

## Global Challenges Research Fund: Global Engagement Networks Call Guidance

### Summary

As part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), UK Research and Innovation invites proposals for community building networks focused around research challenges within the six strategic GCRF Challenge portfolios. Up to £150, 000 is available per network, over a 2 year period. These funds are to support running costs, events and activities.

The Network Director (Principal Investigator) for each Network must be an academic based at an eligible research organisation in a country on the OECD DAC list.

There will be a 2 stage application process: an initial **mandatory** outline stage will be assessed for eligibility and relevance and fit to the call; successful applications will be invited to submit a full application, which will be assessed by an external expert review panel.

Outline applications must be submitted through Smart Survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UKRI-GCRF-GENetworks/> by **16:00 British Summer Time on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018**. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

### **1. Background**

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5bn initiative that aims to support cutting-edge interdisciplinary research that addresses the global issues faced by developing countries. Between October 2017 and January 2018, the GCRF ran four regional Global Engagement meetings in Colombia, India, South Africa and Kenya. These meetings were designed to bring together delegates from different countries and different disciplines, and representing a mix of academic and non-academic organisations (e.g. non-governmental organisations; charities; policy makers; international funders). The aim of these events was to enable the formation of new partnerships and to engage non-UK researchers with the GCRF. Interactive sessions and discussions at these events emphasised the importance of developing equitable partnerships, co-creation of research projects and the time and resources required to build interdisciplinary international partnerships.

Following on from these events, UK Research and Innovation are pleased to announce a call for community building network proposals. These networks are intended to:

- Bring together experts from multiple disciplines to enable innovative solutions to development challenges
- Facilitate interactions between researchers and non-academic stakeholders/users
- Increase the engagement of experts within countries that are on the OECD DAC list with the GCRF and associated opportunities
- Engage with the GCRF Challenge Leaders to feed into the future strategy for the GCRF portfolios

## 2. Scope

These networks are funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and therefore are required to address challenges primarily relevant to the health or prosperity of a country or countries on the OECD DAC List, however this need not be limited to the country of residence of the Network Director. The list of ODA recipient countries is available at:

[http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC\\_List\\_ODA\\_Recipients2018to2020\\_flows\\_En.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf)).

Further guidance on ODA compliance for applications to GCRF can be found here:

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/>

Networks funded by this call must focus on a challenge or challenges within one of the six strategic GCRF Challenge portfolios:

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

We anticipate funding 1-3 networks in each of the above portfolios, depending on the quality of applications received. Whilst we welcome Networks in any challenges relevant to these portfolios, the GCRF Challenge Leaders have identified the following priority areas in which we would particularly welcome applications:

### **Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure**

This network call welcomes proposals that engage critically with cities as complex systems, and recognise that urban areas not only concentrate opportunities, jobs, and services, they are important constellations of knowledge and culture. Equally however, cities and towns are not immune to failure. Urban spaces, processes and institutions are gendered, and can become unequal, segregated, and racialised. Over time such inequalities get locked into spatial forms, institutions and infrastructures. Local actions of at-risk and vulnerable groups need to be understood as they often are the catalysts that drive positive urban transformations. Understanding and navigating within this type of complexity requires interdisciplinarity, but in ways that are actionable and legible to local practitioners and change makers. Topics of particular interest for this call include but are not limited to:

- Creating safe and inclusive cities
- Living in the built environment and Non-Communicable Diseases
- Youth, jobs and cities
- Cities, conservation and cultural heritage
- Affordable housing and accessible infrastructure
- Design, disability and demography

### **Education in Emergencies**

Conflicts, natural disasters and public health emergencies prevent millions of children from attending school each year. Yet the Inter-Agency Network Education in Emergencies (INEE) notes that there continues to be 'limited research evidence on the value and impact of education in the prevention of, response to and recovery from natural disasters and complex emergencies'. Exploration of learning at any stage of, or across, the educational lifecourse, including early childhood development, primary, secondary, non-formal, technical, vocational, higher and adult education will be considered. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, interdisciplinary explorations of the following:

- Education responses in Urban settings
- Education and physical, psychosocial, and cognitive protection
- Overcoming barriers to education access
- Teacher training, learning and development
- Learning within specific crisis affected groups, such as ex-combatants, injured, orphaned, traumatised, marginalised
- Education, resilience and social cohesion

