

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.

The University of Essex (UoE) three-year GCRF Strategy will set the framework through which sustainable and equitable institutional partnerships will be developed in key developing countries that enable UoE world-leading research in order that it has a positive impact on social, economic, political and cultural challenges.

This will be delivered in the context of the University of Essex (UoE) Strategic Plan 2013-2019 (<https://www.essex.ac.uk/about/strategic-plan>) which clearly sets out the twin aims of the university – excellence in education and excellence in research. The next Strategic Plan will retain its emphasis on developing and disseminating new knowledge and understanding that is of wider cultural, economic and social value nationally and

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

internationally, as well as providing a transformative international educational experience. Essex is a truly international institution - the most international mainstream university in the UK outside London (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018), with staff and students from over 140 countries. At the heart of the Mission is a desire to work in partnership with individuals, groups and institutions regionally, nationally and internationally based on trust and respect and with mutual benefit to both the University and its partners. This will complement and enable GCRF Strategy to achieve greater reach and impact.

UoE has an excellent track record of research across the social sciences, humanities and sciences, with UoE Social Science faculty being ranked 4th in UK by REF 2014. UoE research has a focus on cross-disciplinary, impactful, research, with projects and collaborations demonstrating engagement with a breadth of countries on the DAC list. This includes advising and engaging directly with governmental and non-governmental organisations, research institutions, international organisations such as the UN, informing policy and developing and sharing best practice. Our collaborative work in human rights, justice, equality and inclusion, conflict and peace-making, political representation, migration and displacement, food security and sustainable agriculture, health and wellbeing, entrepreneurship and new business, models illustrates the breadth of the international agendas we are engaging with. UoE has received external funding for research supporting economic development and welfare of developing countries from Research Councils (in particular ESRC, BBSRC and AHRC), the British Academy and Royal Society. UoE research-active staff are currently engaged in research collaborations in 51 DAC-list countries and both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities of the UK Strategy for GCRF are embedded in our existing research base.

UoE development-related activities are embedded in department and faculty research plans, which are monitored and agreed at annual meetings chaired by the faculty Executive Deans. The UoE has a well-established infrastructure of interdisciplinary Research Centres, Institutes, Networks and Groups, bringing together leading researchers from across the university and research is supported by university funds or where possible applications to GCRF opportunities from other delivery partners, in particular Research Councils and the Academies. The University Research Committee reviews the research plans for the Centres and Institutes to ensure fit with the University Research Strategy. Limited support for delivery of the plans is provided by the department, faculty with further small amounts of funding available from the University's Strategic Research Fund and also the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account (IAA) managed by the Research Office. To date around 10 percent of the awards from Strategic Research Fund have been aligned to development-related activities and, in the past 18 months, the ESRC IAA had a dedicated budget of £40k to support GCRF impact focussed activities.

UoE development-related activities include addressing major global challenges identified in the UN's goals for sustainable development and the UK priorities for the Global Challenges Research Fund. University Research Centres, networks and collaborative

projects at UoE align with the three areas within the GCRF research agenda for change. Examples of such UoE activities across the range of disciplines include:

* UoE Human Rights Centre (<https://www1.essex.ac.uk/hrc/about/default.aspx>) which has a global reputation as a leader in the field of human rights research, practice, and education, and hosts the ESRC funded 'Human Rights, Big Data and Technology' project <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/hrc/research/bigdata.aspx>, and Transitional Justice Network. Human Rights Centre members conduct country and region-specific, human rights work, and contribute particular expertise with respect to the United Nations mechanisms, including the UN Special Procedures.

* Plant productivity and marine conservation, which combines world leading research with economic and social science field studies

* UoE Centre for Migration Studies which is collaborating with CIESAS Sureste in Chiapas (Mexico) to lay the foundations for a collaborative partnership with the aim of enhancing community capacity building and knowledge exchange with local groups supporting migrants in the southern Mexican border. The project adopts a participatory approach whereas local groups play an integral role in the design, implementation and assessment of the projects in which they are involved.

