

## 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.<sup>1</sup>
  - 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.

Maximum 3,000 words

#### **a. Development Strategy**

Our overall approach to ODA compliant research activities that benefit DAC list countries is to treat this as an integrated part of our institutional strategy and support. Additional compliance and monitoring checks are built in as required as part of our governance framework – in the same way that we include additional assurance processes for research with human subjects. This integrated mainstreaming approach provides for efficiencies of scale and process whilst at the same time assuring that GCRF funded activities bring benefit primarily to DAC list nations.

Whilst our institutional plan is currently being refreshed, the overall objectives of the current plan (see <https://www.kent.ac.uk/about/plan/>) remain in place. Namely: the delivery of research of the highest quality, meeting international standards of excellence across the full range of our subjects; the provision of an excellent education to our

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

students, delivered by world-class researchers; and strengthening our reputation for excellence, regionally, nationally and internationally, through effective engagement and communication with our communities and the wider world.

As part of this our commitment to the development of related cross-disciplinary collaborative research activity remains high, building on, but not restricted to, long term relationships (see <https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/int-impact.html>) leading to impact in DAC list nations. See for example in Colombia (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/case-studies/america/colombia.html>), Kenya (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/case-studies/africa/kenya.html>), Mauritius (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/case-studies/africa/mauritius.html>), and Peru (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/case-studies/america/peru.html>). The university does not have a specific development strategy in relation to ODA compliance, rather we conduct international research with impact – and some of this naturally benefits DAC list nations. We do not propose to develop a single GCRF Development strategy, but rather construct a series of GCRF activities (see g. below) which engender ODA compliant outcomes. This has the advantage of utilising our existing research support, impact and compliance structures with a minimal additional overhead (a Global Challenges Officer) to advocate, manage, monitor, evaluate, and assure the portfolio.

It will be the responsibility of the Global Challenges Officer (GCO), with the support of the Kent Global Challenges Advisory Group (GCAG), to ensure and evidence that ODA nations are the main beneficiaries of all activities funded from the GCRF QR allocation. For some activities such as the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC) there will be an additional layer of oversight. The GCO will be part of the central Research Services team and hence governance will be ensured through the Director of Research Services and ultimate responsibility for the ensuring appropriate use of the fund will lie with the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation.

**b. The key aspects of our three year plan are to:**

1. Develop a Global Challenges Doctoral Centre to deliver doctoral research (and researchers) that benefit DAC list nations.
2. Run a series of international GCRF sandpits to bring together Kent researchers with academics and other actors, such as NGOs, from DAC list nations to develop understanding, partnerships, and projects for the primary benefit of ODA nations, building on experience of our high profile event in July this year (<https://research.kent.ac.uk/researchservices/gcrf2018/>) with Kent speakers including our Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation welcoming delegates from DAC list nations to start developing ODA compliant research and impact partnerships.
3. Operate a series of grants for travel, partnership building, impact generation, and training and development for the primary benefit of ODA nations. These are likely to be follow-on activities from sandpit events.
4. Undertake (with UK, African, and potentially Indian partners) research support capacity building in DAC list nations as part of the BARS-GPE initiative, working with the Wellcome Trust, African Academy of Sciences, and others (see below).

5. Enhance our existing internal structures to ensure effective delivery, monitoring, and assurance that these GCRF QR funded activities are ODA compliant.

**c. GCRF QR in Context**

As indicated above our overall university plan embraces research with global impact, both within and for DAC list nations. We will use the GCRF QR to focus and increase activities in these areas. The overall increased activity will help to increase our externally funded research income (in line with our target to double research income) through better networks, stronger partnerships and a better understanding of ODA specific issues. At the same time the opportunity for enhancing ODA compliant impact (of all varieties) is also increased and complements our institutional interdisciplinary focus. Working with the Kent International Office these research interactions will further develop our profile as a top-class higher education institution, attracting more opportunities for teaching and learning collaborations, as well as more students from DAC list nations. Our overarching ambition is to increase the volume of research that benefits DAC list nations through the pursuit of country appropriate UN Sustainable Development Goals,

