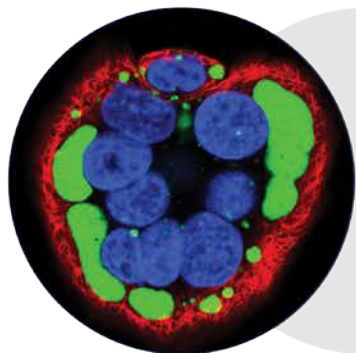


UKRI GCRF Funding opportunities



Robert Felstead – Head of Policy and Planning

UKRI International Development team

28th January 2019

Global Context: UN Sustainable Development Goals



UK Aid Strategy

- ❑ Strengthening global peace, security and governance
- ❑ Strengthening resilience and response to crises
- ❑ Promoting global prosperity
- ❑ Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable



Background to GCRF



Cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries

2015 Government Spending Review Outcomes

- ❑ Address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- ❑ Strengthening capability for research and innovation, within developing countries and the UK
- ❑ Agile response to emergencies and opportunities



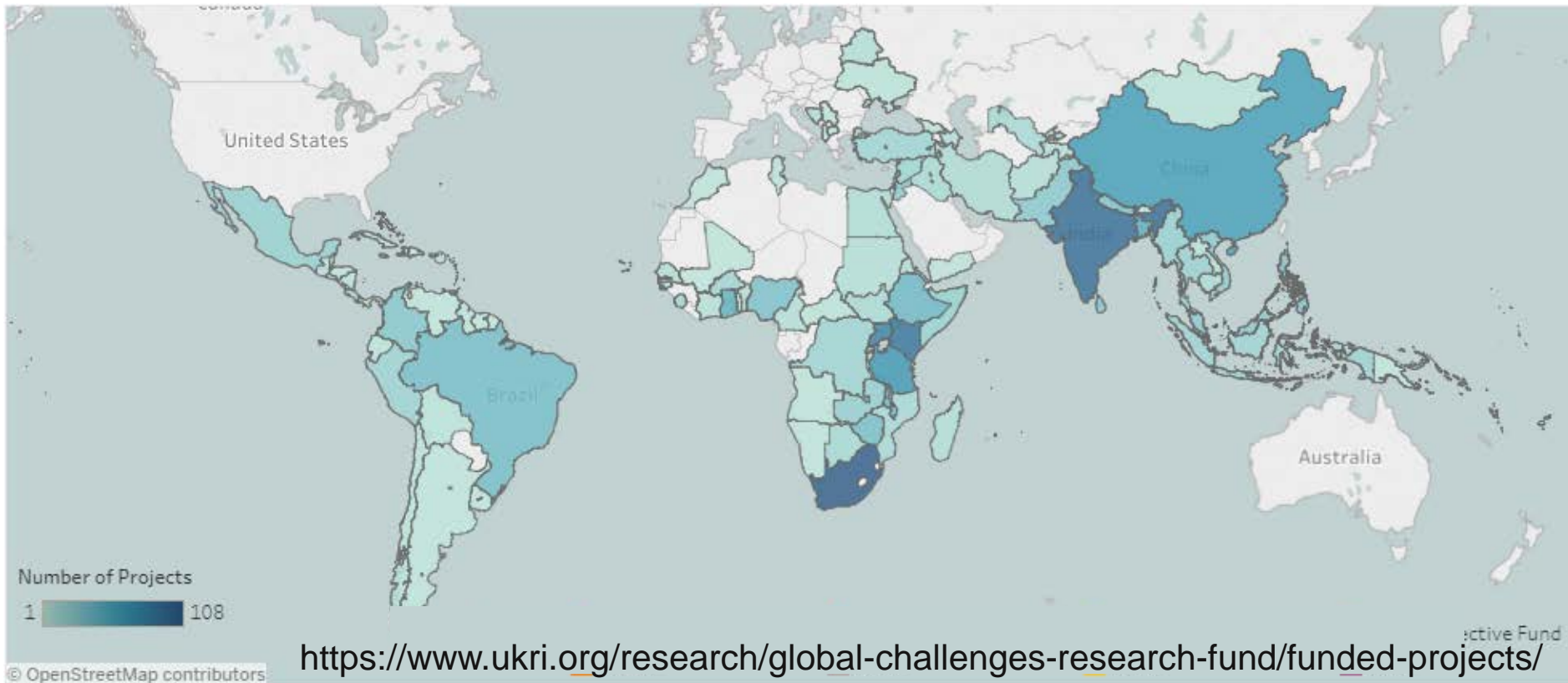
Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
**Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales**



