Digital Innovation for Development in Africa (DIDA)

Closing date: 12 November 2019 16:00 GMT

**Funding Available:** At stage one of the call UKRI expects to make 15-20 awards of between £100,000 - £150,000 (100%fEC) over 12 months to seed fund Networks. At stage two, Networks awarded in stage one will be invited to bid into a second call in 2020 with up to £19M available across six to eight projects over 3 years.

**Assessment Process:** Seed fund Network proposals will be considered by an expert panel against the assessment criteria outlined in the call document.

**Key Dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for seed funded Network proposals</td>
<td>12 November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert Panel</td>
<td>Mid-January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding decision</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed fund Network award start date</td>
<td>March 2020</td>
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<td>Workshops (Africa)</td>
<td>March/April 2020</td>
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<td>Deadline for full proposals</td>
<td>September/October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full award start date</td>
<td>Early January 2021</td>
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**Additional information:** Please note that representatives from successful seed fund Network proposals will be required to attend one of two workshops in Africa in 2020.

In order to use the Je-S system, principal investigators, co-investigators and their organisations need to register on the system a minimum of two weeks before the call closing date.

**Please note that applicants must carefully read the full call document for guidance before submitting a proposal.**

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Digital Innovation for Development in Africa (DIDA)

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Summary

UKRI invites proposals to the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) first stage Digital Innovation for Development in Africa (DIDA) call. Stage one focusses on building Networks that bring together academics, industry, NGOs, policymakers and practitioners from Africa with UK partners. These Networks are expected to build new relationships and stimulate novel research and innovation ideas and activities that will enable partners to apply for funding to deliver a co-developed and fully realised project in stage two. This call has three thematic areas of focus and applicants can apply to any strand.

It is expected that a total of £3M will be available for seed funded DIDA Networks with individual projects up to a 12 month duration costing between £100,000 - £150,000 (100% fEC). This initial round of seed funding is available to establish Networks across a range of partners. Researchers from African or UK-based eligible Research Organisations can lead these Networks.

Once the awarded Networks have commenced, they will be eligible to apply to a second competitive call that will fund six to eight projects with total maximum funding of £19M over three years, costing between £1M to £3M each.

Owing to the scope of this call, it is expected that businesses in both the UK and Africa will play a key role in many of these networks. Funded Networks are encouraged to approach industry during the first year of seed funding where the proposed Network does not include a business partner and their inclusion is pertinent. It is UKRI’s aim is to allow business-led proposals to be eligible in the second stage, if a Network considers this the best course of action.

The Global Challenges Research Fund

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a 5-year £1.5Bn fund and a key component in the delivery of the UK Aid Strategy: tackling global challenges in the national interest. The fund aims to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries through:

- Funding challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research;
- Strengthening capacity for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries;
- Providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

Further information about the GCRF and details of other current GCRF calls is available on the UKRI website.
Background to the DIDA call

While it is important to recognise that the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” is not a panacea for age-old development challenges, the potential for digital research and innovation more broadly to address longstanding development issues and question traditional modes of governance and production, is considered especially relevant for emerging and developing economies.

Digital research and innovation for development promotes the use of digital technologies as a democratised and decentralised means to approach development challenges, including openings to:

- Improve health and education;
- Stimulate economic and fiscal growth;
- Increase inclusion for marginalised groups;
- Provide better transparency and tools to hold governments and other institutions to account;
- Offer new and novel ways to improve quality of life.

The UN Secretary-General convened a High-level Panel on Digital Co-operation to realise the full economic and social potential of digital technologies, as well as mitigating the risks these pose. This illustrates the increasing global awareness of the potential of digital technologies and how this is a current and on-going conversation. Digital research and innovation for development has the potential to deliver positive outcomes across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the GCRF Challenge Portfolios. It is pertinent to note, however, that Digital Technologies also have the potential to entrench and amplify existing inequalities in developing countries.

Africa is ranked top of the global internet penetration growth ranking, meaning growth in the number of people using the internet since 2000, is more than in any other continent. This illustrates how digital technologies and advances are becoming more pertinent to people living within these countries. This rapid growth in usage can be utilised to tackle challenges which affect the lives of people throughout Africa. With the largest cohort of people under 25 in history, digital channels have immense opportunities to provide long and lasting impacts.

