

Section A: Official Development Assistance (ODA) and GCRF strategy

The strategy

1. Summarise the key aspects of your three year **strategy for development related and GCRF research activity**, including:
 - a. Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19.
 - b. A summary of the key aspects of your three year strategic plan for QR GCRF, in light of the criteria and objectives for the GCRF outlined in the guidance.
 - c. How activity funded through QR GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.
 - d. How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.¹
 - e. How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using QR.
 - f. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy.
 - g. The key activities by which you will realise your objectives, such as capacity and capability building; mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research; generating impact from research; meeting the full economic cost of GCRF activity funded through other sources; rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need; and pump priming.
 - h. The main developing countries, included in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list, which you intend to collaborate with.

1.1 Overall development-related research strategy and objectives

Our Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) [Strategy](#) states our aim to achieve the highest standards in research, using disciplinary strengths and multi-disciplinary approaches to tackle the most challenging and pressing research problems. Furthermore, we commit to achieving maximum impact from our academic work through public engagement and partnerships with businesses, government, charities, cultural organisations, and others in the wider community. This ethos also underpins our approach to international and development-related research. We aim to encourage and facilitate outstanding research across a wide spectrum of disciplines that will deliver maximum impact to developing countries, whether health-related, economic, cultural, social, political or environmental.

¹ UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund,
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/challenges/>

We recognise that the diverse and complex nature of many of the major developmental challenges require interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to research, and we aim to foster these through investment into initiatives to support discipline-bridging activities. For example, our Life Sciences Initiative (LSI) is a multidisciplinary endeavour involving all three of our academic Faculties with the primary aim of fostering interdisciplinary working aimed at addressing major health challenges.

QMUL is well placed to contribute to the success of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the associated key areas outlined in the UK Strategy for the GCRF, with world-leading multidisciplinary research expertise in the areas of:

- sustainable health and well being
- forced displacement and multiple refugee crises;

and significant concentrations of research excellence in:

- conflict reduction, social justice and humanitarian action
- poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities
- sustainable cities and communities
- sustainable energy
- environmental change

World-leading clinical research at QMUL has helped to revolutionise treatments for some of the most pervasive and complex diseases affecting global and local populations. Core research domains consist of Population Health, Genomic Medicine, Cancer, Cardiovascular, Inflammation, and Trauma. QMUL currently hosts a number of major health-based research programmes across developing countries in Africa, Asia, and South America and we are part of the [Wellcome Trust Bloomsbury Centre for Global Health Research](#). Key development-related Global Health research strengths including nutrition, mental health, child health, women's health, cancer and surgery.

In addition to sustainable health and wellbeing, our development-related research strengths in the areas of forced displacement and refugee crises, social justice and humanitarian action, and poverty and inequality are clearly highlighted within our cross-disciplinary research centres which include the Centre for the Study of Migration, the Centre for Labour and Global Production, the International State Crime Initiative and the Centre for Research in Equality and Diversity. QMUL's [People's Palace Projects](#) initiative has an exceptional track record of creating and delivering innovative arts and cultural projects that have had a measurable impact on people's lives in developing countries, including gang crime reduction and the improvement of degraded environments in Brazil. Furthermore, our membership of the [London International Development Centre](#) facilitates interdisciplinary research and activities to tackle complex problems in international development and creates a network of interdisciplinary researchers, with much overlap in the areas of focus of our GCRF strategy.

Researchers from QMUL have already secured multiple GCRF awards totalling over £10m to deliver research that will benefit people in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), via NIHR and RCUK competitive funding schemes. These include innovative programmes to tackle under-nutrition, TB, and child asthma in Africa, reducing salt intake levels in China, improving mental health interventions in LMICs in collaboration with partners in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia and Uganda, the gender politics of demilitarisation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and programmes in Brazil to grow the creative economy sector, and to pilot models of sustainable cultural indigenous development.

In addition to facilitating excellent development-related research through the establishment of appropriate interdisciplinary structures, our strategy includes leveraging the expertise of individuals in challenge-led international development research to increase engagement with the GCRF agenda within the QMUL research community. We have, for example, hosted networking and information events to help our researchers understand how to focus their own expertise on the challenges faced by developing countries and to meet potential collaborators.