UK Research and Innovation



Countries of Focus of UKRI GCRF Awarded Projects



GCRF Challenge Leaders

UK Research and Innovation have appointed 9 Challenge Leaders, directing GCRF portfolios in:

- Global Health
- Food Systems
- Conflict
- Resilience
- Education
- Sustainable Cities.

The GCRF Challenge Leaders are responsible for the building and success of individual GCRF challenge portfolios and together collectively responsible for maximising the portfolios' overall research excellence and real-world impact. They will be charged with maximising the coherence and impact of each portfolio by working across the GCRF delivery partners.

Challenge Leaders

Challenge Leader	Portfolio	Title
	Resilience Challenge Leader	Professor Mark Pelling (King's College London)
	Resilience Challenge Leader	Dr John Rees (British Geological Survey)
	Conflicts Challenge Leader	Dr Neelam Raina (Middlesex University)
	Conflicts Challenge Leader	Dr Laura Hammond (SOAS University of London)
	Cities Challenge Leader	Dr Jaideep Gupte (Institute of Development Studies)

Challenge Leader	Portfolio	Title
	Food Systems Challenge Leader	Professor Nicola Lowe (University of Central Lancashire)
	Food Systems Challenge Leader	Dr Tahrat Shahid (University of Oxford)
	Education Challenge Leader	Dr Kelsey Shanks (Ulster University UNESCO Centre)
	Global Health Challenge Leader	Dr Helen Fletcher (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)

**UK Research
and Innovation**

The Collective Programme

Growing Research Capability

37 strategic programmes to grow research capability to meet the challenges faced by developing countries:

- ❑ Strengthen research capacity and capability, building skills across career stages in both the UK and developing countries.
- ❑ Build strong and enduring relationships between UK research organisations and research organisations and other partners in developing countries.
- ❑ Deliver research outcomes with the potential for significant impact on the welfare and economic development of developing countries.
- ❑ Increase the engagement of the UK research community with international development challenges.



Growing research capability to
meet the challenges faced by
developing countries

July 2017

Interdisciplinary Research Hubs

UK Research
and Innovation



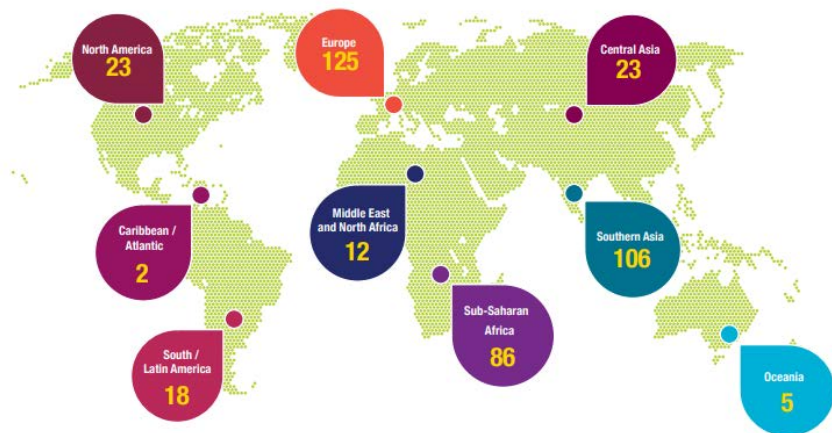
UKRI GCRF Global Interdisciplinary Research Hubs

Building global research
communities to develop innovative
and sustainable solutions for
international development

