

### Annex A1: Template for institutional three-year GCRF strategies (AY 2018-19 onwards)

Please complete this form and the excel table in **Annex A2**. Text boxes may be expanded to the required length, and are expected to be in proportion to the level of formula Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) allocations received in 2017-18. Please do not attach other documents or annexes. Guidance for completing the forms is at Annex B.

The completed form and table should be emailed to [dbeards@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:dbeards@sfc.ac.uk) by **noon on Monday 26 March 2018**.

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Has this GCRF strategy been approved for submission to SFC by the head of institution?	
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## 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 formula GCRF in light of the criteria and objectives for the GCRF outlined in the guidance.
  - c. How activity funded through GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.
  - d. How activity funded through GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.<sup>1</sup>
  - e. How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using REG.
  - 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.

Maximum 3,000 words

#### **a) Three year Institutional strategy and priority for development – related research activity**

The Strategic Plan for the University of Aberdeen 2015-2020 sets out our vision of '*Transforming the world with greater knowledge and learning*' partly through working with partners and stakeholders to undertake rigorous, relevant, impactful and excellent research. In realising our vision we seek to enrich people's lives through research, teaching, learning and sharing of knowledge to push boundaries and deliver success. Ensuring greater internationalisation of our research is a core tenet of the plan and all Schools refreshed their strategic priorities in the light of this new strategic plan. This includes intensification of participation in global research

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

programmes as well as exploiting research-based teaching and training opportunities in the UK and internationally.

Knowledge exchange is embedded in our research processes, and impact and engagement with the user community is part of our research life cycle. The University has a successful track record of impactful research and we have benefited from previous impact accelerator accounts or similar institutional awards (e.g. BBSRC, MRC, Wellcome). The institutional Strategic Plan recognises that ‘most of the world’s great challenges require multidisciplinary solutions from research undertaken by teams from varying disciplines’. The University has re-affirmed its commitment to building on the success of its cross-disciplinary institutes and approach to collaborative research, though its recent review of Interdisciplinary research (IDR) including the institutional support mechanisms. One of the drivers for the review was to understand how development-related activities IDR was supported and encouraged in light of the change to the organisational structure in the University. The review confirmed that researchers were already engaged in IDR and research related to the objectives of the UK GCRF strategic aims. However it was recognised that institutional support for GCRF activities would require strengthening.

*b) Summary of the key aspects of the three year strategic plan for formula GCRF*

The key criteria for RCUK’s GCRF activity require research excellence, ensuring official development assistance (ODA) compliance, creating equitable partnerships and building capacity and delivering substantial impact for improved social welfare, economic development and environmental sustainability.

In determining our strategy and priority objectives, we identified our research excellence and strengths, our existing capability and capacity to deliver development related activities aligned to the UK GCRF Strategic aims and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our key priority areas for the GCRF fund will be in following broad areas of environmental sustainability and food security, improving global health and nutrition (including sustainable diets), and Global energy needs. These have been identified as research priorities, with established programmes collaborating with partners on the DAC list delivering ODA compliant activities with impact and where there is a critical mass of expertise. This is evidenced through our GCRF and Newton competitively won external grant portfolio

Over the three year plan, we anticipate two other areas of development related activities emerging based on our interdisciplinary research strengths and, including global water resource and citizenship and conflict. These will be considered within the wider goals of the UK GCRF strategy.

In year 1, we will put in the place the management and governance structure, launching the various strands of the activities, with years 2 and 3 sustaining the activity and developing a cohesive portfolio of GRCF supported priorities. Years 2 and 3 are likely to see an enhancement of the impact component of the plan, with a greater prioritisation of the pump priming activity within the individual plans.

*c) How GCRF fits into the broader strategy and priorities for development related activity*

Addressing the vulnerability of some of the world's poorest communities in terms of nutrition and hunger, disease and energy needs, and strengthening their resilience are integral to the work of researchers in many parts of the university.

A key example of how GCRF fits into the broader strategy and priority for development-related activity based on research excellence was the creation of the world's first international research centre for tackling fungal infections. The AFGrica Unit is a partnership co-created between the University of Aberdeen and the University of Cape Town (UCT), established to target the growing challenge of fungal infections relevant to the African continent. Using our Development Trust's fund raising activity, we are supporting this international collaborative effort to address the training needs in medical mycology across Africa, providing access to expertise within the MRC Centre Medical Mycology in Aberdeen and the wider collaborators within the Wellcome Trust Strategic Award.

