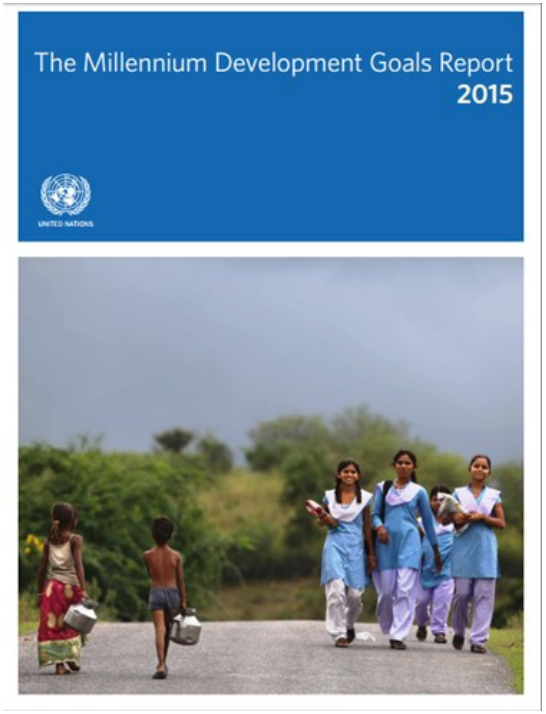
The University of Edinburgh

Global Challenges Research Fund: The Opportunities for the College of Science and Engineering

Catherine Burns, Research Support Office
Catherine.Burns@ed.ac.uk

International Development

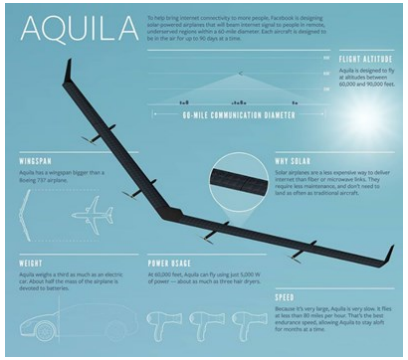


Guiding Principle: "Ensuring that no one is left behind"

International Development for Your Research

Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 - 2030

50 BREAKTHROUGHS
Critical scientific and technological advances needed for sustainable global development



WORLD BANK GROUP

United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

IOCD

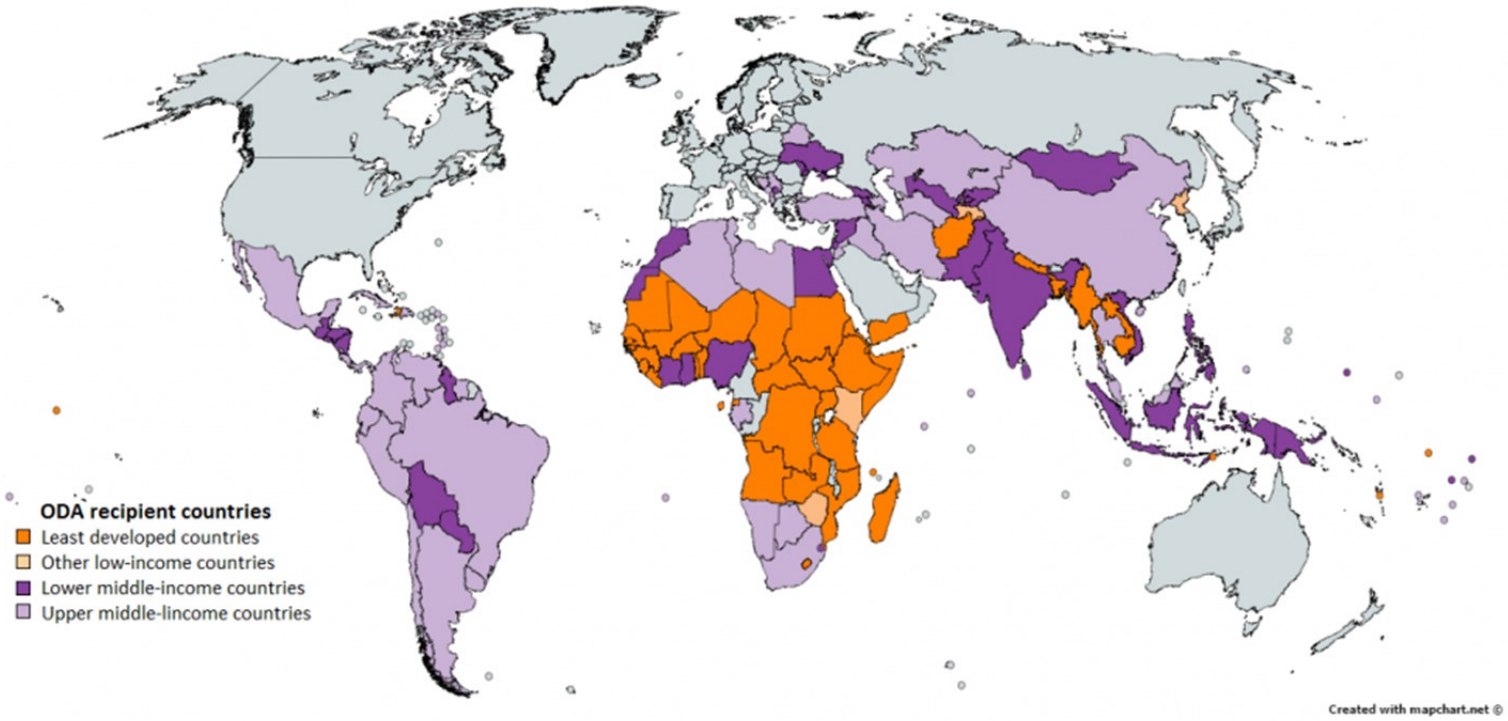
International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development

