UKRI GCRF Collective Programme Call Mechanism: Network Pluses and Q&A
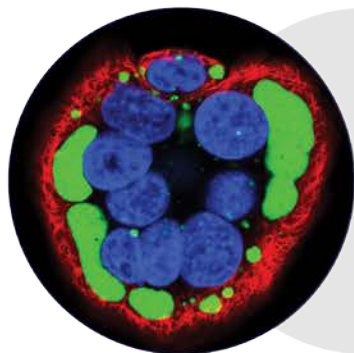
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Call Mechanism: Network Plus

GCRF Collective Programme – led by a RC on behalf of UKRI, but open to **all** relevant disciplines

Upcoming Network Plus opportunities under UKRI GCRF Collective Programme in:

Conflict (AHRC managed)

Plus other Research Programmes: Development Based Approaches to Protracted Displacement (Research Programme - ESRC managed) Food Systems (Research Network - AHRC managed)

What is the Network Plus model, what areas are invited under the upcoming calls, examples of funded Network Plus projects

Network Plus Model: Overview

- Funding of up to £2m and up to 4 years duration per award

- 2 stage process: Outline and full application stages

- Large, challenge-led awards

- Internationally collaborative and interdisciplinary in nature

- Flexible mechanism - funding allocated to the lead UK RO to support a cross-institutional leadership team and international and non-academic partners to undertake 3 interconnected strands of work

- Can include International Co-Investigators

- ODA compliant

- Steered by GCRF Challenge Leaders

Network Plus Model: Aims

- To generate new, ambitious, collaborative research

- Engage extensively with ROs & stakeholders in partner countries / areas & with

  wider partners (NGOs, cultural organisations, community groups)

- Bring direct benefits to the area in question & provide knowledge that can be

  applied to other areas / regions

Network Plus Model: Approaches

- Promote collaboration, bringing together research expertise in development challenges in the UK & internationally

- Enable more integrated, cross-cutting approaches which can explore the intersections and interconnections between development challenges

- Build sustainable research partnerships placing stakeholders in partner countries at the heart of the research being undertaken

- Build capacity for research communities, in the UK and DAC-listed countries, to engage with and lead future interdisciplinary international development research

Network Plus Model: Strands of Work

The Network Plus model supports 3 interconnected strands of work:

1) *Scoping, research leadership & partnership development activities.*

Aims: to build sustainable partnerships between UK researchers and international partners in the region/area in order to identify research needs and opportunities and to co-design and co-develop research agendas to be explored through research and knowledge exchange calls.

Examples:

- Partnership development & knowledge exchange activity
- Seminars, workshops & scholar exchanges
- Training , skills development & ECR mentoring
- Placements for academics at partner organisations
- Exploratory, feasibility, proof of concept projects

Network Plus Model: Strands of Work, cont.

2) *Funding calls for innovative projects / activities*

Aims: to address the identified challenges and with the capacity to respond to new priorities and crises as they emerge.

Examples:

- 6-18 month pilot projects, innovation studies, data exploration, fieldwork etc

- Conferences, workshops & seminars

- Fellowships, exchanges, placements

3) *Coordination, networking and synthesis of research funded as part of the Network Plus*

- Building links with other research activity in the 'area'
- KE & pathways to impact activity
- Building a strategic agenda for future research & dissemination
- Reflection, learning, synthesis & impact evaluation
- Stimulating/ editing research outputs
- Legacy planning

Network Plus: Upcoming calls

Calls will shortly be open in the following areas:

- **Preventing Conflict, Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace**

- **Protection in Contexts of Conflict and Displacement**

- **Education in Conflict and Crisis Research**

Cross-cutting proposals:

- Proposals which cut across the remits of these calls are welcomed. However, applications should be made to only one of the three calls, whichever is considered to be the prime focus / fit of activities, noting any cross-overs where applicable.

Network Plus: Upcoming calls

Preventing Conflict, Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace

Purpose: to strengthen the evidence base for effective and contextually sensitive policies and programmes that promote conflict prevention, and enhance positive peacebuilding

- Focus on prevention approaches that address long term drivers of conflict and instability in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations (FCAS).
- A key feature will be to explore the interactions and inter-connections between key factors in the development and dynamics of conflict which cut across the GCRF portfolios - such as urban exclusion, health inequalities, unemployment, food insecurity, environmental stresses, low literacy levels and gender inequality.