Whilst our Centre for Global Development sits within the School of Education it acts as the host for our Sixth Century Course: Africa International Sustainable Development for All. The Centre provides a resource for teaching and research for our development related activities, and provides the students on the course access to case studies to demonstrate good practice and different cultural, social, economic and political barriers to progress will be identified.

*d) How University of Aberdeen's GCRF funded activity relates to the UK strategy for GCRF<sup>1</sup>*

The UK strategy for GCRF consists of 3 main principles; *equitable access to sustainable development; sustainable economies and societies and human rights, good governance and social justice.*

In developing the institutional strategy for development related activities, we have taken these core principles to guide the overall priorities for our GCRF and development-related research activity. The University of Aberdeen is contributing to each of the principles within the UK Strategy for GCRF through the impact of some of

our key research strengths. We further illustrate our mapping of development-related activity the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (*section 3*).

In contributing to ***equitable access to sustainable development***, our researchers are collaborating with LMICs partners in delivering secure and resilient food systems supported by marine resources (van West and Secombes, School of Biological Sciences (SBS)) and agriculture (J Smith and P Smith, SBS), sustainable health and well being (Murray, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences), inclusive and equitable quality education in Rwanda (Abbott, D Smith, School of Education). We anticipate developing partnerships in the areas of affordable reliable and sustainable energy (evidenced by our growing energy related activities with Mexico based stakeholders and institutions) and the recent awards from the Leverhulme Trust and Rutherford Fund to develop a new centre on Centre for Doctoral Training on Sustainable Production of Chemicals and Materials .

Achieving the aim of ***sustainable economies and societies*** requires inclusive growth for research and innovation in the longer term and ensuring a resilience to environmental risk factors, amongst other actions identified in the UK Strategy. We are supporting a multi- institutional project with collaborators in Bangladesh to mitigate the exposure to environmental risk factors to promoting health (Feldman, School of Natural and Computing Sciences (NCS)) and achieving sustainable and economically viable production of moringa to deliver a plant based sustainable form of protein in Malawi (Russel, SMMSN).

Achieving ***human rights, good governance and social justice*** is recognised as challenging area where the University's Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law (CISRUL) is drawing upon the political principles of democracy, human rights and pluralism. CISRUL is in receipt of a GCRF project (Egypt) assessing civil organisations within regions affected by organised crime and the state's human rights development. The priority areas of sustainable environment, nutrition and health, and energy, will seek to address reducing poverty and inequality as a key impact under our development related activities and GCRF.

*e) Development related activities and GCRF strategies and how they relate to the wider institutional strategy on use of REG*

Generally, we use Research Excellence Grant (REG) funding to cover costs not met by external funders, and to support research infrastructure and facilities, researcher development, strategic research development and capacity building. Pump priming and a comprehensive framework of support for researchers developing research ideas and projects for external funding applications are key to our capacity to attract external funding and to develop strategic areas of research and development.

Some illustrative examples on the use of REG are detailed below.

We have used some of our REG income to provide £464,000 of match-funding needed to secure a Discovery Award from the Medical Research Council. This combined funding will support new and integrated approaches to obesity research, by extending our understanding of the signals acting within the brain which regulate body weight. The university's REG contribution will provide targeted proof-of-concept funding for new technologies in this field, with the aim of advancing current thinking. Alongside the research funding, the award has also allowed the appointment of two Discovery Fellows, helping to build capacity within the institution to assist in the development of a centre of excellence neurobiology in obesity.

We have also used our REG funding to provide a broad range of career support to researchers, enhancing strategic research priorities including regenerative medicine and the molecular basis of obesity. Since 2014, the university has invested over £1.1m to secure access to matched funding from the Wellcome's Institutional Strategic Support Fund. This combined investment has provided seed-corn funding for research projects, supported staff returning from career breaks, funded public engagement activities, and provided career development schemes for talented junior staff on their way to becoming funded, independent researchers. The university has also been able to offer an International Partnership fund which supports collaborative seed projects and exploratory work to develop sustainable partnerships aimed at the DAC listed nations.