**d. The UK strategy for GCRF**

Our approach is fully in line with the UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and in particular our portfolio of activities focusses on challenge-led research, with a strand for strengthening capacity, while maintaining a small reserve to facilitate rapid response to emergencies. Research at Kent is particularly interdisciplinary and we are able to contribute to most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our portfolio assumes research excellence and promotes the development of impact and partnerships, and we also include a capacity building strand. The latter involves a partnership with the University of Leicester, SOAS, ARMA and the four African Research and Innovation Management Associations, with additional support from the Wellcome Trust and the African Academy of Sciences. This British-African Research Support – Good Practice Exchange (BARS-GPE) is designed to allow UK and African (and potentially Indian, with the involvement of the Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance) research managers and administrators to get together and share good practice, with the aim of raising the competence of African RMAs in relation to GCRF funding – increasing their attractiveness as research partners on the global stage. Overall our portfolio will be managed by a Global Challenges Officer in conjunction with the Graduate School, under the direction of the Global Challenges Advisory Group (GCAG) in order to ensure that the funds will only be used to support activities which primarily benefit ODA nations.

**e. Kent's wider QR Strategy**

The university plan has a number of indicators for research, which our mainstream QR supports, that align precisely with GCRF priorities. The GCRF QR fund will contribute to these across the board, and specifically (see p7 of the University Plan 2015-2020) to the “Increase proportion of publications co-authored with international academics by 10%”, “Increase the number of visiting academics from overseas by 25%”, “Increase the number of papers co-authored outside of academia by 25%”. There is also a related target (see p13) in the Engagement strand: “Support academic staff in the expansion of

the professional and international networks”. Each of these ambitions will be strengthened by our GCRF activity by increasing our research collaborations with DAC list nations.

**f. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy.**

We have piloted all of these activities (see below) in various guises before, and so we are confident in delivering them. The major risk is that the partnerships will fail or that the hoped-for impact will not be achieved. However we have planned an extensive portfolio under the assumption that some activities will be very successful compensating for those which are less so; as appropriate we will rebalance the portfolio of activities as part of our annual monitoring process. One reason we have included a strand on developing research support infrastructure (in collaboration with universities, funders, and research management associations based both in Africa and the UK) – to help institutions in African nations to become more credible and reliable as delivery partners, is to mitigate risk in this area. As well as conducting research with and for DAC list nations, we see it as critical that the research support infrastructure is also developed in order for research partnerships to be sustainable.

**g. The Key Activities**

- i. Create a Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC), dedicated to doctoral research aligned to development needs in and for DAC list nations.
- ii. Dedicated professional support to co-ordinate GRCF activities and monitor outcomes, including financial reporting – working with the Graduate School, under the guidance of the Global Challenges Advisory Group (GCAG).
- iii. International partnership and proposal development workshop sandpits for the primary benefit of DAC list nations.
- iv. Ad hoc travel grant fund to allow academic and professional staff to visit potential DAC list nations (and vice versa) to develop partnerships and ODA compliant research and impact.
- v. Specific support for GCRF related impact development which primarily benefits ODA nations.
- vi. ODA compliant GCRF related staff training and development activities (for example attendance at GCRF workshops run by others) to support the delivery of ODA compliant research, outcomes and impacts in the UK and DAC list nations, primarily to the benefit of the latter,
- vii. External consultancy to enhance GCRF partnership development, in certain circumstances we envisage that utilising local support, on a consultancy basis, in DAC list nations will be the most efficient way to support partnership development. As Kent expertise develops and ODA compliant partnerships become stronger we expect this type of activity to decrease.
- viii. Matched funding for the full economic cost of existing GCRF funded projects. This is a possible eligible expenditure item, but our commitment to the aims of the GCRF QR fund is such that we expect to use it exclusively for new activities rather than backfilling existing activities – giving greater benefit to DAC list nations overall.

- ix. BARS-GPE – collaborative support for research support development in (initially) Africa, and potentially India. In a strategic relationship with the Wellcome Trust, African Academy of Sciences, and African Research and Innovation Management Societies we are developing a programme of support and exchange in order to directly increase the research support capacity in a number of DAC list nations.
- x. Contingency – to react to specific time sensitive needs.

#### **h. The main DAC countries to collaborate with**

We have strong existing partnerships in a number of DAC list nations including: Algeria, Botswana, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guyana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda - and we will build on many of these. However we also plan to extend our network into other areas, with an initial focus on Africa as part of the GCRF collaborative BARS-GPE initiative with the University of Leicester, SOAS, the Wellcome Trust and a number of African organisations.