### **Food Systems portfolio**

- Reducing food loss and waste (throughout value chains)
- Food systems in conflict environment
- Nutrition education
- Integrated approaches to micronutrient intake (biofortification and fortification)
- Scaling up local agricultural technology (agritech) for sustainable development
- Enhancing disaster risk insurance for development

### **Global Health portfolio**

Health and well-being is not only a fundamental human right but also indispensable for sustainable development. Progress has been made in health but challenges remain where the causes of ill health are multifactorial and could be associated with the environment, poverty, inequality or stigma. This Network call welcomes proposals that seek an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to develop solutions to the major health challenges identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3. Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Infectious disease
- Non-communicable disease
- Child and maternal health
- Sexual health
- Mental health
- Health related to air, soil and water pollution

### **Resilience to Environmental Shocks and Change**

The SDGs and Sendai Framework call for resilience building that is transformational – that opens space and enhances practice for more just and sustainable futures. This goes beyond policy framing to ‘do no harm’ towards the aim of ‘building back better’ in ways that ‘leave no-one behind’. Networks will be supported that bring together cross-sectoral research, policy and practice with focus on specific geographical or policy areas where science can be a facilitator for transformation within climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction processes, integrating these more clearly with development. In particular, networks should consider how they can contribute to building and strengthening communities of practice working post-disaster:

- Across more than one hazard type (including extending beyond natural hazards)
- Connecting preparedness, response, recovery and development.
- Across cultural contexts
- Across scale and trade-offs between immediate and long-term concerns.
- Across risk modelling traditions

### **Security Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement**

This network call welcomes proposals that promote critical thinking and address the role of assumptions, and other potentially problematic aspects of interventions designed for countering Violent Extremism. This includes approaches that move away from the ‘structural drivers’ alone and also distinguish between individual incentives and enabling factors within non-urban and international borders in fragile regions. The significance, value and utility of social networks, mentoring as well as the myriad meanings of justice

and its role in Violent Extremism is a research gap that this network call seeks to address. Topics of interest for this call include but are not limited to:

- Prevention and its relationship with Resilience
- The role of 'inclusion' in State Policy and Non-State Actors
- Conflict and Livelihoods
- Conflict, Health and Education
- Violent Extremism – preventing and countering
- Community driven initiatives from PCVE
- 'Do No Harm' approach to Development initiatives – critical evaluation
- Emerging fragilities
- 'Exclusion' and approaches to resolution
- Education, Conflict and Prevention
- Conflict Prevention – rural and city

Networks must clearly demonstrate how they will add value to and complement existing development partnerships and global research landscape, including previous network investments by the GCRF.

### **Network Management, Membership and Activities**

Each Network will be led by a Network Director (Principal Investigator [PI]) who can be assisted by **ONE** Network Co-Director (Co-Investigator [CoI]). **The Network Director must be an academic based at an eligible research organisation in a country on the OECD DAC list**, the Co-Director can be based at an eligible research organisation in a country on the OECD DAC list or in the UK. It is expected that the day-to-day management of each Network will be undertaken by a suitably qualified Network Manager employed by the Director and/or Co-Director's organisation.

Each Network should:

- have international membership from the relevant academic, business and stakeholder communities, in particular those from countries on the OECD's DAC list.
- be interdisciplinary and comprise a diversity of expertise and experience.
- include participation at all levels including, where appropriate, postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers as well as more senior members.

Up to £150,000 is available over 2 years for each network. Each Network is required to have an initial plan for the 2 year period, identifying the scale and scope of the intended membership, the scale and types of activities that will be undertaken by the network, and an approximate timeframe. It is anticipated that the details of these activities will developed through consultation with the membership.

Successful Networks are intended to be 'open' in that participation by other interested members will be encouraged throughout the life of the Network in order to develop the community as it matures. How new members can join the Network should be described in the application.

It is not necessary to identify potential Network members in order to submit an Outline application. However, in the full proposal applicants will be expected to identify the first five individuals who will become Network members and provide letters of support from these members. The Network members should **NOT** be listed on the Je-S proforma, nor should any salary be requested for Network members.

While the funders do not wish to be prescriptive and are encouraging applicants to take a creative approach to building community Networks the following activities are **not within the scope of the call**:

- Closed Networks – the purpose of the call is to support the development of 'open' community Networks. Networks which are composed of a small fixed number of individuals which do not

articulate a clear plan for encouraging and building wider membership as the community matures will not be considered under this call.