*f) Likely barriers and enablers to implementing the strategy*

Our review of interdisciplinary activities, including ODA compliant research did identify some enablers and obstacles. These included lack of awareness of GCRF generally, lack of understanding of ODA compliance, and wider understanding of the expertise and capability across the institution and the effective partnerships already in place. To overcome these perceived barriers, we will encourage the evolution of priorities from grassroots levels (driven by the challenge-led research priorities raised by the external environment and stakeholder engagement), and focus on areas of strengths that are identified through our own evidence based research. The institution has an important role to play in: providing effective horizon scanning: identifying funding priorities; mapping our capabilities and expertise to the priorities and objectives set out by the external environment; directing researchers to funding opportunities; and bringing together and supporting teams to develop successful partnerships in meeting the objectives of GCRF activities. We will promote and disseminate the existing GCRF activity through our series of workshops and seminars, as well as promotion of the public portal of PURE, both internally and to external partners including those ODA recipients on the DAC lists.

The overriding recommendation in our review was to establish a coherent framework for enabling and supporting IDR and development-related activities, under strong academic leadership. The management structure we are proposing within this plan will address this recommendation and barrier to institutional support. The Grants Academy within the Directorate of Research and Innovation (R&I) will provide professional support to development-related activities, informing, training, facilitating horizon scanning, challenge and review sessions and supporting collaborations and partnerships for sustainable and equitable development related research.

Development related research, including IDR is considered a more risky form of research because of longer delivery time frames but is acknowledged to have potential for high gain and substantial societal impact. There was evidence of differing administrative practice in our Schools presenting internal barriers to IDR and support for development related activities. We will ensure that where possible, administrative practice related to research should be harmonised across the institution. Likewise we have developed detailed due diligence processes as required by GCRF related funders, which aim to reduce the administrative burden on researchers and to ensure equitable collaborative arrangements co-created with our development partners. We are also implementing the principles of the Scottish Government Safeguarding Policy in the context of International Development, announced in the recent Joint Statement<sup>2</sup>. Whilst ensuring our Safeguarding Policy includes the reach to partners and contractors in projects to be delivered within our Strategy, we will have processes in place to investigate matters arising and report accordingly to Funders and within our Annual Research Integrity Statement. Likewise, we will report in compliance with the SFC's Financial Memorandum.

In line with RCUK's assessment of risk associated with delivery GCRF and development-related activity, we acknowledge there could be risks through lack of buy in, poor coordination and lack of active management across the portfolio, ensuring appropriate governance for monitoring and evaluation and the potential for failing to create impact. Our mitigating strategies for these risks are described in further detail in section 3 below through our proposed management structure of GCRF. Key to this is effective coordination amongst our partners and active management to achieve a cohesive set of outcomes and impact.

*g) The key activities by which we will realise our objectives will include;  
In devising our strategy we will undertake the following activities to realise our objectives;*

*Capacity and capability building*

We will support the growth of people based capacity and capability, through a mobility scheme between researchers at all levels with our partners within the DAC list of countries, particularly where proposals are aligned to our priority areas. We will encourage proposals which include elements of “discipline hopping” for early career researchers or mobility to non-academic stakeholders to enhance impact. We will pilot an “NGO in Residence”, building on experiences and value brought Professor Maggie Gill’s international development expertise (through her previous secondments to DFID and World Bank). This will bring benefits to the collaboration by enhancing the ability to co-create proposal and solutions with our non-academic stakeholders.

#### *Supporting interdisciplinary and collaborative research*

As we have already identified in our Strategic plan, supporting IDR and collaborative research is key to the delivery of development-related activities. The Grants Academy will provide training, workshops and dissemination of best practice. Effective coordination and good governance is required to deliver the GCRF plans, and as such we will be appointing a Champion for GCRF, along with a GCRF manager. Together they will coordinate and provide active management across the portfolio identifying synergies and opportunities to enhance the outputs and impacts of the plan.

#### *Generating impact from research*

Engagement with research users, NGOs and other stakeholders and delivering impact is included in our institutional framework of academic expectations which articulates objectives for each researcher. The University provides a supportive environment for creating impact, including training, incentives and support structures. A key activity will be to accelerate impact from our development related activities, but particularly within the GCRF portfolio. We will re-launch the Impact accelerator programme aimed at the key priority areas of research excellence.

