

Research4Life Country Connectors Network Project:

Theory of Change

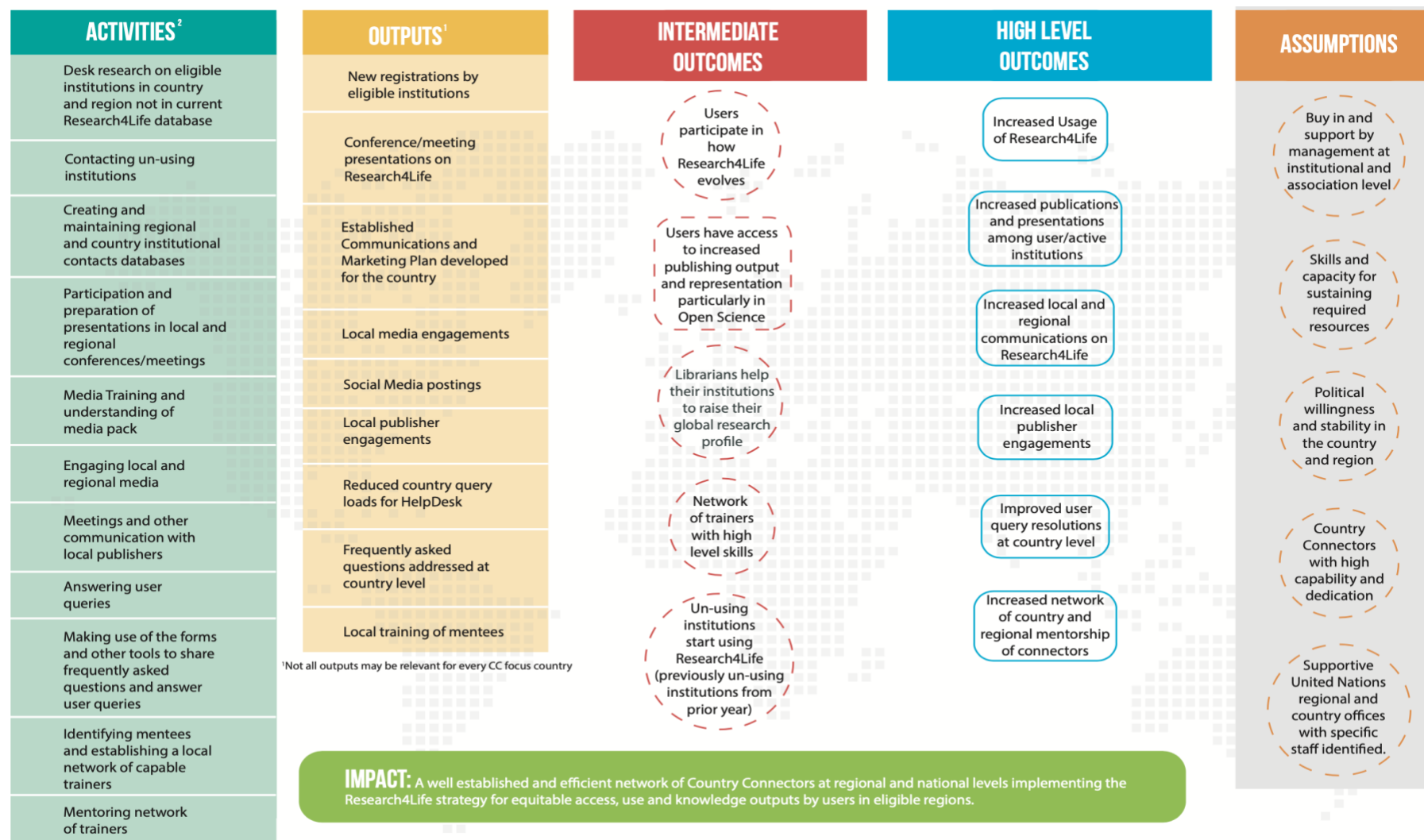
Research4Life is initiating a Country Connectors network project to address the need for local interventions to heighten awareness and strengthen capacity of information use and management, as well as build communities of evidence users within national and regional settings.