* The UoE Centre of Accountability and Global Development (CGAD) leads numerous relevant projects and relationships in the focus countries which includes links with Stellenbosch Business School and University of Cape Town in South Africa, for example.

* UoE expertise in data infrastructure at the UK Data Archive which is hosted at the UoE (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>). Data Archive researchers are enabling capacity building in South Africa through collaboration with Data First, a research unit and data service based at Cape Town University. <https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/about-us/people-datafirst>. The Data Archives staff are in dialogue with other African nations concerning a model of capacity building to enable the development of critical data infrastructure to underpin economic and welfare development.

* UoE world-leading Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/> brings together scholars from economics, sociology, demography, political science, biology, genetics and epidemiology. ISER experts are working with a breadth of international partners across the world. One example is their work with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) on SOUTHMOD: The Economics and Politics of Taxation and Social Protection. This project is based on our tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD (<https://www.euromod.ac.uk/>) and enables the construction of microsimulation models in Ghana, Ethiopia, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique.

* UoE holds the UNESCO Chair in Analytics and Data Science. <https://www.unesco.org.uk/unesco-chair-in-analytics-and-data-science-university-of-essex/> This Chair supports the development of skills, research and capacity in the area of analytics and data science, both nationally and internationally, with particular support for the development of the knowledge base and expertise in developing countries.

All of these examples highlight the research foundations in place to build collaborations in developing nations, with the UNESCO Chair offering further opportunities to support the delivery of strategic collaborative relationships across the breadth of disciplines. The GCRF Strategy aligns with the University approach and brings together the existing development activities with new pump-primed research collaborations and relationships that are research-led.

UoE GCRF Strategy

The GCRF QR funding received for 2016/17 has been used both to meet the Full Economic Costs (FEC) of eligible research funded by other delivery partners, and also within departments distributed in relation to Units of Assessment (UOA) in proportion to the share of mainstream QR funding. Our proposed new approach for the three-year GCRF Strategy is to develop sustainable and equitable institutional partnerships in key developing countries that enable UoE world-leading research to have a positive impact on social, economic, political and cultural challenges.

This new approach will overcome current barriers which include: limited leadership and coordination of resources to manage the GCRF activity portfolio and ensure engagement across the university; limited opportunity - due to the dispersed nature of activities - to maximise opportunities and build capacity and capability both within the UoE and with partner institutions and countries; potential duplication of efforts in engaging in partner institutions and countries; limited management information for informing decisions about contacts and collaborations; and limited funding to support activities, engagements and exchanges between partners and UoE. Critically, the GCRF QR funding provides the opportunity to create collaborative networks based on both existing and new relationships which can be sustained and extended beyond specific research groups.

The objective of UoE GCRF Strategy is to develop strategic relationships with a limited number of partner institutions in target countries in the DAC list that are based on research excellence and activities that meet the GCRF and ODA criteria and address problems that are affecting the economic development and welfare of the countries. This is a more purposeful and strategic approach than adopted to date, and it will inform wider research agendas, strategies and applications, and so have a catalytic impact on how the UoE research expertise is impacting on the welfare and economic needs of the partner countries.

Our strategy will be delivered in four primary focus areas and through seven activities as follows:

1. Building capacity and leadership (£188,339 18/19) by developing and extending institutional engagement across the disciplines through leadership and supporting capacity building and coordination activities. Activities funded will:

- a) Appoint an Institutional GCRF leadership team from within the university academic staff, as well as associated development and support roles, in order to lead and co-ordinate our GCRF activities.

b) Establish networks, workshops, and capacity building activities delivered at UoE, with regional partners (eg Eastern Arc comprising UEA and Kent), and engaging partner institutions and countries.

c) Fund a Visiting Fellows scheme targeted at specific countries to deepen relationships, support capacity building and deliver on our capability objectives.