#### *Sustaining a pump priming fund for ODA compliant activities*

In the first year, we will launch a call to support projects within the key priority areas with the aim of supporting the growth of our portfolio in those areas and providing cohesion within the portfolio. An example we would anticipate is encouraging the linkages between the expertise within our environmental sustainability and food security groups who are already working in partnership with LMIC regions faced with the impact of climate change, to expand the impact of their work with the inclusion of achieving sustainable diets (both economically and nutritionally based).

*Contributing to the full economic cost of GCRF activity funded through other sources*

We have recognised the importance of ensuring the research and related impact activities funded by other sources are sustainable for the institution, and we would propose a proportion of the fund is allocated to maintaining full economic costs primarily for RCUK funded projects, which are interdisciplinary.

*h) The main DAC list developing countries for collaboration.*

Our partnerships reach a wide range of ODA recipients on the DAC list. In particular, we anticipate a focus on enhancing the partnerships we have with the following;

- Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa (Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania) and Asia (Nepal and Bangladesh),
- Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) including; India, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Kenya
- Upper, Middle Income Countries (UMICs) including; South Africa, Malaysia, China, Brazil and Mexico.

We are building up our knowledge and experience in working across these ODA recipients on the DAC list, ensuring we are consistent and equitable in fostering collaborations, delivering impact, but also anticipating the barriers and issues which arise when delivering development-related research. In assessing new individual countries or regions, we will need to be mindful of our institutional capacity and strategic priorities.

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

Maximum 500 words

We will put in place individual outcomes and impacts for each of the pump priming projects and Impact accelerator projects, ensuring that the research activity directly and primarily benefits the countries within the DAC list from 2018 onwards.

We anticipate some common outputs and impacts across the portfolio, such as training and skills development for researchers located at our DAC country partners, through a skills gaps analysis in the key priority areas.

For the portfolio of RCUK funded projects, we anticipate specific outputs and impacts (detailed further in Annex A2) including;

- Enhanced knowledge of environmental conditions that determine disease, helping farmers in LMICs to build resilience and to plan export markets

- Assisting with enhancing reliance in food supply chains, and development sustainable plant based protein for economic development
- Strengthen capacity for health policies and systems

We envisaged that these catalytic and development focused funding will;

- lead to sustaining several partnerships through enhanced RCUK GCRF awards
- lead to the development and strengthening of new and existing partnerships with DAC based country partners
- led to the development of a programme of demand-led, co-produced (with DAC based partners) research with a prioritised set of research proposals
- lead to the development of new, cross-disciplinary partnerships within the University focussed on GCRF priorities.
- as a secondary output increase capacity in our institution such that we could launch a new research centre dedicated to a GCRF theme eg Centre for Development in Food Security and Sustainable diets, with founding partners across our DAC based collaborators (building on the model launched for the AFGrice centre)..

In addition, we anticipate funding 6 Impact awards, 5-10 pump priming awards, 5-10 mobility exchanges and appointing 1 NGO in residence, within the decision making criteria outlined below.

### ***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.

All large scale strategic initiatives (eg our Wellcome Trust ISSF award, MRC Discovery Award, existing SFC GRCF and BBSRC impact accelerator) at the University of Aberdeen are managed under a common framework to ensure shared best practice in governance and optimised sharing of learning and expertise. This award would also be managed under that framework ensuring that this award is conducted to the highest standards of research, governance and ethics. The award will be governed by a GCRF Steering Group, chaired by the Vice Principal of Research and Knowledge Exchange (**Prof Marion Campbell**), and will comprise the Deans of Research from across the University, and relevant senior researchers with ODA relevant experience, along with our experts in international development (Professor Maggie Gill and Dr Pamela Abbott). A GCRF Champion will be appointed with responsibility GCRF, development-related research and IDR. The Group will meet at least quarterly to allow efficient decision-making, coordination and to ensure that the objectives of the strategic initiative are met. The Group is responsible for reviewing proposals,

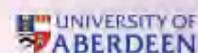
managing the allocation of funds to the priority areas in line with the Strategy, reviewing expenditure, monitoring of the outputs and impacts, reporting, ensuring compliance and informing future strategy. The Steering Group will be augmented with the LMIC partners to ensure equitable and sustainable partnerships are developed.

