

## 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. 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 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries you intend to collaborate with.

***Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19.***

The University of Sheffield's strategy with respect to development related research is to foster and pursue world-leading programmes of work whose substantive findings, methodological innovations and data provision reduce poverty (in all its forms) and promote socially just and sustainable prosperity. We will build capacity and capability of researchers and professional services staff in partner institutions, as well as in Sheffield, to undertake research that cultivates long-term impactful change. We will focus this work in poorer parts of the world (DAC-listed countries), and on the poorer or marginalised communities in those countries.

These substantive goals are founded on the manner in which they will be achieved. We will build on, and strengthen, egalitarian partnerships with research institutions overseas. We will proactively forge and promote interdisciplinary approaches to tackle complex,

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

interconnected development problems. We will do all this by leveraging existing centres, international development expertise and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Our specific priority objectives are to:

Grow strong partnerships with research institutions overseas which are mutually valued equally by all partners.

Fund new interdisciplinary collaborative research projects that address global challenges.

Support colleagues (Academics and professional services) from institutions overseas to spend time in Sheffield and vice versa to deliver mutual learning, understanding, intellectual exchange, collaboration and community building

Build strong relations with government, civil society organisations and industry, locally, nationally and internationally that will develop impactful research that addresses global challenges.

Grow the number and capability of colleagues in the University of Sheffield (both Academic and professional services staff) who behave and think differently as a result of their decisions to invest time and energy into the agenda of global cooperation to address global challenges that underpin the GCRF.

***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.***

We will build on, and strengthen, egalitarian partnerships with research institutions overseas by co-creating interdisciplinary approaches to tackle complex, interconnected development problems. This will be achieved, initially, through a series of post-doctoral fellowships, studentships, seedcorn funding, buyouts, exchanges and visits that help build collaborative research programmes and associated capacity and capability building (these are specified in key activities below, and in Annex 2). Pathways to impact will entail building constituencies of stakeholders and interest groups around research programmes and partnerships right from project inception, use of social media, blogs, twitter and websites to build interest around programmes, bespoke support from knowledge exchange and impact teams in Sheffield and partner institutions, and differentiated dissemination and engagement strategies appropriate to diverse stakeholder needs. Strategic oversight of different funding streams by the GCRF Steering Board will ensure synergies between investments so that we can focus on the strongest partnerships as well as optimising geographical and thematic coverage. We will track and facilitate robust pathways to impact by requiring projects supported by these funds to complete ODA compliance statements that mirror those used by UKRI to report and monitor compliance. In subsequent years we will seek to generate impact from research through in-country impact awards to realise the benefits and continued legacy of previously supported ODA compliant research. We will meet the full economic costs of research on awards coming to Sheffield from RCUK and other ODA related funding sources. Finally, we will support rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need. In this respect the University of Sheffield has several areas across Faculties (e.g. Medicine, Engineering and Social Sciences) that may be able to respond in this respect. Although not a priority for Year 1, a watching brief will be maintained to enable a flexible approach where needed.

***How activity funded through QR GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.***

This opportunity directly aligns with The University of Sheffield's wider internationalisation strategy (<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/staff/internationalisation-strategy/your-copy>) and our aim "to be a globally leading university that connects knowledge and cultures across national borders". Research and Innovation are core to this and we aim to focus on solutions to global issues and employ and collaborate with the best and most appropriate international partners.

Under the theme of "International Research", Sheffield is committed to developing international research partnerships that add depth to our research agenda by adding quality, relevant context and scale. A key priority is to develop significant international academic and industrial research partnerships in which developing country partners are core and we have described key examples in later sections. Under the theme of "Working in Partnership" we are committed to identifying and collaborating with the right international partners and networks to extend the depth and impact of our world class research. This entails working with institutions with both strong research cultures (who will push back and challenge more) and more nascent capacities in order to support capacity building and spread GCRF impact.