Alongside the arrival of a new Vice-Principal (International) in April 2018, we will further cultivate engagement and build capacity through the formation of a new Global Policy Institute. This will create a platform to bring together our GCRF researchers from across the institution to further develop our international policy work and generate impact beyond the sector. In doing so, we aim to place our various disciplines at the service of other societies and thus create new research opportunities, impact generation opportunities and training programmes. We will use the insights of our research to foster public debate and influence policy, delivering to grand challenges through helping build resilience of people and systems. To ensure effective use of GCRF funds, a core aspect of the work of the Global Policy Institute will be to further develop and refine our monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure activities are on track and delivering maximum political impact.

1.2 Three year institutional GCRF strategy and alignment with UK GCRF strategy and other institutional strategies

Our three-year GCRF strategy reflects our overall development-related research strategy in that we intend to support and grow key areas of existing ODA-compliant research excellence across the institution, and to expand research capacity, networks and partnerships to enhance the breadth of our portfolio of GCRF activities and the impact of our world-leading research in LMICs.

QMUL has extensive, multidisciplinary expertise in two key GCRF themes – health and wellbeing, and forced displacement of people - spanning all three of our faculties (Medicine and Dentistry, Science and Engineering, and Humanities and Social Sciences). Thus, these themes are the primary priority areas for our institutional GCRF strategy. We will help our researchers to identify fundamental development challenges within these themes

to which they can meaningfully contribute, and to build appropriate interdisciplinary teams and international collaborations that can address these challenges.

We will support and develop existing research links through providing successful projects with additional resources, such as studentships, to enhance people capacity, outcomes and impacts. We will also provide dedicated support to help overcome the challenges inherent in the administration of international collaborative projects and to ensure researchers are fully supported when participating in these often highly complex partnership projects. Furthermore, we aim to facilitate partnerships between QMUL researchers and key individuals and organisations in LMICs that will lead to the co-creation of questions and solutions that will achieve long-term and sustainable impact. This will be achieved through innovative capacity building schemes and pump-priming awards that connect QMUL researchers with researchers, policy makers, healthcare professionals and other potential delivery partners in DAC regions.

We also aim to grow our capabilities and activities in other research areas where we have expertise relevant to international developmental challenges (social justice, poverty and inequality, sustainable cities, communities and energy and environmental change) but where there has been less ODA-compliant activity to-date. We will work with individual researchers and research groups to identify current barriers to planning and implementing GCRF projects, with the aim of facilitating solutions to overcome these barriers.

The strategic plan for our GCRF QR funds is aligned with our overall institutional strategy for utilisation of QR funds, in which research excellence remains paramount. QR funds are used to both support the full economic costs of existing research activities - including supplementing the estates and staff costs of our comprehensive portfolio of charity grants of ~£29m per annum - investing in capacity and capability projects, pump-priming of key activities, funding strategic research projects and investing in research staff of the highest calibre.

Our three-year institutional GCRF QR strategy is fully aligned with the UK strategy for the GCRF: we aim to support and enhance our diverse portfolio of research and innovation activity that will have a significant and sustainable positive impact on the lives and opportunities of people in DAC-list countries across the three key areas of Equitable access to sustainable development; Sustainable economies and societies; Human rights, good governance and social justice. By aligning the majority of our resource allocation with externally funded projects that have been awarded through an open, competitive process involving rigorous peer review, we will ensure that we are funding the best research to address challenges faced by developing countries.

1.3 Key activities by which we will realise our strategic objectives

Queen Mary-GCRF Visiting International Policymakers Scheme

As part of the work of our new Global Policy Institute, we will develop a Visiting International Policymakers Scheme to support capacity and capability building via short-term incoming visits from policymakers from the DAC-listed countries across sectors, including health, justice and energy. Through the scheme, policymakers will be offered fresh perspectives on the policy questions they are looking to address in their day-to-day professional roles and develop collaborations with relevant Queen Mary researchers. The precise schedule will vary dependent on the candidate but as a minimum interactions will be focused around a series of 6-8 policy questions agreed prior to arrival in London. In the first instance we intend to leverage our existing network of contacts in Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia to promote participation in the scheme. However, this will not preclude participation from other DAC-listed countries, and we will support applications where we have sufficient research expertise to develop productive and sustainable partnerships.

Queen Mary GCRF Networking Grants

To support our GCRF strategy, we will create a pump-priming fund to enable a few large-scale networking events per annum, to support collaborations between institutions in developing countries and QMUL. Priority will be given to support events in those developing countries highlighted in our nascent International Strategy – Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia – or where there are strong existing research links (e.g. South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda). However, final funding decisions will rest with a newly formed GCRF Coordination Group convened under the leadership of the Vice Principal (International) and Vice-Principal (Research), and including our GCRF leads covering the main disciplinary areas relevant to the priorities outlined above.

