

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.

The University of York has a track record of harnessing the expertise of its world-class research base to pioneer new, transformative ways of tackling the challenges facing the world's most vulnerable communities and ecosystems. We are committed to research excellence as a way to support dynamic, inspirational and life-changing impact as *an absolute priority*. Ranked in the top ten of UK higher institutions for research that has a positive impact beyond academia (REF 2014), our Research Strategy places a high value on impact and actively promotes ambitious, interdisciplinary, international research, acknowledging that, "*...researchers may need to cross disciplinary boundaries in order to tackle major global challenges, provide innovative solutions or promote an international perspective.*"

Our research is focused around seven interdisciplinary Research Themes (<https://www.york.ac.uk/research/themes>), reflecting both our academic strengths and the grand scientific, social and environmental challenges of our time, including both the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals and the four strategic objectives of the UK Aid Strategy. Our ODA-relevant research spans across our three Faculties of Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, aiming to strengthen the evidence base for sustainable and equitable solutions to global challenges on local, national and international scales.

The University actively supports interdisciplinary ODA-compliant research through a number of its centres, networks and institutes, which foster cross-Faculty

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

collaborations. The priority objective of these research groupings is to provide critical research on global injustices, health and environmental problems, whilst at the same time, helping to identify practical and participatory solutions. The York Environmental Sustainability Institute (YESI) is an example of our internationally-excellent interdisciplinary networks that directly inform the global development agenda. YESI's mission is to deliver world-class interdisciplinary research on environmental sustainability for the research community, industry and policy makers. YESI's mission, exemplified by projects such as IKnowFood (funded by the Global Food Security programme) is based on equal partnership between social, physical and life sciences. This approach focuses on providing innovative solutions to the challenges of insecure and unsustainable global food systems, and rapidly expanding, often polluted and unhealthy, urban environments: problems that are particularly acute for vulnerable communities in the Global South.

In 2016, the University established the International Development Network (IDN) to support interdisciplinary work with the objective of "*leaving no one behind*". Working across all three Faculties, the IDN aims to encourage innovative, interdisciplinary projects that build capacity and engage with external partners to address the most urgent questions facing the planet. It has supported research on 'decent' work, health-environment social inequalities, human security and global health. York's commitment to this interdisciplinary challenge-focused approach to research is demonstrated by University investment of ca. £1 million in 2018 to support IDN's evolution into the Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre (iGDC).

Finally, our interdisciplinary approach and priority objective to improve Global Health are exemplified by projects led from the University Centres for Health Economics (CHE) and Immunology and Infection (CII). For example, the £5.5m CHE-led GCRF Thanzi la Onse (Health for All) project provides an integrated programme of interdisciplinary research at the intersection of health, economics and politics, to inform decisions in low-income settings on health care resource allocation. Similarly, the CII-led projects include Towards a Global Research Network for the Molecular Pathological Stratification of Leishmaniasis, and Assessing Treatment with Miltefosine as an Intervention Strategy for Visceral Leishmaniasis in Brazil. Both these projects drive the Leishmaniasis research agenda and develop understanding of this globally important disease. In these and other areas, we have demonstrated our commitment to global development research with the potential for real world impact.

Our GCRF QR strategy will enable York to expand the range and depth of its impactful research in support of the most vulnerable communities in low and middle-income countries. In particular, the GCRF QR allocation will be used to strengthen our presence in defined geographical areas in which the University has an established track record, whilst also developing links and building capacity in new ones. A key aspect running through the activities detailed below and in Annex A2 is a focus on in-country capacity building, rather than training and development activities delivered in the UK. The Doctoral Training Project, Researcher Mobility Scheme and the Impact Generation Funds exemplify this approach. Our plan is centred on addressing critical global challenges in an interdisciplinary manner, focused on positive outcomes, ensuring equity of development; providing improved life outcomes across varied socio-economic strata of society is a key aspect of the plan. Another important aspect is to develop sustainable and meaningful relationships with our partners in DAC list countries that outlast the timeframe of the 3-year GCRF QR funding cycle. As part of this commitment, we will work with colleagues at different career stages, building a truly progressive academic community. The key thematic

aspects for focus will involve academics from all three Faculties, working across the main relevant topics within the recognised areas of York's expertise in: i) AgriFood, ii) Global Health, iii) Equality and Justice, and iv) Environmental Sustainability and Resilience.

