GCRF Background and Strategy

Dr Mark Claydon-Smith
Global Challenges Research Fund
14th September 2017
Aims of the day – RCUK perspective

- Share more information about the Hubs call and other ODA calls
- Engage in discussion around key issues and opportunities
- Provide some real life examples and share best practice and lessons learned
- Help applicants/teams submit the best possible proposals
Local GCRF successes

- Determining the persister populations in sputum during tuberculosis therapy. A supplementary study to the RIFASHORT trial (Michael Barer, University of Leicester)

- Ukraine's hidden tragedy: understanding the outcomes of population displacement from the country's war torn regions (Irina Kuznetsova, University of Birmingham)

- Improving food safety by reducing pesticide residues: developing a pheromone alternative to insecticides for control of thrips on legumes in Kenya (William Kirk, Keele University)

- Biomass Fuel at the Nexus: Policy Lessons from Bottom-Up Perspectives in Urban Ghana (Sujatha Raman, University of Nottingham)

- Humanitarian Energy for Displaced Populations in Refugee Camp and Informal Settlements (HELP) (Elena Gaura, Coventry University)

- Strengthening Capacity in Environmental Physics, Hydrology and Statistics for Conservation Agriculture Research (Murray Lark, NERC BGS)
Global Challenges Research Fund

How did we get here?
Research for Development: The UK Funding Landscape
Global Context: UN Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the 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
UK Funding for Research for Development

- Department for International Development (DfID) (£1.5bn)
- Newton Fund (£735m UK contribution; partner countries providing matched resources within the fund)
- The Global Challenges Research Fund GCRF (£1.5bn)
- Ross Fund (£1bn focused on health)
- Fleming Fund (£195 million focused on antimicrobial resistance)
The Newton Fund uses research and innovation partnerships to **promote economic development and social welfare of partner countries**. It does this through collaboration with partner countries and working with 15 UK delivery partners.

The Newton Fund is also part of the UK's official development assistance (ODA).

The Newton Fund was launched in 2014 and now has a total UK investment of £735 million to 2021, with partner countries providing matched resources within the fund.
Newton Fund versus GCRF

Same primary and secondary objectives:
- to **promote economic development and social welfare** of developing countries
- to contribute to the continued **strength of the UK’s research and innovation base** and our wider prosperity and global influence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newton Fund</th>
<th>GCRF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requires partnership with one of 16 specific partner countries, identified as emerging knowledge economies</td>
<td>Allows proposals addressing more widespread issues rather than requiring partnership with a specific country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner countries provide match funding for every programme</td>
<td>Match funding not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primarily focused on Middle Income Countries on the OECD DAC list</td>
<td>Covers any countries included on the OECD DAC list</td>
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Global Challenges Research Fund
Background to GCRF

- 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

Cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries

2015 Government Spending Review Outcomes
GCRF Funding, Duration, Focus

- £1.5 billion ODA funding
- 2016-2021
- Distributed across 17 delivery partners

- Challenge led / researcher driven
- Interdisciplinary research with impact
- Strengthening capacity
Equitable access to sustainable development
to create new knowledge and drive innovation that helps to ensure that everyone across the globe can prosper through access to health, food, water, education, energy etc.

Sustainable economies and societies
to identify new responses to the challenges arising from changes in population, technology, consumption and pressure on the environment

Human rights, good governance and social justice
to understand how to strengthen the institutions that underpin peaceful societies, good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law.
GCRF: Key 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
ODA Compliance
OECD DAC Country List
Key Principles
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
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
Global partnerships

• Co-development with international partners
• Substantial, genuine and meaningful collaboration/engagement
• Full consideration of relevant developing country context
RCUK GCRF Year 1 Funded Projects: Countries of Focus
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
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
Collective Fund: Growing Research Capacity and Capability
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 capability to meet the needs of developing countries
Alignment with GCRF Strategic themes
Growing research capability to meet the challenges faced by developing countries

July 2017
GCRF Challenge Leaders provide **strong, intellectual and strategic leadership** for each strategic research portfolio and to **strengthen coordination** across multiple delivery partners.

