



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

# BEIS Research & Innovation ODA Strategy

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# Contents

- Strategy for Research and Innovation ODA spend
- Tools for delivery:
  - Newton Fund
  - The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)
- Future focus (beyond delivery)



# UK Aid Strategy

The UK Aid Strategy sets out four objectives for UK aid:

- strengthening global peace, security and governance
- strengthening resilience and response to crises
- promoting global prosperity
- tackling extreme poverty



Strategy recognises importance of UK expertise through UK's world-leading science, research and development base in achieving these objectives

Research and innovation has a critical role to play in tackling global challenges that most significantly impact upon developing countries, such as combating AMR, ensuring food and security, and building resilience to natural disasters.

Research and innovation is also fundamental for economic growth: it supports the development of new technologies, promotes sustainable use of natural resources, improves productivity, and helps provide a skilled workforce.

# BEIS ODA Statement of Intent for Research and Innovation

Provides a clear narrative and vision on the Department's aims for its ODA-funded research and innovation, based on the principles of the UK Aid Strategy.

Objectives:

- Reduce poverty by generating and putting into use knowledge and technology to address development challenges
- Maximise the practical impact of research and innovation to improve the lives of the global poor.
- Grow the research and innovation capacity of developing countries
- Ensure the continued strength of the UK's research and innovation system to support wider prosperity and global influence



# Research & Innovation ODA Funds

We achieve these objectives through:

- partnering with developing countries to use research and innovation to help solve their specific development challenges, and in doing so increase their capacity
- working with developing countries and developed countries to use research and innovation to address global development challenges
- using dedicated funding to focus part of the UK's world-leading research and innovation system on global development challenges where the UK can make a significant impact.

BEIS has two research and innovation ODA funds:

- Newton Fund
- Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

Taken together, the Newton Fund and GCRF are part of a coherent UK research and innovation approach to help promote economic development and social welfare in developing countries and to support the UK research base.



# Research & Innovation ODA Funds – Newton Fund

## The Newton Fund

### Aims:

- Building science and innovation **partnerships** with developing countries to support economic development and social welfare and their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth
- Also contributes to the continued strength of the UK's research and innovation system, and supports wider scientific, trade and diplomatic objectives
- Established in 2014
- £735 million allocated between 2016/17 and 2020/21, with spend increasing each year.
- Matched resources from partner countries
- UK funding is mostly spent in the UK on UK scientists and universities, with partner country funding spent in partner countries
- Supports science and innovation partnerships between the UK and 16 developing countries, including Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. Currently in the process of bring on board Peru and Jordan
- Each partnership unique, but includes a mix of joint research programmes, innovation programmes, fellowships and other programmes to address the partner country's development challenges

# Research & Innovation ODA Funds - GCRF

## Aims:

- The **Global Challenges Research Fund** aims to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries.
  - It harnesses the expertise of the UK's world-class research base to explore new solutions and approaches to tackling global challenges.
  - GCRF does this by focusing on challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and by strengthening capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange.
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- Established in 2016
  - £1.5bn is allocated for the GCRF between 2016/17 and 2020/21, with spend increasing each year
  - Not geographically specific, but research proposals with a focus on the poorest developing countries particularly welcome

# Research & Innovation ODA Funds – Delivery partners

## GCRF only

- UK Space Agency



## GCRF and Newton

- Research councils
- National academies
- Higher education funding councils

## Newton Fund only

- Innovate UK
- British Council
- Met Office



Delivery Partners undertake the following core activities:

- Invite new research and innovation proposals from the UK academic community and in the case of Newton partner developing countries and peer review and/or assess these
- Award individual grants and funding to projects
- Monitor and evaluate programmes and projects



# Research & Innovation ODA Funds - Delivery

## GCRF and Newton are separate but complementary

Newton Fund and GCRF share same objectives – to reduce poverty by generating and putting into use knowledge and technology to address development challenges

Significant cross over in delivery partners



Mechanisms through which they will achieve these shared objectives are different.

- Newton Fund **has a country focus**: equal partnership with selected countries, each of which provides match funding for every programme. Work bilaterally to deliver individual country strategies using in-country teams
- The Newton Fund primarily focuses on **Middle Income Countries** - identified as emerging knowledge economies with the potential to become key players in the research and innovation.
- GCRF strongly encourages researcher-led partnerships with developing countries but does not give priority to individual countries and does not require matched resources from partner countries.
- GCRF - challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research around 12 challenge areas

# Research & Innovation ODA Funds - Future focus

Ensuring relevance and effectiveness of our ODA spend

- Clear steer from ODA Board to manage as a portfolio, need to deliver evidence to do this
- Ensure coherence and complementarity with other funds (Fleming fund, Ross fund, DfID Research Fund). Considering formation of a cross Whitehall advisory group
- Feeding into and responding to a number of public reviews and inquiries:
  - International Development Committee inquiry into “UK Aid: Other Government Departments”
  - National Audit Office (NAO) review of non-DfID ODA spend
  - Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) rapid review on GCRF



# Research & Innovation ODA Funds - Future focus

## Ensuring impacts

Success of the funds will be measured by:

- How much new knowledge, science and technological and policy solutions have been developed
- Increase in the science and innovation capability of developing countries and ability of the UK research base to respond to global challenges
- Commercialisation of innovative technologies and research
- Scale of impact on the well-being of the largest number of people in developing countries, to the greatest extent possible
- Impact of the UK's Aid Strategy objectives

BEIS will work with delivery partners to ensure the strongest pathways to impact and draw on international good practice in monitoring and evaluating progress



# Research & Innovation ODA Funds - Future focus

## Maximising and demonstrating impact

- Collection of targeted information on our research and innovation portfolio to allow management and strategic alignment and demonstrate value
- Collation of impacts stories and case studies
- Newton Prize:
  - Annual £1m fund - raise the profile of the Newton Fund, and to demonstrate how UK partnerships with Newton countries are solving global challenges
  - Awarded to five Newton funded research partnerships or teams each year. Up to £200,000 for the best science or innovation that promotes the economic development and social welfare of Newton partner countries
  - India, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam have been selected for the first Prize in 2017
  - Applications open on the on-line portal mid April.
  - Prize Committee chaired by Sir Venki Ramakrishnan of the Royal Society will decide winners
- Communications strategy:
  - Agreed by delivery partners
  - Proactive and coordinated approach to comms
  - New website
- Formal evaluation



# Finally an example of impact

- Newton Fund supported UK and Brazil researchers working together well ahead of Zika virus global health emergency declaration by World Health Organisation (WHO) in February 2016
- Newton and GCRF part of Zika Rapid Response Initiative launched by Medical Research Council (MRC) in March with 26 projects
- To investigate viral features and host responses to Zika virus with a view to designing new preventative strategies
- Full-length genome sequencing from patient may help understanding of how the virus causes disease

