Arts & Humanities Research Council **E·S·R·C ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**

ESRC-AHRC Forced displacement call
Call specification

Summary

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in collaboration with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) are launching a call for innovative, interdisciplinary projects focusing on the experiences of the forced displaced (both internationally and internally) whether due to poverty, war, conflict, persecution or human rights violations. Funding has been allocated from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) (www.esrc.ac.uk/gcrf) which is a £1.5 billion funding to support cutting-edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries. GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance commitment, and will be awarded in a manner that fits with Official ODA guidelines (www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm).

This call explicitly recognises the global and protracted nature of people displacement in the modern age. The current numbers of displaced people - fleeing due to war, conflict, or poverty - are unprecedented. About 86 per cent are displaced into countries considered to be economically less developed (www.unhcr.org/558193896.html) and therefore already suffering from poverty, poor health and inadequate infrastructure. With this in mind the ESRC and AHRC are launching a call that takes a longer-term, cross-cultural and global look at the experiences of, and challenges presented by, forced displacement.

Through this call, we aim to demonstrate the capability of the UK research community to respond to pressing international crises, and to build interdisciplinary capacity to address complex challenges. The call is being managed to a challenging timetable which will require a rapid response from researchers, research organisations, our peer review community, and the Research Councils.

Funding is available for **innovative, inter-disciplinary proposals** of up to £300,000 (100 per cent fEC) of between 6 and 24 months duration. All proposals will have to make a clear case for how they comply with Official Development Assistance (ODA) (www.esrc.ac.uk/research/international-research/global-challenges-research-fund-gcrf/official-development-assistance-oda/) guidelines. Proposals should be submitted via the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S) by **16.00 on 20 July 2016.** We aim for projects to commence by **1 October 2016**.

Background and scope

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency there are almost 20 million refugees and around 40 million internally displaced people - over half of which are children. Only about 126,800 refugees were able to return to their home countries in 2014 – the lowest number

in 31 years[1]. In cases of such protracted displacement, the reality for many is decades spent in large camps, designed to be temporary but in actual fact home to entire generations. Some of the world's largest refugee camps are now home to thousands of people, with their own informal economies, public services, demonstrations and protests, corruption and criminality. However, many more people are not living in camps but in established urban areas. Forced displaced people settle in urban areas for various reasons such as to avoid dependence and restrictions that prevail in camps, better prospects for resettlement or searching for services more readily available in urban areas. They are not always provided with official assistance and protection; protection can be sparse, unevenly distributed or insufficient and their opportunities for economic, social and cultural development and integration can therefore be limited.

Forced displaced people, regardless of their settlement type, are also vulnerable to many forms of organised violence, including kidnapping, people trafficking, extortion, and sexual violence. Like other migrants, thousands die or disappear along routes of transit, others are interned or detained. Many face hostility, marginalisation, discrimination and victimisation in the very places where they seek sanctuary. Whilst their vulnerability may appear stark, these are also ordinary people continuing to live their lives in challenging circumstances, developing new livelihoods, communities, and strategies for survival.

Call details

Understanding the diversity of experiences and the shape of the immediate and long term responses, both of the displaced themselves and the agencies that seek to intervene, is the primary focus of this call. There is a pressing need for research on these long term challenges that can inform the design of programmes aimed at addressing both the immediate and longer terms needs and vulnerabilities of people being forced to leave or flee their homes as well as their host communities.

Proposals may focus (from an interdisciplinary perspective) on the breadth of economic, social, legal and cultural challenges and issues facing displaced populations and their host communities, and may draw upon historical or contemporary perspectives.

This might include (but are not limited to):
- the experiences, vulnerabilities and survival strategies of different people whilst on the move (eg women, children, elderly and disabled), as well as those based in different types of settlements for varying degrees of time (this might, for example, include vulnerabilities and strategies for preserving health, wellbeing, identity, culture, and heritage etc)
- understanding the dynamics of the operational response including the challenge of inter-agency co-operation across humanitarian, development and human rights organisations
- specific strategies for reaching out and providing support for marginalised and hard-to-reach people (and particularly the most vulnerable in this category) living in urban and rural areas

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[1] www.unhcr.org/558193896.html and www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/forced-displacement-a-growing-global-crisis-faqs

