

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.

### Question 1: Development-related research and QR GCRF strategy

**UCL's three-year strategic plan for QR GCRF** builds on the aims of our *Research Strategy* to build cross-disciplinary collaboration across UCL and with partners to address aspects of global problems (including a dedicated focus on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)), and reflects the strategic drivers of our *Global Engagement Strategy* to increase global independent research capacity and build partnerships of equivalence.

UCL's **priority for investing our QR allocation** is to support research, innovation and knowledge exchange activities that may not otherwise be funded, require pump-priming or address a pressing research or societal need. We aim to stimulate and support ODA-compliant research across the breadth of the university by:

- supporting established research activity to strengthen partnerships and enhance impact
- supporting emerging areas of ODA-compliant research to develop collaborative activity with researchers, practitioners, and others in developing countries
- stimulating research activities from those who may not have previously engaged in ODA-compliant research.

UCL's Global Research Forum, jointly convened by the Vice-Provosts (Research) and (International), discusses strategic priorities for global research collaboration, including ODA-compliant research; identifies risks and opportunities; and promotes dissemination of best practice. This supports our growing emphasis on supporting collaborative, cross-cutting and cross-disciplinary activity with developing country stakeholders. A priority is to increase the sustainability of ODA-compliant research activity in terms of: research capability across the institution; sustainable resourcing to support further investment; and adequate operational capacity for managing and supporting collaborative projects and ensuring compliance.

We have developed our strategy in consultation with academics to ensure that priorities reflect academic expertise and ambitions. Given our breadth of academic activity, our focus is on enhancing, expanding, and stimulating capability across our disciplinary base to support excellent challenge-led ODA-compliant research activity; build strong, sustainable relationships; and generate positive impacts with developing country partners, including supporting networking to build relationships and enable co-production of research.

The UCL Grand Challenges<sup>2</sup>, which promote cross-disciplinary collaborations to address global problems, provide an institutional framework to support the alignment of activity with the UK GCRF Strategy challenge areas<sup>3</sup>. This allows us to leverage institutional investment in the Grand Challenges and related cross-disciplinary activity, as well as ODA-relevant research activity related to the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Our four main priorities are to:

1. Underpin and build capability for ODA-compliant research and partnerships in key areas – global health; development planning; education and development; inequalities and community cohesion; technological development and innovation; sustainable resources; and disaster and societal resilience – to ensure the widest

<sup>2</sup> The UCL Grand Challenges are: Global Health, Sustainable Cities, Cultural Understanding, Human Wellbeing, Transformative Technology and Justice & Equality

<sup>3</sup> Namely: equitable access to sustainable development; sustainable economies and societies; and human rights, good governance, and social justice

- possible contribution of academic disciplines to excellent ODA-focused research and impact.
2. Support future generations of researchers through funding, mentoring and networking opportunities to increase their understanding of how their expertise and knowledge can be applied to ODA-relevant problems, and how to build collaborative activities with developing country partners.
  3. Promote the co-development of projects with developing country partners to generate societal impact and deliver change on a sustainable basis.
  4. Enable collaborative working across our institution, with other UK universities, and with developing country partners to identify problems, research needs, and proposed solutions.

Notable ODA-compliant research activity (much inherently cross-disciplinary) includes:

- the *Africa Health Research Institute* (AHRI), a US\$40m Wellcome partnership award to provide fundamental discoveries into the susceptibility, transmission and cure of HIV and TB to improve diagnosis, prevention, and treatment in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa and beyond
- the *Institute for Global Health's* research into clinical practice and public health in developing countries, including a £2.5m Wellcome Fellowship on community interventions for prevention of violence against women and girls; a £850k MRC/Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases trial on disease and risk-factor prevalence in rural villages in Bangladesh; and a £600k GCRF award on the policy and governance environment for NCD control
- *anti-microbial resistance* across laboratory, clinical, epidemiological and behavioural sciences, including a £2.5m ESRC Preserving Antibiotics through Safe Stewardship project to develop integrated and holistic antibiotic stewardship interventions for diverse healthcare settings, including Nigeria, Sri Lanka and South Africa
- *tackling the burden of blindness in India* through increasing eye research capacity and capabilities (£1m of total £6m GCRF Award)
- Research into *innovative healthcare technologies*, including: low-cost vaccine manufacture for developing country settings (GCRF / Gates Foundation / the Royal Academy of Engineering); nanotechnology solutions to detect infectious diseases in developing country contexts (£600k MRC/GCRF project 'Building mobile phone-connected diagnostics and online care pathways to support HIV prevention and management in decentralised settings'; £11m i-Sense project to develop early-warning systems for infectious disease); and affordable biomedical materials research to develop low cost artificial bone and soft tissue expertise with Pakistan
- the *Institute for Risk & Disaster Reduction*, a cross-disciplinary research centre in understanding risk and reducing disasters related to natural hazards, especially within developing country contexts (e.g. NERC/GCRF project Increasing Resilience to Environmental Hazards in Border Conflict Zone), and hosting the new *Humanitarian Institute* to mobilise UCL's research, expertise, and teaching to address global humanitarian challenges
- research on *human displacement*, including challenges and opportunities arising in local responses to displacement for refugees from Syria and members of the communities that are hosting them in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey; and exploring new concepts of prosperity for refugees and local communities in Lebanon
- the *Global Disability Innovation Hub*, using participatory methods to develop novel, low-cost accessibility technologies applicable to global, including developing country, contexts.
- the Bartlett *Development Planning Unit*, which researches development theory, planning and practice, helping to build the capacity of national governments, local authorities, NGOs, aid agencies and businesses working towards socially just and sustainable development in the global south
- research on *energy and resources*, including: flows of materials, water, and energy, and associated environmental impacts; energy and development policy around the

