



DFID health research funding

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>

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What should research teams think about

- Addressing key development challenges
- Traction in the countries where research is taking place
- Wider range of partners with focus on impact
- Should policy makers or others be involved
- How to work across disciplines
- Is the work going to deliver value for money
- How to be a good partner/collaborator



Thinking about impact

- Varies across disciplines and sectors. DFID focus on translational (i.e. impact focussed) research
- Impact is inherently unpredictable – work to increase chance of impact, rather than directly delivering it
- Impact varies across a portfolio (e.g. very high impact for some research helps justify wider portfolio of lower impact)
- Impact related to risk – balanced portfolio includes higher risk/lower likelihood/potentially very high impact research

DFID research – key questions

- **Impact:** does the research focus on an important and practical development challenge?
- **Additionality:** does DFID support address an important gap in research funding?
- **Quality:** will the commissioned research be of the highest quality?
- **Deliverability:** will the research deliver benefits within a realistic timeframe?
- **Cost:** has every possible step been taken to control costs?

DFID Research Review

- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/564075/Research-review4.pdf
- Launched on 26th October 2016
- Focuses on DFID's areas of comparative advantage
- Complementary to other research funds

DFID Research Review



October 2016



Health

- A significant scale up in health through the Ross Fund Portfolio to deliver on the government's commitment to lead a major new global programme to accelerate the development of vaccines and drugs to eliminate the world's deadliest infectious diseases.
- New research will also provide evidence on how to build stronger and more resilient health systems as the basis for efforts to reach the most vulnerable and respond to health crises, and how to strengthen sexual, reproductive, and maternal health programmes for women and adolescents.



DFID health research portfolio

- **Infectious diseases**
 - Product development (drugs, diagnostics, vaccines, other)
 - Implementation research
 - Clinical trials
- **Sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health**
 - Product development
 - Implementation research
 - Clinical trials
- **Health systems strengthening**
 - Implementation research
- **Non communicable diseases**
 - Implementation research
 - Clinical trials



Ross Fund Portfolio - £1bn announced November 2015

to 'tackle the world's deadliest diseases' including: epidemic diseases, neglected tropical diseases and diseases with emerging resistance (including AMR)

DFID

- New products for infectious diseases
- New products for diseases with emerging resistance
- New products for neglected tropical diseases
- Research and development of new products for diseases of epidemic potential
- Implementation programmes for malaria and NTDs

Dept of Health (DH)

- UK vaccine R&D network
- Rapid response team
- GSK bio-preparedness organisation
- Fleming fund
- AMR global innovation fund



What is the Ross Fund Portfolio?

- It is **not** a 'fund'
- It is a way of describing the UK Government investments in three areas:
 - Diseases of epidemic potential
 - Neglected Tropical Diseases
 - Diseases with emerging resistance, including AMR
- It is a mixture of research and implementation
- Not all UK Govt work in these three areas is within the Ross Fund Portfolio
- You can't bid for funding designated as 'Ross Fund'
- There will be funding opportunities for some areas covered



DFID Ross Fund Portfolio research opportunities

- Product development research
- Health systems resilience
- Implementation research for infectious diseases
- Epidemic responsiveness research



DH Ross Fund Portfolio

- UK Vaccine R&D Network – has had calls and likely to have some more
- Rapid response team – was awarded following a competition, moving into implementation
- Fleming fund – awarded following competition, moving into implementation
- AMR global innovation fund – still being designed but likely to be open to competition



DFID funding modalities

- Product Development e.g. PDPs or organisations managing a portfolio of candidates
- Research Programme Consortia (RPCs)
- Responsive programmes with MRC/ESRC/Wellcome and DH
- Through global health research programmes at WHO
- Other consortia



How to find out about research calls

- DFID website
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>
 - Funding tracker
 - Email alerts
 - Development tracker
- Twitter accounts - @DFID and team specific e.g. @DFID_healthres
- Partner websites
- UKCDS and other websites



Issues to think about when developing partnerships

- Identify high priority, researchable problems for maximum likelihood of impact – the closer the involvement of LMIC stakeholders in problem definition, the better
- Equal partnerships from outset
- Recognise real barriers to Southern participation:
 - May not be able to participate in early stages without financial support
 - UK peer review culture – academic panel culture focused on research excellence above Southern partnership/LMIC sensitivity/participation
 - Operating models – southern orgs may operate on soft funding alone (no core funding) which may be barrier to leading bids; or being paid in arrears; or meeting standard reporting expectations
 - Due diligence – may struggle to prove financial capacity
 - Capacity building can be done in-country, doesn't need to be done in UK

Research Fairness Initiative

RFI Conference: Event Outcomes



RFI: Reporting for Fair Partnerships in research and innovation for global health



What Problem does the RFI address?



How will the RFI change the world?



Become a User, Sponsor, Advocate



RFI Workshops



The RFI has been presented at workshops in the Philippines, Thailand, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal.

To find out more about these past events, please visit our

[News & Events Archive page.](#)

Get In Touch

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Research Fairness Initiative <http://rfi.cohred.org>

- How to overcome systematically unfair outcomes between partners
 - Ability to shape the research agenda
 - Competitiveness for scientific productivity
 - Impact
 - Capacity building
 - Partners' credit and recognition for contribution
 - Access to data
 - Access to intellectual property
 - Compensation for participation in research partnerships among research institutions/organisations globally

Global Goal 17



Being a good partner

- Have institution wide guiding principles for good research management in partner overseas institutions
- Include partners in the least developed countries
- Good overseas institutions are overstretched – how to build capacity to help them to make more impact?
- Overheads and governance are important
- Link with country priorities (local or national)
- Avoid any imbalance between the status of UK and Southern collaborators, e.g. tasks when doing the research, authorship on papers, participation in governance/management/supervision of the project



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Fragile and conflict states

- Research to address critical evidence gaps, including security and justice, migration, taxation and accountability, and tackling political constraints to growth, peace, and development.
- New research will include work on how to tackle cross border drivers of conflict and suffering such as serious organised crime, human trafficking and child exploitation.
- DFID will initiate new multi-disciplinary research on how to support transformational development in African cities.
- DFID will significantly increase support for research and innovation in humanitarian settings, including stronger focus on building resilience, addressing protracted crises, reducing vulnerability to shocks, and delivering education in emergencies.



Climate Energy and Water

- A significant research investment on climate, energy and water, including how to deliver and put into use innovations in access to water and climate science, build resilience and integrate weather disaster risk reduction into development approaches, and scale up access to clean energy.



Agriculture

- A continuation of large-scale research investment into sustainable agriculture, to improve nutrition and food security and increase resilience to climate change in developing countries.
- New research will include evidence on how commercialisation and food systems could be more effective in assisting the poorest people, particularly women.
- Speeding up the development and use of more productive and resilient crops and agricultural technologies, and understanding how new technologies can be put into use in a cost effective way will improve food security and generate prosperity for poor farmers. This is critical for accelerating economic growth, particularly in Africa.



Economic Development

- Research to help better understand what works best to build the foundations for economic development – including how to accelerate development through trade, support innovation and private sector growth, support the critical transition of youth into employment, and address constraints to the economic and social empowerment of women.
- This will include a significant increase in our investment in education research, including a major initiative to use digital technology to transform learning outcomes.



.... And finally

More information at:

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