

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

LSE's strategy is to undertake world leading research, which tackles the most significant and intractable problems that we face. This is aligned with the overall strategy of GCRF to "ensure UK science takes the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing countries, whilst developing our ability to deliver cutting-edge research". Our GCRF related strategy is to increase LSE's capacity to both work in DAC countries and, through research insights, help to address the challenges to growth and development that they face. This approach is drawn from the broader research strategy of the institution to encourage colleagues to take on new challenges and work in new research fields, either across the social-sciences and humanities, or increasingly with researchers from technical and medical sciences. Our general QR funding is part of the investment LSE makes in encouraging colleagues to explore new questions and work with new partners.

Since its founding LSE has been a truly international institution with academics and students drawn from across the world. LSE's outlook continues to be global. Scholars who have spent time at LSE are pioneers in fields that have provided significant insights into addressing profound social and economic problems faced by

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

communities around the world; particularly in some of the world's poorest countries. LSE's influence is not only through pioneering contributions to research but also through new undergraduate and post-graduate teaching programmes.

Recognising the distinctive work of scholars working in different disciplines on issues connected to 'development' in the world's low and middle income regions LSE created a multi-disciplinary development studies department, the International Development department. The department is now one of our larger academic departments and is home to world leading research, which feeds into a range of teaching programmes at undergraduate and post-graduate level. For the past 10 years LSE has hosted the International Growth Centre a £100m co-funded initiative undertaken with the Department for International Development. The growing concentration of work on the continent of Africa lead to the creation of LSE's Firoj Lalji Africa Centre, founded with the generous support of an LSE alumnus.

Along with our other regional centres bringing together researchers sharing interests in Latin America, Africa, South East Asia and South Asia, LSE has made a substantial strategic commitment to raise the profile of research on the world's low and middle income countries and regions. Our International Growth Centre has made substantial contributions to growth policies across the world but in particular in Pakistan and the Indian state of Bihar. This work is now helping to develop and introduce more effective policies for growth in Myanmar. LSE's new Africa regional centre draws together research teams from across LSE working on the problems to engage with conflict affected states how international institutions can connect to emerging informal governance where formal state frameworks have failed which impedes effective development assistance. Our Grantham Research Institute has made important contributions across a wide range of climate related challenges, an example of which is work promoted in Grantham which highlighted the problems of resilience of power generation systems in East Africa as a result of the siting of hydro-electric generation schemes.

Our collaborations with partners in countries and regions also look to support more direct approaches to building in-country capability. The LSE Latin America and Caribbean Centre (LACC) has partnered with Nacional Financiera (NAFIN), a Mexican development banking institution, to establish a new visiting fellowship programme in the Centre. NAFIN aims to promote the overall development and modernisation of Mexico's industrial sector with a regional approach. The Africa Centre hosts the African Leaders programme which to "promote best practices of economic and social development in the Fellows organisations and countries.

GCRF has four expectations for the work that it funds; it should be excellent research, which is directed at solving problems and that has impact on countries and people's lives. It expects to build capacity in the partners and countries in which it supports projects. We think that LSE's sustained investments in new teaching and new research centres reflect the approach adopted by GCRF. Our investment in new initiatives – such as those mentioned above - demonstrate LSE's ongoing commitment to research and teaching on 'development' issues and our institutional strategy is to continue to form new partnerships to help develop the capacity for in-country research capability.

The creation of the Global Challenges Research Fund has given a new profile and significant support to research into problems experienced in the developing world. LSE has been a fortunate beneficiary of both GCRF funding and that from longer established programmes under the Department for International Development. The following section summarises the main strands of our strategy as it relates to the intended use of funding provided by GCRF through the QR stream. Some of the funding will be directed to helping to make ongoing work sustainable, other parts of the strategy are directed towards overcoming the barriers which might otherwise be an impediment to the successes we hope for.