- UKRI GCRF Achievement for Africa's Adolescents Hub
- UKRI GCRF Accountability for Informal Urban Equity Hub
- UKRI GCRF Action Against Stunting
- UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub
- UKRI GCRF Living Deltas Hub
- UKRI GCRF One Health Poultry Hub
- UKRI GCRF One Ocean Hub
- UKRI GCRF South Asian Nitrogen Hub
- UKRI GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub
- UKRI GCRF Trade, Development and the Environment Hub
- UKRI GCRF Urban Disaster Risk Hub
- UKRI GCRF Water Security and Sustainable Development Hub

Interdisciplinary Research Hubs

Global reach of the Hubs



KEY FACTS

12 global interdisciplinary research Hubs

85 countries

550 researchers

400 unique partner organisations

£200M investment*

This map shows the number of unique organisations that are our partners on the 12 Hubs. Also the regions they are based in

And now...

UKRI GCRF Collective Programme

- A series of calls designed to enhance the overall impact across the six strategic GCRF Challenge portfolios:
 - Global Health
 - Food Systems
 - Security (Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement)
 - Education
 - Resilience to Environmental Shocks and Change
 - Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure
- The programme is an interdisciplinary programme delivered by UK Research and Innovation and steered by the GCRF Challenge Leaders.
- Calls launching between January and June 2019.

Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure

- GCRF (Re)thinking the off-grid city
- GCRF Sustainable energy and international development: beyond technology

Education

- GCRF Education as a driver of sustainable development Network Plus
- GCRF Education in conflict and crisis research
- GCRF Education Interventions for Early Childhood Development

Food Systems

- GCRF Cultures and histories of agriculture, food, and nutrition
- GCRF A combined Food Systems approach to developing interventions to address the Double Burden of Malnutrition

Global Health

- GCRF Health and Context

Resilience to Environmental Shocks and Change

- GCRF Equitable Resilience: ensuring resilience enhances the Sustainable Development Goals
- GCRF Multiple and systemic Risks

Security (Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement)

- GCRF Development-based approaches to Protracted Displacement
- GCRF Preventing Conflict, Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace
- GCRF Protection in Contexts of Conflict and Displacement

The Future of GCRF?

GRCF (£M resource)	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21 *	SR Total
National Academies	11	11	11	11	11	45
AHRC	5	7	7	7	7	25
BBSRC	10	20	20	20	20	70
EPSRC	10	15	15	15	15	55
ESRC	5	10	10	10	10	35
HEFCE	20	37	37	37	37	130
MRC	14	34	34	34	34	115
NERC	5	10	10	10	10	35
STFC	0	4	4	4	4	11
International Partnership Programme	32	30	30	30	30	122
Unallocated GCRF	0	38	122	216	315	377
Totals	112	215	299	393	492	1019



The Future of GCRF?

- HMG Spending Review in 2019
- Collecting GCRF Case Studies
- Project to gather pre-Newton/GCRF impacts from research for development

How to get involved in GCRF

As part of research projects

- As a UK based applicant
- As an international co-investigator
- As a researcher (e.g. post-doctoral assistants)
- As a research partner organisation, project partner or sub-contractor

Other

- Peer reviewer / GCRF college member
- Funding panel members
- Attend GCRF meetings / workshops

Key Principles



GCRF: Fund Level Assessment Criteria

- ✓ **Research Excellence**
new approaches not constrained by traditional methodologies or disciplinary silos
- ✓ **Official Development Assistance (ODA) compliance**
OECD guidelines
- ✓ **Equitable Partnerships and Building Capacity**
strong and enduring partnerships between UK and developing-country researchers to enhance the research and innovation capacity of both
- ✓ **Impact: Problem and Solution Focused**
substantial impact on improved social welfare, economic development, and environmental sustainability

Challenge and impact focus



- Generate excellent and novel research
- Translate research into measurable development impacts
- Deliver a broad range of scalable impacts
- A sustainable programme with a legacy beyond the initial investment

Challenge-led approaches

Discipline-led

I'm a carpenter; pay me to make these different things



Challenge-led

Pay me to build a bridge. I'll work with a carpenter, designer, engineer, river expert...



Interdisciplinary research excellence

- Excellent research capacity
- Capacity to think across, between, within SDGs
- Assemble new knowledge and insights across different research communities
- Strategically build on previous investments



Image: British Academies

Interdisciplinary working

GCRF and particularly the Collective Fund is an excellent opportunity.