Allocation of funds for the individual activity strands will be criteria driven such that proposals should be focused on problems and solutions, underpinned by research excellence with evidence that partners in the LMICs will play a significant role where possible, have a high likelihood of positive impact on the economic development and welfare needs of LMICs and should include evidence of promoting strong, enduring and equitable partnerships. Complementing the activity strands will include training and development for researchers at all levels through the Grants Academy, and a Seminar Programme to disseminate outputs, impacts and sharing of good practice. We anticipate sharing best practice across the HEI and the wider UK delivery partners to be a key benefit of the institutional ODA and GCRF strategies, and will participate in events (e.g. ARMA, Universities Scotland etc) to disseminate our learning. We are working with the Scottish REF Managers Group to establish a network for professionals within Scottish HEIs who support and enable impact, to share best practice and encourage innovation in this area

In addition to the Steering group, the operational leadership will be provided through the Directorate of Research and Innovation (R&I). A key element of the management of the GCRF SFC fund will be monitoring, evaluating impacts, and ensuring compliance. To deliver and oversee these functions, we will appoint a dedicated project manager within R&I. This will ensure a cohesion between existing expertise for administering GCRF ODA compliant awards, but also to enhance the capacity to monitor impacts and develop sustainable and equitable partnerships, providing expert guidance across the institution. Each project awarded will be provided a unique budget code within the finance system, to ensure monitoring of expenditure in line with requirements. We have already developed a detailed due diligence questionnaire process to assist in monitoring and undertaking risk assessment in collaboration with LMIC partners.

Institutionally we utilise PURE as a repository for our funded projects, outputs and for monitoring impact. Pure also records partner institutions and organisations and their geographical location. Each project will be required to provide reports capturing the outputs and impacts, as well as ensuring we learn of any barriers to collaboration and delivery. This allows us to monitor the geographical distribution of our outputs and will provide the management tool for the Project Manager. We have also developed the tools to map projects, impacts and outputs across the sustainable development goals by country. An example to illustrate how we have captured this information is below.

## GCRF awards by country and SDG



Newton-Bhabha: Virtual Centre on Nitrogen Efficiency of Whole-crooping Systems for improved performance (BBSRC)	Ju Smith	India		
Mucosal Health and Microbiota During Sea Lice Parasitism: Effect of Oral Delivery of Immunomodulators (MRC)	Sam Martin	Chile		
Mapping Fish CD4 T Cell Subsets for Vaccine Improvement (BBSRC)	Chris Secombes	Chile		
N-CIRCLE: Virtual Joint Centre for Closed-Loop Cycling of Nitrogen In Chinese agriculture (BBSRC)	Pete Smith	China		
NUCLEUS: a virtual joint centre to deliver enhanced Nitrogen Use efficiency via an integrated soil-plant systems approach for the UK and Brazil (BBSRC)	Paul Hallett	Brazil		
Improving organic resource use in rural Ethiopia (IPORE) (ESRC)	Evan Phimister	Ethiopia		
Poverty Alleviation through prevention and future control of the two major socioeconomically important pathogens in Asian Aquaculture (BBSRC)	Pieter van West	India Bangladesh		
Moringa: Delivering Nutrition and Economic Value to the People of Malawi (BBSRC)	Wendy Russell	Malawi		
Assessing the potential of civil organisations within regions affected by organised crime to hold state institutions to human rights-based development (ESRC)	Trevor Stock	Egypt		

GCRF SFC Strategy

As part of the university's membership of the AURORA Network (a pan European network with sustainable development and demonstrating societal benefits of research as key aims), analytics are being further developed to demonstrate the impact of the networks' activity within sustainable development. Professor Lusseau, from the School of Biological Sciences leads this work on behalf of the AURORA network and could provide a platform for other HEIs and SFC to demonstrate impact of research. We will continue to develop our analytic capability to complement our strategic planning and to inform our building of partnerships.

