



# Introduction to the STFC Foundation Call

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# STFC Foundation Call

## Funding Available and General Principles

**£4m** over two years will be available in this call for projects which will lay new foundations and build on existing ones to:

- address challenges faced by Low and/or Middle Income Countries (LMICs) through disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects; and
- strengthen capability for research and innovation in support of economic development and welfare, within both UK and LMICs



# Possible uses of Foundation Awards

- developing new capacity building and/or research collaborations or partnerships, including training at all career levels
- partnership building: networks, seminars and workshops to explore and identify areas for cooperation and to enhance the building of partnerships and collaborations, secondments and movement of people (including students) e.g. between UK and overseas research organisations or between research organisations (UK and overseas) and industry/third sector/ Government;
- extending scope of existing activities to other LMICs;
- exploratory or pump priming research studies for investigation of new approaches and/or generation of preliminary data;
- creating effective pathways to impact in LMICs.

# Project size and duration

STFC aims to fund a range of projects:

- **NEW - Short (<£30k, <six months) projects for early stage partnership building;**
- small projects (<£100k, <12 months) aimed at exploring the needs of LMICs, building collaborations and/or piloting activities;
- larger projects (>£100k, <24 months) where collaboration and proven approaches are established and in a position to deliver long term, sustainable impact targeted at the challenges faced by developing countries.

Aim to fund three to five larger projects and 15 – 20 short and smaller projects.



# ODA compliance

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# What is ODA?

- Official Development Assistance
- 0.7% UK GNI target (set in law by the International Development Act)
- Follows OECD definitions and prevailing RCUK guidelines for Newton and GCRF

ODA research is .....

*Provided by official agencies*

*Promotes the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective*

- Developing Country = Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) refer to the DAC List
- <https://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/34086975.pdf>



This note helps donors to decide whether a particular expenditure qualifies as official development assistance (ODA). It supplements the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Statistical Reporting Directives. Further guidance on ODA eligibility of expenditures in the field of conflict, peace and security is available in the DAC's "ODA Casebook on Conflict, Peace and Security Activities."

## IS IT ODA?

DAC Members occasionally request the Secretariat's view as to whether a particular expenditure should be reported as official development assistance (ODA). This paper outlines the reasoning the Secretariat uses to answer such enquiries, and discusses some specific cases. It should not be taken as a definitive guide to ODA eligibility, since only the DAC may determine such eligibility. Further details are provided in the Statistical Reporting Directives (available at [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/dac/directives](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/dac/directives)).

Official development assistance is defined as those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients (available at [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist)) and to multilateral development institutions which are:

- provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and
- each transaction of which:
  - is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and
  - is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This calculation helps determine whether a loan is concessional. If the loan satisfies the ODA criteria, then the whole amount is reported as ODA. The grant element itself is not reportable as a flow. Reporting is on a cash (nominal) basis, except for Paris Club debt service reduction (see under "Flows" below).

# DAC list of ODA eligible countries

- Four groups; least developed, other low income, lower middle income and upper middle income
- Updated every **3 years**
- Based on World Bank **GNI per capita**
- Next round of graduation will be confirmed in Autumn 2017 – likely to be Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Seychelles and Uruguay.

DAC List of ODA Recipients  
Effective for reporting on 2014, 2015 and 2016 flows