Creating a successful partnership involves:

- Identifying the right mix of disciplines
- Co-creation of a common vision and goals
- Defining a joint approach
- Positive leadership
- Identifying a method for dealing with disagreements/conflicts

Finding and Building Effective Partnerships:

www.ukcds.org/resources

<http://pei.exchange>

Partnerships

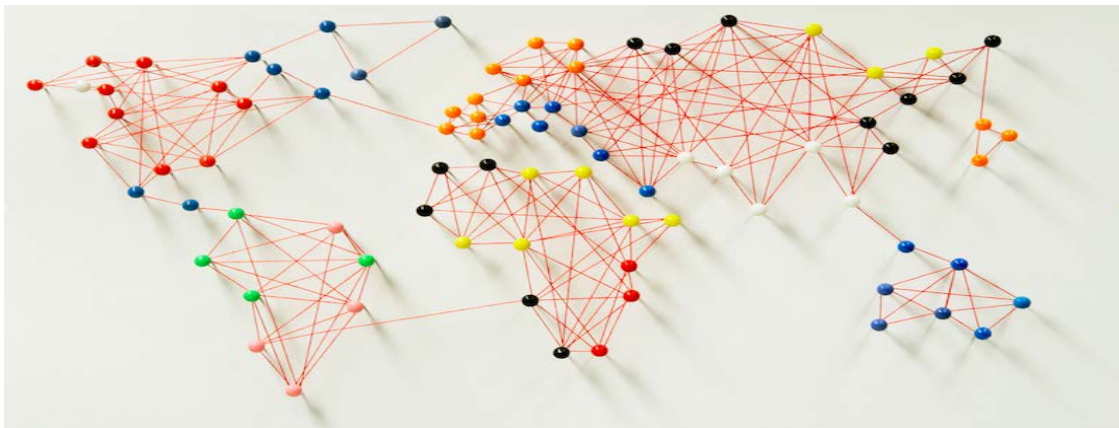
A key pillar of the GCRF strategy

- Multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary, transboundary partnerships
- Effective equitable partnerships underpin the aims of GCRF

Opportunities/Benefits	Challenges
Innovation	Different priorities, interests, expectations, goals, schedules
Sharing knowledge and expertise	Different capacities, resources
Access to resources, field sites, infrastructure	Different processes, structures
Build capacity	Different legal and ethical frameworks
Improved learning and practice	Cultural differences
Greater impact	

Global partnerships

- Co-development with international partners
- Substantial, genuine and meaningful collaboration/engagement
- Full consideration of relevant developing country context



Equitable Partnerships

Equitable partnerships with developing-country researchers to:

- Identify research gaps and needs
- Co-create research questions and research outcomes
- Test solutions to actual problems
- Build research capacity in the UK and developing countries to do research for development



Impact through partnership with non-Research Organisations

Working with NGOs, CSOs, governmental agencies, multinational bodies, and others to:

- Identify development needs
- Test potential – and potential limitations – of research outcomes on real-world problems
- Co-design real-world implementation of solutions
- Input into policy

Organisation and leadership

- Shared values and goals
- Strong research and operational leadership
- Appropriate and effective monitoring and evaluation
- Ability to learn and adapt



Call Mechanisms and Hints and Tips

Robert Felstead – Head of Policy and Planning

UKRI International Development team

28th January 2019

Call rules and policies

- Please read the guidance
- Rules are being ‘harmonised’ across UKRI so may be different from previous calls
- Due diligence – guidance available: <https://www.ukri.org/files/funding/due-diligence-guidance-for-ukros-pdf/>
-