Importantly, our QR GCRF strategy will be supported by our flagship Sheffield Institute for International Development (SIID: <http://siid.group.shef.ac.uk/>) which provides guidance on development research and partnerships across the University. SIID is ideally suited to serve the University's GCRF strategy; it is thoroughly interdisciplinary, having fellows and activities across all Faculties and Centres and its trajectory and strengths closely reflect the priorities of grassroots researchers and, most importantly, their overseas partners. SIID has developed not just a research agenda but is rapidly developing a reputation for good development research partnership practice, sustainable, user-centred approaches and participatory and agile methods. By harnessing SIID's expertise in overseas partnership building, context-adaptation and user-centred methods, GCRF-funded work in all Faculties and centres at Sheffield will have much greater impact and more sustainable legacy in DAC partner countries. There are good models to emulate and frequent mistakes which can be avoided.

The activities funded through QR GCRF will directly support our wider goal of fostering better interdisciplinary developmental related research. The University of Sheffield is currently engaging in the strategic development of a set of up to 8 new cross-Faculty, interdisciplinary University Research Institutes (URIs) that will enable the delivery of the university commitment to a focus on key research strengths. They will be based on outstanding academic strength, scale, distinctive leadership, reputation, societal relevance and the generation of income. There is a clear expectation that URIs will bring interdisciplinary approaches to addressing grand challenges (examples areas include Healthcare, Food & Nutrition, Energy), mandating academic engagement across at least three academic Faculties and effective external partnerships. A key element of a number of these new URIs will be to integrate development challenges into their core *raison d'être* and QR GCRF funds will significantly extend their work and ultimate impact. The first set of URIs will be in place in academic year 2018-19 in line with QR GCRF funding timelines.

Ultimately, the changes that our strategy will facilitate, and the manner by which they are realised, will provide gold standard models of how to build excellent, ethical and sustainable partnerships. These will build on decades of learning from the mistakes of development and constructively present alternatives to mainstream development

narratives. Thus we hope to fulfil the leitmotif of the Sustainable Development Goals to 'leave no one behind'.

***How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.***

The UK GCRF strategy aims "to ensure the UK takes the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing countries, whilst developing our ability to deliver cutting edge research". Our approach to QR GCRF aims to mirror this by providing a mixed range of activities to ensure that we focus on developing and building substantive partnerships with DAC list partners in order to understand and develop solutions to developmental challenges, while at the same time increasing the institutional capability for Sheffield-based researchers to fully understand these challenges and best co-develop and jointly deliver cutting edge research that is appropriate to meet partner in country needs.

***How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using QR.***

Our wider institutional strategy for using QR has been to provide initial strategic investment for flagship research areas in order to enable them to progress to external research grant capture, ultimately meet their potential and realise their societal impact. In this context QR is used for: recruiting academic researchers and providing the start-up costs necessary for their laboratory or research; purchasing equipment or other infrastructure; providing match-funding to another substantial source of research funding, including Doctoral Training Partnerships, capital programmes and Knowledge Exchange activities; undertaking initial, early-stage research which will not attract either public or commercial funding, in order to prove a concept and attract and collaborate with UK and overseas partners or public research funding.

Key examples of where QR investment is supporting international grand challenges include capacity and capability building to reach a critical mass of excellent research in our Florey institute for host-pathogen interactions (<http://www.floreyinstitute.com/>) which seeks to tackle Antimicrobial Resistance as a major threat to global healthcare, including through a Global Strategic Alliance of PhD students. We are also supporting challenge-led interdisciplinary and collaborative research in our P3-Plant Production and Protection initiative (<http://p3.sheffield.ac.uk/>) which has the core mission of translating its fundamental research in plant science across the scale into real-world application through international collaboration.