To help harness the digital development opportunities for Africa, UKRI began by scoping the DIDA call via a dedicated online platform. We invited stakeholders from predominantly the UK and Africa to join the forum and then asked users to identify and discuss pertinent developmental and digital challenges alongside research and innovation needs within African contexts. The ideas presented to UKRI via the online community were grouped into thematic areas and the three most discussed themes were selected for this call, as highlighted below.

The seed fund Networks are intended to facilitate the development of interdisciplinary, international communities working within the three thematic areas of the call. These Networks will catalyse the development of large-scale proposals to be submitted for the
second round of DIDA funding that will meet the following strategic goals in the three thematic areas:

- Answer fundamental research questions, with clearly defined pathways to impact, that arise from the rapidly evolving spaces in which digital technology is colliding with sustainable development goals.
- Design or develop digital solutions to locally identified development challenges that can result in meaningful and scalable impact within African contexts.
- Build and/or strengthen capacity in Digital Research and Innovation within the African continent.
- Develop new networks and new models of mentorship and partnership for digital research and innovation between Africa and the UK, in a development context.

The initial seed fund Networks will enable and facilitate the co-development and co-design of a programme which can then go on to undertake projects aligned with self-identified digital for development challenges within the thematic areas outlined. These initial seed funded Networks will also provide the opportunity for limited capacity building, for example in the form of peer to peer learning, mentoring and introducing individuals to new disciplines, which is expected to be built upon in the second round of funding.

**Remit and Scope**

This call will support seed funding for Networks working within the following thematic areas:

- **Digital Rights**
- **Smart Communities**
- **Digital Health**

In recognising the use of digital technologies as a contemporary approach to address development challenges, DIDA awards will focus on the impact and/or application of digital solutions to the immediate challenges faced by the most vulnerable in Africa based around the identified themes above. The seed fund DIDA Networks should be multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary. They should also aim to facilitate the development of partnerships between researchers, industry, NGOs, policymakers and practitioners.

**DIDA Workshops (March/April 2020)**

In order to bring Networks together, promote collaboration, share best practice and to facilitate the development of high quality second round bids, two representatives of successful Networks will be required to attend a workshop. These workshops will cover a number of themes, including: equitable partnerships, digital for development, multi-sectoral
networking, gender equality and capacity building. They will also be an opportunity for peer to peer learning around digital technologies as well as the African research landscape and the development challenges involved.

The final dates, location and venue for these workshops will be announced in autumn/winter 2019. An allowance for travel and subsistence for attendance by two representatives at one of these workshops should be included in the proposal when applying to this fund.

**Eligibility**

For the first stage call, the seed fund Network must be led by a Network Leader (Principal Investigator (PI)) based in a UK Research Organisation (RO) eligible to receive funding from UKRI, or, based in an equivalent eligible Research Organisation in an African country. The lead organisation will be responsible for the overall management of the grant including control, disbursement and assurance of funds.

An applicant (PI) may only lead on one application. The main thematic area being addressed must be highlighted in the proposal. We envisage that the proposal may bridge more than one of the thematic areas, however the applicant must still indicate in the case for support which of the three is the most relevant to the proposal.

Network co-leaders (co-investigators) may be based anywhere in the world, however, there must be at least one African and one UK investigator listed on the submission.

Further project partners may be based anywhere in the world, however, an organisation should only be named as a project partner if it is providing specific contributions (either direct or indirect) to the Network. Named partners should confirm these contributions in a letter-headed letter of support.

Proposals may be submitted by individuals who are not already established members of the proposed host institution. In these circumstances, however, the RO should note the standard terms and condition of grant in that they are wholly responsible for the staff funded from the Grant, including Research Fellows, and accept all duties owed to and responsibilities for these staff, including, without limitation, their terms and conditions of employment, and their training and supervision, arising from the employer/employee relationship.

**How to apply to the first stage**

Applicants must submit a seed fund Network proposal by 16:00hrs (GMT) on 12 November 2019.

Applicants should consult the call guidance (below) and the Je-S handbook for general information on how to complete the proposal.
Expectations for second stage proposals

Only successful proposals at the first stage will be invited to submit to the second stage of funding. The projects in the second stage could be either a research project, innovation project or enhanced network building through a ‘Network Plus’ grant. Applicants in the first round should bear these expectations in mind when devising activities in the first round.

Devolved funding is permitted within a Network Plus grant, which allows for a proportion of costs to be allocated by the Network to flexible and agile activities that can respond to emerging priorities not outlined in the original submission.

