

What can the funding be used for?

All money spent through the GCRF contributes to the UK's commitment to spend 0.7% of its budget on development aid and therefore all activities must be ODA compliant. ODA compliance means that that GCRF funding can only be used to generate benefit to at least one developing country. Any benefit for the UK is a secondary consideration.

The development aid rules require that the benefits must accrue primarily to those countries received Official Development Assistance (ODA) and in particular the activities should promote the long-term sustainable growth of those countries, which are all included on the OECD Development Assistance Committee list (the DAC list <https://bit.ly/2JueYJQ>).

Specifically, ODA is defined as: the resource flows to countries and territories on the DAC list of ODA recipients and to multilateral development institutions that are:

1. Provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies, and;
2. Each transaction of which is:
 - a. Concessional (ie grants and soft loans), and;
 - b. Administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of development countries as the main objective.

You can find more details in the "What is ODA" leaflet <https://bit.ly/2CNhbs7>

All GCRF awards automatically comply with points 1 and 2a; applicants for GCRF funding must explain how their project meets the criteria in 2b in their proposal. ODA compliance is assessed as part the administrative eligibility for all projects; if the project is not ODA compliant, it will not be reviewed. The ODA compliance requirement applies for all GCRF-funded activities - whether research, impact or any related undertaking.

What is not ODA?

Activities which are not considered ODA include: military aid, activities supporting the UK's security interests, or those with primarily commercial objectives (eg export credits). The OECD has compiled an ODA eligibility database <http://oe.cd/oda-eligibility-database> containing elucidated examples of ODA and non-ODA compliant activities.

GCRF funding for research and innovation projects

Most funding for GCRF is used to support research and innovation projects awarded in response to open calls issued by the delivery partners.

The 17 GCRF delivery partners are: Academy of Medical Sciences, Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), British Academy, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), Medical Research Council (MRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Northern Ireland Executive, Research England, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Society, Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and UK Space Agency

To find out about GCRF funding calls, UKRI provide a central point for all research council calls <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/> and Research Professional has a custom GCRF search for opportunities from all delivery partners <https://www.researchprofessional.com/funding/search/88585858#1537960596446>

You can also review previously funded GCRF research projects at the UKRI Gateway <https://bit.ly/2xudv1J>.

If you are considering an application for a GCRF research project funded by an external delivery partner please contact your Faculty Research Development Manager <https://www.essex.ac.uk/staff/professional-services/research-development-team>

Due Diligence

All GCRF activities taking place overseas require appropriate due diligence with regard to partner organisations <https://www.ukri.org/files/funding/due-diligence-guidance-for-ukros-pdf/>.

Please be aware that safeguarding measures also apply and risk assessment in relation to overseas travel may be required.