Global Challenges Research Fund
Global Challenges Research Fund

- Address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- Strengthening capability for research and innovation, within both UK and developing countries
- Agile response to emergencies and opportunities

Cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries

2015 Government Spending Review Outcomes
UK AID STRATEGY (NOV 2015)

Four Strategic Objectives for UK ODA:

• strengthening global peace, security and governance
  • Causes of instability, insecurity and conflict
  • Tackling crime and corruption

• strengthening resilience and response to crisis
  • Support for crisis in Middle East
  • Responses to public health crises, esp. anti-microbial resistance
  • Climate change adaptation and mitigation

• promoting global prosperity

• tackling extreme poverty
  • Prioritising needs of women and girls
  • Access to basic needs
UK AND GLOBAL PRIORITIES FOR ODA
WHAT IS ODA?

Implications of the ODA Requirements for GCRF Applications
Dominik Zaum, 27 May 2016
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

- Important for key UK funding opportunities
  - Global Challenges Research Fund
  - Newton Funding
  - DFID Funding

- ODA compliance generates additional requirements for research applications

- ODA compliance is a “gateway criterion” for funding
WHAT IS ODA?

• OECD Definition:
  "Those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which …is administered with the promotion of economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective”

• OECD on Research within ODA:
  “Only research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA. The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country.”
WHAT IS ODA?

Implications:

- Needs to address a specific need of developing countries (but does not need to be focussed on particular countries)

- Does not necessarily have to involve development country partners (but it would probably help)
DEMONSTRATING ODA COMPLIANCE

• Embed the argument that a project falls under ODA from the outset
  • Use existing national and global frameworks (e.g. UK aid strategy, Sustainable Development Goals)

• Highlight how research matters for relevant ODA recipient countries
  • Use OECD List of ODA recipients
  • Identify partners (either research partners or development practitioners) from the countries or working in (or on behalf of) the countries
ENGAGEMENT

Where appropriate:

• **Highlight strong involvement of partners** in developing countries in co-production of knowledge
  - At project design stage (e.g. stakeholder consultations), and the identification and framing of research questions
  - During the actual research
  - During dissemination and research uptake

• **Highlight contribution of those partners**, and how they enhance project
Current RCUK Portfolio

- Active participation in Newton
- Significant and growing portfolio of ODA research
- Strong clusters of excellence with high engagement in developing world issues
- Communities with untapped potential to contribute
GCRF allocation
(4th March 2016)
Our Proposal to BIS
Forward investment profile

OTHER DELIVERY PARTNERS: National Academies, UK Space Agency, HEFCE
TRANSFORMATIONAL: Challenge led interdisciplinary partnerships
STRETCH: Growing new capability across disciplines
CORE: Maximising impact from core capability

[Bar chart showing investment profile for years 2016-17 to 2020-21]
# Global Challenges (draft)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Clean Energy</th>
<th>Sustainable Agriculture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To tackle diseases, strengthen health systems and reach the world's most vulnerable.</td>
<td>To provide access to clean energy, including new technologies and the behavioural insights required for successful introduction to developing countries.</td>
<td>To improve nutrition and food security, support technological innovation, and increase resilience to climate change.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Conflict &amp; humanitarian action</th>
<th>Foundations for Economic Development</th>
<th>Other potential topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New insights and approaches for preventing conflict and violence, build stability and strengthen humanitarian action.</td>
<td>To understand what works best for developing countries to build the foundations for economic development - macroeconomics, institutions, innovation and private sector growth, cities and infrastructure, education systems, jobs and skills.</td>
<td>Resilient systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Migration and Refugee Crises</td>
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Challenge categories align with research priorities of UK Department for International Development
RCUK Global Challenge Research Fund
Strategic Advisory Group

To advise RCUK on:

- engagement with research and stakeholder communities and the facilitation of new ideas and opportunities
- the development of a strategic research agenda and prioritisation of challenge topics
- the effectiveness of RCUK strategies and mechanisms, including mechanisms to build capability where it is needed to address existing deficits.
- integration of ODA and non-ODA challenge research, where this is sensible to do so
- the allocation of research funding, consistent with the Haldane principle.