Full details of the scope, assessment criteria and submission process for the second stage proposals will be provided to successful Networks in spring 2020. This will be a competitive process and not all Networks will proceed to the next stage of funding. One or more seed fund Networks may choose to collaborate on a second stage submission. At the second stage it is UKRI’s aim for seed funded Networks wishing to submit a business-led proposal, that this will be possible by submitting to Innovate UK’s Innovation Funding Service (please note, this is not an option at the first stage).
Guidance for Applicants

Please note the deadline for submitting the Digital Innovation for Development in Africa (DIDA) application is **12 November 2019 16:00 GMT**

The DIDA themes outlined

Participants in the online forum discussed many ideas, underpinned by interdisciplinary research challenges and the digital technologies that might provide effective solutions in these contexts. These ideas and challenges have been thematically grouped within each of the three themes on offer and are presented below. Applicants are required to submit proposals based on these identified themes:

**Digital Rights**

- the impact of disruptive technology on human rights, working conditions, legal protections, and the amplification of existing inequalities
- the use of digital technology to enhance participation and access for women and minority groups
- improving access to and the quality of government services (taxation, voting, justice, visas, healthcare, etc.)
- digital documentation, data vaulting and digital security of official documents (e.g. passports, birth certificates)
- improving participation in civil life and access to justice and democratic institutions

**Smart Communities**

- monitoring and management of terrestrial and coastal environmental services
- monitoring and management of pollution (e.g. green house gases, waste, plastic, air), including hazard forecasting and early-warning systems
- inclusive circular economies, recycling and the management of industrial and municipal waste in urban environments
- access, management and monitoring of drinking water and sanitation in rural and urban settings
- urban traffic management and vehicle pollution
Digital Health

- availability, access and management of patient information and health communications
- reporting, monitoring and controlling the spread of infectious disease
- managing healthcare for remote communities: telemedicine, access to diagnostic medicine, monitoring health, and effective distribution of medicines for remote and/or isolated communities

The online forum participants also commented on areas of digital research and potential frontier technologies involved in addressing the challenges they raised and applicants should confront the opportunities and shortcomings they present. These included: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Data Science, FinTech, the Internet of Things, Mobile and Wearable Technologies, Remote/Orbital Sensing and Virtual and Augmented Reality. The ‘repackaging’ of existing digital technologies where their impact is already demonstrable was also discussed.

These points do not capture the richness of the ideas, comments and concerns raised in the online forum and elsewhere in the ‘digital for development’ community. Applicants to DIDA are advised to consider further the digital dividends and digital divides that research, and innovation may engender or address, particularly in regard to gender and intersectional inequalities and the educational availability and training needs required for working with new digital technologies. Where digital solutions are to be devised, applicants must bear in mind the potential user(s), their level of access to technology and whether digital initiatives ‘leave no one behind’.

Expectations of a seed fund Network

Projects will be supported using a network model, whereby funding will be allocated to a lead research organisation (based either in the UK or Africa) to support an international and multi-sectoral leadership team. Each funded Network will facilitate the development of partnerships between academics, industry, NGOs, policymakers and practitioners in both the Global North and South, allowing for integrated and cross-cutting activities. Business partners are particularly encouraged where projects are focusing on innovative digital solutions.

Each Network is expected to undertake the following types of activity:

- Network building to create or expand teams that contain a breadth of expertise that will be capable of addressing key challenges under one of the three central themes of this call
- Holding events that bring together relevant key stakeholders to exchange ideas, identify challenges and opportunities within one of the three themes to inform future work
• Intellectual leadership and support for the co-development and implementation of a strategic agenda for future research and innovation
• Fostering the sharing of data, insights and experience across disciplines and between teams
• Facilitating the mentoring and/or exchange of staff between organisations;
• Taking a lead in supporting reflection, learning, synthesis, evaluation and impact assessment across activities
• Developing network legacy plans, including a submission to the second round of DIDA funding

Leadership team

The successful seed fund Network should comprise an interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder team and articulate a clear shared vision for the network and the community of relevant stakeholders. The Network should have a breadth of expertise that is commensurate with the complexity of this space and acknowledge the need to nurture future leaders; this may require a new grouping of researchers, innovators and stakeholders, drawing on existing leadership across related areas.

The Network leads will have demonstrable experience of working with a range of partners and of supporting novel approaches to current and emerging issues.