GCRF matched-funding awards

In order to achieve our aim of growing interdisciplinary and collaborative development-related research activity, we will invest a proportion of our GCRF QR allocation in a scheme to provide additional resources to key projects. GCRF matched-funding awards will typically comprise the provision of fully funded studentships to support externally funded GCRF projects, thereby growing capacity and capability to support the delivery of these projects, and to enhance outcomes and impacts from the research. Matched-funding grants may also be used to provide other required resource for projects (e.g. staff, equipment costs, training provision) provided applicants can demonstrate that the additional support will significantly enhance the outcomes and impacts of the project for the DAC countries involved. Applications for matched funding awards for projects that have not been funded through GCRF-specific funding streams will be thoroughly vetted for eligibility and ODA compliance by our GCRF Coordination Group.

Meeting the full economic costs of ODA-compliant research

Ensuring the continued sustainability of our ODA research activity is key to the successful delivery of our GCRF strategy and thus we will utilise 50-60% of our allocation to meet the full economic costs (FEC) of externally funded GCRF awards and other externally funded

ODA-eligible research. This is particularly important in the context of supporting world-class clinical research, where infrastructure and project costs often considerably exceed available project-based funding.

GCRF post-award support

In recognition of the particular challenges inherent in the administration of international collaborative projects, we will utilise our QR allocation to support a GCRF post-award officer. The role will coordinate and support a range of post-award administrative activities related to ODA compliant research grants, including preparation of due diligence requirements, partnership management, monitoring, evaluation of project deliverables, outcomes and impact, financial management and fulfilling funder and internal reporting requirements.

1.4 Key Barriers and Enablers

The primary potential barriers to successful implementation of our institutional GCRF strategy are:

- (i) insufficient breadth and number of partnerships with organisations in developing countries to enable co-development and co-delivery of projects across the full range of GCRF-relevant research expertise at QMUL.
- (ii) a lack of understanding of, or engagement with international development challenges by QMUL researchers.

Our capacity building and pump-priming initiatives are specifically designed to surmount these possible barriers, by providing mechanisms and opportunities through which QMUL researchers can engage with individuals and organisations from DAC regions, to help them apply their expertise to development-related challenges.

Key enablers for our strategy include the arrival of a new Vice-Principal (International), Professor Colin Grant, in April 2018. Prof. Grant has extensive experience in this portfolio and his global networks will be extremely valuable in terms of the implementation and further development of our strategy. The formation of a new Global Policy Institute (see Section 1.1) and an International Advisory Board (see Section 3) will significantly improve capacity to develop a more targeted approach to development-related activities and help to maximise the impact of our research in LMICs.

The Centre for Public Engagement exists to provide advice and support to QMUL staff and students in engaging audiences outside of academia with their research. The CPE supports engagement wherever research can have impact, and has supported a number of international development-related projects to-date. The Centre for Public Engagement was awarded the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement's Gold Engage Watermark in December 2016, recognising the university's strategic support for public engagement as a pathway to delivering meaningful and sustainable impact.

1.5 Main DAC listed countries for collaboration

- Key countries for collaboration on **physical healthcare** related development challenges include Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil, Malaysia and China.
- Countries for collaborations related to **mental healthcare** challenges include Bosnia-Herzegovina, Columbia & Lebanon.
- Collaborations related to challenges of **forced displacement of people** include Lebanon, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Cuba, Indonesia, Philippines, Fiji, Haiti, Nepal, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Work on **city and community sustainability** will involve Brazil, India, Argentina
- As noted above priority will be given to **capacity and capability building and pump-priming activities** in those developing countries highlighted in our nascent International Strategy – Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia and those where we have strong existing research links (as referenced above), particularly the lowest income African countries.

2. Provide details of the main intended **outcomes and impacts** of your strategy.

The intended outcomes of our GCRF matched funding award scheme will be increasing the capacity and capability to support the delivery of key projects that will have direct benefit to DAC nations, which will also enhance the outcomes and impacts associated with these individual projects. The scheme will enhance the long-term sustainability of development-related research, through training the next generation of researchers in techniques required to address major challenges in developing countries.