Activities funded by GCRF QR will align with the University's broader strategic aims, as set out in our Research Strategy 2015-2020: i) *Research Excellence* - we will conduct research of the highest quality that has the potential to be world leading and world changing, ii) *Innovation* - we will undertake research to advance core disciplines and find new and important areas for discovery, through the introduction of new ideas, insights and methods, for intellectual and economic benefit, iii) *International Perspective* - our research will be relevant and significant at a global level, even when it is geographically focused at a regional or national location, iv) *Impact* - we will seek to ensure that our research has impact beyond academia by engaging with and influencing people and organisations in order to contribute to policy and practice, v) *Collaboration and Partnership* - we will build strong links at institutional and individual researcher level with other academics, both internal and external, and nurture sustainable partnerships beyond academia with industrial, corporate, cultural, civic, public and third sector partners, and vi) *Integrity* - we will undertake research in accordance with the highest professional standards (as specified in the University's Code of Practice on Research Integrity) to ensure that it is robust and accords with rigorous ethical values. Activities detailed in Annex A2 and below align with the University strategy as outlined above.

Our proposals align directly with the *UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund* and will support challenge-led, interdisciplinary research, strengthen the capacity of researchers and improve well-being and governance in DAC list countries. Notably, projects which will be funded under this GCRF QR allocation will cover all three GCRF areas: *Equitable access to sustainable development*, *Sustainable economies and societies* and *Human rights, good governance and social justice*. Activities detailed in Annex A2 and below address real-world problems and present genuine opportunities for transformative change. As is discussed in the UK GCRF Strategy, only projects/activities that demonstrate research excellence have been included in this plan, with clear and feasible impacts that can be evidenced. Moreover, capacity building and partnership are central to our GCRF QR strategy, allowing us to build deep, sustainable relationships, permitting the development of subsequent opportunities for collaboration.

Our institutional strategy for allocation of HEFCE QR funding involves a formulaic approach that recognises research quality (measured by the REF process) and income from a range of sources.

As with any ambitious suite of activities aimed at developing environmental, health and socio-economic research in the Global South, there are levels of risk to be considered. We have robust procedures in place to identify and mitigate against these, including:

Governance of fund. The University has an impressive track record of delivering large, complex projects, RC-UK Impact Acceleration awards and HEFCE QR allocations. To safeguard appropriate usage of the QR allocation (with particular relevance to financial flows from the UK to DAC list countries), we have established a number of robust internal controls. The first is in the GCRF Steering Group, chaired by Prof. Deborah Smith (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research) and including representatives from all three University Faculties, including their Associate Deans for Research, University Research Theme Champions, prominent academics working

in aligned disciplines plus relevant representatives from the University research support services. The GCRF Steering Group takes a broad overview of all GCRF activity and provides strategic direction for fund allocations across the institution. Further oversight is provided by the University's GCRF Task and Finish Group, responsible for operational issues including delivery of solutions to the specific challenges of administering ODA-compliant research.

Lack of engagement from communities within DAC list countries. This risk will be minimised by building on previously established links and networks to extend the number of people both involved in, and benefiting from, our research. Furthermore, a deep level of commitment from partners in DAC list countries should be assured through our commitment to co-designing activities.

Legal/ethical. Robust procedures and established committees (e.g. the University Ethics Committee, chaired by Prof Bill McGuire (Health Sciences) with the PVC-R as a member, and departmental ethics panels) will have oversight of GCRF QR projects, ensuring that activities funded under this allocation meet the highest ethical standards. Furthermore, country-specific issues will be brought to the attention of the University's GCRF Task and Finish Group, where effective solutions will be identified.

Internal Capacity. In order to increase our capacity to support GCRF projects, some of the GCRF QR funding will be used to create additional resource to facilitate project operations. Notably, the University will recruit both a GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager and a GCRF-specific Administrator to further our internal capacity (detailed below).

The future of the GCRF. Whilst the University considers the sustainability of all projects, including those funded under GCRF, during both project design and implementation phases, uncertainty as to the future of the GCRF reduces the level of specific advance planning the University can undertake. By aligning University research priorities with those of GCRF where appropriate, this risk is reduced in magnitude and, in part, negated.