The Network Leader (Principal Investigator) and their respective research organisation will be ultimately responsible for the administration of the seed funded grant and networking arrangements, but they should also work with a team of Co-Is/Co-Directors that reflect the interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral relevance of the Network. The proposal should clearly explain the division of roles between the PI and the rest of the leadership team.

Criteria for Assessment

The submissions for a seed fund Network proposal should be ambitious but realistic, clear and targeted with a coherent timeline. The following aspects of the proposal will be assessed for the seed fund Network stage:

1. Relevance and fit to call:
   a) the Network’s alignment to one of the three thematic areas outlined
   b) the identification of an appropriate range of relevant partners
   c) the Network’s alignment to the sustainable development challenges

2. Quality
   a) Evidence that the proposed Network is ambitious, adventurous and potentially transformative; it will explore novel and new ideas that may have a high risk, high reward element
3. Programme of activities, organisation and management:
   a) how appropriate are the planned activities and how likely are they to deliver the aims of the call
   b) the clarity of objectives and realistic plans to deliver these, including plans for monitoring, evaluation and legacy
   c) competence and complementarity of the participants within the Network
   d) the extent to which the Network fully justifies its costs and can demonstrate good value for money
   e) the extent to which the Network leader and where included the co-leader(s), have the appropriate skills/experience/environment

4. Capacity building, partnerships and inclusion
   a) the degree and quality of co-design and equitable partnership across the partners
   b) the potential for research and innovation capacity building in Africa
   c) to what extent will the Network forge new links and dialogues
   d) appropriate mechanisms for promoting gender equality and inclusion in the network

5. Likelihood of impact:
   a) appropriate engagement with policy/practice/user stakeholders
   b) the potential to deliver impact and/or scalable solutions at the local, national and/or international level beyond the initial funded year.

The submissions for the seed fund Network proposals will be considered by an expert panel only, resulting in a rank ordered list. An initial office sift will be undertaken for ODA compliance and fit to remit and scope of the call.

As this call is funded from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), applicants must ensure that they have considered and addressed requirements on Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidance and gender equality (see below).

Research Ethics

All GCRF awards must be underpinned by a strong research ethic based on mutual respect and understanding for different cultural, ethnic, social and economic beliefs and practices. Solutions to any development challenge(s) must be rooted in, and acceptable to, the institutions, communities and societies where they will operate.

Ethical issues should be interpreted broadly and may encompass areas where regulation and approval processes exist as well as areas where they do not. Applicants must ensure that the proposed research will be carried out to a high ethical standard and must clearly state how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the research commences and all risks are minimised.
The provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 must be observed. All UKRI awards are made on the absolute condition that no work which is controlled by the Act will begin until the necessary licences have been obtained. All work supported by a UKRI award must comply with the principles described in “Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research: expectations of the major research council and charitable funding bodies”. When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards are consistent with the principles of UK legislation. Research involving the use of genetic resources must be carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in the Nagoya Protocol. Any research undertaken outside the UK must have both UK and respective country ethical approvals.

**Capacity Building**

An important aspect of GCRF is capacity development, and UKRI strongly encourages all proposals to this call to identify research and innovation capacity-building activities as part of, and not separate to, the stated approach. Please; note that studentships are **not eligible** under this call.

**Equitable Partnerships**

Partnerships are a key pillar of the GCRF strategy. UKRI developed the following statement of expectation for research partnerships in consultation with researchers from Africa:

*Partnerships should be transparent and based on mutual respect. Partnerships should aim to have clearly articulated equitable distribution of resources, responsibilities, efforts and benefits. Partnerships should recognise different inputs, different interests and different desired outcomes and should ensure the ethical sharing and use of data which is responsive to the identified needs of society.*

Further guidance on how to develop and maintain equitable partnerships is available in the Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) Guide for transboundary research partnerships ‘11 Principles and 7 questions’.

**Funding**

This is a two-stage call which will seed fund around 20 networks over 12 months for between £100,000 to £150,000 (100% fEC) each. In the second stage, competitive funding is available for a further six – eight projects, for which £1m to £3m is available for each project over three years. Only those seed funded applicants at the first stage will be eligible to apply at the second stage.
As this call is funded using the GCRF, applicants are required to submit an ODA compliance statement and should ensure that they have considered and address requirements on Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidance.

For UK Research Organisation (RO) based applicants the Research Councils will pay 80% of their fEC, with the RO contributing the other 20%. Overseas RO applicants from DAC-listed nations can apply for up to 100% fEC of their costs.

