

Peacebuilding and Resilience in an era of global health challenges: a bilateral research call to enhance understanding and support for mental health challenges in Colombia

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Newton Funding (FAQs)

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What is the Newton Fund?

Both the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF) and the [Newton Fund](#) are part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the [OECD Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) list and is administered with the

promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

UK aid is governed by the International Development Act 2002¹, which requires that aid must be “likely to *contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender*”. Therefore, activities funded through the Newton Fund must adhere to this framework.

The following set of questions outline the ways in which your proposal will need to address reducing poverty and gender inequalities.

Does Newton replace other research funding initiatives focused on international development challenges?

No, Newton is not replacing any existing initiatives. Newton is part of a suite of implementation mechanisms announced as part of the UK Aid Strategy. ESRC funding to address development challenges will continue to be awarded through schemes such as the GCRF (Global Challenges Research Fund), our strategic partnership with DFID (Department for International Development), and other multilateral programmes with other UK research councils. The scientific and geographic focus, as well as eligibility and delivery mechanisms, for each of these schemes may differ, and applicants should make sure they submit their proposal to the most appropriate scheme.

What is Official Development Assistance (ODA)?

ODA stands for Official Development Assistance. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) sets the international standard for defining and registering ODA. The DAC defines ODA as “those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which are:

- provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and
- each transaction of which: a) is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and b) is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25% (discounted at a rate of 10%).”

www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm

¹ The Newton Fund is directly governed by the Act. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

(BEIS) opted not to use the International Development Act as its spending power. Instead, the Science and Technology Act and Higher Education Act form the legal bases for GCRF expenditure. BEIS nonetheless stresses that the objective of the GCRF is to maximise development impact, as per the International Development Act.

Why does my proposal have to meet ODA requirements?

Only grants that comply with ODA requirements can be funded under Newton calls. The definition of ODA eligible research provided by the OECD makes clear that the primary purpose must be to promote the economic growth or welfare of developing countries see www.oecd.org/dac/stats/methodology.htm

Why do I have to complete an ODA statement?

Applicants must clearly articulate their impact plans, demonstrating how they meet ODA requirements throughout their 'Case for Support' attachment. In addition, all proposals must include a two-page attachment addressing the following four questions which will be used by the funders to assess your ODA eligibility:

1. Which country/ countries on the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients (DAC list) will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be eligible to receive ODA for the duration of the research? The primary beneficiary country should be Colombia, but your research might benefit secondary countries.
2. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of Colombia? Please provide evidence of the development need and articulate how the proposed activity is appropriate to address this need.
3. How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of Colombia?
4. What approach(es) you will use to deliver development impact within the lifetime of the project and in the longer-term. Please consider the potential outcomes, the key beneficiary and stakeholder groups and how they will be engaged to enable development impact to be achieved.

The research councils reserve the right to reject applications that do not respond to all four questions. Initial assessment of ODA compliance will take place within ESRC, though final decisions may include input from commissioning panels as well as external sources of ODA expertise. We expect applicants to refer closely to ODA guidance as part of preparing their proposal.

How do I demonstrate that my proposal meets ODA requirements?

When trying to decide whether an activity meets ODA requirements, it is important to focus on the questions typically asked by the OECD. Questions you may wish to consider when writing your proposal include:

- Is the project addressing and promoting the economic development and welfare of Colombians?

- Is there a development need that my project or activity is addressing?
- What would the impact of the project or activity be, and who would benefit?
- How does the project or activity contribute to sustainable development?
- What would success for this activity look like?
- How would success or impact be measured?

Applicants should ensure they have considered existing advice on ODA requirements. Any queries about the ODA eligibility of projects should be raised with the ESRC contact named in the call specification document before submitting an application.

Does my research have to take place in Colombia?

As this call is being funded by Newton Fund, the primary beneficiary of this research should be Colombia. Your research team will include partners from Colombia; therefore, we expect most of the research to be undertaken in Colombia, although we recognise that there will be cases where research relevant to DAC list countries will take place elsewhere. The key to ODA compliance is what the primary purpose of the research is, and where the benefits of the research are expected to be experienced. Where research is conducted, or where research participants are from, are not necessary or sufficient indications of whether or not research meets ODA requirements.

The primary purpose of any Newton research must be to promote the economic development and welfare of a partner country. Any benefit to the UK or any other non-DAC list country can only be a secondary consideration.

Why do I need to submit a gender equality statement?

It will be mandatory for all applications to UKRI Newton Fund calls announced and published after **1 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. You are able to reference other parts of your application within this statement, if relevant.