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI <= \$1 043 in 2013)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$1 044-54 125 in 2013)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI >= \$54 126-512 745 in 2013)
Alghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Armenia	Albania
Angola	Kenya	Bolivia	Algeria
Bangladesh	Tajikistan	Cabo Verde	Antigua and Barbuda <sup>2</sup>
Benin	Zimbabwe	Cameroun	Argentina
Bhutan		Congo	Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso		Cote d'Ivoire	Belarus
Burundi		Egypt	Belgium
Cambodia		El Salvador	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Central African Republic		Georgia	Botswana
Chad		Ghana	Brazil
Comoros		Guatemala	Chile <sup>2</sup>
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Guyana	China (People's Republic of)
Djibouti		Honduras	Colombia
Equatorial Guinea <sup>1</sup>		India	Cook Islands
Eritrea		Indonesia	Costa Rica
Ethiopia		Kosovo	Cuba
Gambia		Kyrgyzstan	Dominica
Guinea		Micronesia	Dominican Republic
Guinea-Bissau		Moldova	Ecuador
Haiti		Mongolia	Fiji
Kiribati		Morocco	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Lao People's Democratic Republic		Nicaragua	Gabon
Lesotho		Nigeria	Germany
Liberia		Pakistan	Iran
Madagascar		Papua New Guinea	Iraq
Malawi		Paraguay	Jamaica
Mali		Philippines	Jordan
Mauritania		Samoa	Kazakhstan
Mozambique		Sri Lanka	Lebanon
Myanmar		Swaziland	Libya
Nepal		Syrian Arab Republic	Malaysia
Niger		Taiwan	Maldives
Rwanda		Ukraine	Marshall Islands
Sao Tome and Principe		Uzbekistan	Martinique
Senegal		Viet Nam	Mexico
Sierra Leone		West Bank and Gaza Strip	Montenegro
Solomon Islands			Montserrat
Somalia			Nauru
South Sudan			Nicar
Sudan			Palau
Tanzania			Panama
Timor-Leste			Peru
Togo			Saint Helena
Togo			Saint Lucia
Uganda			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Vanuatu <sup>1</sup>			Serbia
Yemen			Seychelles
Zambia			South Africa
			Serinaso
			Thailand
			Tonga
			Tunisia
			Turkey
			Turkmenistan
			Uruguay <sup>2</sup>
			Venezuela
			Wallis and Futuna

(1) The United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/L.20 adopted on 4 December 2013 decided that Equatorial Guinea will graduate from the least developed country category three and a half years after the adoption of the resolution and that Vanuatu will graduate four years after the adoption of the resolution.

(2) Antigua and Barbuda, Chile and Uruguay exceeded the high income country threshold in 2012 and 2013. In accordance with the DAC rules for revision of this List, all three will graduate from the List in 2017 if they remain high income countries until 2016.

# Is it ODA?

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Primary Purpose – Benefitting the UK

<https://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/34086975.pdf>



# Detailed Directives

## Detailed directives on research

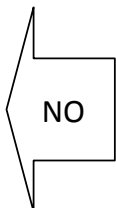
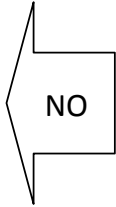
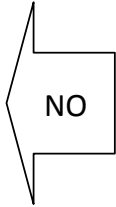
- “**Research** includes financing by the official sector, whether in the donor country or elsewhere, of research into the problems of **developing countries.**”
- This may be either (i) undertaken by an agency or institution whose main purpose is to promote the economic growth or welfare of developing countries, or (ii) commissioned or approved, and financed or part-financed, by an official body from a general purpose institution **with the specific aim of promoting the economic growth or welfare of developing countries.** Research undertaken purely to elaborate an aid project or programme may be considered either as an integral part of the relevant activity, or as an administrative cost.

## Other relevant directives

- scholarships, either in developing or donor country
- technical assistance, training and research, including language training
- south-south studies
- collaborative research between donor and recipient universities and organisations
- development-oriented social and cultural programmes
- ad hoc contributions such as conferences, seminars and workshops, exchange visits, publications, etc.

## GCRF ODA DECISION TREE

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED 'NO' TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS THE PROPOSAL **DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA** FOR ODA AND SHOULD BE REJECTED FROM THE GCRF CALL.



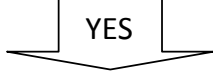
### Will the research directly benefit a country or countries on the OECD DAC list?

- The list can be found at: [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm)
- It is fine for research to take place outside of a DAC list country as long as it is primarily relevant to and intended to benefit a country or countries on the list.
  - It is also fine for projects to include a comparative element but the primary motivation must be to benefit a DAC list country or countries.
  - If a country is due to graduate from the list during the course of the project it still counts as eligible for the purposes of GCRF



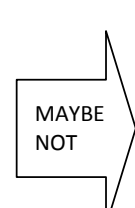
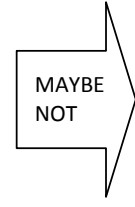
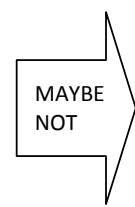
### Is the proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of this country/these countries?