Hints and tips



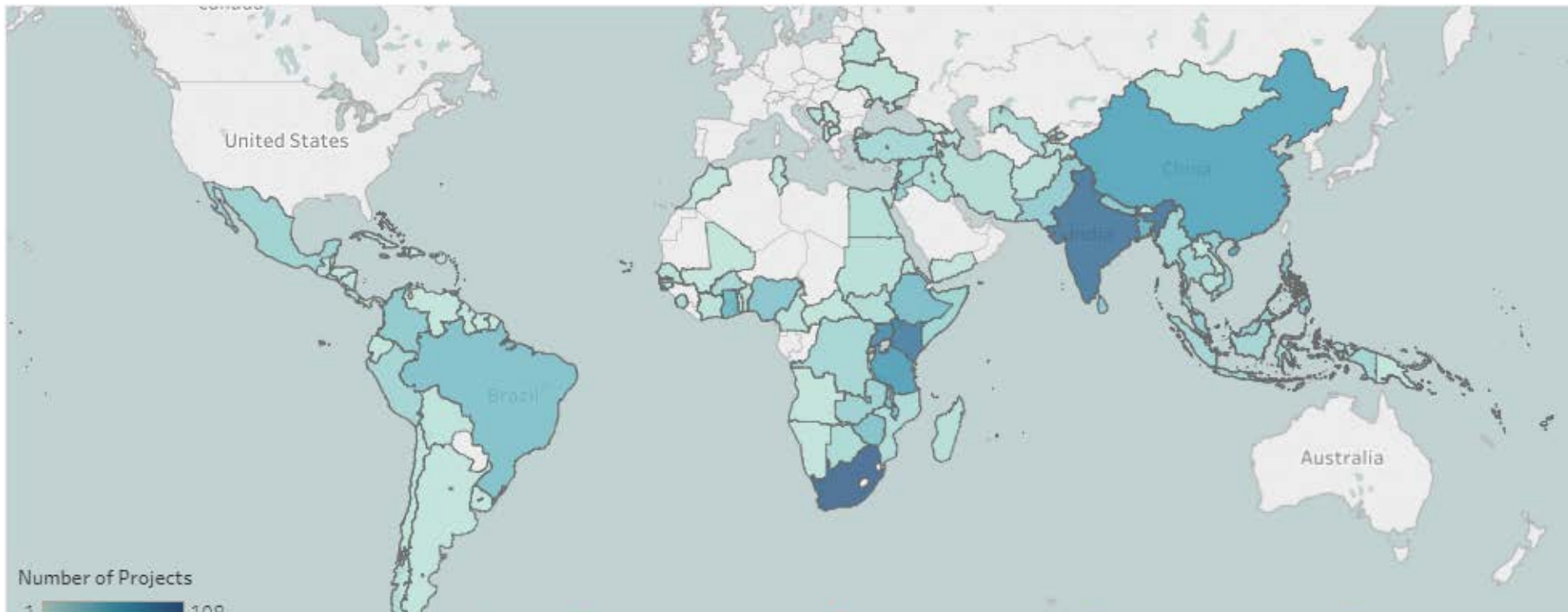
General observations – previous GCRF activities

- Learn from others!
- Proposals need to be ODA challenge-led/solution-focused
- Applicants need to demonstrate an understanding of the context (societal, cultural, political, historical, economic etc.)
- Don't play disciplinary bingo
- In-country partners need to be appropriate, involved in the scoping and delivery of the research and add value

General observations – previous GCRF activities (cont.)

- You will be assessed based on what's on the page – the panel/reviewers won't make any assumptions!
- Panels are often broad
 - interdisciplinary, international, non-academics/users
 - not everyone around the table will be an expert in your field
- Be clear and realistic about the potential impact – we're not expecting you to solve global poverty in a single grant!
 - Impacts must be directly associated with this grant
 - What are the milestones/steps along the way?
 - What impacts are anticipated during the lifetime of the award?
 - What are the benefits beyond the lifetime of the grant?

OECD DAC Country List



<https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/funded-projects/>

Is it Official Development Assistance?

GCRF is based on the broad OECD ODA definition.

1. Which **country/ countries on the DAC list** will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be ODA eligible for the duration of the research?
2. How is your proposal directly and **primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?**
3. How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will **promote the economic development and welfare** of a country or countries on the DAC list?