- Research proposals – this call is not intended to support research projects and research costs are not eligible for funding under this call.

## Eligibility

The eligibility criteria below, particularly the eligibility of non-UK based academics to act as the lead applicant (Network Director), refers to **this call only**, eligibility for this call does not confer eligibility for any future UKRI or GCRF calls.

The Network Director must have completed a PhD or have equivalent experience and have a permanent position or fixed-term contract for the duration of the award at an eligible research organisation in a country on the OECD DAC list. The Co-Director must also have completed a PhD or have equivalent experience and have a permanent position or fixed-term contract for the duration of the award at an eligible research organisation either in a country on the OECD DAC list or in the UK. Eligible research organisations are education organisations, public laboratories, or other non-profit research intensive organisations. The criteria for eligibility are outlined in the table below; prior to completing an Outline application, applicants should be confident that their institution will meet these eligibility criteria.

At the full application stage, a letter of support from the Pro-Vice Chancellor for research (or equivalent authority) of the organisation will be required to confirm that they are able to meet the eligibility and assurance requirements identified in the table below, and agree to provide information to UK Research and Innovation when requested. In the letter they should also provide a contact email address for any due diligence enquiries.

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Ability to deliver</b></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide evidence of a strong track record of maximising the wider impact and value of its research to the benefit of local economies and society;</li> <li>• have a cohort of researchers (normally a minimum of 10) with sufficient capacity to deliver research and a demonstrated track record. This should include a significant number of publications in journals and/or monographs with key academic publishers, and/or other outputs that have been subject to peer review. Journal quality should take into account benchmark measures appropriate to the regional context and research disciplines;</li> <li>• have a track record of staff, while employed at the organisation, leading or co-leading innovative research projects in the previous five years including, if applicable, directing postdoctoral researchers and/or research students; and</li> <li>• have sufficient financial support for research at the organisational level to ensure the availability of essential infrastructure and the long-term sustainability of research activity, as evidenced by research project income across all projects totalling at least £100k pa over the previous three years.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Governance and control</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be a higher education organisation, public laboratory, or non-profit research intensive organisation;</li> <li>• have a governing board with representation independent of the institution appointed to jointly oversee the management of the whole organisation;</li> <li>• have satisfactory processes for preventing, detecting, reporting and responding to allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption;</li> </ul>  |

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|                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have satisfactory processes for the effective collection, management, analysis and dissemination of data;</li> <li>• have satisfactory processes in place that meet Research Integrity and Ethics requirements, including processes for dealing with allegations of misconduct;</li> <li>• be subject to an independent annual audit; and</li> <li>• have measures in place to prevent and mitigate conflict of interest which could affect employees or governing board members participation in decision-making.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Financial stability</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be permitted by their country's government to receive funding from foreign sources;</li> <li>• have a bank account that is in its legal name; and that can be reconciled to the finance management system;</li> <li>• have a basic finance management system that can be used to reconcile the bank account, to record all cash and payments ensuring that all transactions can be individually identified and provides suitable storage for supporting documentation; and</li> <li>• have satisfactory procedures in place for making payments for per diem, travel advances or review of receipts and subsequent reimbursement of expenses for approved official travel.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sub-contract Management</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is a policy in place to sufficiently manage sub-contractors including provisions for ensuring their compliance with UKRI terms and conditions.</li> </ul>  |

For organisations that are registered in multiple countries the capacity of the whole organisation may be factored into meeting the eligibility criteria as long as the overall research environment meets that criteria and that the organisation works in a joined up way, i.e., not fragmented research centres in different countries.

As part of UK Research and Innovation funding assurance, organisations may be requested to complete a UK Research and Innovation Overseas Due Diligence Questionnaire. Please be aware that organisations may be contacted by UK Research and Innovation at any point during the expert review process. This is in order to expedite our assurance process.

### **3. Eligible costs**

All costs incurred in DAC list countries are eligible to receive 100% of the requested cost, any UK costs requested will be awarded at 80% of the requested cost. Please note that all funds will be administered through the organisation employing the Network Director.

Capital or infrastructure expenditure is not an eligible cost for this call, this includes individual items of equipment above £10,000. This call is not intended to support research projects and research costs, including consumables and staff time to carry out research, are not eligible costs.

#### **Salaries and support costs**

All staff costs must be based on basic salaries (i.e. not day rates). It is recommended these costs are agreed with your Institution before submitting the Outline application.