Our global research focuses on four areas: i) AgriFood, ii) Global Health, iii) Equality and Justice, and iv) Environmental Sustainability and Resilience. The GCRF QR allocation will be distributed across these research areas, delineated into three categories: i) **Core** - university wide activities, supporting the totality of GCRF research at the University, ii) **Stretch** - activities expanding specific projects/research areas, and iii) **Transform** - activities changing the nature of existing projects, expanding into new areas/new projects, or promoting impact generation.

Core activities:

- *Contribution to current GCRF activities:* The University has a diverse portfolio of GCRF-funded activities, and we will use £300,000 of the GCRF QR allocation (approximately 1/3rd) to contribute to the full economic cost of these projects, while fulfilling the remaining investment from central research resources. In order to distribute transparently the new GCRF QR funding, the University will distribute the allocation according to departmental GCRF awarded income, thereby rewarding success and guaranteeing sustainability of these projects.

- *GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager (1 FTE Grade 7 for 3 years):* The main purpose of this role is to develop policies and processes, undertake interim GCRF project management (including testing/modifying processes and policies as new issues arise) and assist partners in setting up their internal processes to be compliant with University and funder rules. To achieve this, the role-holder will work collaboratively with a range of colleagues in support of overseas partners on GCRF-funded and other ODA-compliant research projects. The role-holder will identify potential obstacles, pre-empt requirements, and put solutions in place to resolve issues relating to smooth award set up and transfer of funds to the overseas partners. This

approach will provide long-term mechanisms to facilitate quicker and smoother uptake of funding for the ODA recipient countries. Support for applicants and co-applicants on new research grant proposals will also be provided, ensuring that funder and ODA requirements are met. The GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager will work closely with the GCRF Task and Finish Group, the Research Development Team (RDT), Research Grants and Contracts and the Global Engagement team, providing a consistent approach across the GCRF/ODA-compliant research landscape covering the three Faculties.

- *GCRF/ODA Administrator (0.2 FTE Grade 5 for 3 years)*: In order to support the GCRF/ODA-Compliance Manager, we will appoint a GCRF-specific Administrator to assist in the development of GCRF activities. This diverse, cross-Faculty role will assist in the organisation of meetings and events, develop internal/external GCRF communications, assist with day-to day GCRF project administration, including collation and reporting on project outcomes, and support the operational management of the GCRF-specific pump priming scheme detailed below.

Stretch activities:

- *Researcher mobility scheme*: An element of the GCRF QR allocation (£200,000) will be used to fund a two-way research mobility scheme between DAC list countries and the University of York. The researcher mobility scheme will cover all career levels, from PhD students to experienced independent researchers, and will be open to both York academics and academics in DAC list countries. It is also anticipated that support staff from York and DAC list countries, would be eligible to apply to the fund in order to facilitate mutual learning regarding how to conduct and organise ODA-compliant activities. By establishing and enhancing equitable partnerships with researchers in DAC list countries, the University will promote the sustainability of existing and emerging relationships. The process of allocating awards under this scheme would be via three application windows, spread evenly throughout the University's financial year.

Transform activities:

- *Project-specific impact development fund*: £150,000 will be used to develop impact activities relating to GCRF/ODA-compliant research projects. Primarily, these impact-development funds will be allocated to projects conducting research in countries detailed below. Projects will be invited to bid for impact development funds and will be awarded according to ODA-compliance and benefit to the DAC list country, among other criteria defining quality of impact activities.

- *Doctoral Training in Ghana and Kenya*: This project will focus on developing and sharing best-practice relating to the provision of doctoral training in, initially, Ghana and Kenya (costing £50,000 in the first year). By focusing on in-country training, capacity-building and maintaining in-country research strength, this project contributes to the retention of Ghana and Kenya's most able students, thereby promoting and developing the national research capacities. The University has established relationships with the University of Ghana and the University of Nairobi who are keen to develop and share best practice relating to doctoral training. Moreover, Rochester University (NY, USA) would be active participants in the project, providing both staff time and a financial contribution. All three universities are members of the World Universities Network with York. We have also received support for the project from the Director of Universities UK International, Vivienne Stern. This three-year project would deliver numerous 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competitions over three years. In year 1, 3MTs would be held in Accra and Nairobi, in year 2, these would be expanded to include more Universities drawn from across the region, whilst year 3 would include regional finals (organised and hosted by regional partners), expanding the number of organisations involved. To prepare participants,