In terms of the GCDC we already have a diverse set of doctoral students working with and in DAC list nations – see for example Anthropology research students (see on: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/current-students/research-students/index.html>) “Health-Seeking Practices and Skills on the Boundaries of Protected Areas in South Africa”, “Is sharing caring?: Transformation of shared religious spaces in post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina”, “Intercultural education and institutional power in Pemón communities of the Great Savannah (Venezuela)” – this gives us a good basis and expertise to build our Global Challenges Doctoral Centre.

Some major examples of existing collaborations that are already having impact in DAC list nations can be seen at: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/research/impact/>. For example

- \* “Reducing carbon emissions” - Based on new instrumentation, the technology allows the engineers to diagnose the combustion process and optimise the operation of coal, biomass and heavy-oil-fired power plants. It has been applied in countries including the China, where up to 70% of energy is generated from coal-fired power plants.
- \* “Radical Distrust” – this work has been presented to an All-Party Parliamentary Group on national security, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. It has also helped to shape and document cultural activism in the Middle East [esp. Egypt], and contributed to projects related to human rights.
- \* “Saving Species” – with a focus on innovative evolutionary and molecular research, , one project involved sequencing the DNA of extinct species, relying on 200-year-old parrots that had been preserved as museum specimens. This helped to provide more information to protect an endangered species of parakeet on Mauritius.
- \* “Designing nature reserve networks” – this work sought to address limitations in conservation planning. Working with communities in South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique, incorporated new data into a transnational conservation plan. It assessed possible reductions in farming opportunities, as well as the potential revenues from wildlife ranching. Combined with data on species and habitats, the study identified priority conservation areas that met biodiversity targets while protecting the livelihoods of local people. This work has guided the development of 25,000 hectares of nature reserves, including a corridor that connects a previously fragmented elephant population. It has

also been used by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to identify priorities for its US\$6.5 million funding programme.

\* “Asia’s Missing Women” - demonstrated that a lack of females in society, due to sex-selective practices, could lead to lower prospects for peace, democracy and international security – this has led to policy changes in China and India.

We will build on this expertise in our Global Challenges Advisory Group to help identify further potential institutions and DAC list nations to partner with.

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

Maximum 500 words

Building on our existing research and impact strengths in DAC list nations, including a number of existing GCRF projects for example those led by Elena Korosteleva (with Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), and Colin Robinson (with Thailand, Viet Nam and Myanmar) (see <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/gcrf-calls/growcallbooklet37finaljuly2017-pdf/>) the portfolio of activities is designed to:

- a) Build a cohort of research students in our newly created Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC). These inter- and multi- disciplinary projects will be in line with the overall aims of the GCRF and either directly benefit DAC list nations or students from those regions (who will return, to the benefit of their home nation), or both. We expect to be able to fund 8 new research students each year, each half funded through GCRF QR and half through the Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship fund at Kent. These students will join our existing students (see examples above) who are conducting ODA compliant research for the benefit of DAC list nations. Hence, this doctoral centre will become the nucleus of GCRF activities at Kent and provide a virtual and physical “location” to discuss and undertake research for identifying solutions to global challenges.
- b) Deliver a series of international “challenge sandpits” bringing together Kent academic staff and researchers and intermediaries from DAC list nations to better understand issues and develop ideas for addressing them. Initially these would be hosted in Kent, but we also intend to run some in DAC list nations. We are running a week-long pilot sandpit in Kent in July 2018 and will use the experience from that to inform the exact structure of future sandpits. It should be stressed the expected outcomes of the sandpits are new and strengthened partnerships to better addresses issues in DAC list nations where Kent research can contribute to solutions of national importance.
- c) Create a fund for exchange of staff for short periods from Kent to DAC nations, and vice versa, somewhat akin to the European ERASMUS+ scheme. The aim is to foster a better understanding of DAC list nation needs and build a number of strategic partnerships to better deliver GRCF projects which have impact. This is complementary to b) and likely to be used to continue to develop partnerships forged in sandpits.
- d) Create an “impact accelerator” fund (run as part of our internal £1m Impact21 programme) dedicated to generating, accelerating, and expanding ODA compliant impact

projects. Kent wishes its research to be used to the benefit of the world, as outlined in our university plan. Much of this impact is intrinsically for the benefit of DAC list nations (see examples above), this strand is to help accelerate the impact in these cases.