GCRF will fund 100% of the justified costs for international principal and co-investigators from countries on the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients (DAC list). International costs should be submitted under Other Directly Incurred costs and marked as Exceptions.

UKRI expects these fully justified costs associated with African investigators’ involvement in the project to exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant (at 100% fEC). No upper limit will be applied, though all costs will need to be fully justified.

Costs associated with co-investigators from countries outside of Africa and the UK, however, should not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant. We further expect international co-investigators from countries outside of the UK and Africa and also not on the DAC list to make a significant contribution to their own costs and that this should be outlined.

If a principal or co-investigator is from a country flagged as likely to graduate from the DAC list during the course of the project this should be treated as a country NOT on the DAC list.

The overhead rate for DAC list country Investigators is up to 20% of direct costs.

Please note that only DAC list country Investigators are eligible for 20% of international salary related costs as overheads/indirect costs and that this does not apply to non-DAC list country Investigators.

Third sector organisations (e.g. NGOs, charities and other non-profit civil society organisations) are eligible to receive a contribution to their costs on the project funded by the research councils. Any non-staff costs must be reasonable; indirect costs and overheads are not allowed. The total costs associated with all third-sector project partners, however, must not exceed 20% of the total Network award (100% fEC), this applies if they are either a Co-I or a project partner. If the third sector organisation is a Co-I on the network staff costs per organisation must not exceed 1 year FTE across the whole award. All staff costs must be based on basic salaries (i.e. not day rates).

All business partners should be listed as Project Partners, business that will not directly receive a financial benefit (e.g. new business) from the proposed grant can cost up to 10% of the total Network award (100% fEC) on travel and subsistence for their staff for Network associated activities. If they will benefit financially then their costs are ineligible and the must cover their own expenses.

Further guidance is provided in the call-specific Je-S Guidance for Applicants.
Other eligible / ineligible costs

Costs for supporting and facilitating meetings and events will be awarded at 100% of the requested cost for investigators based in DAC list countries and 80% fEC for UK investigators. These costs should be justified in the ‘justification of resources’ document. It is expected that costs for network events and activities will make up the majority of the requested funds. This should include costs for attending the DIDA workshops in early 2020. No infrastructure costs should be claimed in association with Network events. Costs for building or room hire outside of the participating institutions is an eligible cost, but should be justified.

Capital or infrastructure expenditure is not an eligible cost for this call. Individual items of equipment above £10,000 are not an eligible cost for this call. Fees and/or stipends associated with Masters and PhD studentships are not eligible under this call; however, Network-specific travel and subsistence associated with students may be included.

The first stage is not intended to support research. Research activities such as staff time for research, consumables or access to equipment are not an eligible cost for this call. PI and Co-I staff time spent on network related activities are considered eligible costs.

Government bodies are not eligible for funding.

All staff costs must be based on basic local salaries (i.e. not day rates).

The following costs may not be included as direct costs for this call and therefore must be included in the requested indirect costs:

- Charges for office or laboratory space
- Electricity, heating, lighting
- Telephone and basic communication costs (unless there is need for significant project based activities such as phone interviews)
- Routine photocopying and printing (Large print runs such as publications or workshop papers may be charged to the grant)
- Standard Office computing, including desktop and laptop computers and associated software. Individual items of computing equipment may not be charged to a grant (High performance computing facilities which are linked to a specific research task may in some circumstances be charged to the grant – for further clarification please check with UKRI)
- Office support staff (e.g. finance staff, basic secretarial support, computing support staff). Project managers can be claimed as a direct cost on the grant
- Continuing Professional Development for staff

ODA compliance

GCRF forms part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (www.oecd.org). ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term
sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee DAC list. Funding within this call will therefore be awarded in a manner that fits with Official ODA guidelines.

To comply with ODA requirements, all proposals must make clear how their primary purpose is to promote the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries within Africa and on the DAC list. Proposals may relate to any country or countries within Africa and on the DAC list except those which are flagged as likely to graduate from the list during the course of the proposed project. If a country is flagged as likely to graduate it cannot be the primary focus of a proposal, although it can be included as an additional case study or comparison. In such proposals the primary purpose of the research must be to promote the development and welfare of a developing country not due to graduate from the list.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how they meet ODA requirements throughout their ‘Case for Support’ and ‘Pathways to Impact’ submission. In addition, all proposals must include a mandatory ‘Non-UK Components’ attachment addressing the following three questions:

1. Which country/countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal?
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?

