Projects and Organizations Overview

Projects and organizations define **who** carries out a project, reports indicator data, or is associated with specific results.

In this article:

- **What is a project?**
- **What is an organization?**
- **How should I organize my projects and organizations?**

What Is a Project?

A **project** in DevResults is a central organizing feature of the system. It is up to you to decide what a project means to you and your organization. Project are often grants or sub-grants managed by external organizations who report data to you, or internal projects managed by teams within your organization, or are some combination of the two.

A general guideline is that each grant or award should be a separate project. There are a variety of tools for grouping related projects: by organization, by awarding organization/donor, by tags, or by sectors.

If you're still unsure how to define projects for your site, consider the following:

- Projects are generally not single events, but are ongoing programs or implementing mechanisms that report indicator results each reporting period.
- Projects are assigned to a specific set of indicators that measure progress toward that project's goals.
- Projects often have their own users, checklists of tasks, and budgets.
- Projects generally operate in specific geographic areas, even if these areas change over time, or overlap with the geographic scopes of other projects.
- Projects are individually accountable for reporting results, and subsequently all results achieved for a project are associated with that specific project.
- Synonyms for project often include activity, program, grant, award, or team.
- Synonyms for project usually do **NOT** include deliverable, task, event, or objective.

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What Is an Organization?

An organization is a distinct entity that is associated with one or more projects. Organizations typically include consortium partners, local partners, donors, as well as the organization that owns and operates a DevResults site.

Organizations are also a tool to group associated users, whether the staff of the main organization, partner organization staff, or external stakeholders.

Organizations can be used to search for all associated projects or users, filter data by one or more organizations, or to aggregate results by organization.

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How Should I Organize My Projects and Organizations?

Generally, organizations and projects should be defined in the way that is most intuitive to users and best reflects the structure of your program. Occasionally, there are situations where it may be advantageous to split a single legal entity into multiple organizations, each with their own project. Similarly, there are also situations where a single grant or award may be better defined and captured by multiple projects within one or multiple organizations. Consider the

following rules of thumb:

- If a single grant or award is too large in scope to be defined by one project, it may be beneficial to break it into multiple projects associated with one organization. This is typically seen where one "umbrella" project represents the management of the main grant or award, and all other projects represent sub-grants or individual initiatives, each with their own set of users, budgets, task checklists, etc.
- If a large entity has multiple teams or program units that do not collaborate on or share responsibilities across multiple projects, they could be defined as separate organizations. This is typically seen where country offices or sector-based teams operate mostly as independent units, even though they may all work for the same international firm or federation.
- If you want to eventually aggregate or roll up data by organization, you will want to use multiple projects associated with individual organizations.

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