#### ***Network Director***

The Director of the Network should be the named Principle Investigator on the proposal and may request funds to cover their salary costs for the time spent developing and directing the Network.

### **Co-Director**

Requests can also be made for funds to support the salary for the time of **ONE** Co-Director, who will be named as the Co-Investigator, to assist the Network's Director in this role. This Co-Director can be based at a research organisation in a country on the OECD DAC list or at a UK research organisation.

### **Network Manager**

Costs can be requested for an appropriately skilled Network Manager (full or part-time) to be responsible for activities such as the day-to-day Network management, event coordination, and website development for the Network. The salary of the Network Manager will be awarded at 100% of the requested cost if they are based at an eligible organisation in a country on the OECD DAC list. Additional funds to support the infrastructure required for this role, for example charges for office space, electricity, lighting, printing, telephone and basic communication costs, standard office computing etc. Up to 30% of the Network manager costs can be requested to cover this. It should be made clear in the full application what these costs are required to cover.

### **Administrative support**

Costs can also be requested for additional administrative support to assist the Network Manager, if required.

The time spent on directing and managing the Network should be reasonable and is not expected to form the majority of costs of the proposal. Salary costs and attendance fees for Network members should **NOT** be included in the proposal.

### **Network events**

Costs for supporting and facilitating meetings and events will be awarded at 100% of the requested cost. These costs should be briefly justified in the Outline application. It is expected that costs for network events and activities will make up the majority of the requested funds. **No infrastructure costs should be claimed in association with Network events.**

Network events should aim to:

- Include a broad range of disciplines and perspectives relevant to addressing the challenge(s) identified.
- Offer a series of structured activities that build bridges between disciplines and find novel and innovative ways to enable knowledge sharing and collaboration between academic researchers and other stakeholders.
- Provide a forum for discussion and development of cross-disciplinary research projects.

#### **4. Monitoring of the Networks**

All awards will be expected to adhere to UK Research and Innovation Terms and Conditions. The Networks will be funded through the GCRF which is part of the UK Government's ODA commitment. The funded Networks will be expected to comply with all ODA reporting criteria including regular progress reports, details to be confirmed. In addition, each Network will be expected to disseminate the outcomes of its activities widely and appropriately (e.g. through meetings, web pages, newsletters or published reports).

#### **5. Completing the Outline application**

Completion of an outline application is mandatory, full applications will be accepted by invitation only. Outline applications should be submitted through Smart Survey:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UKRI-GCRF-GENetworks/> by **16:00 British Summer Time on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Smart survey questions:

- Network Director and Co-Director (if applicable) details, including contact details, Research Organisation and position
- Challenge focus of the network and how this challenge fits with the strategic GCRF Challenge portfolios
- Why is a network needed in this area and how will this add value to existing activities?
- Brief description of planned membership and network activities
- Indicative Overall budget and a simple breakdown of costs (ie, of the total budget what is PI and Co-I salaries, costs for Network Manager, Estates and Indirects and Events costs, travel costs, dissemination costs (website, newsletters, social media etc))

Proposals will be sifted at the outline stage based on the following criteria:

- Eligibility of the Network Director and Co-Director (if applicable)
- Relevance and fit to call: Does the network target a sustainable development challenge, how relevant to the GCRF Challenge portfolios is the challenge, to what extent would the network add value to existing investments

Successful proposals will be invited to submit a more detailed full proposal through the Je-S system. Full proposals will be assessed by an external expert review panel against the criteria listed below.

#### **6. Full Call Assessment Criteria**

- A. Relevance and fit to call: Does the network target a sustainable development challenge, how relevant to the GCRF Challenge portfolios is the challenge, to what extent would the network add value to existing investments, how well will the network enable new perspectives not constrained by disciplinary silos
- B. Capability of the team: To what extent does the Director, and where included the Co-director, have the appropriate skills/experience/environment
- C. Programme of activities, organisation and management: How appropriate are the planned activities and how likely are they to deliver the aims of the call, are there clear objectives and realistic plans to deliver these, including plans for monitoring, evaluation and legacy. To what extent does the network demonstrate good value for money.
- D. Likelihood of impact: How likely is the network have significant impact, how appropriate are the identified pathways to impact, is there appropriate engagement with policy/practice/user stakeholders
- E. Capacity building, partnership and inclusion: To what extent will the network forge new links and dialogues, create strong and enduring, equitable partnerships, how appropriate are mechanisms for promoting equality and inclusion in the network