Important considerations:

To be ODA compliant the principal motivation of the project must be to directly benefit a country or countries in Africa and on the DAC list, and the key/principal beneficiaries of the research should be located in a DAC list country or countries.

It is fine for research to take place outside of a DAC list country or for projects to include a comparative element as long as the principal motivation is to benefit a DAC list country or countries. (It is also fine for research projects to have secondary impacts outside of eligible countries).

If a focus country within a proposal is flagged on the DAC list as likely to graduate from the list during the course of the project then the research would not be ODA compliant unless the primary focus is on a country or countries not due to graduate.

The impact-generating and knowledge exchange related activities must be focused on a DAC list country or countries, and if the applicants intend to generate impact via international organisations or international non-governmental organisations they should explain why this is likely to lead to greater impacts than working directly with stakeholders in-country.
Compliant proposals must address development challenges in an eligible country or countries and be likely to contribute directly to their economic development and/or welfare. Impacts should be targeted at specific DAC list countries and should not depend on the trickle down of a global public good.

Further guidance on how to submit the ODA compliance statement as a ‘non-UK component’ attachment is provided in the call-specific Je-S Guidance for Applicants. UKRI guidance on ODA in relation to GCRF is available.

An initial ODA compliance assessment will take place within UKRI, though final decisions may include input from commissioning panels as well as external sources of ODA expertise.

**ODA transparency and reporting**

As part of the government’s commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DfID ODA reporting requirements, UKRI is responsible for publishing information about UKRI ODA grants including project titles, summaries, objectives and planned impact via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DfID’s national statistics. The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All UKRI funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication. We would be grateful if you would ensure that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words. Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is ODA compliant, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the project and the beneficiary countries.

**Gender Equality Statement**

Official Development Assistance provided by UKRI must comply with the requirements of the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014 which states, the “desirability of providing development assistance that is likely to contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequalities between persons of different gender.”

It is now mandatory for all applications to UKRI GCRF and Newton Fund calls/competitions announced and published after the 1st April 2019 to provide a Gender Equality Statement. This statement must outline how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities, as required under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act. This should be no longer than one page, and should be attached as a ‘non-UK Component’ through Je-S. It is expected that some projects will have less impact on gender and gender relations and professional judgement of the applicants should be exercised to ensure appropriate consideration of the context and intended aims of the project.
Applicants are able to reference other parts of your application within this statement, if relevant. Applicants are required to address the below criteria, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria to address while considering gender impact:

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation and the beneficiaries of the research and innovation.

- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.

- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.

- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?

- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Initial Gender Equality Statement checks will be carried out by UKRI; statements which do not meet eligibility as defined in this document (i.e. an insufficient statement is provided), may be returned for amendment before the panel assessment stage. UKRI reserves the right to reject a proposal where the Gender Equality Statement has not been sufficiently considered with no attempt to address the criteria above.

Panellists will be asked to comment on the appropriateness of the applicants Gender Equality statement as part of the assessment criteria.

The Panel should take the strength of the Gender Equality Statement into consideration when scoring the proposal. In cases where this demonstrates insufficient consideration of gender equality, a potential barrier to delivering impact, and/or if there is potential for the proposed research and innovation to exacerbate inequalities, the panel’s score should be reduced to reflect this. Should the Panel consider that has been appropriately considered within the proposal, but the Gender Equality Statement is insufficient, it is at the Panels discretion to make funding conditional on a sufficient revised Gender Equality Statement being submitted.

**Due Diligence**

As part of UKRI funding assurance, non-UK Research Organisations may be requested to complete an UKRI Overseas Due Diligence Questionnaire. Please be aware that Research Organisations may be contacted by UKRI at any point during the review process. This is in
order to expedite our assurance process. If UKRI does contact any non-UK research partner organisation named on an application, the Lead organisation will be informed.

Non-UK lead organisations will need to undergo UKRI due diligence checks if they have not been checked by UKRI in the last three years. UKRI reserves the right to undertake additional checks within the three year period if required.

For organisations employing co-investigators due diligence checks are for UKRI’s assurance purposes only and do not replace the due diligence requirements of the lead organisation. However, when obtaining information from non-UK research organisations UKRI will request permission to share the information provided with the lead organisation. The lead organisation can then use this information for their own due diligence processes should they wish.

Further guidance for Research Organisations about the UKRI Due Diligence procedures can be found here.