delivery of low carbon development pathways in Africa; bioprocess challenges in the sustainable delivery of bio-derived feedstocks and energy in developing countries

- research on *conservation and development*, including ecological impacts of pastoralist land use on the environment and livestock disease in Tanzania and explorations of clean energy production and landscape conservation in Argentina.

UCL is leading three £20m GCRF hub applications (and partnering on several others):

- an African Health Systems Innovation Hub to reduce morbidity and mortality by demonstrating the clinical, cost effectiveness, educational and societal benefit of a series of integrated approaches to reorganising and expanding health systems away from the clinic to reach more people with preventive and curative care for chronic conditions;
- a Water Through Smart Chemistry Hub to co-create sustainable eco-systems for clean water supply in developing countries by harnessing an integrated holistic approach, building upon innovative engineering of locally-resourced raw materials into effective sorbents, filters, catalysts and sensors, and integration of those into dwellings and community supplies;
- a Global Housing Urbanism Hub to address the intractable challenge of accessing decent and affordable housing in cities of the Global South by understanding housing as a multidimensional process with implications in the economic, social, political, cultural and physical spheres which are structurally related to city making.

We have previously invested QR GCRF in capability in education, global health, and development planning and the Africa Health Research Institute (2016/17) and underpinning the sustainability of ODA research through meeting the fEC of awards (2017/18). Building on this, the **key aspects of our three-year strategic plan for QR GCRF** are:

1. Underpinning existing ODA-compliant research activity by meeting the fEC of current ODA awards, including our current GCRF portfolio of almost £21m, strengthening our ability to build sustainable and enduring partnerships beyond the life of individual awards.
2. Providing targeted strategic investment to build capability and further strengthen ODA-compliant research in collaboration with developing country partners.
3. Establishing a responsive-mode Global Challenges funding scheme to support medium-size (c.£100-£150k), cross-disciplinary projects aimed at supporting the SDGs and aligned to the UCL Grand Challenges.

**1. Underpinning our current ODA research portfolio**, including:

- *Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality: Creating equal cities (KNOW)* (£7m), bringing together a global network of urban specialists in Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanzania, Cuba, Peru, Costa Rica, Colombia, India and Sri Lanka to produce more equal cities. It focuses on delivering prosperity, tackling extreme poverty and building resilient cities and will create a network of Urban Learning Hubs to continue work beyond the end of the project
- *RELIEF Centre: Prosperity for Syrian refugees in Lebanon* (£4m), exploring how to measure prosperity and growth in a country experiencing massive displacement of people and how Syrian refugees can work alongside host Lebanese communities to design more resilient and better-quality living environments
- *Nahreïn Network* (£1.8m), a new research network drawing on the ancient history of Iraq and its neighbours to improve skills and further the long-term prospects of local communities through a programme of scholarships, partnerships and interdisciplinary research with universities and cultural heritage organisations from the UK and the Middle East
- *FASt-Mal: Innovating to create a malaria diagnosis system* (£1.5m), an international multidisciplinary project harnessing machine-learning approaches to support clinical decision-making and improve the health of large sectors of the population living in extreme poverty across Nigeria and across the sub-Saharan Africa region

- *Vaccine production capacity in Thailand* (£1.3m), to establish biopharmaceutical and animal vaccine production capacity in Thailand and neighbouring South East Asian countries in order to increase access to anti-cancer biopharmaceuticals.

This will enable us to invest more in support for ODA activity, including addressing particular complexities around due diligence, risk management, and complex partnerships. A small number of existing GCRF awards include work in countries which have graduated from the DAC list since the award was made; in these cases, QR GCRF will only be used to expand activity in countries still on the list.