Research4Life (R4L) is the collective name for the five programmes – Hinari, AGORA, OARE, ARDI and GOALI designed to enhance the scholarship, teaching, research and policy-making of the many thousands of researchers, faculty, scientists, and medical specialists in lower income countries. Research4Life provides free or low-cost online access to over 150,000 leading journals, books and other resources in the fields of health, agriculture, environment, technology, and law through more than 10,000 institutions. For research, practices and policies, the latest reliable evidence on which to base those practices and policies is critical.

A well supported country connector at institutional level, with the skills and capability to present, engage media, engage local publishers and engage users, will enhance equitable access in the scholarly communication cycle by practitioners, researchers, educators and policy makers at country and regional levels. In regions and countries where related United Nations offices exist, the support will be connected through those offices. The implementation of a network of country connectors who are well mentored and provided with the opportunities to build capacity and support more users will lead to a self-sustained use of and contribution to Research4Life and the broader research community. This has a direct impact on the quality of research, including decision and evidence informed policy making both nationally and globally.

Research4Life has a strong impact on the quality of research, practice, and policy-making in institutions and countries where users are aware and trained in its use. However, the most recent Research4Life User Experience Review shows that many key players in the research ecosystem are simply unaware of the evidence that is available to them through Research4Life. Past pilot efforts have shown that a dedicated country focal point can expand the extent to which Research4Life is known about and embedded in institutions and communities.

The network of country connectors will enable increased equity and access to Research4Life, user engagement, increased local communication with multiple key stakeholders, increased support for queries, increased engagement with local publishers and establish a wider network of highly capable connectors at local and regional levels. Researchers working in regions with similarities in research areas also are able to better connect with each other, increasing south to south collaborations. Moreover, an increase in engagements with local publishers will provide them opportunities to contribute to Research4Life, leading to more visibility of their content.



²Not all activities may be relevant for every CC focus country

RESEARCH4LIFE COUNTRY CONNECTORS NETWORK PROJECT

Research4Life Goal: to improve teaching, research and policymaking in health, agriculture, the environment and other life, physical and social sciences

Impact: A well established and efficient network of Country Connectors at regional and national levels implementing the Research4Life strategy for equitable access, use and knowledge outputs by users in eligible regions.

Intermediate outcomes

- Users participate in how Research4Life evolves
- Users have access to increased publishing output and representation particularly in Open Science
- Librarians help their institutions to raise their global research profile
- Un-using institutions start using Research4Life (previously un-using institutions from prior year)
- Network of trainers with high level skills

High level outcomes

- Increased Usage of Research4Life
- Increased publications and presentations among user/active institutions
- Increased local and regional communications on Research4Life
- Increased local publisher engagements
- Improved user query resolutions at country level
- Increased network of country and regional mentorship of connectors

Outputs¹

- New registrations by eligible institutions
- Conference/meeting presentations on Research4Life
- Established Communications and Marketing Plan developed for the country
- Local media engagements
- Social Media postings
- Local publisher engagements
- Reduced country query loads for HelpDesk
- Frequently asked questions addressed at country level
- Local training of mentees

Activities²

- Desk research on eligible institutions in country and region not in current Research4Life database
- Contacting un-using institutions
- Creating and maintaining regional and country institutional contacts databases
- Participation and preparation of presentations in local and regional conferences/meetings
- Media Training and understanding of media pack
- Engaging local and regional media
- Meetings and other communication with local publishers
- Answering user queries

¹ Not all outputs may be relevant for every CC focus country

² Not all activities may be relevant for every CC focus country



- Making use of the forms and other tools to share frequently asked questions and answer user queries
- Identifying mentees and establishing a local network of capable trainers
- Mentoring network of trainers

Assumptions

- Buy in and support by management at institutional and association level
- Skills and capacity for sustaining required resources
- Political willingness and stability in the country and region
- Country Connectors with high capability and dedication
- Supportive United Nations regional and country offices with specific staff identified

Conclusion

The Research4Life Country Connectors initiative will enable regional and local engagement with users to be optimized. This enables more customized reach and participation by user leading to equitable access, use and knowledge outputs by users in eligible regions. It is critical the right approach and model be used for each region and country, coupled with local institutional buy-in and support. Growing a network of regional and country-based Country Connectors will enable the work to become more sustainable. In the initial year of establishment, Research4Life needs to work closely with the Country Connectors and to ensure funding for key inputs and activities.