e) Develop a better understanding of GCRF aims and ambitions, and of DAC list nations and their issues amongst academic, research, and professional staff at Kent. This will include specific sessions in our award winning “Grants Factory” research development programme. As well as directly supporting partnership building and impact development we also need to increase the awareness of opportunities to work with DAC list nations and to equip our academic staff and DAC list nation researchers with the skills needed to most effectively work with each other. This modest fund (which reduces in future years) is to ensure that the most efficient use of the main funds is made in the long run.

f) Take a lead role in the BARS-GPE (with Leicester and SOAS) collaborative support programme to help African DAC list nations to develop their research support infrastructure. This activity is supported by the UK (ARMA) and the four African Research Management Associations (CARIMA, EARIMA, SARIMA, and WARIMA) and the African Academy of Sciences as well as the Wellcome Trust. This is critical for sustaining research activity in Africa, and crucially for creating an environment where African research organisations are more credible and better equipped to be part of large collaborative research ventures. Work on this has already started (see: <https://wellcome.ac.uk/what-we-do/our-work/research-ecosystems-africa-and-asia>) and the research office development strand (BARS-GPE at Kent) will be launched at the INORMS conference on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Overall, we aim to build on Kent’s reputation for interdisciplinary research with impact, to make a difference in DAC list nations, in line with our institutional plan and research and innovation strategy. The above actions are all supported and co-ordinated by a dedicated Global Challenges Officer, who with guidance from the Global Challenges Advisory Group will be responsible for ensuring that the funds are utilised to the benefit of DAC list nations in line with the ODA compliance requirements of the GCRF QR funding rules.

### **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.

Maximum 1,500 words

Kent will utilise existing management structures and strengthen and expand these to meet the requirements of GCRF. Following our recent successful RCUK audit we have reflected on the feedback and have increased our due diligence in terms of overseas

research activities, particularly in high risk areas, often with DAC list nations. Part of our GCRF allocation will be spent specifically in the management, monitoring, and evaluation of our GCRF programme – including, but not restricted to activities funded by GCRF QR. It should be stressed that we will utilise our existing governance structures and include specific ODA compliance elements as require.

All research and innovation activity is overseen by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. There are three functional services under the DVC R&I: Research Services, Kent Innovation and Enterprise, and the Graduate School. Overall responsibility for the GCRF portfolio lies with Research Services, and a new position of Global Challenges Officer (GCO) will be created as part of the Research Grants and Contracts Team. The GCO reports directly to the Research Grants and Contracts Manager and will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of all GCRF related activities, working closely with the Research Accounts Team, the Graduate School, and the academics and senior leaders across the University, including the Kent Institute for Advanced Studies. Research Services already have a similar role co-coordinating our part of the Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC, with the universities of Essex and East Anglia). The GCO will be managed and supported in a similar manner, and additionally have a, to be created, Global Challenges Advisory Group (GCAG) including the three Faculty Associate Deans for Research, and reporting directly to the University Research and Innovation Board (RIB). Specifically for the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre there will be an academic lead who will also be part of the GCAG. As mentioned, these interventions sit on top our existing robust processes and procedures for other activities, such as our other doctoral schools, other strategic partnerships (eg Eastern ARC), and general project assurance – recently endorsed by our RCUK assurance visit.

The various strands of activity will need to be co-ordinated in distinct manners.

- i) The Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC) will be supported like our other doctoral training centres and reported on and evaluated through the Graduate School Board. The GCO will collate information from there and similarly will ensure that GCDC studentships are in line with GCRF aims and objectives in terms of benefit to DAC list nations. It should be noted that there will also be a 0.2 FTE Academic Lead for the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre, dedicated to ensuring that the doctoral research undertaken under the auspices of the GCRF QR funding is ODA compliant and delivers benefit to DAC list nations, including, for example supporting doctoral students from DAC list nations to return back to their home country after graduating in order to deliver further benefit. The Academic Lead will also be part of the GCAG,
- ii) The GCO will be managed within Research Services as part of the Grants and Contracts Team with a dotted line to the Research Accounts Team. They will benefit from the inclusive and supportive structures within Research Services including the annual Reflect, Plan, and Develop (RDP) process. In addition their work will be directed and supported by the GCAG.