2. Supporting collaborative research activity – (£25,000 18/19) through developing collaborations and sustainable research partnerships with focus countries. Activities funded will:

a) Support travel and subsistence for UoE delegates to visit and undertake staff exchanges with agreed institutions and countries (and vice versa) in order to develop and deepen existing relationships, and exchange professional knowledge

3. Generating impact from research (£40,000 18/19) by enabling existing excellent research to maximise its reach and impact within focus countries. Activities funded will:

a) Support impact activities identified via open competition that are ODA and GCRF compliant, including activities that generate or extend impact from research, bring together researchers with partners and policy makers and deliver activities focused on impact delivered within DAC countries.

4. Pump-priming activities (£115,000 18/19) – encouraging research-led collaborations that support emerging development-related research agendas and interdisciplinary Research Centres and Networks. Activities identified via open competition that are funded will:

a) Support short term research projects working with partners in country to explore research problems/methods/results.

b) Develop networks in country and events that support the partnership ambitions.

The GCRF funds will be allocated using bespoke criteria for each of the seven activities above and will be developed from the GCRF QR criteria:

- Focused on problems or solutions;
- Underpinned by research excellence;
- High likelihood of positive impact on the economic development and welfare of developing countries;
- Partners in developing countries should play a significant role where possible; and
- Promoting strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between academic communities in the UK and the partner countries.

There will be delivery and operational oversight led by the new GCRF Steering Group which will manage and monitor the GCRF QR funding (see management section in Q3).

Geographical Focus

The UoE will focus activities on those DAC list countries where we have some existing researcher-led collaborations and other educational and partnership activities. Our strategic approach is to consolidate and maximise value from existing collaborations as well as develop new ones, all harnessing the expertise of UoE research staff working in these areas. Our approach is wide enough to ensure geographic and economic development coverage (countries on three continents with very different levels of GDP and economic growth) whilst concentrated on a manageable number of nations.

In Year 1 (18/19) our focus will be on institutions in:

- Southern Africa - in particular South Africa and Botswana;
- Latin America – in particular Mexico and Columbia;
- India

In each of these countries we have multiple local research-led or education-led existing collaborations between UoE researchers and institutions, and these will be the foundation to build stronger and deeper strategic, sustainable and collaborative partnerships.

In Years 2 and 3, these collaborations will continue to be supported, and developed further. In addition University Research Committee, informed by the Institutional GCRF leadership team will agree the second wave of countries for support. At this stage these are expected to be drawn from:

- Further countries in Africa - potentially Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Morocco, Egypt;
- Further countries in Latin America - potentially Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador;
- Indian Sub-Continent - potentially Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh.

Lessons learned and successes from engagements and activities in year 1 will inform how many and which of the activities (and which additional countries) will be used to develop the partnership in years 2 and 3.

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

The intended high-level outcome of the successful GCRF strategy will be the establishment of strategic, research-led, beneficial, equitable and sustainable collaborations with at least one institution in each of our focus countries. The high-level impact of the collaborations on economic and welfare measures will be assessed through an agreed basket of indicators both at institutional but also a country and regional levels.

Each research-led collaboration will have a clear set of expected outcomes and anticipated impacts, which will result from engagement with a mix of research, professional and specialist staff; exchange of knowledge and ideas; tangible outputs that align with the activities being funded (capacity building and growth of communities; research outputs; sustainable funding secured); and visibility of the positive collaboration.

The expected outcomes and impacts arising from the GCRF Strategy will be agreed by the University Research Committee. However indicative outcomes for the UoE are expected to include:

- i) Research-led institutional partnerships for each country which are identified with the goals agreed and potential social, economic, political and cultural benefits identified;
- ii) UoE Institutional GCRF leadership team in place with clear strategy and objectives agreed;
- iii) Researchers from all UoE departments (professional and research) understand ODA, the GCRF Strategy, and the opportunities of the fund;
- iv) Researchers from each UoE faculty undertake eligible activities to build the research-led collaboration with the focus countries;
- v) Governance and operational processes in place and working effectively;
- vi) Funding allocated and spent in accordance with profiling against a mix of activities to support capacity building and growth of communities, research outputs, and sustainable funding.
- vii) Featured outputs from GCRF activities that align with the economic and welfare impact objectives on web and other external communications both in UK and in focus countries