LSE's strategy for use of the GCRF QR funding will focus on four streams in this initial 3 year period

- Encouraging the participation of all fields of research and researchers hosted by LSE to develop 'global' strands in their research (40% of the GCRF QR allocation)
- Create a model framework for monitoring and evaluation of all ODA relevant activity at LSE, both to aggregate at the School level and to more effectively capture 'impact' data in individual projects (10% of the GCRF QR allocation)
- Create appropriate processes to ensure appropriate and robust approaches to due diligence across all LSE's ODA relevant activity (10% of GCRF QR funding)
- Provide support to existing projects funded under FEC models to reduce the funding deficit and ensure sustainability (40% of the GCRF QR allocation)

In the following section we set out more detailed summaries of the streams and the objectives to be achieved under each. Where possible we have identified the countries and regions in which we expect these approaches to have influence. Otherwise, other approaches will have specific influence on countries which are yet to be identified, but in these cases we set out the process which will inform those downstream choices

1. Encouraging researchers to work globally and across disciplinary boundaries

GCRF will require a significant change in the research of many academics and researchers. LSE already has a large community working on research in DAC countries. For many other researchers, however, future participation in ODA relevant programmes will depend on their ability to connect their research interests to new regions and countries and to collaborate with new partners. We see this as one of the potential barriers to our successful contribution to the GCRF and other ODA related programmes. The complexity and scale of the problems to be solved are likely to require contributions from all fields, and not only those with a longer history of working in global regions. We have therefore made a strategic choice to encourage and support LSE researchers to establish new research collaborations with partners in DAC countries where they may not already have conducted research..

We will use approximately 40% of the GCRF QR funding to accelerate this process by establishing a development fund to encourage and support wider engagement in research collaborations in DAC countries.

The LSE GCRF Development Fund (the Fund) will prioritize:

- supporting individuals and groups whose work has relevance to the challenges in DAC countries but who have not worked on major research projects on those countries previously, or with research teams from those countries
- providing support to individuals and groups to develop new collaborative relationships with global partners, including those involving new ways of working with non-academic partners
- supporting those proposals which have clearly defined potential to benefit the countries in which the research is conducted
- providing support to projects which propose to conduct research in more than one country or across global regions e.g. working in Latin America and Africa. We will be particularly keen to support the creation inter-regional networks of researchers and stakeholders based in DAC countries
- investing in supporting individuals and teams to work with researchers from across all scientific disciplines, for example in the area of Global Health

The LSE GCRF Development Fund will be governed by our Research Development Panel. Competitions will be open to all LSE staff on a termly basis. Over the course of a year the panel will vary the priorities - set out above - in light of the awards made in previous rounds. The intention being to ensure that the widest range of new initiatives are given 'seed funding'. The panel will also review the partner countries involved in the seed project proposals to ensure we can achieve appropriate 'coverage' across the regions mentioned below. Over time we expect the fund will help to create a culture where global research is simply a part of the way colleagues conceive of their research from the outset and a larger proportion of LSE staff are working on challenges in our priority countries.

In the first period of the GCRF QR support the Fund will prioritize proposals working in:

- South and South east Asia (in particular India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
- Latin America, where we will look to accelerate our emerging collaborations in Brazil, Mexico, Cuba and Colombia.
- Africa

By working with partners in different DAC income categories we will also aim to connect stronger research partners to less research intensive countries in the region. We think there is an important role to be played in supporting the possibility of 'intra-regional' capacity building, which we hope to catalyze.

An example of the ongoing and impactful work we will build on comes from an ongoing project in Colombia which brings together LSE researchers and local partners in the Observatory on the Colombia Peace Process. It engages both researchers, and non-academic collaborators in issues connected to the peace process. The core project is supported by a GCRF IAA award to support KEI of LSE research. This project already tracks the engagement with participants in the peace process and the use of LSE research to inform their discussions.

But as set out in the next section, a new LSE Monitoring and Evaluation framework will allow us to collect data consistently across all ODA relevant projects hosted by LSE. We hope this will enhance the assessment and reporting of impact and influence of our research.

