



## **Global Challenges Research Fund – RCUK Collective Fund**

### **Growing Research Capability to Meet the Challenges Faced by Developing Countries**

The RCUK GCRF team held a Twitter Q&A on 28<sup>th</sup> September addressing questions on this call, a summary of the discussion can be found here:

[storify.com/research\\_uk/gcrf-twitter-chat](https://storify.com/research_uk/gcrf-twitter-chat)

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. I'm already working with partners in developing countries can these partners be involved in the programme?**

Yes, programmes funded under the call should aim to enhance existing partnerships as well as build new ones depending on the needs for addressing the challenge/s.

#### **2. Can programmes partner with more than one country?**

Yes, applicants should work with the most appropriate country or countries relevant to the development challenge/s identified. This can include single or multi-country interactions.

#### **3. Where can I find out more about partnership building?**

The following resource at the UKCDS website provides a useful summary:

<http://www.ukcds.org.uk/resources/finding-and-building-effective-partnerships>

#### **4. Given part of the inception phase will involve building new partnerships how much detail should I include about the later years of the programme?**

The application should set out the overall vision for the four years and the planned programme. It is expected the programme will evolve over the four years as partnerships are built and development contexts change.

#### **5. What will the format of the stage-gate review be?**

Programmes will be awarded funding for four years subject to a stage-gate review. After the first 12 months, funded programmes will be required to demonstrate initial

progress against the programme's objectives as well as outline more detailed plans for the future of the programme in order to confirm continuation of funding.

**6. The call mentions that up to three challenges can be identified per application. Does the programme need to address three challenges? Do the (two or three) challenges need to be related?**

Applications can address up to three, i.e., one-three challenges. If multiple challenges are to be addressed within a single application they should be connected and should fit under a coherent vision.

**7. Awards are expected to be in the range of £2-8 million research council contribution? What size of award should we apply for?**

Individual proposals can request for between two and eight million pounds from the research councils. This figure will be at 80%FEC for the UK research part and 100% FEC for other costs as outlined in the call document. The size of the award should be appropriate for the research capability of the organisation/s applying with the final figure dependent on the scope of the proposal and the scale of the challenge/s.

**8. What proportion of the costs should be allocated to the UK and what proportion should be allocated elsewhere?**

As capacity strengthening in [DAC](#) list countries is a key part of this call it is expected some of the funds will be allocated to be spent in those countries. There is no set limit on the proportion of funding that can go to DAC list countries as this will depend on the challenges being addressed and the nature of the research proposed to address those challenges.

**9. What proportion of costs should be spent on impact/monitoring and evaluation activities?**

Reasonable costs should be applied for to maximise and monitor the impact of the programmes. The appropriateness of the costs will be determined by peer review.

**10. What do you mean by legacy/sustainability? Will there be funding beyond the end of the award?**

There may be opportunities to extend funding for the programme awards beyond the initial four years but part of the capacity and capability growth should be enabling groups and individuals to respond to future funding opportunities, e.g., from other GCRF calls. Programmes should also be aiming to set up a legacy of impact beyond the four years, for example, by working with non-academic stakeholders (practitioners, industry, governments etc.).

**11. Can a UK based business, government or third sector or NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) be a partner on this call?**

Any organisation, e.g., business, government or third sector (such as charities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)) can be a project partner on the call regardless of where they are based, and we welcome these collaborations. We expect such organisations to make a contribution (cash or in-kind) to the programme, however in acknowledgment of the fact some smaller third sector organisations do not have the capacity to co-fund or self-support research activities, costs to support partners from these organisations are eligible under this call.

**12. What disciplines need to be involved, do the programmes need to be multi/inter-disciplinary?**

The GCRF RCUK Collective Fund spans the full remit of all seven research councils so any discipline within the remit of at least one of the seven councils is eligible so long as the research proposed meets the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA). It is expected programmes will engage the right mix of disciplines necessary to address the identified challenges including those not traditionally engaged in developing country problems. While interdisciplinary working is not a prerequisite it is widely recognised that many of the challenges will require interdisciplinary approaches.

**13. Will Official Development Assistance (ODA) compliance be assessed at the Intention to submit stage?**

ODA compliance will be checked by research council officers at the intention to submit stage and any concerns fed back to the applicant ahead of submission of the full proposal.

**14. Where can I find out more about ODA compliance?**

The RCUK guidance sets out the requirements for ODA compliance across GCRF. <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/international/gcrfodaquidance-pdf/>

**15. Where can I find out more about capacity strengthening?**

A number of resources are available. The UKCDS website is a good place to start. <http://www.ukcds.org.uk/our-work/24?tid=36>

**16. I am an academic/researcher from a country on the [DAC](#) list. Should I fill in an intention to submit form?**

No. Forms should only be submitted by the lead organisation, which for this call should be an eligible UK research organisation.

**17. Can a partner from a third sector organisation (charities/NGOs) be a co-investigator on this call?**

Not on this call, no. They can however apply for some costs and form part of the leadership team where appropriate. The details of this should be outlined in the management section of the case for support.

**18. Can a partner from a non-DAC list country outside the UK be a co-investigator on this call?**

Not on this call, no. They can however be a project partner and provide intellectual input into the programme as long as they provide funds from their own sources.

**19. What do you mean by small consortia? Does this apply to UK or developing country partners?**

Small consortia of UK partners can apply as well as single UK institution bids. The number of developing country partners depends on the nature of the challenge/s being addressed and the scope of the overall programme.

**Contacts**

If you have any questions about the call, please refer to our FAQs document in the first instance. If you have any further questions please contact:

gcrf@rcuk.ac.uk

Or

Robert Felstead  
Senior Policy Manager – Global Challenges Research Fund  
01793 444257

Or

Eloise Meller  
Senior Policy Manager – Global Challenges Research Fund  
01793 414350

**Change log**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Change</b>
Robert Felstead	18/08/2016	1	N/A
Robert Felstead	14/10/2016	2	FAQs 11 amended and 16-19 added