training sessions and support meetings will be delivered, which will be held in advance of the 3MT competitions. Moreover, during year 1 and in parallel with the 3MT competitions in Ghana and Kenya, we will run Doctoral Training Workshops, sharing best practice relating to the delivery of PhD programmes, whilst hosting discussions relating to employability of African PhDs, and how to retain the best talent within the continent. Delivering these 3MT and the accompanying workshops will develop the welfare of Ghana and Kenya PhD student bodies, exposing their research to a wider audience, identify areas of best practice, thereby enhancing the reputation of African Universities and increasing in-country retention. This project has been fully costed, and a detailed budget is available upon request.

- *Pump priming for new GCRF activities*: We recognise that retaining a degree of flexibility is necessary, allowing the research community to respond to emerging research topics, global events and new opportunities for collaboration. Therefore, £165,751 of the QR allocation will be diverted to a GCRF specific research pump priming scheme. Activities eligible for funding under this scheme will be diverse, and could include establishing new relationships/networks, hosting of workshops and events, researcher training and development, discrete research projects, or other ODA-compliant activities. All proposed activities will have to demonstrate ODA-compliance, adherence to the fundamental principles of the GCRF QR fund as outlined in *Annex B: Allocations and guidance on strategies*. The GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager and GCRF Administrator would play key roles in delivering this pump priming scheme.

York has an established track record of collaborating with partners in a diverse range of geographical locations. Correlating with the University's wider strategic geographical goals (which are developed, in part, by the University's Global Engagement team), a number of priority areas have been identified. Key strategic partnerships (multi-faceted collaborations) exist in China, Ghana, India, South Africa and Thailand. Here, the University can facilitate connections and effectively manage relationships and projects. Decisions on 'main countries' are determined by existing links, research synergies, ease of working, sustainability assessments, and future potential. Other areas where the University has strong partnerships include East Africa (notably Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania), South-East Asia (notably the Philippines and Vietnam), and South and Central America (including Brazil and Colombia). As a number of the activities detailed above are responsive, we expect additional geographical areas to emerge.

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

The activities outlined in this strategy will deliver outcomes leading to impact for a range of different stakeholders:

- Internal beneficiaries within the University whose ODA-compliant work is better supported;
- External direct beneficiaries such as policy makers, academic and industrial partners (primarily in DAC list countries) who will enhance their own organisational strengths and capabilities;
- External indirect beneficiaries such as the populations of the localities, regions and DAC list nations where our research is carried out.

The activities listed below and in Annex A2 will deliver a wide range of outcomes and these are dealt with systematically below:

- *Contribution to GCRF activities*: While not intended to cover the full shortfall in FEC, this element will free up financial reserve to be re-invested in the University, thereby assisting in undertaking more core and ODA-compliant activities. Moreover, by

allocating funds to cover the unfunded portion of ODA-compliant research projects, this assures project sustainability, diminishing the financial burden associated with conducting the research.

- *GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager and GCRF Administrator posts*: Support will be provided for development of GCRF activities. Success will be measured by increased submissions of GCRF applications leading to awards. Given our current increase in the number and quality of GCRF/ODA-compliant research projects and the successful monitoring of existing projects, the University will increase its GCRF activity overall, thereby delivering more positive impact in DAC list countries.

- *Researcher mobility*: The exact number of research exchanges is difficult to predict (as this fund will be used in a responsive mode) but we anticipate that success could be measured by utilisation of the whole allocation (£200,000 p.a.) in an ODA-compliant manner with the submission of researcher mobility reports to the GCRF Steering Group. In-country capacity will be developed, and both York and partner academics will have an increased understanding of both the GCRF and UK research landscape.

- *Impact*: As this GCRF QR money has not been allocated to specific projects but will be open to the University GCRF/ODA-compliant research community, it is difficult to assess the likely outcomes at this stage. However, submission of a report detailing how these funds have been used and the additional impact generated will be required from all recipients.

- *Doctoral training*: The main outcomes will be the delivery of in-country workshops, allowing the exchange of best practice, and the 3 Minute Thesis events. These activities will aid development of research communities, promoting research excellence and enhancing community cohesion.

