The Evolving Research for Development Landscape

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What does UKCDS do?

• Bring people together

• Share information

• Promote opportunities
Connecting research with development challenges: the changing landscape
Rising economies and investment in science, technology and innovation (STI)

Many African countries now have STI policies (e.g. 11 out of 15 SADC countries). Several have increased their financial commitment to R&D substantially since 2009, including:

- Egypt: 0.43% → 0.68% of GDP
- Ethiopia: 0.24% → 0.61% of GDP
- Kenya: 0.36% → 0.79% of GDP
- Mali: 0.25% → 0.66% of GDP
- Senegal: 0.37% → 0.54% of GDP
- Uganda: 0.36% → 0.48% of GDP

Challenges
- Fragmented R&D systems
- Poor university-industry collaboration
- Drop in government funding for agricultural R&D in SSA
Increasingly fragmented development landscape

Key development trends

1. Inequality
2. Fragility and conflict
3. Urban poverty
4. Changing demographics
5. Environmental change
6. Resource scarcity

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1. The Data Report: putting the poorest first, 2015
2. Financing the future, How international public finance should fund a global social compact to eradicate poverty, ODI
Changing role and position of science

‘Wicked problems’ or post-normal: complex, facts uncertain, stakes are high, urgent decisions, values are in dispute
And in the UK?

1. Strengthening global peace, security and governance
2. Strengthening resilience and response to crises
3. Promoting global prosperity
4. Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world’s most vulnerable
Rising ODA R&D spend across government: 2016-2021*

* Based on UKCDS estimates from published forecasts or figures provided by members
** DH managed Ross Fund spending. Minority (estimated at <20%) is for purposes other than research, surveillance or innovation
ODA funded research

• Impact on development challenges
• Interdisciplinary
• Attracting new research teams/ideas
• The strengths of UK research in helping to contribute to challenges
• Building new partnerships
• In line with UK Aid strategy and Sustainable Development Goals
• Must qualify for classification as ODA (OECD-DAC definitions)
DFID Research Review

Research Review focuses on DFID’s areas of comparative advantage and complementarity to other funds.

**Impact:** does research focus on an important and practical development challenge & increased focus on research uptake

**Quality:** will the commissioned research be of the highest quality?

**Deliverability:** will the research deliver benefits within a realistic timeframe?

**Cost:** has every possible step been taken to control costs?
DFID research priorities

**Fragile and conflict affected states:**
- Research around security and justice, migration, taxation and accountability, cross border drivers of conflict and justice
- Multi-disciplinary research on transformational development in African cities
- Research and innovation in humanitarian settings including building resilience and delivering education in emergencies

**Health:** vaccines and infectious diseases (half of Ross Fund), resilient health systems, reaching the most vulnerable in health crises, maternal health

**Climate, Energy and Water:** scale-up access to clean energy and access to water and climate science including weather disaster risk reduction

**Agriculture:** commercialisation and food systems with strong focus on women, investment in sustainable agriculture including nutrition and resilience to climate change, speeding up development of productive and resilient crops and agricultural technologies

**Economic development:** what works best to build foundations for economic development?
Department of Health

Two funding streams:

- **Ross Fund**: ~£500 million over 5 years
  - Anti-microbial resistance
  - Infectious diseases with epidemic potential
  - Neglected tropical diseases

- **Global Health research programme**: ~£400 million over 5 years
  - Funding through NIHR
  - Partnerships and capacity strengthening
Its about approach and context

- Is the research relevant and needed? – check national strategies
- Is there traction and engagement in the countries where the research is taking place?
- Does the research shed new light on complex challenges? E.g. synergies and tradeoffs across the SDGs
- Focus on impact: networks and implementation as well as new ideas and technologies
- Delivering excellent interdisciplinary research AND building sustainable capacity
- Creating and maintaining equitable partnerships
Issues to think about when developing partnerships

11 Principles & 7 Questions

Transboundary and intercultural research in partnership is challenging. This is particularly the case when cooperation takes place between rich and poor countries. This guide is based on 11 principles and 7 key questions. They aim to build research partnerships in the most constructive, balanced and resilient manner.

Click here to download the complete Guide.
Click here to download the guide in German.

Finding and Building Effective Partnerships

Working in partnership across countries, disciplines and sectors is vital to understand the context of international development challenges and develop sustainable solutions.

Researchers are excellent at developing collaborations; however, working in global development can add specific challenges. They include finding the right partners in other countries and sectors, overcoming cultural and language differences, creating equitable relationships, and developing effective communications. Below we've put together a variety of resources to help you build successful high impact collaborations.

Creating an effective, equal partnership

There are no simple rules for how to build efficient, effective and equitable research collaborations or partnerships. Factors for success include:

- A common, shared vision and purpose and (usually) well-defined goals
- Support for the partnership from participating organizations
- Equitable sharing of resources, responsibilities and benefits
- Transparent decision making
- Creation of genuine respect and trust between the partners
- Future advancement of high-level outcomes for the partnership itself

There are lots of guides and resources available with tips and suggestions for how to build successful partnerships. We've picked out a few below:

General guides:
- The Partnership Initiative provides a wealth of resources including case studies and tools for developing transboundary and sector partnerships in international development
- Co-producing knowledge: a toolkit for researchers jointly producing knowledge across different academic and non-academic fields of expertise

Planning and building a partnership
- DAS Guide for drafting a strategy for building collaborative partnerships
- A brief overview: How to guide from CGIAR on planning and writing collaboration agreements for successful partnerships
- An easy-to-read and practical Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships with 11 principles and 7 key questions to analyze factors that hinder or enable partnerships in different contexts
- A slightly shorter and much more of a practical guide: Good Partnerships in Educational Partnerships based on experiences from UK-funded partnerships in Further and Higher Education
- ELSPA's Guide to Constructing Effective Partnerships between humanitarian and academic organisations

11principles.org
Fairness and equitability in research partnerships

Before the research happens:
• Joint shaping of the research agenda
• Explicit research plan with clear budgets, roles and responsibilities
• Assessing research and management capacity needs
• Awareness of financial management challenges – payment in arrears, due diligence

During the research:
• Fair contracting and compensation
• Building capacity locally including research leadership
• Avoid imbalance in status e.g. research planning, authorship, governance/management/supervision
• Inclusion of communities and policymakers

After the research – fair benefit sharing:
• Credit and recognition for contribution
• Access to data and intellectual property
• Sustainable legacy planning
Role of institutions

Develop institution wide guiding principles for good research management in partner overseas institutions

Provide institution-to-institution capacity strengthening e.g. financial, communication, grants

rfi.cohred.org
How can UKCDS help you?

- **Researcher Hub:** /researcher-hub
- **Funding hub:** /funding
- **Weekly or monthly updates:** /subscribe-to-our-mailing-list
- **Twitter:** @UKCDS