ODA compliance statement

This is not just a box ticking exercise – proposals must demonstrate they are ‘in the spirit of ODA’

- Investigate a **specific problem** and seek **specific outcomes** which will have a **targeted impact** on the relevant developing country(ies);
- Identify **country specific challenges/sub-challenges** and provide evidence as to **why this is a problem** for the specific developing country(ies);
- **Address the issue** identified effectively and efficiently, working **in collaboration** with others as appropriate;
- Identify **appropriate pathways to impact** taking into consideration the **local context** to ensure that the developing country benefits from the research.

Promoting equitable partnerships

- Fairness, transparency, mutual responsibility, mutual benefit - maximise benefits and mitigate risks
- ✓ Joint agenda setting - mutual agreement on meaning and purpose of the work
- ✓ Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Fair recognition of interests and incentives of all partners
- ✓ Build mutual trust – transparency and accountability (decision making and budgets)
- ✓ Regular communication – avoid assumptions
- ✓ Invest time in the partnership – building relationships is a long term process – build time into the project and request funds for face to face meetings
- ✓ Regular reviews of health of the partnership
- ✓ Develop an agreed dispute resolution process

Guidelines and toolkits

- A Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships – 11 Principles
https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions
- Research for development impact: The role of equitable partnerships <https://www.espa.ac.uk/>
- Rethinking Research Partnerships: Discussion Guide and Toolkit
<https://rethinkingresearchpartnerships.com/>
- Partnership Assessment Toolkit
<http://www.ccghr.ca/resources/partnerships-and-networking/partnership-assessment-tool/>



Check the specific call documentation about Principal and Co-Investigator eligibility.

Entering applicants

- All Principal and Co-Investigators must have a fully registered 'Research Proposal' type Je-S account
- Please ensure that you **submit any account requests as soon as possible.**

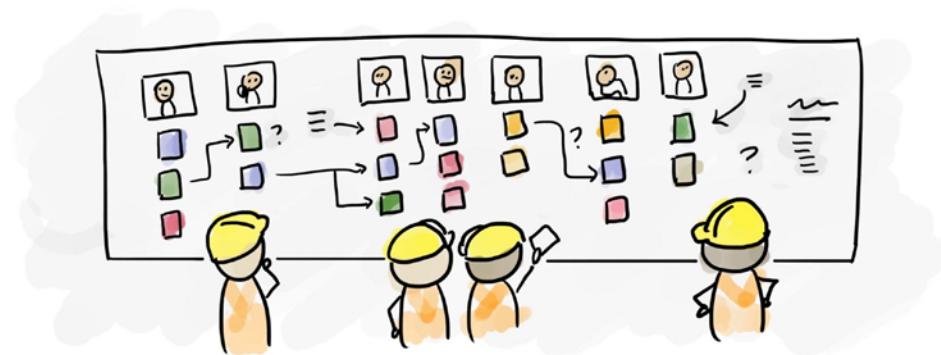
Contact Je-S helpdesk for technical queries

- JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk
- 01793 444164

Pathways to Impact

Should:

- provide timelines and milestones for grant specific activities
- identify a breadth of significant and measurable impacts
- demonstrate understanding of the societal and cultural context of the research
- outline the approaches taken to ensure sustainability and potential for legacy beyond the initial investment



Advice of a DFID country adviser: partner, engage, represent

- Seek to create strong partnerships. In country researchers are likely to understand the problem; the political economy and opportunities for impact; they may have greater access
- Engage policy makers in country, but use their time wisely
- Engage with national processes & routine meetings for discussions on policy change; avoid stand alone meetings where possible
- Represent robust research and evidence relating to the challenge(s); don't lobby.
 - Draw on the wider body of evidence
 - Do the research conclusions pass real-world feasibility testing?
 - What would be the cost benefit of implementing change?

Consider developing your own checklist:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Capacity building
- Communicating
- Monitoring and evaluation

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/
research-uptake-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-uptake-guidance)



Considering your options

Bear in mind...

- Your area of research may not appear in the title!
- Remits may be broader than remit of the administering Research Council
- Different calls will support different types of grants
- These are not the only GCRF/ODA opportunities!

www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/

www.newtonfund.ac.uk/

Questions?

gcrf@rcuk.ac.uk

Rob Felstead
Head of Policy and Planning
01793 444257

JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk

01793 444164