The LSE GCRF Development Fund will also be used to help establish collaborations with non-academic partners. Working with key local stakeholders will help to ensure that research in regions and countries engages those actors most likely to ensure that our research influences the 'real world'. The key to effective and sustained impact is the depth of engagement with stakeholders. Our M&E framework will help us to capture data from which we can draw information on the nature of stakeholder engagement as well as research impact. We will produce annual reports to be reviewed by the Research Development Panel to ensure the continued compliance with GCRF objectives. It will also be used to inform decisions over the future year's priority countries and/or priority themes. It will also provide clear data on the extent to which we are able to achieve the primary purposes of increasing the numbers of LSE staff engaged in ODA relevant activities and that we are working in more countries across the global regions.

We expect that around 40% of the GCRF QR funding will be allocated to the LSE GCRF Development Fund.

2. Monitoring and evaluation

Researchers at LSE have a long record of influencing debate and policy formation but the expected increase in the numbers of colleagues working on ODA relevant research will require a more systematic framework for capturing data on the instances of influence and impact of research projects in real time. We will therefore use GCRF

QR funding to support the development of an institutional framework for monitoring and evaluation which is deployed consistently across all ODA relevant activity. The framework will allow space for projects to develop specific tools as appropriate. Given the existing portfolio of current and former projects we will build our approach on those successful examples.

The framework will provide advice on identifying appropriate impact indicators for use in different projects and how to establish management information systems at the start of projects to ensure that we are able to capture data on the emerging influence of projects during the implementation phase. Also to allow ongoing monitoring for a period after project end dates.

We will use around 10% of the funding to employ a specialist to help develop the framework for use across the suite of ODA relevant projects. This post would draw from existing examples of best practice across LSE and elsewhere. The post would be for a limited period, not expected to be longer than the first two years of this cycle. The framework will then be applied to all Development Fund projects as well as in the larger projects funded under GCRF, DFID or other ODA relevant programmes. The new framework will allow us to collect data at the country, and trans-regional levels. We will be able to analyze the data by research themes and by type of impact. Individual projects will develop broader sets of indicators which are specific to the aims of each project but the core data will inform both LSE's future strategic thinking and our ability to report on the impact across the full portfolio of ODA relevant research and other activities.

3. Due Diligence

Enhanced due diligence, whilst necessary, is time consuming and costly. The initial cost is high as we develop and embed new systems and protocols. Over time this will reduce as the process becomes mainstreamed. GCRF QA funding will be used to invest in the establishment of new due diligence processes.

The costs are up front as the initial work will be to develop and put in place new robust and appropriate processes and to ensure they are fit for purpose. We estimate that around 10% of the total budget will be used for these purposes in the initial two-year period.

4. Sustainability

The balance of GCRF QR funding (40%) will be used to contribute to the FEC deficit funding across the ODA related activity hosted by LSE. The majority of GCRF funded projects will be costed on the TRAC FEC basis and so will have at least a 20% deficit in covering the full economic cost of the activity.

LSE currently hosts just under 50 projects which satisfy the criteria for ODA eligibility. The total value of the awards under from these sources is a little under £22m.

The average annual FEC of these projects is £6.9m, with an average annual sponsor contribution of £5.6m. The funding deficit is therefore around £1.3m per annum. The larger scale and longer-term projects would benefit from greater support to the overall costs. The three largest of the projects are provided below as examples of the largest draw on LSE resources and contributions, and as such would be prioritized to receive GCRF QR funding of the FEC deficit. We also set out the impacts these projects will have and the multiple countries they are working in.

Centre for Public Authority (CPAID): ESRC-GCRF funded. CPAID seeks to move away from the assumption that only Western-style formal state institutions can provide the structures necessary for thriving economic and social life. Instead, researchers will use the concept of public authority to investigate the

roles played by a multitude of actors and institutions in providing governance and public service provision in fragile contexts and translate the findings into more effective policy responses

CPAID Countries worked in and where the project expects to have influence: Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Central African Republic

International Growth Centre (IGC): DFID funded. The IGC directs a global network of researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. IGC draws on leading research in the field and applies the insights in the development of specific economic growth policy advice for the specific context of the countries it works in.