## 2. Provide targeted strategic QR GCRF investment into:

### a) Global health:

- developing the *AHRI research programme* to tackle other infectious diseases and the emerging non-communicable disease transition in South Africa and other lower-income Southern African countries, linked to the UCL NIHR Global Health Research Unit in Mucosal Pathogens; establishing a programme of research in Malawi focussed on mucosal pathogens and vaccine preventable diseases
- developing *global health clinical trials research* in India, sub-Saharan African countries, and South Asia, building on existing infectious diseases activity and capacity development activity funded by the Gates Foundation
- Addressing *deafness* in China and other DAC countries through investigating malarial vectors; and *mental health and dementia* – analysing the Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health to investigate the effect of social contact on cognition; extending the Lancet Commission on Dementia Prevention and Care to calculate the population attributable fraction of potentially modifiable risk factors in India, China and Africa; developing and evaluating a culturally specific intervention in rural China to address depression and anxiety in family carers for people with dementia.
- *improving healthcare education and countering counterfeit medicines globally*, including through research collaborations on pharmaceutical care and the development of novel medications, e.g. with the Nigerian government to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing capability; with China focused on nanotechnology, traditional Chinese medicines and development of pharmaceutical clinical practice; and establishing an in-country nanotechnology centre and membership of Educational Advisory Board in Sudan.

### b) Technological innovation:

- building the capacity of the new Global Disability Innovation Hub in the Olympic Park, bringing together multidisciplinary academic excellence, innovative practice and co-creation, to undertake work with the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including *scaling accessible learning for disabled primary school children in Uganda*, developing a method to be scaled across future projects delivered through UN agencies;
- undertaking a scoping exercise and discovery work for a potential DfID and WHO multi-million *assistive technology* investment; developing a new Global Disability Innovation Portal to enable exchange of ideas between and within the global north and south

### c) Education and development:

- an early career research fellowship between the Centre for Education and International Development and the Teachers and Teaching Research Centre focused on poverty, inequality and equalities; health and wellbeing; migrations; gender equality, women's rights and empowerment; or conflict, violence and peacebuilding, connecting with current research in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda, and Botswana.

### d) Sustainable resources and development:

- an ECR fellowship to support cross-disciplinary ODA-compliant research linked to the SDGs, focused on energy access, resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization, safe and inclusive cities, or sustainable consumption/production patterns, and on promoting the long-term sustainable growth of, and development of

partnerships and future research capacity in, DAC countries in Africa, South Asia or South America.

- balancing food production and conservation of the environment in sub-Saharan Africa (Ghana, Ethiopia and Zambia) through networks of stakeholders including representatives from government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector; strengthening *agricultural and biodiversity science* by partnering with local agricultural research and crop improvement centres to develop genetic and bioinformatics resources and methods in India and the Philippines;
- Expanding research into the *resilience of groundwater-fed water supplies in Tanzania* (following a previous GCRF-EPSC award) through expanding monitoring infrastructure to provide an early warning system to water supply failure and guide management of the main groundwater source, with long-term partners at Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (Tanzania), and Dodoma water supply company, DUWASA.

e) **Humanitarian crises:**

- Building on Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction and Humanitarian Institute research on *conflict, disaster, migration and health in emergencies* for the Rohingya exodus, with partners in Bangladesh, to support capacity to cope with large volumes of political refugees arriving in a developing nation prone to natural disasters.
- Seed-funding for a new *Centre for Rohingya Studies* to undertake research into the current refugee crisis, including establishing documentary resource, gathering oral history accounts, and recording legally sound witness testimony regarding human rights abuses; and developing proposals for political solutions.

f) **Knowledge exchange related to cities governance, security and sustainability, and disaster resilience:**

- supporting a pilot cohort for the *UCL Global Policy Fellows* scheme, focused on city governance, which will enable 12 policymakers from India and China to participate in an international academic-policy networking programme to build knowledge of academic expertise from a range of disciplines relevant to their work
- Supporting impact acceleration and networking in *resilience engineering of cultural heritage and educational assets to multiple natural hazards*, through a programme of e-workshops, research exchanges, summer schools, and an annual conference to strengthen knowledge exchange between academic and professional communities, with activities in the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Colombia, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, and Peru.
- a series of international/interdisciplinary network meetings and symposia on *heritage for peace, security and sustainability*, to develop a future GCRF bid focussed on the interconnections between heritage, conflict resolution, climate change resilience and food security; with meetings held across 40 countries in Africa, South America, South and South-East Asia, and the Middle-East and targeted meetings to develop individual sub-projects in Nepal, India or Ethiopia, and Brazil.

4. A **responsive-mode Global Challenges funding scheme** to allocate approximately 10 awards of c.£100k (criteria in Q3), aimed at pump-priming research activity; supporting strategically important ODA activities; or leveraging existing funding. This will further develop capability and enable us to stimulate ODA-compliant research across the institution.

For the responsive-mode funding scheme and ECR fellowships, applicants will determine the specific DAC countries involved. Applications involving countries from the LDC, OLIC or LMIC categories of the DAC list will be prioritised; where countries from the UMIC category are selected, applications must specifically address the needs of vulnerable populations. Applications must also demonstrate the suitability of the proposed DAC countries for the research activity; feasibility and potential impact of the research; and contribution to sustainable partnerships and building further research activity in the selected country. An internal assessment panel, including academics with experience of

working with DAC countries and overseas research partnerships, will determine awards based on the criteria outlined in Q3.