- iii) The GCO will lead the organisation and logistics of the sandpits, with the support of the Corporate Events Team who will undertake the evaluation of the events. The GCO will be responsible for monitoring the outcomes of the sandpits including the development of ODA compliant partnerships and proposals.
- iv) The GCO will be responsible for coordinating the calls for proposals for incoming and outgoing trips including eligibility checks. The GCAG will be responsible for the selection of ODA compliant proposals for funded trips.
- v) The GCO will be responsible for coordinating the calls for proposals for impact development including eligibility checks. The GCAG will be responsible for the selection of proposals for developing ODA compliant research impact.
- vi) The GCO will be responsible for coordinating requests for training and development support including ODA compliance eligibility checks. The GCAG will be responsible for the selection of proposals ODA compliant training and development.
- vii) The GCO will be responsible for coordinating external consultancy services to support any of the other activities as required. The GCAG will be responsible for the selection of such services ensuring primary benefit to ODA nations.
- viii) The Research Accounts Team will be responsible for the correct and appropriate accounting of any use of GCRF QR to make up the FEC on ODA complaint projects.
- ix) The GCO will, in conjunction with the other BARS-GPE core partners (Wellcome Trust, African Academy of Sciences, University of Leicester and SOAS), plan exchange and training and development activities for research support staff in and from Africa to the benefit of DAC list nations.
- x) The GCO will be responsible for the contingency fund, to be used under the direction of the GCAG to respond to emergencies where Kent can make a difference to DAC list nations.

All activities will be reviewed annually to determine the success or otherwise of each element. Crucial to this will be the views of the DAC list nation participants and partners and the impact on them. Ongoing feedback in terms of outcomes will be monitored by the GCO. We do not assume that all activities will produce outputs and outcomes, at least in the short term; but each will support the overall aim delivering benefit of DAC list nations.. Evaluation frameworks for certain activities will be developed during the lifetime of the strategy, for example the BARS-GPE evaluation will be developed in collaboration with the consortium partners.

The overall portfolio will also be reviewed annually and subsequent years' allocation may be flexed to make the best use of the funding available.

In summary the portfolio of activities will be managed by the Global Challenges Officer (GCO) and directed by the cross-institutional Global Challenges Advisory Group (GCAG) which reports to the university Research and Innovation Board (RIB) chaired by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. The portfolio is designed to be flexible and led by the needs of DAC list nations and so no *a priori* geographic coverage is assumed – however we have outlined above the likely nations that will initially be involved. The GCAG will meet termly to monitor progress on activities and assure the

activities and evaluation conducted by the GCO, particularly in relation to ODA compliance, but also more generally in terms of efficiency and good practice.

Each individual strand and project or activity within the strand will be monitored by the GCO to ensure that GCRF QR funds are only expended on GCRF QR compliant activities. It should be noted that in our RCUK (as was) assurance visit last year we were given a good rating of “Moderate Assurance” with some minor assurance suggestions – and since then have taken these on board and put in place policies and procedures to address these recommendations.

## **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.

Maximum 200 words

For each strand i. – x. identified in section 3 above an indicative budget had been allocated in order to deliver the optimal balance of activities to achieve the overall aims of the GCRF QR portfolio strategy outlined above. A three year budget has also been created (not included, as specified, but available upon request) and is alluded to in sections 7 and 8 below.

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.

Maximum 500 words

The overall portfolio of activities is unlikely to change at this stage, but if the funding level changed then we would prioritise certain areas in terms of the level of support. It is imperative that we have the administrative and management support needed to ensure ODA compliance, so ii) must be kept. If the GCRF QR were reduced or increased by a moderate amount then this element would probably stay fixed. A large decrease or increase might require less or more FTE effort.

The highest priority activity is the sandpits iii), additional funding could result in more sandpits, but with a reduction in funding the level in plan would be retained if possible at the expense of other items.

The next most important element is the doctoral centre i), which could be flexed in the same way with more students, or fewer with a large decrease.

Most of the other elements could be flexed up and down pro-rata.

However we are committed to supporting the research support infrastructure in Africa through our BARS-GPE ix) collaboration with Leicester, SOAS, the Wellcome Trust, African Academic of Sciences and others, this activity would be preserved. It would however probably not be increased in 2018/19 if there were additional funding as this is more of an untested area for us and we would wish to evaluate the intervention before expanding it.

We have undertaken all other activities before and are confident in their utility in delivering benefit to DAC list nations.

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.

