2 Relevance

**4. Positioning for Use**

- 4.1. User Engagement
- 4.2. Openness & Actionability

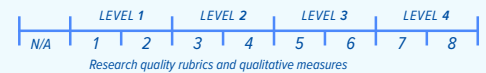
### 3 SYSTEMATIC AND EMPIRICAL APPRAISAL

Performance is characterized using customizable research quality rubrics.

Characterization of each contextual factor, dimension and subdimension is done using tailored rubrics that combine quantitative and qualitative measures.

Ratings on an 8 point scale show four levels of performance (or progress).

This is an example. Scales should be created to fit a purpose:



PART 2

## A Dynamic Evaluation Stance

Use RQ+ to govern research from start to finish.