- Does the proposal respond to evidence of a clear development need within a DAC list country or countries? Is this clearly evidenced?
- Is addressing this development challenge the main objective of the proposal?
- Does the proposal provide a credible argument for why the activity proposed is appropriate to addressing that need? It is fine for research to benefit other countries, as long as that is secondary. What matters is the primary motivation for the research: the primary purpose of ODA eligible research must be addressing development challenges in eligible countries.



### Could the proposal's outcomes promote the economic development and/or welfare of a country or countries from the DAC list?

- What would the likely impact of the proposal be? Are the key beneficiaries located within an ODA eligible country or countries – government, civil society, communities or national business interests?
- Is the project likely to contribute to the economic development and /or welfare of an ODA eligible country or countries?
- It is fine for research projects to have secondary impacts outside of countries on the DAC list, but it must be clear that the primary motivation for the project is to benefit countries on the list.



IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED 'MAYBE NOT' TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS THE PROPOSAL **MAY NOT MEET THE CRITERIA** FOR ODA. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE GCRF/ODA REMIT TEAM

If necessary the Remit Team will be able to liaise with their contacts in the RCUK GCRF team or with DFID/BIS/OECD to establish whether the proposal is ODA compliant.

They may also flag this issue for consideration by the panel should the proposal be allowed to progress to review. The initial decision to allow a proposal to progress **does not** exclude the possibility that a panel may later deem a proposal to be non-compliant.

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED 'YES' TO ALL OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS THEN YOU CAN PROCEED WITH THE PROPOSAL...

# Case studies

AIM: To improve understanding of what makes a programme ODA-eligible

1. Read case studies
2. Carefully consider whether proposal is ODA compliant and why?
3. Is there any additional information needed to make a decision?

Discuss in groups and then feed back in plenary.

## Shaking tunnel vision

Tunnels are critical lifelines in the modern World, transporting people, water, electricity, minerals and energy. They are an essential part of the infrastructure that serves people and therefore, are critical to their wealth and well-being. Global urbanisation and Climate Change are forcing nations to look towards underground space for their future infrastructure. Multiple tunnelling projects are in the country's pipeline or being currently designed/built.

Their behaviour under repeated seismic loading is not precisely understood and therefore, current designs and disaster risk management strategies could be greatly improved. This is partly due to the lack of performance data from real tunnels. Accidents are rare and can have significant consequences.

The purpose of this project is to design and install a monitoring system in two tunnels in Indonesia with the intention of:

- (1) fundamentally (re-)defining our understanding of the behaviour of tunnels under repeated seismic loading;
- (2) developing an engineering-risk-based disaster management approach for tunnels in seismic areas;
- (3) creating a case study that will become an internationally recognised reference and will be used widely in years to come for the validation of future improved numerical and analytical design approaches.

## **Additional equipment to improve a research study to establish sustainability-led building design through the implementation of Building Information Modelling**

The identification and discrimination of the materials within built-environment is limited when the information of the materials are provided solely by the conventional RGB digital imaging. But the performance of the tasks will be more accurate and robust when spectral information is available.

These advantages can be accomplished by an aid of the hyperspectral imaging system, although specification of the imaging, such as spectral range, field size, and usability of the output data, is yet to be established -something not tried before.

This equipment will be demonstrated in Malaysia during visits and to a Malaysian contingent visiting the UK. The camera will be kept in the UK after the project, but could be used by the Malaysian partners when necessary.

## **G8-2012 Structural Bamboo Products**

This project develops green construction materials and building codes for bamboo. China, India and Brazil have rapidly expanding economies with increasing demand for building materials. The production of conventional construction materials such as steel and concrete is energy intensive and unsustainable: concrete alone accounts for 5% of global CO2 emissions.

Bamboo is a fast growing, renewable building material widely cultivated in these countries but not used to its full potential in modern construction. Its mechanical properties are similar to wood but it produces up to six times as much mass per hectare as conventional timber plantations. Structural bamboo products have potential to partially replace the use of more energy intensive materials. The goal of this project is to develop modern structural building materials from renewable bamboo in order to place growth in rapidly developing countries onto a more sustainable path.

This project aims to expand and extend the initial International Bamboo Building Code to have relevant coverage of structural bamboo products. Our development and dissemination of this will be in cooperation with policy-makers in China during our final year workshop. We would work with our Chinese academic collaborators to get appropriate conversations with Chinese policy and construction ministries.