Strategic Advisory Group

- Reflect the breadth of disciplines across Research Councils UK
- Diverse across career stages and life course
- Drawn from academe, government, business and international stakeholders

Individuals who can demonstrate:

- Excellence in research
- Achievement through interdisciplinary working
- Commitment to global development challenges
Strategic Advisory Group

Initial membership: (call for extra members live – 23 June deadline)
http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/sagcall/

Chair: Professor Sir Mike Aaronson, University of Surrey
Professor Charles Godfray, University of Oxford
Professor Sir Andy Haines, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Professor Richard Jones, University of Sheffield
Professor Dame Sally Macintyre, University of Glasgow
Professor Helen Sang, University of Edinburgh
Professor James Stirling, Imperial College London
Professor Jeff Waage, London International Development Centre
Professor Sir Alan Wilson, University College London
Professor Alan Winters, University of Sussex
Impacts from research are always uncertain, often unexpected and cannot be guaranteed – this includes impacts on developing world.

The likelihood of impact is increased:

• If the research is orientated towards real world problems and challenges
• If stakeholders that are close to the problem, or have a mandate to implement any solutions, are involved in the progression of the research
• If the academics and research team are motivated to achieve impact and benefit.
Competences needed to deliver this agenda:

- Able to identify global challenges that are tractable through research
- Able to demonstrate a new approach to ODA compliance
- Grow capability in UK research base and overseas, to achieve global development goals
- Deliver interdisciplinary research
- Achieve pathways to impact that extend to the developing world
- Research Councils to operate as an integrated delivery organisation as envisaged by Sir Paul Nurse
USEFUL LINKS

• DFID, Research for Development (information of ongoing and past DFID research projects, all funded by ODA)
• DFID, Research Uptake Guidance
• OECD, “Is it ODA?” (2008)
• RCUK, Global Challenges Research Fund
• UK Treasury, UK Aid: Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest (November 2015)
• United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
# Current opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Lead Funder</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-communicable Disease (NCDs) Foundation Awards: Global Health Science – Beyond Infections</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td>22 June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Awards for Global Agricultural and Food Systems Research</td>
<td>BBSRC</td>
<td>22 June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Data Analysis Initiative highlight notice</td>
<td>ESRC</td>
<td>Call opens: 10 June 2016 Deadline: 11 July 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESRC-AHRC call for proposals on Forced displacement</td>
<td>ESRC</td>
<td>20 July 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Tackling antimicrobial resistance: behaviour within and beyond the Healthcare Setting</strong></td>
<td>ESRC</td>
<td>Pump priming grants: 20 July 2016</td>
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<td>Collaborative grants: 27 July 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Translating Cultures and Care for the Future Research Innovation Awards on International Development</strong></td>
<td>AHRC</td>
<td>21 July 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PaCCS: Inter-Disciplinary Research Innovation Awards on Conflict and International Development</strong></td>
<td>AHRC</td>
<td>28 July 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Networks call 2016</strong></td>
<td>ESRC</td>
<td>Call opens: mid-June 2016</td>
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<td>Deadline: Early August 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Building Resilience to Natural Hazards</strong></td>
<td>NERC</td>
<td>Pre-announcement</td>
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<td>Deadline: Late August 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Centres competition 2016: Foundations of inclusive growth</strong></td>
<td>ESRC</td>
<td>6 September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postdoctoral Fellowships</strong></td>
<td>ESRC</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
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GCRF & NEWTON FUND?

The **Newton Fund** expanded and extended to 2021. Managed by BIS and delivered through 15 UK delivery partners. **All activities must be ODA-eligible and developed with at least one of the 15 partnering countries, and require matched funding/effort from the partnering country.**

The BIS **Global Challenge Research Fund** aims to address the problems faced by developing countries whilst developing the UK’s ability to deliver cutting edge research. It is a **£1.5bn fund from 2016/17 to 2020/21.** There are **no match funding requirements**, and must support at least one DAC-listed country/territory and have the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective. The Research Councils are the main delivery partners (with HEFCE, UKSA and National Academies).