**Safeguarding**

UKRI condemns all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying and harassment. We take a zero-tolerance approach to harm and abuse to any individual employed through or associated with our programmes in all contexts; whether in humanitarian or fragile and conflict-affected settings, in other field contexts, or within the international or UK research and development community which we fund. We expect institutions to promote the highest standards in organisational culture and have in place the systems and procedures required to prevent and tackle all incidents of harm and abuse. Applications must detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks and what policies and procedures will be in place to enable reporting and investigation of allegations when they arise.

**Data Management Plan**

All applicants submitting a proposal to the DIDA call must include a Data Management Plan. Please describe how the transnational project will be managed with emphasis on communication strategies, data management and data sharing across the project and management of intellectual property. Please describe potential routes to translate the outcomes from the project into genuine impacts that benefit the partner country or other DAC list countries. Any additional impacts that benefit the UK should also be noted. You should include interaction with private sector, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders.

This statement must clearly detail how applicants will comply with UKRI’s’ Common Principles on Data Policy, including concise plans for data management and sharing as part of research grant proposal, or provide explicit reasons why data sharing is not possible or appropriate.
Data sharing plans may include details of:

- Data areas and data types - the volume, type and content of data that will be generated, e.g. experimental measurements, records and images
- Standards and metadata - the standards and methodologies that will be adopted for data collection and management, and why these have been selected
- Relationship to other data available in public repositories
- Secondary use - further intended and/or foreseeable research uses for the completed dataset(s)
- Methods for data sharing - planned mechanisms for making these data available, e.g. through deposition in existing public databases or on request, including access mechanisms where appropriate
- Proprietary data - any restrictions on data sharing due to the need to protect proprietary or patentable data
- Timeframes - timescales for public release of data
- Format of the final dataset
- Applicants may claim justifiable costs associated with data sharing activities, which should be captured in the application proforma and in Justification of Resources statement

Please note that preliminary data and descriptions of the proposed work belong in ‘the project’ section of the application form and should not be included in the data sharing statement.

**Reporting**

Successful applicants will be required to report research outcomes on Researchfish® in line with standard UKRI Terms and Conditions. In addition to the standard outcomes all award holders will need to complete sections under the ‘GCRF Collective Fund’ outcomes.

**Application Process**

**Seed Fund Network Proposal**

Applicants are invited to submit proposals through the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system; only those proposals submitted through Je-S will be accepted for processing. Proposals must be costed and approved by the relevant institutional authority at the organisation before submission. The deadline for seed fund Network proposals is **16.00 BST on 12 November 2019.**

Je-S is the electronic submission system which is used by UKRI to provide a common electronic system that supports research administration. More detailed information can be found at [https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/](https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/). In particular, applicants should note the registration
requirements to make a Je-S submission. The Je-S application form for this specific call will be open to applicants in due course.

In order to use the Je-S system, principal investigators, co-investigators and their organisations need to **register on the system a minimum of two weeks before the call closing date**. Registration of both the principal investigator’s organisation and their own details must be completed before the proposal can be formally submitted to UKRI.

Care and attention must be given to completing the online form correctly. Proposals that are not completed correctly may be rejected by UKRI.

UKRI may require applicants to amend parts of proposals, such as the length of attachments or the inclusion of missing mandatory attachments, as a condition of accepting the proposal for processing. Applicants will have only one week following the submission deadline to amend documents as requested and return these to UKRI and applicants. As such applicants are advised to make sure they meet all requirements when they submit.

When submitting your application through Je-S, please follow these steps:

1. Log into your Je-S account
2. Select Council: EPSRC
3. Document type: Standard proposal
4. Scheme: UKRI
5. Call/Type/Mode: Digital Innovation for Development in Africa (DIDA)

Please note that for administrative purposes only this call is hosted by EPSRC, but the DIDA programme is managed by the UKRI International Development team. Interdisciplinary research excellence is central to the GCRF and Investigators from all disciplines are encouraged to apply to the call. The eligibility criteria outlined in this document are specific to the GCRF DIDA call only and does not set a precedent for other UKRI calls.