IGC countries worked in and where the project is already having influence on local growth policies include; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Somaliland, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia

Conflict research programme (CRP): DFID funded. The Conflict Research Programme (CRP) is designed to address the drivers and dynamics of violent conflict in the Middle East and Africa and to inform the measures being used to tackle armed conflict and its impacts. CRP research will analyse the logic of the political marketplace and how it intersects with moral populism to drive violence. It uses the concept of 'civicness' to examine how people attempt to constitute humane forms of public authority even in the most extreme circumstances, and how international interventions might better resolve conflict-related problems by supporting responses based on such local 'civicness'

CRP countries worked in and where the project aims to be influential; Iraq, Syria, DRC, Somalia and South Sudan, as well as the wider Horn of Africa/Red Sea and Arabian Gulf/Middle East regions.

Longer term development

The main areas we have identified above are intended to add capability in some areas and increase capacity more generally across the institution to engage in GCRF and ODA relevant research and capture relevant data on the influence and impacts of the research in the countries we work in.

Existing GCRF funded projects provide support to develop capability in local partners, both in terms of research skills and the institutions professional support services. LSE is already part of a network which - if funded under Horizon 2020, Marie-Curie Skłodowska actions - will provide training and professional development opportunities to professional staff in partners institutions in Latin America and Africa. In the medium to longer-term we will also look to increasing the capabilities in those organisations we partner with on a regular or strategic basis.

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

EXPECTED OUTCOMES (Maximum 500 words)

The inputs at LSE can be separated into three broad categories;

- increased participation across the institution in ODA eligible research and knowledge exchange/impact activities,
- augmented capability across institution in monitoring and evaluation, and extended capability for impact and KEI activity in an ODA/DAC context
- sustainable funding of more of our ODA relevant research

LSE is a research-intensive institution with a sustained track record in working in international collaborative research. Only a small proportion of this work has been with partners from DAC countries, or which were ODA eligible. The School has considerable under exploited capacity to work with new partners from across the globe. The GCRF QR investment will help us to accelerate increase in the proportion of LSE research staff who work on eligible research.

- We aim to show an increase in the proportion of staff participating in ODA eligible collaborations from over the initial three years,
- We will also leverage off existing research partners to a greater extent and seek to grow the network of institutions and research partners in DAC countries from the current group. One of the outcomes of the M&E framework will be our ability to identify both large and small 'partners' across our activities. This will allow us to 'audit' the relationships and our intention would be to use that data to establish a network of key research partners and other stakeholders, who are the main agents for ensuring impact and influence of research,
- We will develop an LSE framework for monitoring and evaluation of ODA eligible projects, which includes robust impact/engagement evaluation

With respect to the outcomes expected in specific countries and regions. We set out in the previous section some examples of the 50 ongoing ODA relevant projects currently hosted at LSE. The examples show the range of countries and regions in which we are already working and the project by project 'impacts' or influence that we expect to have. An important outcome of the GCRF QR funding will be how we are able to use the LSE Monitoring and Evaluation framework to further improve capturing of M&E data in specific countries for specific projects. We expect that the aggregation of country level and project level data will provide useful insight into impacts not only in the countries but also in cross-cutting themes such as; governance and democracy, growth, health, education, infrastructure. This will provide a global dimension to our measuring of impact and influence.

Management of GCRF

2. How will your HEI **monitor** and **evaluate** its progress and compliance in ODA and GCRF activity, including assessing geographical distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts?

Please describe the policies, procedures and approach you have in place to measure progress, evaluate outcomes, identify lessons learned, and ensure ODA compliance.

Maximum 1,500 words

At present GCRF activity is managed on a project by project basis. As stated above we aim to develop an institutional framework for the monitoring and evaluation of all ODA eligible activity.

The overall management oversight of GCRF/ODA research activity falls under the responsibility of the Pro-Director for Research, who will report directly into the LSE's School Management Committee.

Day to day operational management will rest with LSE's Research Division, which is responsible for management and administration of all research related activity at LSE. It is also home to the specialist teams for Impact/KEI

We will use existing research governance to oversee specific areas of activity. For example, the proposed LSE GCRF Development Fund would be overseen by LSE's Research Development Panel, the internal body which is responsible for the use of internal LSE research investment funds. The new development fund would be guided by this panel comprised of senior researchers with experience on funder peer review panels, and chaired by LSE's Pro-Director for Research. As mentioned in a previous section the Research Development Panel will monitor the geographic and thematic distribution of our ODA relevant

The impact and engagement of the research will be tracked as part of the institution's broader impact capture activity. Impact is a major component of successive REF exercises. We have an ongoing process to identify and capture emerging instances of 'impact' for that exercise. With augmentation using funding provided by GCRF QR we will build on that mechanism to track evidence of research impact.