The public portal for PURE also allows use to promote our partnerships and the impact of those partnerships. Particularly for the projects receiving an Impact award, enhanced monitoring will be in place to capture the evidence of economic wellbeing and social within the developing countries. Our BBSRC GRFC Impact accelerator account, provided us with pilot data on enhancing impact from our BBSRC portfolio, and the stability of a 3 year plan with SFC will allow us to evidence impact over a longer period of time. A mid-point review including an assessment impact of the awards and to confirm ODA compliance will be factored in as part of the university' internal review process. A review of ODA compliance audit will be carried out by KPMG.

The Governance arrangements will also include giving consideration to data and samples in line with GCRF requirements, to ensure robust management and custodianship of data and samples within specific LMIC contexts. We recognise this is an area where we need to enhance out institutional knowledge and infrastructure,

and a key deliverance within 18/19 is for the University to develop processes and procedures to help inform best practice in this area.

The workshops and training programmes allow awardees to present outputs, outcomes, and an opportunity to share best practice and highlight operational challenges including logistics in country, field work safety, visa requirements, exposure to illness, political issues. These lessons learnt will inform future strategies and allow researchers and partners to understand and manage any risks to deliver successful sustainable partnerships.

### **Section B: Use of GCRF 2018-19 allocation and future formula GCRF priorities**

4. Please complete the table in Annex A2 detailing the expected spending and activities for GCRF in the academic year 2018-19. This should show how all expected GCRF will be committed to ODA-compliant activities.
5. Please add here any explanatory notes on how you have completed the table in Annex A2 that will demonstrate ODA compliance.

Maximum 500 words

Annex A2 provides a detailed spending plan around the expected activities for 2018-19.

This includes a breakdown of the RCUK GCRF awards which will be live in 2018-19 which will receive an allocation for a contribution towards the full economic costs of this portfolio. We have made the decision that only RCUK GCRF will benefit. This acts as an incentive to those schools where the majority of our expertise lies, and helps them build and maintain the capacity and capability to undertake ODA-compliant activities. The approach acknowledges the additional responsibilities which lies with school management the Principal Investigators in co-managing (along with their overseas partners) these complex awards.

The other components of expected expenditure include;

**GCRF Pump Priming Fund** – to identify new areas of partnership or to consolidate areas of significant activity. Whilst we have not identified specific areas for responding to emergencies with an urgent research need, we will remain flexible in approaches which aligns to this activity and will allocate funding as required (subject to meeting the criteria).

**Impact accelerator Fund** – modelled on our experience with the BBSRC Impact accelerator account, we have allocated expected expenditure to this activity, which can be used to supplement existing and create additional GCRF funded projects to enhance the outcome or to assist the delivery of impact from other sources of funded research in partnership with stakeholders within specified DAC counties.

**People Growth Fund** – we have anticipated a need for providing mobility funding at all levels to build both capacity and capability. We anticipate mobility within existing partnerships as a mechanism for sustaining relationships (including with non-academic partners), building equitability, and supporting interdisciplinary and collaborative activity (through encouraging discipline-hopping particularly for early career researchers).

**GCRF Coordination** - we are proposing the creation a dedicated management infrastructure for the coordination of the funding and point of liaison for the partnerships being developed through the funding. This will be a combination of a Dean with GCRF responsibility and a new post within the directorate of R&I. The post holder will also ensure the coordination of the monitoring, adherence to ODA compliance and oversight of all of the awards made from the fund.

**NGO in Residence** – We are proposing a pilot scheme of identifying a suitable individual from the third sector with international development experience which aligns to the main priorities (health, environment or energy). We have benefited significantly from Professor Maggie Gill’s and Dr Pamela Abbott’s experience in international development to provide expertise on ODA compliance, and recognise that an NGO in Residence would provide additional insights in developing impact strategies involving NGOs. We are suggesting a modest budget for this activity as a pilot.

6. What are your priorities for GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please describe how the profile of activity will adjust to increases or decreases to expected GCRF funding.

Maximum 1,000 words

Short-term plans include the development and consolidation of research collaborations, initially focussing on selected partners in from the DAC countries in receipt of ODA funding, namely in Asia and Africa as outlined out above, with a view to extending these collaborations across key countries in order to maximise impact of the collaborative research. For this we will co-deliver local workshops, facilitate the staff exchanges and fact-finding missions, execute pilot studies and write collaborative (white) papers as a result of the first year plan.

