

**Joint Call**

**International Development Challenge Fund (IDCF) and**

**The Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP)**

*Funded by the University’s Research England GCRF funding allocation and the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme*

**Background:**

This joint call of the IDCF and SSRP Fund is supported **via two separate but complementary funding streams** both of which focus on **supporting research activities that specifically address challenges faced by developing countries**:

1. Research England allocated funds to the University to develop [Global Challenges Research Fund](https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/) (GCRF) related research activities, and
2. The [Sussex Sustainability Research Programme](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ssrp/) (SSRP) is a cross-campus University initiative that promotes and develops high-impact international and national sustainability research to help achieve the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/) and supports research activity in specific research areas (listed below).

This is the second round of funding from the IDCF and third round from SSRP. The first two rounds of the SSRP fund supported 20 projects across 8 schools and 15 departments, and collaborations in 15 DAC countries and the UK. The first round of the IDCF supported 10 projects across 5 Schools, including a range of cross-disciplinary activities.

**Purpose of the scheme:**

1. The aim of the IDCF is to support **interdisciplinary** and collaborative research activities that specifically address challenges faced by developing countries.
2. The aim of the SSRP Fund is similar, namely to support substantive interdisciplinary research proposals which leads to further, external funding applications and which ultimately provide leverage in supporting national and international policies and actions to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Funded projects must be **Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) compliant**, which means that only **research directly and primarily of benefit to the problems of developing countries** can be funded**.** These countries must be named on the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of aid recipients](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf). However, a limited amount of support from the SSRP is available for UK-based projects that have a high potential for generating knowledge transferable to DAC countries.

In order to meet the criteria for funding, proposed research activity should**:**

* Be underpinned by research excellence,
* Be focussed on problems faced by ODA/DAC countries and developing pathways to their solution,
* Have a high likelihood of positive impact on the economic development and welfare needs of developing countries,
* Promote strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between Sussex and DAC country academic communities. Where possible, partners in developing countries should play a significant role in the research activity. As noted above, support is also available for a limited number of UK-based activities.

**Eligible research areas:**

Applications are welcome from all disciplines but must address one of the GCRF Challenge Areas:

1. Equitable access to sustainable development
2. Secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
3. Sustainable health and wellbeing
4. Inclusive and quality education
5. Clear air, water and sanitation
6. Affordable, reliable, sustainable energy
7. Sustainable economies and societiies
8. Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive growth and innovation
9. Resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
10. Sustainable cities and communities
11. Human rights, good governance and social justice
12. Undestand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
13. Reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
14. Reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities

While bids from the above Challenge Areas are welcome, consideration will be given to the themes below which have been identified by Sussex researchers as priority sustainability areas:

1. SDG interactions in critical transition zones – peri-urban and forest margins.

e.g. assessing interactions among goals for food, urbanization, and biodiversity, or between goals for deforestation and health in peri-urban or forest margin areas.

1. The impact of economic globalization on SDG interactions and implementation.

e.g. investigating the impact of international debt on the SDGs; or the role of trade in achieving the SDGs.

1. Rights-based approaches to stimulate action on the SDGs

e.g. assessing the role of environmental and social justice for advancing sustainable and equitable development.

1. Novel tools and methods to support implementation of the SDGs

e.g. combining geospatial analysis, modelling and participatory appraisal for analysing changes in resource use in complex environments.

1. Planetary health, especially linking the health SDG with environmental-related SDGs

e.g.  investigating environmental pathways of antimicrobial resistance; or, the connection between risk to human health and environmental conservation.

1. Sustainable supply chain management as an approach for achieving the SDGs

e.g.  Developing new practices and procedures for advancing sustainable supply chain management and its use for implementing the SDGs.

1. The interactions between agriculture and climate change in the SDGs.  e.g. Investigating the threat of climate change to achieving hunger reduction goals in Africa, and institutional responses to this threat.

**Eligible activities and funding:**

Funding can be used to develop new ODA compliant research, add new strands to already existing ODA compliant activity, and/or repurpose unsuccessful but positively reviewed ODA compliant external funding applications to any sponsor. However, as noted above, a small amount of funding in this Call will be available to support UK-based research that has high potential for generating knowledge transferable to DAC countries.

We envisage funding projects and activity across a range of size and scope. As such, applicants can request funding for projects from between £1k to £25k. A portion of your budget may flow to your DAC country partner(s) and should be clearly indicated in section 6 of the application.