The Research Division has invested in a new management information system for general research which captures information on collaborating partners and the countries our researchers are working on. We will be able to use this new system to capture the locations of ODA relevant research.

As previously mentioned we will be able to gather data across a number of dimensions, country level, regional level, and inter-regional level. We will also be able to analyse research and impacts data across different thematic areas – as mentioned above. This multi-dimension data will allow us to provide rich reporting on the types and locations of impact and influence from our research.

This will be used to feedback into the priority setting for the GCRF Development Fund. We will be able to assess the extent to which countries or regions or important topics are

being covered by LSE colleagues. This will allow the institution to make strategic choices about future ODA relevant work.

Section B: Use of QR GCRF 2018-19 allocation and future QR GCRF priorities

3. 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.

4. Please add here any explanatory notes on how you have completed the table in Annex A2 that will help inform assessment of ODA compliance.

Maximum 200 words

Some of the funding will be used to support existing ODA qualifying research and support the FEC deficit funding. This funding is connected to specific projects and so for reporting purposes can be tied to specific countries. Building capacity at LSE supported for a limited initial period to allow us to create the M&E framework. The framework will be applied across all projects and all countries in which we work. The GCRF Development Fund will prioritise the mentioned DAC country regions, but will be subject to review as awards are made and projects are implemented, but this will potentially open up LSE collaboration with any/all of the DAC countries.

Annex 2 reflects these lines of activity. We have allocated around 40% to the development fund, with some support for the administration of the Fund. Around 20% will be allocated to increasing LSE capability with respect to M&E and Due Diligence. We expect this work to be completed within the first two years. The remaining 40% will be used to provide funding to those projects which are not fully funded according to FEC. This is in line with our overall institutional use of QR funding, which is to support research the full costs of which are not covered by external grants.

5. How would your **priorities and activities** for 2018-19 QR GCRF change if the funding level differs from that outlined in indicative allocations? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 500 words

Any changes to our strategy will be influenced by the level of changes to the financial allocation. The most likely changes will be to reduce or increase the volume of activity under the LSE GCRF Development Fund or to support more/less of the FEC deficit for ongoing projects.

The new 2-year posts for M&E and Due Diligence will be fixed costs for the period. We will therefore prioritise maintaining the new posts which we have outlined above as creating a new institutional capability to improve both the design of research and impact activities and the capturing of impact' data and evaluation of the data to provide evidence of the influence of our research. The M&E and Due Diligence are activities which will allow us to demonstrate with robust evidence not only the compliance with ODA criteria but the breadth and depth of the impact of LSE research in specific countries and regions. Over time the reporting and analysis of M&E will allow us to draw conclusions as to which approaches are proving to be more/less effective in ensuring impact. The lessons learned from this will be fed back into the design of new research projects, which should ensure greater impact for the next generation of projects.

Over the longer term it is our priority to maintain investment in support to LSE researchers to identify and develop new research collaborations. This activity will both support projects, but also increase the participation of LSE researchers in ODA relevant activities. This priority meets ODA criteria because the Development Fund will support only those projects which are working in DAC countries, with the purpose of having ODA qualifying impact on social and economic development in the beneficiary countries. In the event that funding was reduced we would want to maintain the level of activity supported under this stream. If funding were increased this stream would be the priority for receiving additional funding.

The final stream is to maintain funding for the FEC deficit projects. As demonstrated by the examples provided in Section A those projects are all supported under ODA relevant programmes (GCRF, DFID) and as such comply with ODA requirements. In the event that funding was reduced this stream would bear the brunt of the reduction in funding to maintain funding for the GCRF Development Fund and the work to develop M&E and due diligence capacity.

Overall, we would expect to maintain the proportions of total funding which are allocated to Development Fund and to funding the FEC deficit for ongoing projects.