Other indicative outcomes for the in-country institutional collaborations are:

viii) Collaborations in place with shared goals for institutional collaboration and shared recognition of value of collaboration;

ix) Identified broader country-wide benefits to address the welfare and economic problems;

x) Common approach agreed to the range of operational activities within an agreed time period;

xi) In country delivery of a mix of capacity & capability activities;

xii) Effective in-country processes for enabling and delivering activities in place;

The impact indicators for the research activities, the country strategies, and over-arching GCRF strategy will map onto against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> and the three research areas identified by the UK Strategy for the GCRF

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/challenges/>

The basket of expected impact indicators for each of the UoE and the partners will be agreed as the strategy is approved early in 18/19. However the impact of the GCRF Strategy is to improve economic development and welfare in the partner countries through the collaborations that have been achieved.

Progress against the output measures and the impact indicators will be recorded via the resources allocated to support the Institutional GCRF Leadership team which will be monitored at each GCRF Steering Group meeting. Mitigating actions will be discussed and agreed at these meetings, with actions taken forwards by the Institutional GCRF Leadership team.

Management of GCRF

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

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

The University Research Committee (a sub-Committee of Senate) chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research, has responsibilities that include: oversight of research strategy at University and department levels; monitoring and reviewing progress and development of the University's research performance with a view to sustainability and improvement; and establish and promote models of good practice. In the context of GCRF Strategy it has discussed the primary objectives in order to inform the development of the three-year Strategy submission, and it will agree the strategic direction for the Fund including informing the strategy for each focus country.

Delivery and operational oversight will be led by a new GCRF Steering Group which will manage and monitor the GCRF Strategy and funding. The Steering Group will report to the University Research Committee, and its membership will include the PVC Research who will Chair the Steering Group, Dean of Partnerships, Deputy Deans for Research in each university faculty, Director of the Research and Enterprise Office (or their nominee), a representative from the International Collaborations & Mobility team, and an external member with relevant interest or expertise (non-academic). The Institutional GCRF Leadership team will attend the Steering Group meetings. The Steering Group will meet termly to agree new funding allocations and receive progress reports for funded activities. It will receive and discuss management and financial reports for each of the countries to bring together the insights from in-country activities, management information on wider activities gathered within the university, and wider GCRF or policy developments. This Steering Group will review progress against the objectives and the strategic direction, at a Fund level and in relation to compliance with the GCRF criteria and objectives set by University Research Committee and at a geographical level to ensure the aims for each country or region that have been set are being achieved, equitable partnerships are being progressed; and at an individual activity level to monitor ODA compliance and tracking of progress against agreed project plans.

Allocation of funding will be through open calls with internal deadlines throughout the year. This is a model used successfully by the ESRC IAA management and will be adapted for the GCRF fund. The website will be used as an additional vehicle to communicate opportunities. The Deputy Deans for Research and the Institutional GCRF Leadership team will champion GCRF and promote opportunities where there is excellent research or potential to develop collaborations in all areas of the University. The Steering Group will take the Funding decisions.

In addition, the strategies for each institutional partnership will be allocated funding to develop and deepen the relationships that have been pump-primed, and a plan for events and meetings both in the UoE and travel to the institutions in-country will be agreed.

The Research and Enterprise Office (REO) is responsible for the day to day management of the Fund, with the financial monitoring of the activities undertaken in the UoE Finance Section.

The UoE recognises the need to carry out due diligence checks and implement robust assurance processes in order to identify and mitigate areas of higher risk or concern when engaging with organisations or subcontractors from within and outside the UK. In this context, a series of initial checks are undertaken, where an activity involves a collaborator(s) that will be involved in delivering part of the research or will receive funds in order to gather evidence of sound practice and financial control. Subsequently, if the activity is supported by the GCRF fund, the collaborator will be required to complete a more detailed questionnaire to gather appropriate evidence of the procedures and controls they have in place to enable the University to evaluate any related risks and to take any necessary steps prior to a subcontract being issued.

Prior to funds being distributed to a collaborator, a contract will be established setting out the expectations of the University for managing the project and the requirement of the funder. Payments to the collaborating organisation are made on the basis of appropriate invoices for actual costs incurred and correct supporting documentation being provided. The costs are reviewed for compliance with the funders' terms and conditions and with the University's Financial Regulation.