For SIID in particular, QR investment has provided firstly, seed funding for internationally leading, theory-supported and challenge-led development research, and secondly, beyond that, for the institute to act as a catalyst to identify and target key ODA compliant activities within the University that need further support. Examples include: network building and pump priming grants to co-design new research work with international partners; impact related activity to build stronger networks of stakeholders through meetings and dissemination events overseas; building stronger relations with development NGOs based in the UK through mapping exercises; developing the University Research Ethics Policy and co-designed research projects. In all cases we have worked with the SIID fellowship to identify and promote relevant projects, people and partners in which QR funds can be invested to have lasting impacts.

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

Good GCRF work that fulfils the purpose and spirit of the fund hinges on effective partnerships. Strong partnerships are the foundation of good research and global development impacts. These are built on mutual trust, understanding and respect to

empower and build the capacity. The partnerships in turn hinge upon the right people who have the time to invest in each other's work, projects, needs and plans.

One of the principal obstacles that we face is that key collaborators in poorer DAC-listed countries with both good research capability and capacity are relatively rare. The strongest people are over-committed with a significant queue of international partners seeking collaboration. Simultaneously they carry large teaching and administration loads in an environment where research funding is scarce.

We will mitigate this by building partnerships in ways that our key collaborators find useful to increase their productivity and free up time. We will do this partly in the way we identify the partnership building projects, and partly through the use of fellowships, buy-outs and appointments as appropriate to enable more investigator time and collaborative capacity.

A second, related, obstacle is that the more experienced international development researchers based in Sheffield are also limited in their time commitments. Once again the solution will be flexibly to utilise fellowships, buy-outs and appointments.

More broadly, international development challenges, which bridge multiple academic disciplines, cultures and expectations are highly intractable. They require humility and care as well as ambition and a range of disciplines and expertise. There is a great deal of learning that has already gone into good international development that a new generation of researchers needs to benefit from. We will do this through researcher professional development that fully utilises the expertise of SIID coupled with that of professional services colleagues. Our goal will be to make the standards we seek not just Sheffield relevant, but world-leading and globally available, and we will pursue this through also making this learning freely and widely accessible online through MOOCS and other appropriate tools for researcher professional development.

***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.***

Our key activities are planned to ensure that the interdisciplinary collaborations required to tackle global challenges and developmental research issues are encouraged and stimulated both at Sheffield and with developing partner institutions. The bulk of the funds will be allocated in a cross-Faculty manner at an institutional level while maintaining a smaller proportion for allocation to specific Faculties to allow them to exercise their judgement as to which research skills and forms of expertise are best supported locally. Key activities will be:

- Investment in building sustainable partnerships with key institutions in developing countries. This will include funds for travel, networking, meetings and projects that our overseas partners identify and prioritise and that we co-design with them.
- One and two-year post-doctoral interdisciplinary fellowships to follow up research findings from PhDs and other existing and future research in ODA countries, to be carried out jointly at overseas partner institutions and in Sheffield.
- International post-graduate student fee top-ups for applicants from partner institutions in ODA countries to support capacity building in key themes.

- Small pump-priming research grants. Small collaborative research projects, competitively awarded and support for relationship building to underpin more substantive GCRF, Newton Fund bids and those to other funders.
- More substantive awards to support the development of ongoing partnerships with real potential to become future substantive GCRF projects including PhD studentships in partnership with hubs.
- Funding for those URIs and centres of excellence that align with overseas development challenges and enable outcomes and impacts of the types described in Section 2 and Annex A2 to be achieved and where such investment can be demonstrated to be fully ODA compliant. This will include focused support for SIID with expertise and capacity to act as a centre of excellence and focal point for development research across the institution. This gives SIID a key delivery partner role in our cross institutional researcher development process.
- Specific institutional support activities e.g. investment in people capacity and capability (researcher professional development) to undertake interdisciplinary and ODA-eligible research activity.
- Support for the implementation and delivery of projects, such as undertaking due diligence and developing, monitoring and evaluating impact that enables partnership building, ODA compliant research.
- In subsequent years, in country impact awards that aim to realise the benefits and ensure continued legacy of previously supported DAC list partnerships and ODA compliant research.