- understanding the opportunities and limitations of re-engaging people in economic, social, and cultural activities and contributing to host communities - for example by enabling self-reliance, education and employment among the forcibly displaced
- the relationships between displaced people and host populations including the roles of various actors involved in promoting trust, tolerance, integration, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion
- new interventions in relief and protection - educational, vocational, artistic - aimed at promoting the dignity, human rights, and empowerment of displaced people
- understanding the international legal and political frameworks designed to give protection to the forced displaced - how they currently operate in practice and gaps in provision
- how we can help humanise refugees and other forced displaced - challenging the construct of displaced people simply as beneficiaries or recipients of aid and resources
- approaches for building capacity in host communities to ensure adequate infrastructures are in place to meet the needs of forced displaced and their integration process -for example social service provision, cultural translation, education, language acquisition, re-skilling etc
- addressing policy concerns through contextualising the contemporary debate on forced displacement considering the cultural, theoretical and historical framing
- considering how experiences of forced displacement and theoretical framings from the global south might address the more recent concerns of citizens and governments in the global north in making sense of the contemporary situation
- what is the contribution of established communities/diasporas in receiving countries to support positive responses to needs of refugees from their countries of origin?

These areas are given as examples only, and applicants are invited to consider a breadth of issues within the remit of this call, bringing together the social sciences and the arts and humanities. Applicants are required to approach their work from an interdisciplinary perspective that should be clearly stated in the application. It may, for example, include developing innovative methodologies that use the tools of different disciplinary approaches working across the social sciences and the arts and humanities. It can also include synthesising insights from the social sciences and the arts and humanities, drawing together traditions from historical, literary and philosophical considerations of the nature of forced displacement.

Engagement with non-academic communities and impact

The spectrum of activities funded under this call can be broad: from data and information collection and initial analysis to the gathering of analytical evidence on current policies, practices and programmes with a focus on what works and critique of what does not (including historical perspectives and comparisons). It can also include synthesis of existing research on specific issues. Funded projects should contribute to a robust evidence base and inform the design of successful policies, programmes and activities by governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental actors addressing the needs of displaced populations as well as their host environments.

Research funded under this call is expected to deliver impact with a particular focus on promoting the welfare and economic development of a country or countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm) list.

Applicants are, therefore, strongly encouraged to demonstrate suitable connections with government and/or non-governmental actors in the countries and regions of their research to ensure that their findings feed into current policy and practice. If no such connections already exist, applicants should demonstrate how these are going to be established within the first three months of the grant (or sooner for shorter term projects). Furthermore, collaborations with academic researchers in these countries are also strongly encouraged.

It is recommended that a minimum of 10 per cent of the overall budget should be dedicated to delivering the activities outlined in the impact summary. The development of a clear impact strategy will be important to ensuring research impact is achieved. When completing the impact summary section of the form, applicants may find it helpful to refer to ESRC guidance on developing an impact strategy (www.esrc.ac.uk/research/evaluation-and-impact/developing-an-impact-strategy/).

In the case of primary data and information collection the proposals are expected to demonstrate a robust methodological framework to conduct qualitative or quantitative research among displaced people and their host communities. They are also required to demonstrate a management plan for how the project will enable fieldwork to commence in a matter of weeks after the start of the grant. Applicants must give appropriate considerations for security, privacy, confidentiality and research ethics as well as clearly state plans to make the data and analysis available promptly to relevant practitioners and policymakers.

Assessment criteria

The applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
- Originality/potential contribution to knowledge
- Contribution to promoting the welfare and economic development of people in low and middle income countries - GCRF criterion
- Interdisciplinary nature of the proposal
- Design and methods, including data and information management
- Value for money
- Outputs, dissemination and impact
- Research ethics.

Full reviewer guidance, with more detailed information on the review criteria for full proposals will be published on the scheme web page.

Funding

We invite **innovative, inter-disciplinary proposals** of between 6 and 24 months duration, and up to a maximum funding amount of £300,000 (100 per cent fEC). The Research Councils will pay 80 per cent of the fEC, with the research organisation (RO) contributing the other 20 per cent. We expect that duration of the projects will be determined by the nature of their activities. Where possible, we expect that the majority of

data and information-gathering activity will take place within the initial months of the projects.

We expect to fund between 12-15 projects under this call. Applicants are required to clearly demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of their proposed work. It is a requirement that projects include a combination of social science and arts and humanities expertise and approaches.

As this call is funded using the Global Challenges Research Fund (www.esrc.ac.uk/gcrf), applicants should ensure that they have considered existing advice on Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidance (www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm).

ODA compliance

This call is funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund. GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (www.oecd.org). ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm) list. Funding within this call will therefore be awarded in a manner that fits with Official ODA guidelines (www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm).