Applicants are required to address the below criteria in their gender equality statement, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria that must be addressed 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 the beneficiaries of the research.
- 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)?

Is gender just about women?

While sex is biologically determined, gender is socially and culturally defined, meaning gender is not necessarily fixed and can change². This can cause differences in understanding and experiences of gender across different countries, cultures and contexts. UN Women defines gender as the 'social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female' and the relationships between men, women, girls and boys³. Although men and women represent the most common genders, it is becoming increasingly common to think beyond gender binaries.

Gender equality means that people of different genders should have equal rights and entitlements to human, social, economic and cultural development and an equal voice in civil and political rights⁴. However, equality does not mean that everyone has to be the same. For example, women and others have the right to define for themselves the objectives of development and to seek outcomes which are not necessarily identical to those sought and enjoyed by men. The aim of better compliance with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act is to ensure that inequality is not perpetuated; that the different rights and needs of all genders are recognised and addressed; and that people of different genders share the benefits of research and innovation projects.

2 Department for International Development, 2008, *'The Gender Manual'*, accessed 10.01.2019 <<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/dfid-gendermanual-2008.pdf>>, p.51

3 UN Women, *'Concepts and definitions'*, accessed 10.01.2019, <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>>

4 Department for International Development, 2008, *'The Gender Manual'*, accessed 10.01.2019 <<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/dfid-gendermanual-2008.pdf>>, pg 9

Many proposals are unsuccessful not because they lack interesting or important research ideas, but because they fail to adequately communicate how these research ideas will be explored and translated into an achievable plan of action. Many proposals devote too much space to explaining why the research is important and too little to detailing how the research will be conducted. Therefore, it is vital that you have a full understanding of what is required, as well as knowing the various stages of the application process, so that you maximise your chances of receiving grant funding.

Gender isn't relevant to my project, nor is it a priority. How can I provide a statement on this?

When designing and delivering international development research and innovation in a way that is impactful and sustainable, almost all decisions made already consider local context and dynamics – including gender – whether explicitly or not. If your research involves a project team made up of people, involves research participation, involves human samples, benefits people, impacts on people's lives, etc., then gender is relevant to your project. By providing a Gender Equality Statement, you can demonstrate how you have shown meaningful consideration to gender within your project. However, 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.

What are some of the barriers to achieving gender equality and how might these be mitigated?

Within your proposal, you should try to identify any potential barriers to achieving gender equality and put measures in place to mitigate these. Although some barriers may be more relevant or specific to the field the proposed project is in, the local context of the research and innovation and/or the practices used, there are some common potential barriers. For example, no costs built in for care costs which may be incurred as a result of a researcher/innovator travelling overseas with a dependent when undertaking fieldwork; having an external advisory board without a gender balance; unequal or non-proportional representation of voices or participation for people of different genders. Identifying potential barriers from the offset, allows project teams to consider how to mitigate or monitor these, for example, ensuring costs associated with caring duties are costed into the application (often costs that tend to be borne by female researchers/innovators), setting targets for representation of underrepresented genders, collecting information of the gender of research participants, etc.

Incorporating gender equality into my research- things to consider?

- Have you understood that your concepts of gender norms, roles and values may vary across members of your project team, research and innovation participants and beneficiaries?

- Have you understood the different norms and values of gender depending on the context of your research and/or innovation?

Equal opportunities and meaningful contributions

- Is there (or is there a plan to work towards) a gender balance in the project team at all levels? If not, why?
- Are there equal opportunities for persons of different genders in the recruitment of the project team?
- Are all members of the project team involved in the design and delivery of the research and/or innovation in a way that is providing equality of opportunity for people of different genders and across intersecting axes of difference⁵?

Research and innovation content

- If the research and/or innovation involves humans or human physiology, has the relevance of gender to the research question and/or innovation topic been analysed?
- Have you considered the impact on the relations between people of different genders, and of the same gender? For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, etc.?
- If the research and/or innovation involves human participants or human physiology, is there a gender balance? If not, why?
- Have you reviewed literature and other sources (such as expertise/networks within the local context) relating to gender differences in the research and/or innovation field?
- Have you considered how to disaggregate any data you collect by gender?

Dissemination and impact of your research

- Have different outcomes, outputs and impacts of the research and/or innovation been identified based on gender and gender differences?
- Have you considered how you will disseminate your research and/or innovation in a way that is gender responsive? For example, the use of gender-impartial language.

⁵ Intersecting axes of difference, or, intersectionality, are terms used to refer to 'the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage' – [Oxford Dictionary](#)