We consider the main **enablers** of our QR GCRF strategy to be:

- the quality and volume of our ODA-relevant research, with demonstrable impacts upon: planning and management of infrastructure and urban climate resilience in the global south; informing global policy on antiretroviral treatment; improving maternal and newborn survival in Nepal, India, Malawi and Bangladesh; improving primary education in Sri Lanka and India and addressing barriers to girls' education in Kenya, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania; promoting environmental justice and social sustainability in the Congo Basin; and supporting cultural heritage in Sierra Leone;
- the substantial breadth of development research at UCL (including archaeology, anthropology, computer science, earth sciences, education, engineering, environment, geography, history, infection and immunity, medicine, medical physics, nanotechnology, ophthalmology, planning, psychiatry, sociology and social policy, and population health), which ensures a well-established body of expertise and partnerships and collaborations with developing country partners;
- a vibrant cross-disciplinary culture which supports research collaborations across departments and faculties, a cross-cutting approach to generating research questions and methodological innovation;
- our expertise, experience in and commitment to mentoring early career researchers;
- the synergies between and strategic coordination of UCL's research and global engagement strategies, including via the Global Research Forum;
- the ability to draw on previous and current experience with ODA-compliant research and partnerships in order to spread best practice, including through the UCL ODA Operational Group which monitors logistical obstacles;
- an ethos and strong history of collaborating with external stakeholders and sectors of society, including policymakers, NGOs and practitioners.

We have identified the following **barriers** to our strategy:

- the complexities of developing and managing large multi-partner research projects/hubs, particularly in developing country contexts;
- potential lack of understanding of ODA-compliant research amongst researchers, (including funding opportunities, ODA requirements, and obligations to partners and funders).
- difficulties in establishing and developing partnerships in developing countries which are geographically distant and with partners who may have limited project capacity;
- undertaking research in challenging or even dangerous local contexts and the need for sophisticated and effective risk management;
- operational and logistical barriers (e.g. potential difficulties with funds transfers to overseas partners, intensive due diligence requirements on overseas partners)
- the need to develop new processes for monitoring our QR GCRF funding across a large, multi-faculty institution;
- adequately monitoring the implementation and impact of research undertaken in developing countries, particularly beyond the life of a project.

Our proposals to provide further operational and administrative support to manage developing country partnerships and monitor ODA compliance and impact will address these barriers by enhancing and embedding capability to support partnerships within existing structures and across the institution.

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

**Underpinning financial sustainability** of our ODA-compliant research portfolio will enhance our ability to further invest in and support activity. Our **targeted strategic investment** will strengthen the benefits of existing activity for developing countries. Our **Global Challenges responsive funding allocations** will directly support research addressing problems in DAC countries. Improving our ability to support, monitor and assure compliance of GCRF activity will maximise benefits to developing countries.

The main **intended outcomes** are to:

1. address specific global challenges around health, disability, education, sustainable urban development, sustainable resources, human displacement, and disaster resilience, in order to benefit those from the most underprivileged populations of the countries where activities will be undertaken, including:
  - developing methodology on scaling interventions in assistive technology for the United Nations Development Programme; developing inclusive education for disabled children
  - generating new empirical data and materials to support stakeholder engagement on education in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda, and Botswana
  - supporting capacity development in global health clinical trials in India and South Asia to improve knowledge of efficacy of treatments;
  - a strategic programme of health research in Southern Africa to tackle infectious diseases;
  - improving mental health and dementia outcomes in Brazil, China and other DAC countries;
  - Addressing food security in India and the Philippines and biodiversity in sub-Saharan Africa
2. build research capability to address problems in DAC countries, particularly in Africa, the Indian sub-continent, South Asia, and South America, including:
  - strengthening and building partnerships through the research outlined in this strategy
  - improve understanding of groundwater replenishment in Tanzania; land-use decisions in Ghana, Ethiopia and Zambia; rice and chickpea crops in the Philippines and India respectively (applicable to many LMIC countries); improving pharmaceutical practice in China and Africa; heritage, sustainability and security in 40 DAC countries; the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh; education and development in Africa; sustainable resources and urban development in Africa, South Asia, or South America; shaping a global assistive technology programme focused in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Ethiopia
  - providing professional development and knowledge exchange opportunities in cities governance and disaster resilience to policymakers and professionals from DAC countries, including Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, India, China, Pakistan; Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Colombia, Tanzania, and Peru.
3. build operational capability to support working with DAC country partners (recognising often limited capacity may require additional support from UCL), including:
  - improving policies and processes for DAC partnerships, due diligence
  - ODA compliance
  - developing best practice

**Additional intended outcomes** include:

1. strategic internal capacity building, including:
  - developing existing and future research to address challenges faced by developing countries
  - supporting researcher career development and enhancing research networks
  - building collaborative research with developing countries and multilateral agencies

2. supporting international networking between researchers, policymakers and professionals in DAC countries, particularly around disaster resilience, security and sustainability, and cities governance
3. funding GCRF research on a more sustainable basis, improving our ability to sustain impacts and partnerships beyond project lifetimes and further develop best practice, training and support in ODA-compliant research (including rigorous monitoring of compliance).