The initial six strategic GCRF Challenge portfolios, aligned with the UN Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) will be:

- Global Health
- Food Systems
- Security Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement
- Education
- Resilience to Environmental Shocks and Change
- Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure
Other current issues

- SCOR board
- Global engagement
- RCUK -> UK Research and Innovation
GCRF Practicalities

Sian Rowland
Global Challenges Research Fund
14th September 2017
Call for challenge-led and impact-focused GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs:

- Established and led by eligible UK research organisations
- 12-15 Hubs (depending on quality)
- £8M - 20M, 5 years

**Assessment process:**
- Intention to Submit: 29th September 2017
- Outline proposal deadline: 9th November 2017
- Full proposal deadline: May 2018
- Decisions: November 2018
- Hubs start: December 2018
Intractable challenges
Intractable development challenges

Multi-dimensional and complex challenges which:

• Cut across SDGs
• Are resistant to change
• Are prone to fragmented responses
• Cannot be solved by a single organisation, sector or discipline

Tackling these challenges will require:

• Capacity to think across, between and within SDGs
• Clear understanding of how different disciplines can contribute
• An awareness of underlying factors and contexts
Hub characteristics
GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs

Key characteristics

- 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

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

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

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

*Call text updated
Eligibility

PI/Hub Director
• Employed by lead organisation
• Term of employment extending beyond duration of Hub

Lead research organisation
• Organisation eligible to receive RCUK funding
• UK Public Sector Research Establishment contact RCUK (pamela.hicks@rcuk.ac.uk) prior to submission
Eligibility

Research partner organisation

• UK or international research organisation e.g. higher education organisations, public labs, non-profit research intensive organisations

• Must demonstrate:
  • Ability to deliver research (capacity & capability)
  • Governance and Control
  • Financial stability

• Staff are eligible as Co-Investigators
Eligibility

Project partner
• Any organisation not meeting the minimum criteria for Research Partner organisations.

Sub-contracts
• Only to be used for the procurement of goods and services.
Funding available

*Call text updated
Funding available

Research Partner Organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RO location</th>
<th>Direct costs</th>
<th>Indirect costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Current fEC policy (80% direct and indirect)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed countries, Chile, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Seychelles</td>
<td>Up to 50% eligible costs</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAC list countries</td>
<td>Up to 100% eligible costs</td>
<td>Up to 30% of eligible direct costs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- For multi-campus universities, costs will be awarded based on where the campus is legally registered.
- For multinational organisations, costs will be awarded dependant on the location of the Headquarters.
Funding available (continued)

Project partners
• Up to 1 FTE per organisation (across whole award)
• Maximum of 10% total Hub award (100% fEC)
• Up to 100% of requested costs awarded

Sub-contracts
• Costs awarded based on the location of the country managing the sub-contract
Ineligible costs

Not eligible

• Capital expenditure or infrastructure
• Costs for Government departments and business (outside sub-contracts)
• Fees/stipends for Masters and PhD students
How to apply
Naming convention

• GCRF ‘X’ Hub
  • ‘X’ = description of challenge ≤ 5 words
  • Comprehensible to the intelligent lay person

Cannot contain:
• Acronyms
• Jargon
• Technical terms
• Names of people or organisations
Intention to Submit

- Mandatory for applicants wishing to submit an outline application.
- Short online survey:
  - PI details, title, primary challenge area, approximate total fEC
- Deadline: 29th September

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/O3I1I/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/O3I1I/)
Outline proposals

Submissions must be via Je-S ([JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk))

In addition to the Je-S Outline Proposal applicants must include:

- Case for Support
  - Section 1. Proposal details (max 5 pages)
  - Section 2. ODA compliance statement (1 page)
  - Section 3. Organisational commitment
- CV for PI/Hub Director

Deadline: 9th November, 16:00
Assessment process
Overview of Peer Review Process

Intention to Submit

Outline Stage
- Outline proposal submitted via Je-S
- Office checks
- Assessment by Expert Panel
- Some applicants invited to submit a full proposal

Full Stage
- Full proposal submitted via Je-S (invitation only)
- Office checks
- External Peer Review
- Assessment by Expert Panel
- Some applicants invited to interview
- Interview Panel
Expert Panels

All panels will be constructed to meet the following principles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interdisciplinary</th>
<th>Representation of a broad range of disciplines and inclusion of individuals with a track record of interdisciplinary working</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Academic and non-academic representation from DAC list countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Inclusion of user communities and others with the ability to assess the likelihood of impact</td>
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</table>
Outline stage assessment criteria

- Fit to call
- Research excellence
- Research team and interdisciplinary partnerships
- Likelihood of impact
Full stage assessment criteria

