

# RQ+ Assessment Framework

The RQ+ Assessment Framework 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.

# RQ+

Research Quality Plus  
A Holistic Approach  
to Evaluating Research

## Framework Components

The RQ+ Assessment Framework consists of three main components:



### 1. KEY INFLUENCES

*Constraining and enabling contextual influences - within or external to the research effort - most likely to affect research performance are identified.*

The rating of the key influences using rubrics and a three point scale (e.g. low, medium, high) establishes a risk profile that is used to inform the quality assessment.

The key influences can be 1) constraining (negative) or 2) facilitating / enabling (positive)

**Examples from IDRC experience:**

- 1) Maturity of the research field
- 2) Research capacity strengthening
- 3) Risk in the data environment
- 4) Risk in the research environment
- 5) Risk in the political environment



### 2. DIMENSIONS & SUBDIMENSIONS

*The four dimensions and their subdimensions encapsulate the quality assessment criteria.*

Tailored for IDRC:

1. **Research Integrity**
2. **Research Legitimacy**
  - 2.1 Addressing potentially negative consequences
  - 2.2 Gender-responsiveness
  - 2.3 Inclusiveness
  - 2.4 Engagement with local knowledge
3. **Research Importance**
  - 3.1 Originality
  - 3.2 Relevance
4. **Positioning for Use**
  - 4.1 Knowledge accessibility & sharing
  - 4.2 Timeliness and actionability

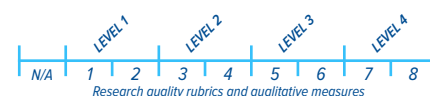


### 3. EVALUATIVE RUBRICS

*Performance is characterized using customizable research quality rubrics.*

Characterization of each key influence, 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 or intention.



## Framework Roadmap

The components of the RQ+ Framework form a dynamic relationship