### 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.

We will invest a small amount of our provisional QR GCRF allocation (c.2%, compared to 4% for administrative costs in RCUK institutional awards) in operational support to manage and monitor funding allocations and track outcomes. This is crucial to deliver the most effective and appropriate allocation of funds, ensure ODA compliance, and maximise benefit to (and reduce burden on) developing countries. We will establish two new posts to support the monitoring, evaluation and compliance of our ODA, including QR GCRF, activity:

- an **ODA Partnerships Officer**, to provide expertise and guidance on ODA compliance, due diligence, and other requirements, focused on supporting sustainable partnerships with partners in DAC countries. This central role will have strategic oversight of partnerships with organisations in DAC countries, develop good practice and appropriate policies, and ensure that partnership with UCL does not place a burden on overseas partners. It will support the provision of workshops and training on working with DAC countries, learning from best practice at UCL and in other institutions and partner organisations, and sharing and dissemination of knowledge. It will ensure that UCL has the necessary systems and capabilities for effective partnership working with DAC countries on QR GCRF and other ODA-funded activities and maximise the benefit of our research and collaborations to them.
- an **ODA Coordinator** to manage our QR GCRF allocation; track spending on individual activities; and monitor outputs, impacts and outcomes. The Coordinator will focus on ensuring ODA compliance and the appropriate use of funds from QR GCRF (including through spot-checks and regular reporting) to ensure they are primarily addressing problems faced by, and are benefiting, developing countries; manage reporting from individual academics and Faculties; and manage the responsive mode scheme (including monitoring and reporting).

**Allocation of funding:** The allocation will be managed overall by the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research) in conjunction with UCL Finance & Business Affairs, as follows:

- allocations to meet the fEC of existing research activity will be made directly to host departments of relevant awards to underpin ongoing work;
- targeted investments in ODA research activity will be allocated via individual Faculties to support the proposals outlined herein;
- the Global Challenges responsive-mode funding scheme will be managed by the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research), with funds allocated to individual successful applicants.

*Further details of Global Challenges responsive scheme:*

- The fund will be promoted widely across UCL once our 18/19 QR GCRF allocation is confirmed, with an application period of 6-8 weeks.



- Applications via a standardised template will be assessed against UCL and UKRI guidance on ODA compliance (and by the ODA Partnerships Officer if in post) to ensure eligibility.
- An internal panel, comprising Vice-Deans (Research) and (International) with experience of ODA-eligible research and senior professional services staff, will meet c.3 weeks after the closing date to review proposals against the following criteria:
  - ODA compliance
  - the feasibility and suitability of carrying out work in the DAC country/ies in question.
  - potential to develop or strengthen sustainable partnerships
  - potential to develop independent research or other relevant capacity in developing country partners
  - sustainability after funding ends
  - value for money (perceived impact versus cost)
  - capacity to develop or underpin new innovation and collaboration to support GCRF and other ODA research applications
  - multi-disciplinarity (particularly collaborations across departments and faculties)
  - relevance to Sustainable Development Goals
  - addressing one or more of the UCL Grand Challenges
- Funded proposals will be expected to start as soon as possible in the 18/19 academic year and no later than 1 October.

**Monitoring spending:** The posts described above will monitor spending and compliance in ODA activity related to QR GCRF strategy as follows:

- allocations to meet the FEC of existing ODA research activity: The ODA Coordinator will monitor allocations to support the current GCRF portfolio through quarterly expenditure and interim progress reports.
- targeted strategic investment in ODA research: All current proposed allocations have been assessed as ODA compliant as against RCUK guidance, with many building on existing ODA-compliant activity. (The ODA Coordinator will assess any future targeted investment proposals in academic years 19/20 and 20/21). The ODA Coordinator will monitor spending through quarterly expenditure reports and impacts, outputs and outcomes through interim and annual progress reports, liaising with Faculties and individual academics as appropriate.
- Responsive-mode funding scheme: The ODA Coordinator will monitor spending through quarterly expenditure reports. Impacts, outputs and outcomes will be monitored through interim progress reports and end-of-project reports.

**ODA compliance:** The ODA Partnerships Officer will support researchers and central UCL Research Services to determine ODA compliance, and provide guidance on and monitor evidence of due diligence being carried out on overseas partners in DAC countries, in line with UCL practices. UCL is currently developing new institutional policies and processes, building on our [existing ODA guidance](#) and ongoing revision of policies on due diligence to better reflect the complexity involved, to further support due diligence in ODA research, which will be implemented before the end of the current academic year. The ODA coordinator will also carry out regular 'spot checks' on randomly-selected projects in receipt of QR GCRF funds in order to ensure ODA compliance and early identification of any difficulties.