As noted above whilst the bulk of the funds will be allocated in a cross-institutional manner, a proportion of the funds will be devolved to Faculties, URIs and other key centres, based on a detailed business plan that must include clear articulation and demonstration of in country need and partnership co-development, ODA compliance and alignment to this strategy. This will prioritise building capacity and capabilities through mixtures of fellowships, buyouts and appointments that will enlarge the skill base and critical mass required to bring about the changes our strategy seeks across the University.

***The main Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries you intend to collaborate with.***

Current priority DAC list countries for the University of Sheffield are based on on-going partnerships and research programmes, many of which have been in development since before the start of GCRF. These are:

- India; Nepal; China; Malaysia; Bangladesh; Philippines
- South Africa; Malawi; Mozambique; Zambia; Tanzania; Kenya; Uganda; Ethiopia; Rwanda; Nigeria; Ghana
- Brazil; Colombia; Mexico
- Small island States including Jamaica and Fiji

In order to enable a flexible, responsive approach to the use of QR GCRF funding these will be continually reviewed in line with ongoing partner needs, future partnership development and the ability of individual activities funded by QR GCRF to make in country impact.

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

Priority areas are those where we and our partners have world-leading expertise that will provide best practice for researchers globally: Food, crops and nutrition, health, energy, water, conservation, urbanisation, inequality, development data and digital development. All map to sustainable development goals and enable substantial synergies e.g. challenges of better and more nutritious food chains requires better use of water resources while addressing conservation challenges. Further activities will develop as funding is allocated but examples of intended activity outcomes and impacts include:

1. **Partnership development.** Including: Tanzania, with the University of Dar es Salaam supporting the development of research strategy and library services and projects to enhance food production and rural economic growth; Nelson Mandela African Institute for Science and Technology, supporting improvements in irrigation extension activity and data collection; In South Africa, with Wits University, improving urban environments and housing provision for the poor (building on Newton funding); In Colombia (with the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana) and Nepal (with Phase Worldwide), using participatory video to enhance response to emergency relief (building on Newton funding).

2. **Post-doctoral interdisciplinary research fellowships** will be impactful both through research undertaken and capacity building. Held jointly in prioritised partner institutions and at Sheffield our principle criterion for appointment will be excellence in any field. Particularly strong candidates will emerge where we have existing research strengths and these include projects on sustainable energy supplies in India, improved rice cultivars in Kenya, digital development in Brazil and development data in African contexts.

3. **Post Graduate studentships.** Our priority is East Africa (Masters students) where we have supplementary funding from another charitable foundation and Tanzania (Masters and PhD students) where we are developing a relationship with a major Tanzanian-based foundation to provide supplementary funding for students.

4. **More substantive collaborative research awards** will underpin partnerships that demonstrate significant potential to co-create bids to GCRF, Newton Fund and other development research funders. We anticipate focusing on food, nutrition and development data in Kenya, Bangladesh, Jamaica and Fiji, and on improved outcomes of agro-forestry in Zambia. The former is identifying micro-nutrient deficiency, healthier food chains and ways of strengthening data informed policy processes around nutrition. The latter with re-forestation degraded forest lands in ways which support both environmental conservation and social needs.

5. **Investment in people capacity and capability development** to strengthen interdisciplinary research and grow skills and critical mass to primarily address development needs in DAC countries. This will include research appointments in which initial salary costs (up to 3 years) are met so that colleagues can devote time solely to developing work programmes and partnerships which tackle international development problems. It will also build professional services development and capability, in partner institutions and at Sheffield to support the implementation and delivery of projects and address bottlenecks that arise in the administration and handling of ODA-compliant research funds (from contracts and ethical review to evaluation and impact follow up). Specific outcomes for both research and

professional services staff development will include globally available MOOCs and on line training materials.