Key research themes expected include:

- Integrated risk assessment, including understanding the drivers of conflict, and risk based approaches to prevention
- People and community centred approaches and building societal prevention capabilities
- Addressing grievances, access to justice and innovative approaches to mediation
- Tackling horizontal inequalities as a part of prevention and peace building

Network Plus: Upcoming calls

Protection in Contexts of Conflict and Displacement

Purpose: to support the building of an evidence base on humanitarian protection of people affected by conflict, with an emphasis on the protection of the most vulnerable.

Key research themes expected include:

- exploring the social, political, economic and cultural factors that are conducive to restraint from violence amongst different actors
- understanding impact of local protection mechanisms and the opportunities and challenges faced by affected communities in times of armed conflict
- impact of legal recognition and regimes on protection
- role of targeting, assessment of protection risks and effective protection of vulnerable communities
- changing dynamics of protection in protracted conflicts, including how protection conditions, triggers, and activities change over the course of a protracted conflict
- interactions between protection and South-South displacement including prior to displacement, along the journey, and at the destination.

Network Plus: Upcoming calls

Education in Conflict and Crisis Research

Purpose: to build evidence on the role and delivery of education in diverse contexts of conflict and protracted crisis, to ensure quality education opportunities.

Key research themes expected include:

- education delivery, access and quality during conflict and emergencies, including responding to the needs of children, women and girls and other crisis affected groups
- potential opportunities offered by innovations in service re-design, digital and other technologies and interactions with issues of humanitarian protection
- the role of education in building future peace and stability and addressing issues such as cultural identity and indigenous knowledge development, empowerment, difficult or conflicted heritages/pasts, behaviour change and sustainable livelihoods.

Network Plus call: Indicative timetable (tbc)

AHRC town hall meetings:

14th February (Birmingham) 25th February (London) and 12th March (Edinburgh) 2019

Call opens: February 2019

EOI process: Spring 2019

Full call launch: Summer 2019

Full Proposal Development period: Summer-Autumn 2019

Deadline for full applications: Autumn 2019

Outcomes: Late 2019

Projects start: Early 2020

Examples of Network Plus Awards

Arts & Humanities Research Council | UK Research and Innovation

- **AHRC**: Over £9M of GCRF funding across five major interdisciplinary networks using the AHRC's '**Network Plus**' model. Designed to bring together a wide range of UK arts and humanities research expertise with scholars and non-academic partners in low- and middle-income countries. https://ahrc.ukri.org/innovation/network-plus/

- **Centre for the Study of International Slavery**: Supports and shares leading research about human enslavement and its legacies.
- **Changing the Story**: Helps young people whose lives have been affected by conflict; it will showcase how the arts and humanities can help those in need.
- **Global Research Network on Parliaments and People**: Investigates the vital role arts and humanities play in strengthening democracy internationally.
- **Rising from the Depths:** Studying marine cultural heritage along the coast of east Africa in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar.
- **The Nahrein Network**: A historical project that aims to prove the value of the arts and humanities to education and post-conflict development in Iraq and neighbouring countries.

Other related calls

- **UKRI-GCRF Collective Programme - Development-based approaches to Protracted Displacement (managed by ESRC on behalf of UKRI)**

- Open Call for Research aims to support projects which will lead to durable and viable solutions to displacement from an interdisciplinary approach.

- Looking at the multidimensional challenges affecting refugees, stateless persons, internally displaced, migrants and those affected by protracted displacement in sending, transit and receiving societies.

- Funded research shall engage with communities in protracted displaced settings looking at the intersections of displacement with **gender** as a cross-cutting theme.

- Expected timetable: Call opens Feb 2019, call deadline April 2019, projects to start early 2020.

Other related calls

- **Cultures, Behaviours and Histories of Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition** - part of the GCRF Food Systems portfolio.
- Focus on the intersection of culture, history, and society with all stages of the food systems chain, from production through to consumption and policy, in Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).
- Led by AHRC, with support from MRC, ESRC, NERC, and BBSRC.
- £4 million of funding to be made available through two calls
- The first funding call will support applications up to 24 months in duration and up to £200k fEC in value.
- Networking and information workshop for first funding call taking place on Friday 8th March in London (event details on AHRC website)

- **Projected Timetable (subject to change):**
- February 2019 first call launches
- 8th March 2019 networking and information workshop
- May 2019 first call closes
- August 2019 outcomes of first call
- October-December 2019 projects start
- Autumn 2019 second call launches

Questions?

AHRC: For any queries or comments about the UKRI GCRF Conflict AHRC managed calls, please email: **LLAS@ahrc.ukri.org**

AHRC: For any queries or comments about the AHRC – GCRF Food Systems call, please email: **HCH@ahrc.ukri.org**

ESRC: For any queries or comments about the ESRC managed call please email:

displacement@esrc.ukri.org