**Impacts, outputs and outcomes** will be monitored through interim progress and final project reports submitted to the ODA Funding Coordinator. We will develop standardised templates for use by researchers in capturing impacts and outcomes – including liaison with overseas partners – to reduce burden and increase consistency in reporting. Individual projects will be monitored according to the following general criteria:

- geographical location (matched to DAC list)
- non-UK partners involved
- non-academic partners involved
- type of impact

- nature of impact
- sustainability of impact or other outcomes
- future impacts/outcomes anticipated

Our general criteria for success will be one or more of:

- demonstrable impact on and benefit to target community, e.g. improved health or education outcomes, enhanced wellbeing, environmental improvements, economic or policy benefit;
- developing realistic pathways to such impacts
- engagement with other partners or sectors: one or more partnerships developed or strengthened; follow-on activity generated with partners
- expansion or creation of additional capability in target LMIC community
- leveraging of industrial/public/charity funding

	<b>Intended impact / outcome</b>	<b>Measures of success</b>
1	address specific global challenges ...	Outcomes from relevant GCRF projects where QR funding will contribute  Number of relevant projects funded through responsive-mode scheme and their specific impacts (in line with criteria above)
a.	...on population health, healthcare	As for 1  Enhanced clinical trials capacity in India and Southern Asia  Expanded infectious disease research programme in South Africa  Improved understanding of relationship between social contact and mental health in Brazil  Improved understanding of dementia risk factors in China  Improved mental health and ability to look after family members with dementia of family carers in China.
b.	...on disability	“ 1  Development of methodology on disability innovation for the United Nations Development Programme  Number of partnerships developed in Uganda  Additional capacity in assistive technology in Uganda and other African countries
c.	...on education	“ 1  Developing partnerships on education in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda, Botswana

		<p>Generating new empirical data and materials</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement on education in DACs</p>
d.	<p>...on sustainable resources, urban development, and food security</p>	<p>“ 1</p> <p>Successful development of project focused on addressing sustainable resources and infrastructure</p> <p>Enhanced research and collaboration capability and researcher development in ODA-compliant research</p> <p>Improved water monitoring and management in Dodoma and respond to growing demand</p> <p>Production of policy briefing on groundwater management in semi-arid countries</p> <p>Agricultural improvement in rice (Philippines) and chickpea (India)</p> <p>Stakeholder networks established in Ghana, Ethiopia and Zambia to consider food production and environmental protection.</p>
e.	<p>...on disaster and societal resilience</p>	<p>“ 1</p> <p>Delivery of knowledge exchange activities in DAC countries, including Nepal and India</p> <p>New or strengthened partnerships between academics and professionals</p> <p>Improving Bangladesh’s capacity to respond to the Rohingya refugee crisis, including supporting legal and political responses</p>
2	<p>Build research capability to address problems faced by developing countries in Africa, the Indian sub-continent, South East Asia, and South America</p>	<p>“ 1</p> <p>Amount / extent of new research or other activities focused on such problems in individual departments</p> <p>Number of ODA-compliant research projects focused on or in DAC countries</p>
a.	<p>...strengthening and building partnerships with organisations in developing countries in Africa, the Indian sub-continent, South East</p>	<p>“ 1</p> <p>Number of new partnerships in relevant developing countries</p> <p>Evidence of significant expansion of existing partnerships in developing countries</p>

	Asia, and South America	
b.	...supporting knowledge exchange on cities governance, heritage, security and sustainability and disaster resilience	<p>Number of policymakers and professionals involved</p> <p>Number of meetings / knowledge exchange opportunities</p> <p>Number of interactions and follow-up contacts between academics, policymakers, professionals and practitioners</p>
3	Build operational capability to support working with developing country partners, including developing best practice	<p>Timely response to queries; resolution of any difficulties</p> <p>Production of new guidance and templates to support researchers and partners in managing partnerships</p> <p>Instances of support provided to partners in DACs.</p>

**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.

We have grouped funding allocations according to our three main areas of activity: underpinning sustainability; targeted strategic investment (broken down by thematic research areas); and responsive funding. GCRF projects are indicated in blue text.

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.

*[6-8: To further support the Government's requirement to report to the OECD, these questions ask for detail on intended activities and priorities for your use of QR GCRF in the first year covered by the strategy in the case of changes to funding levels, and for the second two years covered by this strategy, 2019-20 and 2020-21. These question should provide information on the high-priority GCRF and ODA areas and activities that are likely to be protected if your QR GCRF allocation is reduced, or increased if your future QR GCRF allocation increases; and on the lower-priority areas that might be cut or reduced if your QR GCRF allocation is reduced. The activities and priorities outlined here should refer to the activities and projects detailed in Table A for **Question 4**. Information should also be provided on new activities that will begin in 2019-20 or 2020-21, but are not included in Table A for 2018-19. HEIs will be monitored against their answers to these questions to ensure ODA compliance and to measure progress against strategies.*

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Our strategy prioritises building ODA-compliant research capability, including through pump-priming and supporting new academic ideas, and supporting the sustainability of research and partnerships with organisations in developing countries.