Maximum 1,000 words

Depending on the review of the first year's activities these priorities might change, but the current position is that:

ii) GCO officer must be kept to manage, monitor and evaluate the portfolio of activities to ensure ODA compliance.

iii) International sandpits will continue but will be reduced in number as the focus moves to sustaining the partnerships developed and growing the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC).

i) A new cohort of studentships will increase the demand on the GCRF QR pot, but the growth of the GCDC is a core ambition which will be part of the mainstay of our GRCF strategy and provides a nucleus for other activities to cluster around under the direction of the Academic Lead.

iv) The exchange strand will continue at the same level in order to develop and strengthen partnerships.

v) Specific funding to impact development will ramp down as impact becomes more embedded in projects from the start. With additional funding this area could be prioritised as impact continues to be important, but strategically sustaining partnerships is more important, particularly in the context of doctoral programmes.

vi) Training, development and awareness raising is an ongoing requirement, but less resource is required after the first year of activities have created a broad understanding across the institution and with our DAC list nation partners.

vii) Similarly less external consultancy is envisioned as internal staff develop experience, competencies and contacts, reducing the need for DAC list nation consultants to help broker partnerships.

viii) As we plan to grow our existing portfolio of GCRF activities, the GCRF QR will be used to pump prime new activities, rather than backfill the full economic cost (fEC) of current projects that have already had the fEC accounted for at the time of proposal. This is very much in line with our ambition to double our research income, and shows our ambition to increase our ODA compliant research activities.

ix) Although small, the BARS-GPE strand is hugely important as upskilling our research support counterparts and the related research support infrastructure in DAC list nations means that institutions can develop a trusted status and give confidence to other international collaborators that they can handle large and complex collaborative research activities. In the second year we hope to replicate the African programme into a second geographic region (probably India) by doubling the allocation to this strand.

x) The contingency for time sensitive emergency interventions remains.

With an increase in funding we would increase the v) impact development, and with sufficient funds the number of iii) sandpits. Other areas such as iv) (two-way) travel for partnership development and vi) ODA compliant training and development activities on GRCF would be secondary.

With a decrease in funding we would likely make pro-rata decreases in iv) (two-way) ad hoc travel, vii) external ODA compliant consultancy, and vi) training and development. For as long as possible we would protect i) studentships, ii) GCO post, iii) sandpits, and ix) BARS-GPE.

Every activity in the proposed portfolio meets ODA compliance criteria as outlined in sections 2 and 3 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.

Maximum 1,000 words

Depending on the review of the first two year's activities these priorities might change, but the current position is that:

ii) GCO officer must be kept to manage, monitor and evaluate the portfolio of activities to ensure ODA compliance.

iii) International sandpits will continue but will be further reduced in number as the focus moves to sustaining the partnerships developed and growing the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC).

i) A third cohort of studentships will further increase the demand on the GCRF QR pot, but the growth of the GCDC is a core ambition which will be part of the mainstay of our GRCF strategy and provide a nucleus for other activities to cluster around.

- iv) The exchange strand would be reduced as we expect other funds (such as GCRF projects that have developed from previous sandpits, partnerships, exchange visits) to be available to help sustain partnerships.
- v) Funding to impact development will continue to ramp down impact becomes even more embedded and support for impact is built in to each project. With additional funding this area could be prioritised as impact continues to be important, but strategically sustaining partnerships is more important, particularly in the context of doctoral programmes.
- vi) ODA compliance training, development and awareness raising will be an ongoing requirement.
- vii) Similarly, even less ODA compliant consultancy is envisioned as internal staff develop experience, competencies and contacts.
- viii) As we plan to grow our existing portfolio of GCRF activities, the GCRF QR will be used to pump prime new activities, rather than backfill fEC on current projects that have already had the fEC accounted for at the time of proposal. This is very much in line with our ambition to double our research income, and shows our ambition to increase our ODA compliant research activities.
- ix) Although small, the BARS-GPE strand is hugely important as upskilling our research support counterparts and the related research support infrastructure in DAC list nations means that institutions can develop a trusted status and give confidence to international collaborators that they can handle large and complex collaborative research activities. In the third year we hope to expand and consolidate the programme
- x) The contingency for time sensitive emergency related interventions remains.

With an increase in funding we would increase the v) impact development, and with sufficient funds the number of iii) sandpits. Other areas such as iv) (two-way) travel for partnership development and vi) ODA compliance training and development would be secondary

With a decrease in funding we would likely make pro-rata decreases in iv) (two-way) ad hoc travel, vii) ODA compliant consultancy, and vi) training and development. For as long as possible we would protect i) studentships, ii) GCO post, iii) sandpits, and ix) BARS-GPE.

Every activity in the proposed portfolio meets ODA compliance criteria as outlined in sections 2 and 3 above.