- Strategic rationale
- Research excellence
- Capability and interdisciplinary research team
- Capacity building and international partnerships
- Likelihood and pathways to impact
- Leadership and management
- Organisation, monitoring and evaluation
- Ethics
- Value for money
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call for outline proposals opens</td>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intention to Submit survey opens</td>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intention to Submit survey closes</td>
<td>29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for outline proposals closes</td>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline proposal assessment panel</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline proposal outcomes announced</td>
<td>January/February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for full applications opens (invite only)</td>
<td>January/February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for proposals closes</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full proposal sift panel</td>
<td>September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full proposal interview panel</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full proposal outcomes announced</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful awards start</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; December 2018</td>
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</table>
Hints and tips
In addition, Hubs are required to act as a key focal point within the global research landscape.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call 1</th>
<th>Call 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary focus on capacity and capability building, with supporting activities including research</td>
<td>Primary focus on core research programme with supporting activities including capacity and capability building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on a significant development challenge</td>
<td>Requirement to consider a broader/more complex challenge and the interactions (+ve/-ve) with other development challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary approaches strongly encouraged</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary approaches a key requirement, with particular focus on novel disciplinary combinations, perspectives and approaches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lessons learned from previous GCRF activities

- These are not just standard grants with overseas partners
- Proposals need to be ODA challenge-led/solution-focused
- Applicants need to demonstrate an understanding of the context (societal, cultural, political, historical, economic etc.)
- In-country partners need to be appropriate, involved in the scoping and delivery of the research and add value
- Support adaptability and resilience by focusing on key competencies/expertise required rather than specific work streams and staff
- Be clear and realistic about the potential impact
  - Directly associated with this grant
  - What are the benefits beyond the lifetime of the grant?
- Learn from others!
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?
Is it Official Development Assistance?

Applicants should:

- Seek to investigate a **specific problem** or seek a **specific outcome** which will have an impact on a developing country or countries on the DAC list;
- Provide evidence as to **why this is a problem** for the developing country or countries;
- **Address the issue** identified effectively and efficiently;
- Use the **strengths of the UK** to address the issue, working **in collaboration** with others as appropriate;
- Demonstrate that the research is of an **internationally excellent** standard;
- Identify **appropriate pathways to impact** to ensure that the developing country benefits from the research.
GCRF: Current Opportunities and Further Information
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
Current funding opportunities

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
• New activities released periodically
  • www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf
• These are not the only ODA opportunities!
## Current opportunities: GCRF activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call title</th>
<th>Lead Delivery Partner</th>
<th>Closing date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resilient and sustainable energy networks for developing countries</td>
<td>EPSRC</td>
<td>21st Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund</td>
<td>BBSRC</td>
<td>28th Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Research hubs to Address Intractable Challenges Faced by Developing Countries</td>
<td>RCUK</td>
<td>29th Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCRF Africa Catalyst</td>
<td>RAEng</td>
<td>23rd Oct 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHRC-MRC Global Public Health: Global Challenge Research Fund Partnership Awards (Call 2)</td>
<td>AHRC</td>
<td>26th Oct 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Agriculture for Sub-Saharan Africa (SASSA) call</td>
<td>BBSRC</td>
<td>8th Nov 2017</td>
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</table>
## Current opportunities: Research Council led Newton activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call title</th>
<th>Lead RC</th>
<th>Closing date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agri-Tech in China: Newton Network+ Small Project Awards</td>
<td>STFC</td>
<td>15th Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK-Thailand Joint Initiative on Infectious Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td>19th Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK China AMR Joint Centre Partnerships initiative</td>
<td>RCUK</td>
<td>19th Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK-China Agri-Tech</td>
<td>IUK/BBSRC</td>
<td>20th Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC-CONFAP Call for Health Systems Research Networks</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td>26th Sept 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton RCUK-CONICYT Broadening Impact Call</td>
<td>RCUK</td>
<td>3rd Oct 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK-Guangdong (China) - Urban innovation</td>
<td>IUK</td>
<td>4th Oct 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India:UK Bio-technological solutions for reducing industrial waste</td>
<td>IUK/BBSRC/EPSRC</td>
<td>11th Oct 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK-India Pulses and Oilseeds Research Initiative</td>
<td>BBSRC</td>
<td>24th Oct 2017</td>
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Contacts

gcrf@rcuk.ac.uk

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01793 444014