In the event of an **increased allocation**, we would:

- **increase the funding for our Global Challenges responsive-mode scheme** to increase the number of envisaged awards for academically-led activity to pump-prime research and develop new capability across the breadth of our research, with assessment panels reviewing compliance with ODA criteria, and to primarily benefit developing countries in line with the requirements and selection process set out in Q1 and Q3 **to develop sustainable partnerships and target the poorest and most vulnerable populations**
- **increase support for identified priority thematic research areas**, including:
  - additional investments in our *development planning* capability, particularly around developing urban sustainability and resilience in DAC countries in Latin America
  - *further fellowships in education and development*, focused on enhancing the delivery of education in African countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda, and Botswana
  - make *additional investments in our global health activity*, including through additional research capability and fellowships attached to AHRI, all of which would be focused on addressing global health challenges in Africa, addressing global mental health, and improving our (currently limited) capacity for behavioural science research in the global south.
- **Invest in further priority thematic areas**, including:
  - build *further capability in disaster resilience* through supporting activity related to a UNESCO Chair in Resilience Engineering of Cultural Heritage and educational assets to multiple natural hazards; enhancing partnerships, networking, dissemination and training for projects focused on building disaster resilience in DAC countries **with known disaster risks**; and expanding disaster and resilience research in Nepal, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

In the event of a **decreased allocation**, our primary priorities would be to:

- **underpin existing ODA activity** and ensure its sustainability through ensuring that funding is allocated to meet fEC shortfalls on large GCRF projects. These projects have already been assessed as ODA compliant by funders
- **retain but scale back the Global Challenges responsive-mode funding scheme** to support a smaller number of cross-disciplinary projects focused on DAC countries (all successful projects will be selected according to the process and criteria specific in Q1 and Q3 and would be required to address developing country problems and set out clear plans for benefiting one or more DAC countries, **in particular through developing sustainable partnerships and targeting the poorest populations**)
- **Support priority thematic research areas**, including:
  - *global disability innovation in Africa* to address challenges in the provision of assistive technology and explore how to scale up interventions in developing countries
  - *disaster and societal resilience* through resilience engineering, addressing displacement, and knowledge exchange
  - *sustainable resource use* in DAC countries
  - *global health research in NCDs and infectious disease* beyond HIV linked to AHRI in South Africa and in clinical trials in India.
  - *education and development* in African countries.

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.

Our strategy will continue to focus on providing underpinning financial sustainability for ODA research, building ODA research capabilities, and sustaining established partnerships and impacts. In particular, we will continue to invest in and strengthen priority thematic research areas and further enhance our investment in people capability, including through networking and PhD support and seed-funding to support new and emerging ODA research ideas in order to enable bottom-up research.

Additionally, we will further develop best practice on working with overseas partners and ODA compliance. This will include continued work through the Global Research Forum to monitor and develop our strategy on ODA research, through the ODA operational group to address persistent or newly emerging logistical barriers to research, and via Faculty planning to embed expertise and capacity.

We will also undertake further, detailed mapping of key areas of research activity in DAC countries in order to identify emerging areas of research that may benefit from further support and will improve our understanding of how to capture and monitor impacts arising from ODA research. For internal responsive-mode funding and other proposed activities where specific DAC countries have not yet been chosen, the selection process, as above, will assess potential activities to review feasibility and potential impact.

Our priorities are firstly to **sustain investment and impact from our 18/19 allocation** by:

- *Underpinning core relevant research by meeting the fEC of ODA awards from other funders* (and therefore already assessed as ODA compliant) to underpin sustainable research activity and increase our capability for engaging and sustaining partnerships in developing countries
- delivering a second *institutional Global Challenges responsive-mode funding scheme* to provide medium-size pump-priming and capability building awards for ODA compliant research in response to academic demand and potential for building or strengthening partnerships in DAC countries and for delivering impacts and benefits to the poorest populations in DAC countries (this will include extension funding to enable further research for previously funded work that has demonstrated clear impacts)
- establish an '*impact acceleration fund*', inviting bids from projects resourced through our institutional responsive-mode fund for activity designed to maximise and evidence the impact and non-academic benefits of such research for developing countries.
- continuing *investment in priority thematic research areas*, including: global health research in particular focused on addressing health challenges in Africa and India; further building capability in energy research addressing questions of generation and supply systems in Africa and South East Asia; research into development planning and cities in the global south – **particularly South America**.

These activities would remain our priority in the event of a decrease in funding allocation.

In addition, we will seek to **invest in people capability** through:

- supporting *joint ECR and academic appointments* between centres and departments, focused on addressing challenges in global health and education in developing countries – **particularly South Africa and other lower income Southern African countries** – and to appoint new posts in response to academic demand where there is potential to strengthen partnerships **or implementation in LMIC countries in which UCL is already engaged**
- introducing *Faculty seed-funding schemes* to support ODA-focused research, travel, or knowledge exchange activity in individual faculties to further embed ODA research across the university (all successful projects to meet ODA requirements)
- establishing a *UCL Grand Challenges Research Scholarship scheme* to support the **best students** from **LMIC DAC** countries to undertake a PhD at UCL in topics which are ODA compliant. This will include co-funding, e.g. to cover the difference between home and overseas fees for scholarship holders, awarded on merit. Students would benefit from cohort training, leadership training and skills, and form an international

cohort to build the future leaders for the global south who would be strongly linked to UCL and support continued and enduring partnerships. They would benefit research capability of their home countries as well as supporting broader economic and social development.