Recipients of the Fund will be formally issued with a statement on ODA compliance (including the 'Is it ODA? Factsheet') and the expectations of the UoE GCRF QR funding. The ODA factsheet states that "Only research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA. The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country." Furthermore, the ODA Official GCRF Guidance states that "ODA is defined as those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which are: provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies".

In identifying the key countries, reference is made to the DAC list. In assessing the activities to be funded reference will be made to key compliance issues <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/> and in particular:

- a specific problem or seek a specific outcome which will have an impact on a developing country or countries on the DAC list;
- evidence as to why this is a problem for the developing country or countries;
- plans to the issue identified effectively and efficiently;
- using existing the strengths of the UK to address the issue, working in collaboration with others as appropriate;
- using research of an internationally excellent standard;
- appropriate pathways to impact identified to ensure that the developing country benefits from the research.

During the period of the funded activity, updated documentation in relation to compliance can be sought. At the closure of the activity a formal report will be requested, which will be reviewed by the GCRF Steering Group. This report will include information that allows assessment of the geographical distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts.

The measurement of success will be against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> and the three research areas identified by the UK Strategy for the GCRF <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/challenges/>. There will be agreement on the basket of impact indicators and on the focus for each of the strategic collaborations, and these will be cross referenced against the SDG, UK GCRF strategy, and the specific impact identified in the GCRF QR guidance. The Research and Enterprise Office (REO) will record evidence from the staff and outputs arising from the activities, and produce reports against the impacts. The specific fund for Impact activities will be used to enable the widest possible benefits from the research and actions, and so is a valuable resource to support the impact ambitions.

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

4. Please complete the table in Annex A2 detailing the expected spending and activities for QR GCRF in the academic year 2018-19. Note that the total QR GCRF spending must equal the indicative allocation (available in Annex C), and all activities must be ODA-compliant for strategies to be assessed as ODA-compliant overall.

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

The level of funding indicated by HEFCE for the University of Essex in 18/19 is £368,339 and it is assumed that this will be available at the start of the financial year to support the activities as set out in the Strategy in 18/19.

Note:

- the activities funded through open competition will be assessed in line with GCRF criteria and ODA compliance.
- The Institutional GCRF Leadership team will be appointed from experienced university researchers and through open announcement of opportunity across departments. The role descriptors for the Leadership team will reflect the GCRF criteria, ODA compliance and the approved GCRF strategy.

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.

The University Research Committee will review its geographical focus and the range of activities offered to support the ambitions of the Strategy as soon as the allocation of funding is confirmed. The Strategy at the indicative level of funding in year 1 (18/19) is to focus on developing institutional relationship in the following DAC list countries:

- South Africa
- Botswana
- Mexico
- Columbia
- India

The indicative funding will be used to ensure capacity is in place within the UoE to identify the institutions and the appropriate activities in each country to develop the relationships and to ensure compliance with the ODA and GCRF requirements. These capacity building activities are priorities for the UoE as they are largely under-developed to date.

In the case of additional funding being allocated to support the UoE strategy the University Research Committee will review the countries identified for years 2 or 3 and assess the potential to support pump priming research-led activities in the additional countries in year 1. The most likely countries to be included in year 1 should funding levels be increased would be in Latin America (Ecuador, Brazil, and Argentina). If additional countries are included in year 1, the level of funding to support pump-priming activities will be increased as these are the foundation for the partnership building.

In the case of decreased levels of funding, the University Research Committee will review engagement in each of the 5 countries identified for year 1 and refocus activities into one country in each continent (probably removing Botswana and Columbia as these have the least developed relationships across the UoE). The levels of funding for activities will be reviewed and the funding assigned to supporting collaborative research activities at an institutional level will be reduced in line with the reduced number of countries. The funding for the capacity building and impact generation will be ring fenced as both are expected to have the most direct positive impact on the success of the GCRF Strategy.

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.