Anticipated outcomes of the Queen Mary GCRF-Networking Grants scheme and the Visiting Policy Makers Scheme are: increased engagement of QMUL researchers with international development challenges; new sustainable collaborations leading to co-creation of research questions and solutions between QMUL researchers and partner organisations from DAC countries; successful research funding applications for research into, and impact on the welfare and economic needs of developing countries. Further outputs from the policy-makers scheme are expected to include training programmes, policy briefs and workshops with increased impact arising from the development of research-informed policy in DAC-list countries.

Supporting the full economic costs of existing ODA compliant research projects will ensure the long-term sustainability of this crucial research, therefore enhancing the benefits for LMICs. Full details of outputs and impacts for each project are detailed in Appendix A2 with a few key projects summarised in brief below:

- Implementation of national salt reduction programmes in China and Malaysia will prevent hundreds of thousands of stroke and heart disease deaths per year and lead to major long-term cost savings on healthcare services.
- Programmes in Africa will reduce mortality and improve health outcomes for children and adults caused by malnutrition, TB, HIV and asthma. These projects will also build sustainable capability by training local community members, scientists and healthcare professionals involved in the projects.
- Identification of suitable policies to alleviate the effects of the economic crisis on the health system in Brazil will improve working conditions for healthcare professionals and increase access to healthcare resources for vulnerable, low-income communities.
- Improving mental health interventions in LMICs will increase health and wellbeing and also build sustainable capability through training local collaborators in mental healthcare research and techniques.
- Piloting an immersive experience of the cultural heritage of Kuikuro communities at Horniman Museum, South London, will enhance the sustainability of these indigenous Brazilian communities, through enabling sustainable pathways to disseminate cultural practices, and through properly rewarded training and employment opportunities.
- Identification of new biomarkers to enable identification of patients that are more susceptible to developing Severe Dengue will facilitate better healthcare management and save lives.
- Developing a low cost, telephone-administered psychological treatment for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon will improve the mental health and wellbeing for children who have experienced trauma related to war and displacement.

The essential role of GCRF Post Award Officer will help ensure ODA compliance across a suite of GCRF and related grants, supporting LMIC partners and QMUL researchers in fulfilling the substantial and complex administrative requirements associated with ODA funding, and helping to track outputs and impacts.

Management of GCRF

3. How will your HEI **monitor** and **evaluate** its progress and compliance in ODA and GCRF activity, including assessing geographical distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts?

Please describe the policies, procedures and approach you have in place to measure progress, evaluate outcomes, identify lessons learned, and ensure ODA compliance.

Strategic oversight

Strategic oversight of our GCRF activities will be the responsibility of our university Senior Executive and an International Advisory Board (IAB), the latter to be established by our new VP International in support of our wider internationalisation agenda. The IAB will primarily be comprised of external members whose backgrounds will be multi-disciplinary – from overseas universities, governments and other international organisations, with a

strong record of accomplishments in policy impact overseas. All members will be pre-eminent specialists in their fields and as such they will be well-placed to work with us in facilitating individual research projects in developing countries as well as providing input and feedback to our internal GCRF Coordination Group.

Coordination and monitoring of strategic objectives

Monitoring of progress against the strategy objectives and ODA compliance will be undertaken by the GCRF Coordination Group. The Group will be led by the VP International and VP Research, and include GCRF leads from our three Faculties as well as representation from our Research Services Directorate. The Group will periodically review outcomes and impacts of the QR funded initiatives, disseminating good practice and lessons learned as reported from individual schemes and projects. The Coordination Group will also monitor the overall distribution of activities and outcomes to ensure that we are supporting a broad range impacts across a wide range of low to middle income countries.

As noted in 1.1 above, a core aspect of the work of the Global Policy Institute (upon establishment) will be to further develop and refine existing monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure activities are on track and delivering maximum political impact. The Institute will work closely with the GCRF Coordination Group to effectively implement these systems.

Funding decisions

The Coordination Group will also oversee funding allocation decisions for the Queen Mary-GCRF Visiting International Policymakers Scheme and Queen Mary GCRF Networking Grants. Matched-funding award decisions for GCRF-specific funding streams will be made at Faculty-level and reported to the Coordination Group. However, requests for matched-funding for non-GCRF funding sources will be vetted for eligibility, ODA compliance and alignment with the GCRF Strategy by the Coordination Group.