RCUK Research Agenda for Change:

1. Secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable agriculture
2. Sustainable health and well being
3. **Inclusive and equitable quality education**
4. **Clean air, water and sanitation**
5. Renewable energy and materials
6. Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
7. Resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
8. **Sustainable cities and communities**
9. Understand and effectively respond to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
10. Reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
11. **Reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities**

ODA Requirement

Promote economic development and welfare benefit in countries who receive Development Assistant Committee (DAC) flows



Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Economic development and welfare in countries who receive Development Assistant Committee (DAC) flows

- address a development need
- focus on developing countries problems
- embed in project e.g. link to impact
- intent
- credible

ODA Compliance Statement:

1. Which country / countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal?
2. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
3. How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

Developing Partnerships

Working in partnership across countries, disciplines and sectors is vital to understand the context of international development challenges and develop appropriate solutions.

- A common, shared vision and purpose and realistically defined goals
- Support for the partnership from participating organisations
- Equitable sharing of resources, responsibilities, and benefits
- Transparent decision-making
- Creation of genuine respect and trust between the partners
- Pursuit and achievement of higher level outcomes beyond the partnership itself

http://www.ukcds.org.uk/resources/finding-and-building-effective-partnerships

Country Partners in GCRF

Capacity and Capability

"The first priority of the GCRF RCUK Collective Fund will be to grow **research capacity and capability** to meet the challenges faced by developing countries" *RCUK Capacity and Capability Call*

Clearly identify capacity building activities, for example:

- Access to online resources/moocs
- placements or exchanges
- opportunities for those with relevant skills who have not previously worked on development relevant research projects to orient their research towards global issues
- support and mentoring for more junior team members
- co-design of research and implementation with developing country partner staff
- be creative (data project supplying refurbished former UoE pcs)

Additional Considerations

Voids: Very rare, identify instead placement on development journey

Government drivers: In-country UN SDG Action Plans

Ethics: Recent GCRF ESRC award letter requirement "research undertaken outside the UK must have both UK and respective country ethical approvals."

Risk Management: capture known risks but also those linked to critical dependencies, clear management strategy

Duty of Care: personal risks in the field

Collaboration and Communication from the Field: consider low/no cost, multi-platform software tools that can be used on and offline

Resources and Project Management: recruitment, due diligence, financial, communications, mutually agreed deliverables, partner reporting (financial and activity schedule), steering groups, visas, vaccines, consider tools like World Clock Meeting Planner to schedule international meetings