### 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.

A GCRF Steering Board is currently being established to oversee delivery of this strategy and to ensure ODA compliance, process governance, monitoring and evaluation of progress and outcome evaluation. The board will be chaired by the University Vice-President (Research & Innovation) and composed of each of the five Faculty Directors of Research & Innovation (FDRI); professional services representatives; a carefully chosen cross-Faculty group of senior academics with ODA related research experience and expertise that will be drawn from, for example, cross-Faculty centres such as SIID, The Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures, P3 and The Urban Institute. The board will also be able to call on advice from other members of academic or professional services staff or external advisors as needed. The board will be supported by Research Services, the University's Research Office. The board will ensure that synergies between appointments, fellowships, buyouts, exchanges and seedcorn funding are maximised so that we can concentrate resources on the most robust and promising partnerships. This board will further track general investments across the GCRF and wider development related research portfolio so that we can maximise geographical and thematic coverage. This work has already begun in Research Services at Sheffield, looking at the coverage and geographical distribution of existing ODA related research across the institution. The board will also receive an annual report on each strand of activity to ensure that good practice and lessons learned are shared and disseminated appropriately and widely.

Opportunities to access the funding will be advertised within overseas partner institutions and disseminated widely. We will use a formal and transparent application process, tailored to the specific type of activity (e.g. pump priming, more substantive funding or individual fellowship) and designed to capture the evidence needed to ensure proposals can be evaluated against the established criteria, including evidence of in-country development need, support for economic development and welfare of the partner country, expected outputs and the longer term legacy, impact and sustainability of the activities. All applications will complete ODA compliance statements that will be used to assess fit to call as well as monitor expenditure of funds. Evaluation of applications will be overseen by the GCRF Steering Board.

All proposals will also be screened via a Sheffield Ethical Partnership and Practice Compliance Process that will be developed with SIID's assistance for this fund. Funding will be allocated in accordance with the University's Due Diligence and Risk Management Framework that has been developed in line with RCUK requirements in this area and by sharing of best practice amongst fellow Russell Group institutions and regional N8 partners. Key elements of the University's Framework include an assessment of partners' legal status, funding track record, financial stability, corporate governance, policies, reputational and country risk profiles

Monitoring and evaluation of expenditure and project performance will include capturing interim and final reports on project progress, spend, outputs and impact in line with annual reporting requirements from UKRI and our own monitoring of legacy and impact. Recipients of funding under individual activities will be required to develop and provide



performance indicators in order to Monitor and Evaluate short, medium and longer term project outcomes. These will then be used to develop an overarching, programme level M & E metric framework that will be used by the GCRF Steering Board for tracking and evaluation of strategy performance. Staff supporting this process have a great deal of experience of managing and supporting institutional funding tranches from RCUK and UKRI including IAA accounts, HEIF funding and previous QR and RCUK quick spend elements supporting Newton and GCRF.

Working with the impact support team based centrally in Research Services and local Faculty based impact leads and support staff we will develop an Impact Register for QR GCRF to support project teams to capture impact intentions at outset and enable follow up and monitoring against delivery throughout and post-project. This will utilise tools and best-practice already developed for REF impact development, collation and tracking and wider process development, both through seminar, workshop and online training, in order to support Sheffield and overseas partner institution staff engaged in ODA related research to identify impact stakeholders and beneficiaries, focus on the transformation that their research is making, decide which activities will increase the likelihood of impact and consider how impact will be demonstrated, recorded and tracked. For these activities we will also make use of well-established collaboration through the N8 International Research Development Network to share best practice and common approaches for monitoring and evaluation of project outputs. These activities will feed into and complement the M & E metric framework to be used to guide the GCRF Steering Board.

## **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.

All of our proposed activities have been planned according to ODA principles, being intended to develop and support research that is directly and primarily of benefit to the needs of developing countries. In all cases, partner institutions in DAC countries have been and will be involved in co-design from the outset, to ensure that we undertake research that is relevant to local need and cultivates long-term, in-country impactful change. This is ensured both through the structure of our approach, positioning the expertise of SIID as a core component to guide partnership development and ODA compliance, and the types of activities we intend to conduct that enable ODA compliant research through pump-priming, capacity and capability building, mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research and generating impact from research. As described in our strategy narrative we intend to allocate elements of funding in-year. In Annex A2, therefore, we have used indications of likely global challenges that will be addressed, likely countries that will be partnered with and the types of outcomes and impacts that we intend, based upon Sheffield's current research strengths and partnerships.