The following types of activity and costs are eligible:

1. **Pump-priming challenge led activities:** this may include exploratory network meetings and pump-priming to identify what the research contribution to the DAC country challenge is and to develop sustainable strategies, partnerships and projects to generate preliminary data. The outcomes of pump-priming activity should inform more substantive ODA compliant research. For instance, eligible funds would include **directly incurred costs only**, such as research & technical assistance, recruitment costs, consumables, travel and subsistence, fieldwork, survey costs, and project specific workshops. Please note that applicants can request funds for project-specific equipment, however a strong justification is needed in section 6c of the application.
2. **Capacity and capability building:** activities can involve establishing or enhancing sustainable and equitable partnerships with DAC list countries, growing people-based capacity and capability to undertake ODA compliant research in developing countries and the UK. This means travel to and from DAC countries, including hosting researchers from DAC countries at Sussex. Funds can cover travel, subsistence, visas, a stipend and any applicable School bench fees.
3. **Generating impact from research:** translational activity which interprets and uses findings for sustainable social and economic benefits of DAC countries and partners organisations, e.g. stakeholder engagement, broader dissemination etc. Funds can cover research assistance, research-based training, dissemination costs, meeting costs, and travel and subsistence for example.
4. **Rapid response to emergencies** in developing countries with an urgent research need, such as disease outbreaks or natural disasters. Eligible costs would include **directly incurred costs only**, such as research & technical assistance, recruitment costs, consumables, travel and subsistence, fieldwork, survey costs, and project specific workshops.

PIs must evidence and justify planned costs for all categories of activity.

The panel is receptive to receiving applications in more experimental or innovative areas of research that break new ground and are therefore necessarily more risky.

**Ineligible costs:**

* Teaching relief and permanent staff time are not eligible
* Overheads
* Costs incurred by collaborators at UK institutions
* Conference hosting or attendance

**Project duration:**

Projects would normally be expected to begin within 2 months of notification and run for a maximum of 12 months.

**Priority countries:**

The University’s GCRF strategy identified our intention to encourage engagement with a particular set of countries, therefore research which delivers benefits to the following countries are particularly welcome: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Chile, China, Columbia, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda.

Research focussing on other [DAC countries](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf) is also welcome, particularly if there is a path to translate the benefits to lower income countries.

As noted, a limited amount of support is available for UK-based projects with high potential to generate transferable knowledge for ODA/DAC countries.

**Applicant eligibility:**

* Applications are welcome from academics and research staff from all disciplines. We would like to see increased engagement with colleagues from Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Health Sciences, Maths and Physical Sciences, and Life Sciences.
* Cross-School collaboration is strongly encouraged.
* Members of faculty on fixed-term contracts may apply if their existing employment contracts extends beyond the proposed project.
* IDS researchers can apply in collaboration with Sussex faculty, one of whom must be from an SSRP Core School (e.g. Global, Life Sciences, LPS or USBS).
* Staff on teaching-only contracts and research students are not eligible to apply.
* In accordance with the University’s Athena Swan objective of addressing gender equality, applications are welcome from those returning from parental leave.

**Application process:**

Applications include a statement of support from the PI’s School Director of Research & Knowledge Exchange. Completed applications, including the School DRKE statement, should be emailed to research.initiatives@sussex.ac.uk by **12.00 noon on Monday 20th January 2020.**

**Review criteria:**

Applications will be reviewed by a cross-School panel and will address the following criteria:

1. Research Excellence: activity should be underpinned by excellent research.
2. Problem and solution focussed: applications will be assessed on how the proposed project directly relates to addressing the challenges of economic development and welfare faced by developing countries on the [DAC list](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf), and whether the scope of work is likely to result in tangible solutions.
3. Impact: research should aim to make a real contribution to improved social and economic challenges in ODA countries. Activity should have a high likelihood of positive impact as evidenced by a good understanding and description of the pathway that will lead to impact; identifying and engaging appropriate and local stakeholders, and, maximising opportunities for impact as appropriate, e.g. via dissemination and public engagement.
4. Sustainability: Activity should promote strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between academic communities in the UK and in the Global South. Proposals should include plans for how these partnerships will be developed and nurtured both during and beyond the period of funding.
5. Value for money: Due to the expected diverse range of award size, individual applicants will be assessed on perceived impact vs cost and those with the best value for money will be given priority.

**Key commissioning dates:**

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| **Call issued** | **Deadline** | **Panel meeting** | **Decision to applicants** | **Earliest project start date** (if no staff to be appointed or contracts with partners not needed) | **Latest project start date** |
| Friday 22nd November 2019 | 12 noonMonday 20th January 2020 | w/c 10 February 2020 | w/c 17th February 2020 | 1 March 2020 | 1 May 2020 |

**Reporting requirements:**

Successful applicants will be required to submit brief periodic reports to R&E on progress and outcomes to date which will be included in the University’s annual report to Research England.

**Further information:**

If you would like to discuss your application please contact Debbie Foy-Everett, D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk ext 3812

All costing queries should be directed to Taryn Collins, research.initiatives@sussex.ac.uk ext 7447