A key aim of the start of year 2, will be to hold an annual co-produced event in the selected regions to bring together the learnings of the first 12 months, and to develop the horizon scanning process for future years.

Subsequently funding will be planned together with partners through larger GCRF grants to further develop such collaborations into sustainable and effective partnerships that will engage in more substantive collaborative research and training projects in our initial priority areas. Key strategies for this stage include i) the building

of impact capacity especially with further investment as a result of the findings from year 1 to the three priority areas, and ii) further build of interdisciplinary partnerships that include government agencies, NGO's, small and medium sized companies and public health experts, ensuring to also attract expertise in areas not traditionally associated with the individual areas. An example of embedding nutrition expertise in environmental sustainability, will be to include considerations such as geography and infrastructure, crop breeders and ICT experts, all of which will be essential in the delivery of the longer-term plans.

Reflecting upon our overall strategy of building up the key priority areas of health & nutrition, environmental sustainability and food security and energy, we will be starting to develop the strategy to build our development-based capacity within the identified emerging areas of water resources, conflict and citizenship. These will be essential in delivering a cohesive approach to managing our portfolio and bringing about sustainable and equitable changes within our partner DAC nation stakeholders. Over the three year plan, we anticipate these other two areas of development related activities emerging based on our interdisciplinary research strengths. These will be considered within the wider goals of the UK GCRF strategy.

The outputs from year 1 in terms of the pilot or demonstrator projects and building the critical mass of within country, will allow a greater degree of connectivity with the relevant policy makers using their insights to develop a truly demand lead programme of development-based activities.

We envisage less resource for new pump priming areas, with the major undertaking of the annual co-production workshops with our partners to define the future strategies and changes required within the programmes to deliver further impact.

A key deliverable for the co-produced workshops would be to plan a series of briefing events tailored to policy makers, NGOs and industrial partners aimed at disseminating the evidence into practice and for further building the sustainable network. Working across selected DAC countries, would also the cross fertilisation of ideas and best practice to be shared for the benefit of the wider partnership.

In the event the funding were to increase in 2019/20, we would plan towards the creation of a second co-managed Centre for development for sustainability (environment through to sustainable diets), depending on the progress made and testing the demand from our partners. We would also widen the remit of our Centre for Global Development, through a series of opportunities for individuals from our partners to lead in defining its reach and activity.

We would also review the effectiveness of the NGO is residence to determine whether the pilot would be extended and share the experience across other

institutions. Having appointed strategically and, in working with them, explore the potential of very early stakeholder engagement and benefit from their practical experience in country and networks, informing our own planning of in country engagement and operations. We would evaluate the benefit of this approach, before expanding the pilot.

In the event funding was reduced in 2019/20, we would limit the expansion plans and select a single area of focus within a defined region. It would be unlikely we would deliver the co-produced workshops in the manner we are envisaging.

7. What are your priorities for GCRF activity in 2020-21? Please describe how the profile of activity will adjust to increases or decreases to expected GCRF funding.

Maximum 1,000 words

There needs to be some reflection and horizon scanning for the sustainability of the programmes, in consultation with the partners and co-development

We would expand our reach to encompass the 3 elements of the RCUK GCRF

The proposed collaborative, interdisciplinary and development-based activities will, in the long-term, grow capability in the area of our Global Development, with its focus on health, nutrition environment and food. We would continue to reflect and review the progress of the overall objectives, very much driven by the evidence of demand and impact within the selected DAC countries. Like 19/20, we would consider the activities which could be expanded or contracted based on the demand and evidence of success.

We would wish to develop strong evaluation plans using the expertise and practice within the selected regions to continue to demonstrate that the three principles of the UK GCRF strategy was being fulfilled by the Strategic plan, namely *equitable access to sustainable development; sustainable economies and societies and human rights, good governance and social justice*.

In year three we would continue the annual co-produced workshops and production of briefings, but also use them to plan the future sustainability plan required for the regions in the key priority areas. In the event the NGO in residence had proved to be of benefit to our partners, we would see an expansion of this pilot, including impact practitioners working across the partners. The emerging areas developed during 189/20 would be strengthened within our partner organisations to enable a deeper and contextual understanding on the impact of the development –based activities.