Project-level monitoring and due diligence

QMUL undertakes extensive checks of partner organisations as part of our collaboration agreement process to ensure that appropriate policies, processes, reporting and audit trails are in place to guarantee appropriate usage of funds. Aligning the majority of our resource allocation with externally funded research projects will help ensure that research outcomes and ODA compliance are carefully monitored throughout the lifespan of individual projects because monitoring will be carried out by experienced staff within existing research support structures, following well-established due diligence processes. The dedicated GCRF post-award officer will further facilitate frequent and thorough monitoring and will provide the GCRF Coordination Group with regular updates, highlighting any potential issues so that they can be swiftly addressed, and sharing lessons learned with researchers, support staff and senior management.

In any cases where significant issues have been identified with activities or processes being undertaken by overseas partners, we would seek to commission local auditors to

provide targeted reviews, to help us better work with these partners to resolve problems before they escalate further.

Section B: Use of QR GCRF 2018-19 allocation and future QR GCRF priorities

4. Please complete the table in Annex A2 detailing the expected spending and activities for QR GCRF in the academic year 2018-19. Note that the total QR GCRF spending must equal the indicative allocation (available in Annex C), and all activities must be ODA-compliant for strategies to be assessed as ODA-compliant overall.
5. Please add here any explanatory notes on how you have completed the table in Annex A2 that will help inform assessment of ODA compliance.

For Queen Mary GCRF Networking Grants, Queen Mary-GCRF Visiting International Policymakers Scheme and GCRF matched-funding awards, support for specific activities and projects will be awarded competitively according to their expected contributions to the criteria and themes of our strategy. Therefore, the DAC countries and benefits to these countries listed in Annex A2 are at indicative and based on our strategic priorities.

For existing research projects, for which we are seeking to use QR to meet full economic costs, we have recorded the projected income for 2018/19 only within Column - 'Research Council or other (£)' - and not the total award value, as most awards span a number of academic years.

6. How would your **priorities and activities** for 2018-19 QR GCRF change if the funding level differs from that outlined in indicative allocations? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

First and foremost, our priority is to support our existing profile of ODA-compliant research to ensure sustainability. We will achieve this through meeting the full economic costs of ODA-compliant research for a selection of our current externally funded awards (as detailed in Annex A2), and provision of a GCRF post-award support post to support QMUL researchers and our collaborative partners in developing countries in successful delivery, monitoring and reporting of ODA-compliant projects.

We will also seek to enhance the development-related impacts for these projects and build capacity and capability wherever possible. We will achieve this by growing interdisciplinary and collaborative development-related research activity through the GCRF matched-

funding awards scheme, which provides additional resources, such as studentships, to key projects that will have direct benefit to DAC-nations, to enhance capacity, capability, outcomes and impacts.

Diversification and expansion of our portfolio of research and innovation activity with DAC listed countries is our final priority. We seek to achieve this via capacity and capability building through a Queen Mary-GCRF Visiting International Policymakers Scheme and pump-priming ODA compliant research in the form of a Queen Mary GCRF Networking Grants scheme.

Our two key priority research areas for QMUL's 2018-19 GCRF QR allocation are 'health and wellbeing' and 'forced displacement of people'. However, we also seek to grow our capabilities and activities in other research areas where we have expertise relevant to international developmental challenges, such as: social justice, poverty and inequality, sustainable cities, communities and energy and environmental change.

We would accommodate a reduction in our GCRF QR allocation by a proportionate reduction in capacity building and pump-priming activities, since any reduction in funding committed to meeting the full economic costs of ODA-compliant research, or to supporting growth in key areas of interdisciplinary and collaborative development-related research activity, would potentially hamper the successful delivery of outcomes and impacts from existing projects. A reduction in QR funding would lessen our ability to diversify our portfolio of research themes with DAC listed countries, as we would need to narrow our range of activities and focus solely on our primary research priority areas of 'health and wellbeing' and 'forced displacement of people'.

An increase in the QMUL 2018-19 GCRF QR allocation would enable us to focus greater resource on our secondary priority research themes and we would seek to increase our capacity building and pump-priming funds to help support a greater range of networking events and/or visiting policy makers to support the establishment of sustainable, development-related research collaborations from these thematic areas. We may also seek to identify further existing projects that would benefit from GCRF matched funding awards.

7. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

It is fundamental to the successful delivery of our GCRF strategy that we retain capacity to respond flexibly to opportunities for strategic investment and disinvestment following a review of the outcomes and impacts of our 2018/19 activities. Our prioritisation process will be based on the premise of ensuring sustainability of high-quality development-related research, both at the programme/project-level and at the institutional-level.

