Activities and Organizations Overview

Activities and organizations define **who** carries out an activity, reports indicator data, or is associated with specific results.

In this article:

- What is an activity?
- What is an organization?
- How should I organize my activities and organizations?

What Is an Activity?

An **activity** in DevResults is a central organizing feature of the system. It is up to you to decide what an activity means to you and your organization. Activities 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 activity. There are a variety of tools for grouping related activities: by organization, by awarding organization/donor, by tags, or by sectors.

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

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

Back to top

What Is an Organization?

An organization is a distinct entity that is associated with one or more activities. 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 activities or users, filter data by one or more organizations, or to aggregate results by organization.

Back to top

How Should I Organize My Activities and Organizations?

Generally, organizations and activities 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 activity. Similarly, there are also situations where a single grant or award may be better defined and captured by multiple activities 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 activity, it may be beneficial to break it into multiple activities associated with one organization. This is typically seen where one "umbrella" activity represents the management of the main grant or award, and all other activities 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 activities, 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 activities associated with individual organizations.

Back to top

Didn't answer your question? Please email us at **help@devresults.com**.

Related Articles