- *Pump priming*: As the pump priming scheme will be responsive, specific outcomes and impact cannot be detailed in advance. However, it is reasonable to assume that a number of ODA-compliant networking events, workshops, training exchanges, and discrete research projects will be funded through this scheme.

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.

The University has an established system of monitoring ODA-compliant research overseen by the PVC-Research, involving academic research staff, Departmental and Faculty research support staff and the RDT. Moreover, the University has a hierarchy of entities (detailed below), which play a role in the monitoring and evaluation of all GCRF/ODA-compliant activities. These bodies will be responsible for monitoring the success of all GCRF projects. As mentioned in Q1, the University's GCRF Steering Group, supported by information and data provided by Research Grants and Contracts, will regularly monitor GCRF activity and prepare reports for distribution to both University and Department Research Committees (DRCs). The GCRF Steering Group will also review priorities, which will be particularly relevant should the GCRF allocation be more or less than the amount indicated in Annex C.

At the department level, DRCs are responsible for maintaining an overview of research carried out in the departments and for supporting the implementation and monitoring of Departmental Research Strategies. Via the DRC Chair, DRCs feed into the business of the relevant Faculty Research Group and into the business of the University's Research Forum as appropriate. In order to facilitate the monitoring of

GCRF activity, the Research Development Team and GCRF/ODA-Compliance Manager (with support from the GCRF Administrator) will regularly create reports, based on the research management platform, Worktribe. These GCRF specific reports will be used in preparation of the formal reports requested by HEFCE relating to our GCRF QR allocation. DRCs also lead on the preparation of the Annual Departmental Research Reviews, reporting to University Research Committee; these reports will include information on GCRF/ODA-compliant research and identify any compliance issues. Should such issues be identified at the departmental level, DRCs ensure that matters of concern are reported to the Head of Department, Associate Dean (Research) and/or Director of Research and Enterprise. More information relating to our *Code of Practice on Research Integrity* is available [here](#) while the University is in the process of writing GCRF-specific Guidance as an addendum to this Code. All Chairs of DRCs are members of the Faculty Research Group (FRG) that operates for their respective Faculty. The FRGs develop strategic approaches to research that align with the University Research Strategy and provide a mechanism whereby Departments and Faculties can feed into the development of research policy, prior to final approval by University Research Committee. Of importance to this GCRF QR allocation, FRGs share good practice in the development, delivery and tracking of impact, which will assist in the monitoring and evaluation of our GCRF QR Strategy.

Providing an overview of all research activity, including that related to GCRF/ODA-compliant research as documented in this strategy, the University Research Committee (URC) advises the University Executive Board (UEB) and the University Senate on all matters relating to the University's research activity. URC monitors policies and practices to stimulate research programmes in agreed priority areas, monitors progress in response to external requirements (e.g. this GCRF QR strategy) and monitors the research performance of the institution overall, the departments in terms of research quality, financial sustainability (generation of research income), impact and research integrity, drawing on national and international benchmarking data. The University's Planning Committee will assist in overseeing the University's planning and associated budgeting arrangements, and make recommendations to the UEB regarding the allocation of strategic development funds.

Upon receipt of the GCRF QR allocation, we will adopt existing systems and processes to allow the transparent monitoring and evaluation of the fund. To facilitate reporting, we will use Worktribe, our web-based research management software, to flag the relevant projects and permit the running of automatic reports. All activities funded through this QR allocation will be required to report progress against project aims and objectives (and re-state ODA-compliance), and these will be collated by the Research Development Team and GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager for distribution, both internally and externally where appropriate. In addition, ODA-compliance of all research activity is assessed internally during project development using a bespoke questionnaire, which influences the development of an ODA-Compliance Statement.

Working in parallel with the DRCs, FRGs and URC, the GCRF Steering Group will oversee the geographical distribution of projects. The GCRF/ODA-Compliance Manager, working with the RDT and Global Engagement team, will be responsible for identifying geographical trends, areas of regional expertise, and potential new geographical areas in which the University could work. At the departmental level, DRCs will also consider geographical activities as part of their regular research surveillance. The Research Communications Team will be responsible for producing infographics, showing the geographical regions where our GCRF/ODA-compliant activities are focused and the iGDC will assist in promoting, supporting, and

delivering ODA-compliant research. Analysis of the outputs, outcomes and impacts of the projects will be conducted by the GCRF Steering Group, with assistance from the relevant Faculty Impact Manager, the RDT and the GCRF/ODA-Compliance Manager. Impacts and outcomes will be collated for reporting to URC, copied to DRCs and FRGs as appropriate.