This use of funding is specifically designed to align with the GCRF strategy, in particular the 4 aims to support excellent, problem solving research which has impact on the lives of people in the poorest countries and regions. It also aims to affect capacity building in those countries and regions. We believe that by encouraging more researchers at LSE to undertake high quality research which addresses the most challenging questions will be a significant contribution to the GCRF objectives. That research will have impact by drawing on the existing expertise of LSE in communicating research to non-research stakeholders will be aided by an increased capability around data collecting and analysis, which the new M&E framework will support. Engaging more LSE colleagues in research will bring with it the chance to work with more researchers based in DAC countries and through co-design of research increase the capacity of the local research teams to conduct excellent and impactful research.

6. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 1,000 words

As mentioned in the previous section we would seek to complete the M&E and Due Diligence work in the first two years of the three-year cycle. The priorities for 2019/20 are unlikely to change significantly from the 2018/2019 priorities. As mentioned above the activity will assist us to demonstrate compliance with ODA criteria and to ensure that we maximise the impact of our work in the countries covered by new and ongoing projects. As mentioned previously these are fixed costs for the initial 2 years of the three-year cycle.

The priority for LSE will to maintain the Development Fund aiming to continue to build and maintain the participation of LSE staff in ODA activity. We will aim to maintain this activity as 40% of the overall funding. In the event that funding were increased this stream would be the priority for increased funding support.

The use of the funding to support the FEC deficit funding will vary according to the resources allocated to the two previous activities. We would aim that this is approximately 40% of the overall funding but this will vary as the M&E and Due Diligence posts are fixed costs and Development fund will be set at 40% of the overall funding.

Our strategy has a three-year horizon and so the 2019/20 year will mark the midpoint of the period we will have made progress on developing the institutional infrastructure and institutional framework activities such as monitoring and evaluation and the impact/engagement activity. However, it will also provide us with a useful point at which to review the implementation of the strategy to date. New activities might include supporting the emerging networks of research partners and stakeholders working with us on the portfolio of projects. Sustaining those networks will be important for the contributions those partners can make to research and policy making in their home countries. There is also benefit from supporting the development of those partners capacity for international collaboration. Therefore, in the event that additional funding is made available in future years we would look to develop in country and regional capacity building networks of research institutions and other stakeholders. Growing the research capability in country will significantly benefit individual countries and be highly ODA relevant. Using the data we have from our M&E framework would also help us to identify partners and countries and themes which could be targeted under a capacity building strategy.

As stated in the response to section 6, we believe these approaches are very well aligned to the GCRF priorities for excellent, problem solving and impactful research. It will also increase our capacity to engage with researchers in the world poorest countries and regions to form new partnerships and develop local research capability.

7. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2020-21? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 1,000 words

Again, this is a three-year strategy and we are not expecting to make significant changes to the overall approach.

In the third year of this cycle we will have completed the M&E and Due Diligence work. We expect that the maintenance of this activity will have been absorbed by the School. We expect to maintain the development fund but with two years of data we will be able to assess the increased levels of participation, the new engagements with non-research stakeholders in-country and the extent of research collaborations. With this data to hand we will review the priorities of the development fund – whether prioritising working in specific countries or regions, or whether we prioritise work on specific themes relevant to development.

We will have made considerable progress in developing and implementing the M&E, KE or due diligence frameworks and this is expected not to be an ongoing activity in year three.

Where streams of work are no longer necessary or no longer require the same intensity we will re-allocate funding to the Development Fund or to contribute to the funding gaps for GCRF projects.

As mentioned above year three will be an opportunity to introduce capacity building for research partners and non-research stakeholders. The partners and countries in which they work will of course be ODA eligible. As will the issues that the research examines and which influences change in the country. The selection of countries and topics will be informed by both our own analysis of ongoing projects supported under the development fund of those ODA eligible projects funded by third parties.

As stated in the response to section 6, we believe these approaches are very well aligned to the GCRF priorities for excellent, problem solving and impactful research. It will also increase our capacity to engage with researchers in the world poorest countries and regions to form new partnerships and develop local research capability.