When applying to this call it is important applicants take time to consider whether or not their proposal is ODA compliant. It will be important to ensure that it is clear in the proposal how it is ODA eligible as defined by "administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective". Further general advice on ODA and links to useful sources are provided on the ESRC website (www.esrc.ac.uk/research/international-research/global-challenges-research-fund-gcrf/official-development-assistance-oda/).

All proposals to this call will be required to include a mandatory attachment setting out how they fulfil the criteria for ODA compliance. Further guidance on how to complete this attachment will be provided in the Je-S Guidance for Applicants in due course. In addition, applicants should also make clear throughout their case for support and pathways to impact how their proposal is relevant to ODA requirements.

Eligibility

Proposals are invited from ROs eligible for ESRC or AHRC funding across the UK (see www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/). Further details of eligibility are given in ESRC's Research Funding Guide: www.esrc.ac.uk/rfg. Proposals may be submitted by individuals who are not established members of the proposed host institution. In these circumstances, by submitting the proposal the RO confirms that it guarantees to provide facilities for the applicant as if an established member of staff for the duration of the grant.

Academic researchers (at PhD or equivalent status) from established overseas Research Organisations of comparable standing to ESRC-eligible UK Research Organisations are eligible to be listed as international co-investigators under this call. We will consider funding

the direct costs of international co-investigators at 100 per cent fEC. However, these costs must not exceed 30 per cent of the full 100 per cent fEC cost of the grant. For further information, please see: www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/.

International collaboration is not limited to co-investigators but may also involve partnerships to develop international datasets, promote knowledge exchange and international impact, and enhance social science conceptual development on an international scale.

All applicants should also ensure they have considered any ethical or health and safety concerns raised by the intended research of the event, see: www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics/

The ESRC and AHRC do not allow the resubmission of previously unsuccessful proposals to any schemes, unless the applicant has been explicitly invited to do so.

Capacity building

An aim of the ODA component of this call is to enable building of research capacity through the research process. We expect as a minimum that all proposals identify capacity building activities as part of, and not separate to, the stated research approach. The focus should be on the quality and impact of the research, and how increasing capacity contributes to this.

Examples of building capacity include:
- 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.

Studentships are not allowed under this call.

For further detail on capacity building we encourage applicants to visit the ESRC website (www.esrc.ac.uk/research/international-research/global-challenges-research-fund-gcrf/capacity-development/).

Demand management

We anticipate that this call will receive significant interest, so, in accordance with ESRC's demand management approach, we encourage research organisations to consider carefully the number and quality of proposals that are submitted. For further information please see: www.esrc.ac.uk/about-us/strategy-and-priorities/demand-management/.

Application process

The closing date for proposals is **16.00 on 20 July 2016**. No proposal received after this deadline will be considered for funding.

All proposals must be made through the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/eforms/secure/Login.asp). Only those proposals submitted through the Je-S system will be accepted for processing. Proposals must be costed and approved by the relevant institutional authority at the research organisation before submission.

Je-S is the electronic submission system which is used by all Research Councils to provide a common electronic system that supports research administration. More detailed information can be found at https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/. In particular, applicants should note the registration requirements to make a Je-S submission. The Je-S application form for this specific call will be open to applicants in due course.

In order to use the Je-S system, principal investigators, co-investigators and their organisations need to register on the system. Registration of both the principal investigator's organisation and their own details must be completed before the proposal can be formally submitted to the ESRC.

Care and attention must be given to completing the online form correctly. Proposals that are not completed correctly may be rejected by the ESRC office. Guidance will be available by the end of May.

The ESRC may require applicants to amend parts of proposals, such as the length of attachments or the inclusion of missing mandatory attachments, as a condition of accepting the proposal for processing.

All applicants are strongly advised to follow the Je-S guidance for this call and consult the ESRC's Research Funding Guide (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-funding-guide/), which sets out the rules and regulations governing its funding.

Assessment process

All applications will be reviewed by a specially convened panel of academic and non-academic experts at a meeting in August. The panel will be asked to assess the proposals against the fit to the call and the assessment criteria.

The panel will then make formal recommendations to the funders. The funders may wish to apply some conditions on grants, and there may be subsequent negotiations on the details of the support offered.

Funding decisions will be announced in early September and awards are expected to commence **on 1 October 2016**.

Commissioning timetable

- Closing date for proposals   20 July 2016
- Commissioning panel meeting   end of August 2016
- Grant offers   early September 2016
- Work starts   1 October 2016

Further information

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