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.

Priorities for 2018-2019 are described in Annex A2 and below. These form the core of Year 1 activities and focus will be shifted in Years 2 and 3 in response to development and maturity of activities and changes in ODA partner needs. All either contribute to in-country capacity and capability building and/or the development of research collaborations with ODA country partners. All therefore meet ODA criteria but any changes will be subject to the agreement of the GCRF Steering Board to ensure ongoing ODA compliance.

- Investment in building sustainable partnerships, particularly with developing country partners. This will include funds for travel, networking, meetings and projects that our overseas partners identify and prioritise and that we co-design with them (Pump-priming and Capacity and capability building).
- One and two-year post-doctoral interdisciplinary research fellowships to follow up research findings from PhDs and other existing and future research in ODA countries, to be carried out jointly at Sheffield and overseas partner institutions (Capacity and capability building).
- International post-graduate student fee top-ups for applicants from partner institutions in ODA countries to support capacity building in key themes. (Capacity and capability building).
- More substantive awards to support the development of ongoing partnerships with real potential to become future substantive GCRF projects including PhD studentships in partnership with hubs. (Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research).
- Funding for those URIs and centres of excellence that align with overseas development challenges and enable outcomes and impacts described in Section 2 to be achieved and where investment can be demonstrated to be ODA compliant. This will include focused support for SIID with expertise and capacity to act as a focal point and centre of excellence for ODA-related research across the institution. (Capacity and capability building; Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research).
- Specific institutional support activities e.g. investment in people capacity and capability (researcher professional development) to undertake interdisciplinary and ODA-eligible research activity (Capacity and capability building).
- Support for the implementation and delivery of projects, such as undertaking due diligence and other activities that enable partnership building and ODA compliant research. (Capacity and capability building).

Activities are based on a modular approach and designed to be scalable, to maintain the full range of activities if there are changes in our QR GCRF allocation. Categories of expenditure can expand or decrease as necessary, absorbing more funding if available or reducing where required.

Our approach will also be guided by synergies that we expect across the different elements. Funding will cover, inter alia, partnership development, PDRAs, studentships, visiting fellowships and buy-outs. These will be focussed on our core partners, and if funding decreases, or increases, we will focus on elements which maximise these

synergies, at all times aiming to maintain the overall partnership. Strong partnerships are the foundation of good research and global development impacts and are key to meeting ODA criteria. We are able to invest in as many as 20 partnerships because we will be seeking to build these partnerships across all elements of our expenditure.

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.

Activities for 2019-20 will continue to be based on a modular approach and designed to be scalable to enable change in priorities with increases or decreases to QR GCRF funding. All either contribute to in-country capacity and capability building and/or the development of research collaborations with ODA country partners and the achievement of in-country-impact. All therefore meet ODA criteria but any changes will be subject to the agreement of the GCRF Steering Board to ensure ongoing ODA compliance

Regardless of any changes in funding level we will also undertake our own stocktake of activities delivered in 2018-19 (in addition to data required for reporting to UKRI) to determine whether some activities should be reduced and others grown based on achievements in 2018-19, likely outcomes going forward, how successful individual partnerships have been and changes in partner needs and developmental challenges.