In addition to the standard proposal document (Je-S form), each application must consist of the following documentation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Maximum page length</th>
<th>Je-S attachment type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIDA network proposal</td>
<td>5 pages</td>
<td>Case for Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification of Resources (JOR)</strong></td>
<td>2 pages</td>
<td>JOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODA compliance statement</td>
<td>1 page</td>
<td>Non-UK component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data management plan</strong></td>
<td>½ - 3 pages (see template)</td>
<td>Data management plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Equality Statement</td>
<td>1 page</td>
<td>Non-UK component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV (for PI and CoIs)</td>
<td>2 pages (each)</td>
<td>CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways to Impact</strong></td>
<td>3 pages</td>
<td>Pathway to impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What we will do with your information

In accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the UK Data Protection Act 2018, the personal information that you provide within the Interest to Submit will specifically be used for the purpose of administering the call. The information will be viewed by UKRI staff and selection panel members but will not be used for any other purpose without your specific consent.

For further information on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information we hold on you, please contact the Data Unit (dataprotection@ukri.org).

Decision Making Process

Applications to the first stage of the call will be considered by a specially convened expert panel of academics and non-academics at a meeting in December 2019. The panel will be asked to assess the proposals against the assessment criteria. The panel will then make formal recommendations to UKRI. There will not be an opportunity to respond to the panels assessment but feedback will be provided to applicants. UKRI may wish to apply additional conditions on grants, and there may be subsequent negotiations on the details of the support offered. Funding decisions are expected to be announced in January 2020 and awards are expected to commence shortly after.

Applications to the second stage will undergo external peer review before being assessed by the specially convened assessment panel. The second stage peer review process will include the opportunity to respond to reviewer comments.

The UKRI commitment to responsible metrics

As part of our commitment to support the recommendations and principles set out by the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), UKRI reviewers and panel members are advised not to use journal-based metrics, such as journal impact factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an investigator’s contributions, or to make funding decisions.

The content of a paper is more important than publication metrics, or the identity of the journal, in which it was published, especially for early-stage researchers. Reviewers and panel members are encouraged to consider the value and impact of all research outputs
(including datasets, software, inventions, patents, preprints, other commercial activities, etc.) in addition to research publications. We advise our peer reviewers and panel members to consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

Additional Grant Conditions

1. **Transfer of funds to UK and overseas organisations:**

   As stated in standard grant Terms and Conditions RGC1, the Research Organisation is accountable for the conduct of the research, the use of public funds and for ensuring the proper financial management of grants use of public funds. These obligations apply whether the research activities are carried out within the host institution or at a second centre e.g. by a collaborator, subcontractor or other third party. The Research Organisation must ensure that funds are spent in a way that is consistent with the purpose and conditions of the award.

   The Research Organisation is responsible for the timely and accurate submission of all expenditure statements and reports required by the award.

   The Research Organisation is responsible for exercising ‘due diligence’ where it relies on third parties to deliver any part of the work funded by the grant. To this effect the accountability of the Research Organisation extends to cover any funds that it passes on to any third party and it is the responsibility of the Research Organisation to ensure compliance against these Terms and Conditions for any third party involved. The Research Organisation must be able to provide the Research Council with details of expenditure by any third party to the Grant.

2. **Safeguarding:**

   You must have policies and procedures in place to safeguard research participants, their communities, direct beneficiaries and research staff from all forms of exploitation, violence, abuse or harm as a result of their association with the Project or with Project staff, associated personnel, volunteers or visitors.

   You are responsible for ensuring that research is conducted in a way that ensures the health, wellbeing, human rights and dignity of the research participants and their communities and is fair and free from exploitation and abuse. All relevant safeguarding legislation and good practice recommendations must be adhered to, we particularly draw your attention to child protection legislation and the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

3. **Attendance of DIDA Workshops:**

   

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An allowance for travel and subsistence for attendance by two representatives at one of these workshops should be included in the proposal when applying to this fund.

Contact
Queries about this funding scheme and proposal process, including eligibility for the call, should be directed to Ruth.McQuitty@ukri.org or GCRF@ukri.org.

Change Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geoff Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth McQuitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Panel, funding decision and workshop dates updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth McQuitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Page 1: minimum time taken to register on Je-S changed to 2 weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth McQuitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Page 13 eligible costs for project partners that are businesses specified. Costs for third sector as Co-Is clarified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth McQuitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Page 14 clarification of the percentage fEC payable for meeting and workshop costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth McQuitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pages 1, 3 and 12 clarification that the £150,00 limit is the 100% fEC figure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth McQuitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pages 1 and 2 'February' removed as the dates for the African workshops have changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth McQuitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Page 13 the word 'research' was removed relating to eligible costs as research costs are ineligible.</td>
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