Year 2 (19/20)

The University Research Committee will review its geographical focus and success of the range of activities offered in year 1 (18/19) to support the ambitions of the Strategy as soon as the allocation of funding for 19/20 is confirmed. The Strategy at the indicative level of funding is to continue to develop institutional relationship in the following DAC list countries:

- South Africa
- Botswana
- Mexico
- Columbia
- India

The funding for these countries is expected to continue build capacity, but will be increasingly impact generating rather than pump-priming activities as the relationships mature.

In the second year (19/20) it is anticipated a further 4 countries will be added as focus for institutional collaborations. These will be drawn from a long list of:

Countries in Africa - potentially Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Morocco, Egypt;
Countries in Latin America - potentially Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador;
Countries in the Indian Sub-Continent - potentially Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh.

For the purposes of modelling and planning it has been assumed the focus countries would be:

- Latin America (Ecuador, Brazil, and Argentina) and Sri-Lanka.

The indicative funding in these 4 additional countries will be used to ensure capacity is in place within the UoE to identify the institutions and the appropriate activities in each country to develop the relationships and to ensure compliance with the ODA and GCRF requirements. It will also be used to support pump-priming research-led activities as these are the foundation for the partnership building.

If funding levels were increased then additional engagement in the year 1 and the identified year 2 countries would be prioritised above increasing the number of countries. Ensuring deeper and more sustainable collaborations with multiple institutions in each country is expected to be more impactful than spreading the funding too thin across extra countries.

In the case of decreased levels of funding, the University Research Committee will review the success of engagement in each of the 5 countries identified for year 1 to streamline funding levels and allow sufficient activities in those countries which are showing greatest impact. Depending on the level of funding available, a more limited number of additional countries would be added to the list to develop institutional partnerships. It is most likely that two additional Latin American countries will be added to the five year 1 countries. The levels of funding for activities will be reviewed and the funding assigned to supporting pump-priming activity will be reduced as fewer new institutional partnerships will be supported. The funding for the capacity building and impact generation will be ring fenced as both are expected to have the most direct positive impact on the success of the GCRF Strategy.

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.

Year 3 20/21

The University Research Committee will undertake a review of its geographical focus to date, and the range of activities offered to support the ambitions of the Strategy as soon as the allocation of funding is confirmed. The assumption is that the Strategy at the

indicative level of funding in year 1 (18/19) and year 2 (19/20) will have supported developing institutional relationship in the following 9 DAC list countries:

- South Africa (years 1 and 2)
- Botswana (years 1 and 2)
- Mexico (years 1 and 2)
- Columbia (years 1 and 2)
- India (years 1 and 2)
- Ecuador (year 2 only)
- Brazil (year 2 only)
- Argentina (year 2 only)
- Sri Lanka (year 2 only)

The indicative funding will be used to ensure capacity is in place within the UoE to continue to build and sustain these relationships with institutions in each country, and to support appropriate activities in each country that reflect the maturity of the collaborations. The leadership from the UoE will be increased to enable the extension of the number of institutions in which collaboration is supported via the Strategy. Furthermore, capacity building activities will remain priorities for the UoE as the depth and breadth of possible collaborations in country increases and so the numbers of researchers with interest and potential to undertake eligible research and activities extends.

There is a potential to widen the geographical reach into the remaining long-list of countries, particularly those in Africa: Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Morocco, Egypt

In the case of additional funding being allocated to support the UoE strategy the University Research Committee will review funding levels available for pump priming research-led activities in countries added in year 2 and 3 as these are the foundation for the partnership building. Funding level for impact generating activities in the year 1 countries will be boosted to reflect the maturity of the relationship.

In the case of decreased levels of funding, the University Research Committee will review engagement in each of the 9 countries identified for year 1 and 2, and refocus activities into a more limited number of countries in each continent. The levels of funding for activities will be reviewed and the funding assigned to supporting pump priming research activities will be reduced as extra funding from other external funding schemes will be sought to replace some of this strand of funding. The funding for the capacity building and impact generation will be ring fenced as both are expected to have the most direct positive impact on the success of the GCRF Strategy.