These activities will be focused on low- and middle-income countries from the DAC list.

We will also invest in **targeted strategic research** through:

- further investing in research into *disaster and societal resilience* in DAC countries – including Nepal, India, Indonesia and the Philippines – in particular through resilience engineering and responding to natural hazards and humanitarian crises, building on previous and current GCRF funding in this area
- further investing in multidisciplinary research into *human displacement* and societal responses;
- supporting up to six targeted, c.£100k, cross-disciplinary research projects via the UCL Grand Challenges – identified in consultation with academic GC communities – to address intractable problems faced by one or more DAC countries and advance one or more of the SDGs.
- *Support knowledge exchange* through supporting the participation of policymakers from DAC countries in a second round of the Global Policy Fellows scheme to enable academic-policy engagement and knowledge transfer of research focused on relevant problems. A second thematic focus will be adopted, and a priority list of developing countries where this theme has most relevance will be developed to inform selection of participants.
- *Enhance research linked to awarded GCRF hubs* in which UCL is the lead or partner through support for strengthening partnerships, implementation in developing countries, and ensuring knowledge exchange and networking with practitioners, policymakers and others

As for our proposed 18/19 activities, we will implement an internal assessment and selection process for those research activities for which specific DAC countries have not yet been chosen. Applicants will be asked to propose specific DAC countries for research and partnership activities; priority will be given to applications focused on developing sustainable partnerships and targeting the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations. Assessment panels will include academics with experience of working with DAC countries and expertise in overseas research partnerships and will consider why the selected DAC country is well placed to benefit from the research in question and the potential impact of the research in the chosen DAC country, as well as the criteria in Q3.

The above activities are listed in decreasing order of priority in the event of a decrease in funding and will be scaled in the event of any increase.

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.

We will continue to focus on ensuring financial sustainability for ODA research and supporting sustainable partnerships with organisations in developing countries. We will further strengthen priority thematic research areas as well as identify new thematic research for support. Additionally, we will continue to invest in people capability.

Our priorities would continue to be firstly to **sustain investment from our 19/20 allocation** by:

- *meeting the fEC of ODA awards from other funders* to underpin sustainable research activity and increase our capability for maintaining our existing partnerships in developing countries

- delivering a third *institutional responsive-mode Global Challenges funding scheme* to provide medium-size pump-priming and capability building awards in response to academic demand and potential for building or strengthening partnerships in **low-income** DAC countries and for delivering impacts and benefits in developing countries, **particularly to the most vulnerable populations**. This would be scaled according to academic demand for other activities, including priority research areas.
- continue the '*impact acceleration fund*' to support bids from projects previously resourced through our institutional responsive mode for activity designed to maximise and evidence the impact and non-academic benefits of this research for developing countries. This would be scaled according to academic demand for other activities, including priority research areas.

In addition, we would:

- **Continue to invest in thematic research areas**, including *global health, development planning, disaster resilience* and *sustainable resources* to support ODA compliant activity;
- *sustain research into low-cost healthcare innovation*, particularly around *mHealth*, building on a number of existing GCRF grants which will be nearing an end after 2021 and focused in particular on sustaining partnerships, implementation activities and impacts after end of funding;
- Identify *emerging thematic priority areas of ODA research* which may benefit from investment;
- provide funding to offer bursaries for participants **from LMICs in sub-Saharan Africa and South America** to undertake courses relevant to ODA-compliant global health challenges in the *Global Business School for Health* which UCL is currently developing (to launch in 2020)

Depending on the success of the 19/20 rounds, we would also intend to continue:

- *Faculty seed-funding schemes* to support ODA-focused research, travel, or knowledge exchange activity to further embed ODA research across the university (all successful projects to meet ODA requirements)
- *Grand Challenges Research Scholarships* to continue to fund the first cohort and additionally support a second cohort of PhD students from developing countries to undertake ODA research, as well as providing leadership training and skills to support an international cohort of future leaders for the global south world and thus provide additional benefits to their home countries).

We will also draw from 19/20 activity to capture research activity, partners, and emerging impacts in more detail to inform our broad priorities for 20/21. We intend to further expand provision of training and workshops to disseminate best practice, including working collaboratively with partners in developing countries to identify and support appropriate training.

As for proposed 18/19 and 19/20 activities, we will implement an internal assessment and selection process for those research activities for which specific DAC countries have not yet been chosen, whereby applicants will be asked to propose specific DAC countries for research and partnership activities. Assessment by a panel including academics with experience of working with DAC countries and expertise in overseas research partnerships will consider why the selected DAC country is well placed to benefit from the research in question and the potential impact of the research in the chosen DAC country, as well as relevant criteria specified in Q3.

As before, our over-arching priority is to ensure consistency and sustainability in our activity to ensure continued building of capacity and maintaining partnerships. The above activities are listed in decreasing order of priority in the event of an increase or decrease in funding and will be scaled appropriately.