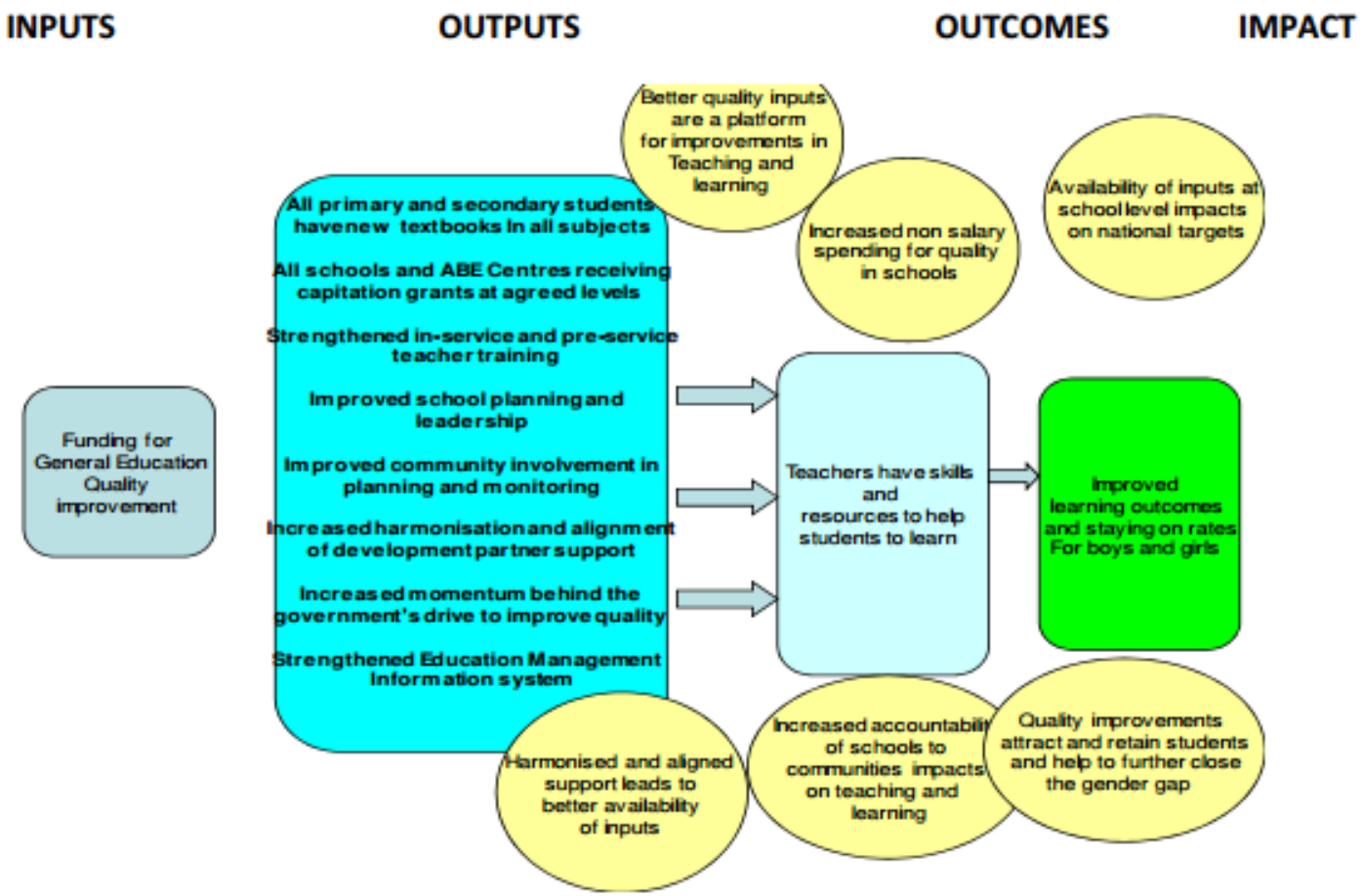
Monitoring and Evaluation: combines reporting of targeted development challenges, associated activity and metrics to evidence immediate, mid term and long terms results and impact

Sustainability and Legacy: know what will happen when the project ends

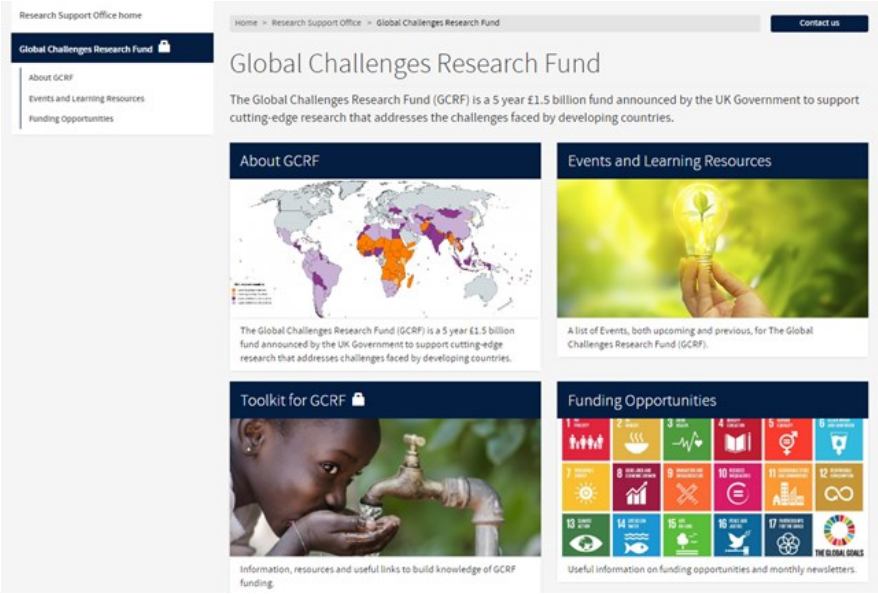
Platform	UK	Africa
Desktop Operating Systems		
Windows	80%	94%
apple Mac (IOS)	17%	4%
Smartphone Operating Systems		
Android	40%	50%
iPhone (IOS)	50%	5%
Series 40 (Nokia)	0%	21%
All % are approximate (November 2014, statcounter.com)		

From THET Guide: "Technology for effective partnership collaboration"

DfID Example of Theory of Change



Support for GCRF



RSO GCRF Team:

- Catherine.Burns@ed.ac.uk
- Paula.Brydges@ed.ac.uk
- Barry.Turner@ed.ac.uk

https://www.ed.ac.uk/research-support-office/global-challenges-research-fund

Event Series by Global Academies, IAD and RSO: Research for Global and Local Development