For year two, we will seek to move partnerships from a “development” to “implementation” phase by increasing focus on more substantive investment, versus earlier pump priming activities, to move forward promising projects which have already received funding and enable focus on delivering significant in-country impact and furthering and deepening DAC country partnerships. This will be accomplished by regularly assessing the state and health of different partnerships and whether, and in what ways they are ready for different forms of support but recognising, however, that some may be more mature than others. This will mean that the following strategy activities from Year 1 will be the intended priorities for Year 2:

- One and two-year post-doctoral interdisciplinary research fellowships to follow up research findings from PhDs and other existing and future research in ODA countries, to be carried out jointly at Sheffield and overseas partner institutions (Capacity and capability building).
- International post-graduate student fee top-ups for applicants from partner institutions in ODA countries to support capacity building in key themes. (Capacity and capability building).
- More substantive awards to support the development of ongoing partnerships with real potential to become future substantive GCRF projects including PhD studentships in partnership with hubs. (Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research).
- Funding for those URIs and centres of excellence that align with overseas development challenges and enable outcomes and impacts of the types described in Section 2 and Annex A2 to be achieved and where investment can be demonstrated to be ODA compliant. This will include focused support for SIID with expertise and capacity to act as a focal point and centre of excellence for ODA-related research across the institution. (Capacity and capability building; Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research).

- Specific institutional support activities e.g. investment in people capacity and capability (researcher professional development) to undertake interdisciplinary and ODA-eligible research activity (Capacity and capability building).
- Support for the implementation and delivery of projects, such as undertaking due diligence and other activities that enable partnership building and ODA compliant research. (Capacity and capability building).

We will also introduce:

- In-country impact awards to realise the benefits and continued legacy of previously supported ODA compliant research (Generating impact from research).

Consideration will also be given to existing funding (or using additional funding where available) needs to be realigned to address activities that are not currently priorities in Year 1. These will include:

Meeting the full economic cost of GCRF activity funded through other sources.

Rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need.

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.

Activities for 2020-21 will continue to be based on a modular approach and designed to be scalable to enable change in priorities with increases or decreases to QR GCRF funding. All either contribute to in-country capacity and capability building and/or the development of research collaborations with ODA country partners and the achievement of in country-impact. All therefore meet ODA criteria but any changes will be subject to the agreement of the GCRF Steering Board to ensure ongoing ODA compliance

Regardless of funding changes we will also undertake our own stocktake of activities delivered in 2020-21, in addition to data required for reporting to UKRI, to determine whether some activities should be reduced due to having achieved their aims, reviewing this in the context of activity achievements in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

For year three, we will seek to go from “implementation” to a “consolidation” phase and will again reduce the number of activities if they have produced their desired outcomes at Sheffield and DAC partner institutions. However, we will also recognise that some partnerships may be more mature than others and that some may not be ready for this transition. This will mean that the following activities are likely to be priorities and decisions will be taken on proportions of funding that each of these commands i.e. we would consider that impact support should now be funded to a greater extent than substantive awards for partnership support as we would expect the latter to be well established. This will mean that the following strategy activities from Year 2 will be the priorities for Year 3:

- One and two-year post-doctoral interdisciplinary research fellowships to follow up research findings from PhDs and other existing and future research in ODA countries, to be carried out jointly at Sheffield and overseas partner institutions (Capacity and capability building).

- International post-graduate student fee top-ups for applicants from partner institutions in ODA countries to support capacity building in key themes. (Capacity and capability building).
- More substantive awards to support the development of ongoing partnerships with real potential to become future substantive GCRF projects including PhD studentships in partnership with hubs. (Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research).
- Funding for those URIs and centres of excellence that align with overseas development challenges and enable outcomes and impacts of the types described in Section 2 and Annex A2 to be achieved and where investment can be demonstrated to be ODA compliant. This will include focused support for SIID with expertise and capacity to act as a focal point and centre of excellence for ODA-related research across the institution. (Capacity and capability building; Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research).
- Support for the implementation and delivery of projects, such as undertaking due diligence and other activities that enable partnership building and ODA compliant research (Capacity and capability building).
- In-country impact awards to realise the benefits and continued legacy of previously supported ODA compliant research (Generating impact from research).

As in Year 2 consideration will also be given to whether existing funding (or using additional funding where available) needs to be realigned to address activities that are not currently priorities in year 1. These will include:

Meeting the full economic cost of GCRF activity funded through other sources.

Rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need.