

Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI)

Membership charter

Vision

An East Africa where ALL children receive quality education.

Mission:

RELI is a member-driven network, established for peer learning, knowledge building and shared policy influencing with a view to transforming member organisations. The network works to realise equitable, quality education for all East African children. It achieves this by leveraging local knowledge, evidence and expertise to influence education policy and practice.

The vision of RELI is anchored on three pillars:

1. Knowledge Hub: Nurture an evidence culture, and establish a knowledge hub for education;
2. Policy Influence: Collaborate to inform policy; and where there are none, advocate for introduction of policies that favour quality and equitable education.
3. Transformed Organisations: Transform member organisations in a manner that increases their effectiveness, sustainability and impact as contributors to change in our society.

RELI's work

Currently, RELI has a membership of approximately 70 organisations drawn from three East African countries (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania).

Learning and other activities are rooted in thematic groups which are led by Thematic Leads. Members identify topics of shared interest, and build a shared workplan around these topics. These workplans drive the learning, transformation and evidence building. Learning takes different forms which include presentations made by members from their work or topics assigned to them, collaborative initiatives that involve more members, and sessions facilitated by experts in areas members express need for more knowledge.

RELI Values

Respect: RELI strives to foster an environment of positive engagement that honours each member's contribution to the network.

Trust: RELI values good faith efforts and deals both honestly and openly with all stakeholders. We are accountable to ourselves and to others. As a result, members have strong relationships with each other and with the communities in which they work.

Empowerment: RELI members leverage each other's strengths when collaborating for impact and share responsibility for both positive and negative outcomes of RELI activities. This empowers members to confidently experiment and take risks.

Learning: Our aim is to learn from each other, from our work and from the broader learning community. We actively seek feedback and use it to improve our practice. We are willing to experiment and iterate.

Collaboration: RELI members build and maintain effective working relationships for cooperation and collaboration where information, data, and experiences are shared freely among members.

Equity: RELI is generating, curating and disseminating an evidence base of best practice in quality, equitable and inclusive education for all.

Membership

RELI is a critical voice, consistently and passionately advocating for quality education in the region through its activities. The network is open, by way of application, to individuals and organisations whose interests are aligned with those of RELI.

Membership Categories

There are two types of RELI members.

a. Primary members

These are full members who enjoy every benefit of RELI, but also bound by the responsibilities of a RELI member (stipulated below). Primary members include:

1. An organisation, consortium or project that is funded by RELI's anchor funders is granted automatic membership.
OR
2. An organisation, consortium or project that was previously funded by RELI's anchor funders and has expressed a written desire to continue membership.
OR
3. Organisations who meet the following list of criteria may apply for membership.
 - a. Committed to enhancing the quality of education for marginalised children and communities in East Africa, evidenced by their work.
 - b. Rooted in local communities, with evidence to demonstrate that local communities have a voice in organisational decision making
 - c. Operate in a way that aligns with RELI values
 - d. Willingness to share evidence, learnings and knowledge
 - e. Willingness to openly and strategically collaborate
 - f. Willingness to collect and share data**OR**
4. Individuals who have formerly been part of an organisation, consortium or project that is funded by RELI's anchor funders is welcome to express a written desire to continue membership.

b. Secondary members

These are members who add value to RELI by virtue of their skills and work that they do. They will join the learning sessions in RELI, but will not be part of business meetings. They have no voting right. These may include:

1. Individual officers of the government organizations that partner with RELI, who submit written intention to be associated with RELI
2. Individuals working in other countries in Africa or other parts of the world, who submit written intention to be associated with RELI, and who are considered to bring strategic benefit to RELI
3. Other organizations and institutions that are approached by RELI for partnership, for the sake of enriching the mission of RELI
4. Other networks, to which RELI may seek membership or collaboration.

Procedure

Membership decisions will be at the discretion of the RELI Leadership Team, and in consultation with WPF.

Members actively engaged in RELI at the time of writing are assumed to be fully fledged members, and may be assigned to one of the categories above without further process being required.

Organisations and individuals wishing to apply for membership should download and complete the application form, and submit to the RELI Hub Coordinator.

Responsibilities of primary members:

1. Communicate and share relevant information regularly with the other Network members. Upholding and promoting the values during all interaction within and outside the network.
2. Introduce and guide potential members who would like to join the network
3. Represent the Network at international and regional meetings and fora to present the work of RELI
4. Contribute content to the Network's website on a regular basis by way of writing articles and sharing program and research findings
5. Engage in learning events organized within the network.
6. Highlight external events and learning opportunities that may be of benefit to the network and its members
7. Participate in the country and regional meetings as convened.
8. Support fundraising efforts for the Network through collaborative initiatives
9. Avail individual and organisational expertise to other network members or to the RELI Leadership Team.
10. Appoint, as requested, member staff or representatives to participate in RELI on the organisation's behalf
11. Notify the RELI Leadership Team of member staffing transitions, and helping to on-board new member representatives.
12. Actively participate in your selected Thematic Group, attending at least 80% of group activities.

Member activities

Every member is expected to participate actively in RELI. Regular activities of RELI include:

1. Knowledge Hub:
 - a. Participating in joint activities to generate and share evidence
 - b. Compiling and sharing evidence for inclusion in knowledge hub
 - c. Reading and reviewing written products as may be required

2. Policy Influence:
 - a. Contributing to the development of written products to inform policy
 - b. Participating in policy meetings and advocacy sessions
3. Transformed organizations:
 - a. Attending thematic group learning sessions
 - b. Attending country RELI meetings and learning sessions
 - c. Documenting and sharing individual and organizational learnings with RELI
 - d. Participating in joint learning trip and activities as per the work plan

Cessation of membership

Membership may be terminated on the grounds of one of the following conditions:

1. Inactivity, where a member does not participate in more than three consecutive group activities without justification or informing the leadership.
2. Disregard for other members in the network by failing to abide by the values of RELI, undermining the efforts of the network, e.g. intentionally costing the network opportunities.
3. Risking the status or reputation of the network through own or organisation activities.
4. Impersonating the network for personal or organisational benefit.

It should be noted that decisions on membership termination are at the discretion of the RELI Leadership Team. Termination of membership will be communicated by the RELI Leadership Team in writing to the concerned members.

Members can also make a choice to terminate their own membership and this should be communicated in writing to the RELI Leadership team.

Amendment of this charter

This Membership Charter is subject to change without notification. A current version of this document will always be available for download on the members' area of the RELI website. For more information contact the RELI Kenya Hub Coordinator: info@ziziafrique.org