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.

The activities were agreed by the GCRF Steering Group. It was decided that a balanced approach was necessary to support Core, Stretch, and Transform activities allowing us to develop new research projects/areas (Stretch and Transform), whilst ensuring sustainability of existing projects (Core). Moreover, it was evident that the University wishes to support each of the four research areas noted above, and funding will be allocated to each thematic area.

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.

Should the GCRF QR allocation be more than the amount indicated in Annex C, the University would consider funding additional activities, including those identified during the internal consultation process for this strategy but not yet prioritised. One example might be establishing a regional network of research collaborations with our partners in southern Africa.

If the GCRF allocation were to be significantly less than the amount indicated in Annex C, we would reduce activities in proportion to their current allocation. We would also consider removing the 0.2 FTE Administrator post as the volume of additional tasks associated with the lower QR allocation would be reduced. Creation of the GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager post is considered essential to ensure efficient and effective management of our GCRF portfolio.

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.

Irrespective of funding increase/decrease, we would aim to maintain a strong portfolio of GCRF QR activity across our primary areas of strength, and funds would be allocated to all four thematic areas. If the GCRF allocation in 2019/20 was more than the amount indicated in Annex C, we would maintain funding the Core activities: i) contribution to current GCRF activities, ii) GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager, and iii) GCRF Administrator. It is anticipated that both of these posts would cover the entire GCRF QR funding period from 2018 - 2021. We view these activities as being key to delivering excellent service across our entire GCRF portfolio, ensuring that GCRF activities are sustainable, fully ODA-compliant, and conducted efficiently to deliver a plethora of benefits to countries on the DAC list. Other priorities that will be maintained and expanded if the allocation were to be increased, include the

Researcher Mobility, Impact Development, and pump priming schemes. At present, we have two York-led applications that have been invited to the second stage of the RCUK *Interdisciplinary Research Hubs to Address Intractable Challenges Faced by Developing Countries* call. If one or both of these bids were to be successful, some of the additional GCRF QR funds could be used to support these projects, for example by promoting activities designed to increase real world impact of the Hubs. The ODA-compliance of these additional activities has already been outlined above and acknowledged in Annex B: *Allocations and guidance on strategies*.

If the funding were to be significantly reduced in 2019/20, we would reduce Stretch and Transform activities proportionally, maintaining selected individual activities in these categories up until no longer financially viable (i.e. the investment would be too low to produce real benefits). We would attempt to maintain the majority of Core activities and it is likely that the GCRF/ODA Compliance Manager post would remain unaffected, as an essential underpinning role. If the allocation was reduced to a point where activities had to be cancelled, we would need to review performance of all activities funded during 2018/19, and assess which ones offered best value for money. Alternatively, rather than remove particular activities from our 2019/2020 plan, it may be possible to re-frame them. For example, the Researcher Mobility Scheme could be restricted, with the fund receiving applications only from colleagues in DAC list countries to visit/train at York. This restriction would maintain the direct benefit to in-country colleagues

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.

It is difficult to confirm what the position of York's GCRF portfolio will be in the academic year 2020/21 - should we be successful in either of our two bids to the RCUK *Interdisciplinary Research Hubs to Address Intractable Challenges Faced by Developing Countries* call, then an amount of the 2020/21 GCRF QR allocation may be allocated to these flagship projects. Both fall within the AgriFood theme, and careful thought would be needed to determine the potential imbalance over the entirety of our GCRF portfolio. The ODA-compliance of these Hub bids has already been assessed (by RCUK during the outline proposal stage), and both projects have direct benefits in DAC list countries (Kenya, Malaysia, and the greater Mekong delta area).

As noted above for 2019/20, in the event of either an increase or decrease in GCRF QR funding, we would aim to maintain the level of funding relating to the Core projects. If the 2020/21 allocation were significantly reduced, we would reduce the amount awarded to Stretch and Transform activities. As with a reduction in the 2019/20 allocation, we would review the performance and outcomes of all activities, aiming to identify and curtail activities offering less value for money.