Priorities regarding support for existing ODA-compliant research projects, in order to ensure sustainability of this research, are not expected to change significantly over the course of the strategy. However, the proportion of QR funding allocated to this activity may change dependent on outcomes of pump-priming initiatives and capacity building schemes, and the success of pending and future GCRF applications. We intend to continue to utilise a proportion of the allocation to meet the full costs of ODA-compliant research costs and to continue the provision of a GCRF post-award officer to support QMUL researchers and our collaborative partners in developing countries in successful delivery, monitoring and reporting of ODA-compliant projects.

We will also continue to prioritise the growth of interdisciplinary and collaborative development-related research activity through the GCRF matched-funding awards scheme. Some level of sustained investment is crucial for this scheme since it will largely be supporting PhD studentships that will be funded for a minimum of three years and these students will be pivotal to delivering project outcomes and impacts that will benefit DAC-list countries.

An annual review of the outcomes and impacts from the GCRF match-funding awards, Queen Mary-GCRF Visiting International Policymakers Scheme and Queen Mary GCRF Networking Grants will be undertaken by the GCRF Coordination Group and reported to the university Senior Executive to inform funding prioritisation decisions for 2019/20 and beyond. It is envisaged that both the Policymakers and Networking Grants schemes will lead to the generation of new collaborative research projects that will successfully attract external research funding. However, in some instances, additional QR funding may be required to further stimulate collaboration or to generate preliminary data as proof of concept prior to application and thus, prioritisation may switch from networking events to other forms of pump-priming activities.

We would seek to accommodate any reduction in our 2019-20 GCRF QR allocation by prioritising on the basis of the following:

- the benefits to DAC list countries of project/programme/scheme outcomes and the probability of success in achieving those outcomes;
- the sustainability of the benefits produced by the project/programme/scheme;
- the alignment of the projects/programmes with our development-related research priorities;
- the type of impact and countries involved, with priority given to DAC list countries with the lowest income, whilst ensuring support for a range of impacts and benefits to a range of LMICs.

An increase in the QMUL 2019-20 GCRF QR allocation would likely enable us to invest more substantially in capacity building and pump-priming activities, or to directly fund interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity, that address key developmental challenges faced by DAC-list countries. It is recognised that additional GCRF strategic projects may be identified following establishment of the Global Policy Institute and

International Advisory Board, and that investment into new projects would need to be factored into the prioritisation process according to the criteria mentioned above.

8. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2020-21? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

As noted above, it will be important to maintain some flexibility in approach to priorities in order to remain responsive to emerging areas of research strength, developmental-related challenges and new or expanded collaborations. Priorities in 2020-21 will also be informed by a review of the outcomes and impacts of our 2018/19 and 2019/20 activities.

We expect to continue to dedicate a proportion of our 2020-21 QR funding to ensure the sustainability of on-going development-related research, through meeting the full economic costs of a growing GCRF award portfolio, and through the provision of post award support for these projects. Some continued investment will also be required support previous years' commitments made under the GCRF matched-funding award scheme and the importance of this scheme may grow as additional GCRF projects come on board.

We will continue to use the following prioritisation framework to address any significant reductions or increases to our 2020-21 GCRF QR allocation:

- the benefits to DAC list countries of project/programme/scheme outcomes and the probability of success in achieving those outcomes;
- the sustainability of the benefits produced by the project/programme/scheme;
- the alignment of the projects/programmes with our development-related research priorities;
- the type of impact and countries involved, with priority given to DAC list countries with the lowest income, whilst ensuring support for a range of impacts and benefits to a range of LMICs.

Whilst we will continue to support and strengthen the two key themes of our GCRF strategy - sustainable health and wellbeing, and forced displacement of people – over the course of 2019/20 and 2020/21 we expect to be fostering the growth of our work in DAC countries that builds on our research in social justice and humanitarian action and in poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities, as well as in sustainable cities and communities, sustainable energy and environmental change. We plan to do this in part through involving researchers in these areas in on-going projects, recognising the often inter-linked nature of these themes and the multi-disciplinary approaches needed to most successfully address developmental challenges. We expect also to be bringing forward new projects in these latter areas that will grow through continued support via GCRF and other awards over the course of these two years. The networking and policy initiatives will be key elements of this planned growth.

