

UKRI-GCRF Collective Fund
New Calls webinar
2nd May 2019

(Re)thinking the off-grid city: Human-infrastructure interactions in the context of urban crises and urban challenge

&

Sustainable energy and international development: beyond technology

Introduction

Daniel Robinson – Senior Research Portfolio Manager,
ESRC

Gender Equality Statement

Lauren Clarke – International Policy Manager, UKRI

“...the desirability of providing development assistance that is likely to contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender.”

International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014

UKRI-GCRF Gender Equality Statement

- International Development (Gender Equality Act 2014)
- Mandatory for all applications to UKRI GCRF and Newton Fund calls/competitions announced and published after the **1 April 2019** to provide a Gender Equality Statement
- 1 page statement
- Statement must outline how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities
- Non-UK Component via Je-S
- Guidance on funding call web-pages

For more detailed information and guidance
see:

<https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gender-equality-and-international-development-research-and-innovation/>

Context and Scope

Dr. Jaideep Gupte

Challenge Leader, Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure Portfolio

Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), UKRI



Context and Scope



- “The city” / ‘urban’ as complex systems
 - Concentrate opportunities, jobs, and services
 - Important constellations of knowledge and culture
 - Not immune to failure
 - The built environments is gendered, unequal, segregated, racialised...
 - **Urban is not simply a location.**
- For example:
 - ✓ Rural ↔ urban ↔ land
 - ✓ Built ↔ social ↔ natural environments
 - ✓ On-grid ↔ off-grid
 - ✓ Surface ↔ sub-surface

Context and Scope

- Everyday realities are relational; but sense of priority to foreground the **most marginalised (least resourced) urban residents**
- Explicitly speak to ODA priorities; South-South and “lighthouse” linkages
- Essential interdisciplinary intent to create meaningful involvement of urban practices within research
- In ways that are legible to local change makers; local cultures; local histories

Context and Scope

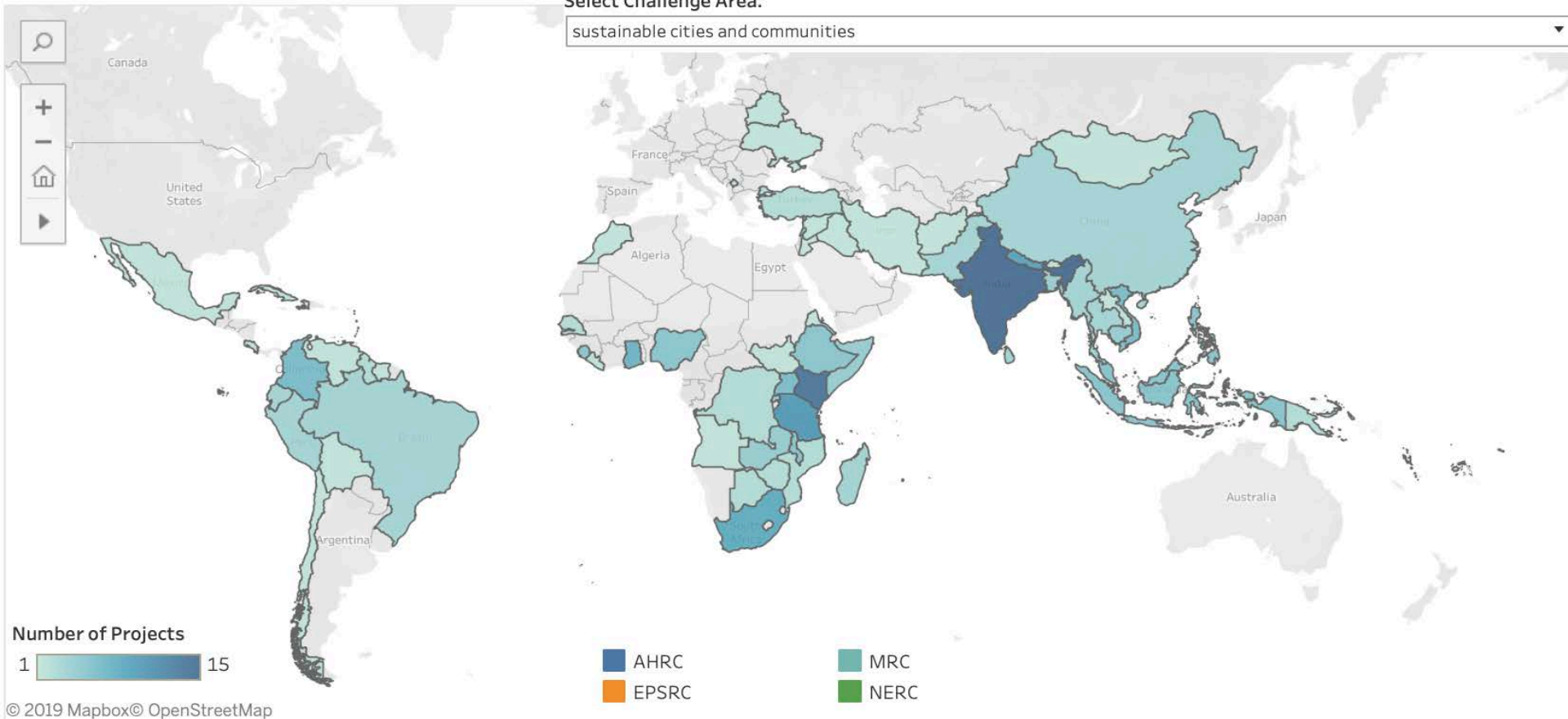
Unique entry points:

- ‘(Re)thinking the off-grid city’ call places **urban and city- contexts** at the centre, where as the ‘Sustainable Energy’ call allows **urban and rural (even remote) locations**.
- ‘(Re)thinking the off-grid city’ call allows for engagement with one or more types of service flows or types of grids (**water, sanitation, energy, transport and communications**), the energy call is focused on roots of energy poverty (**at least 2 of: technology interactions in society; natural resources; resilient systems; governance/political economy**)

Countries of Focus and Challenge Areas on UKRI Projects Awarded Through the GCRF

Select Challenge Area:

sustainable cities and communities



Call Mechanisms

Daniel Robinson – ESRC

Dr. Pamela Mason – ESRC

(Re)thinking the off-grid city: Human-infrastructure interactions in the context of urban crises and urban change

- Delivery partners: ESRC, NERC, AHRC, EPSRC and British Academy
- Objective: to support the most marginalised and least resourced urban residents in the face of acute shocks, latent stresses and urban change. The call will focus on human-infrastructure interactions and support research that leads to actionable policy alternatives, engineering solutions and social innovations.
- Proposed size of the grants: £500k-£2m (up to 3 years)

- Key dates:
 - Call opens: 23rd April 2019
 - Intention to submit deadline: 30th May 2019
 - Call closes: 24th July 2019
 - Panel: November 2019
 - Grants start: 1st February – 1st April 2020
- Enquiries: GCRFOff-GridCities@esrc.ukri.org

Sustainable energy and international development: beyond technology

- Delivery partners: ESRC, NERC and InnovateUK.
- Objective: Deliver cutting-edge research that enriches our understanding of the intertwined social, environmental, cultural, political and economic factors that affect and shape energy production, access and use in developing countries. Projects should be multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary.
- Proposed size of the grants: up to £1.5m (3 years)

- Key dates:
 - Call opens: 1st week of April 2019
 - Intention to submit deadline: 15th May
 - Call closes: 11th of July 2019
 - Panel: November 2019
 - Grants start: 1st February – 1st April 2020
- Enquiries: GCRFEnergy@esrc.ukri.org

Call differences

(Re)Thinking the Off-Grid City

- £500k-£2m
- More than one country of focus
- No priority region (but be aware of [overlooked areas](#))

Sustainable Energy and international development

- £1-1.5m
- At least 3 countries (within the same geographical region)
- No priority region

Key Criteria

GCRF: Fund Level Assessment Criteria

- ✓ **Research Excellence**
new approaches not constrained by traditional methodologies or disciplinary silos
- ✓ **Official Development Assistance (ODA) compliance**
OECD guidelines
- ✓ **Equitable Partnerships and Building Capacity**
strong and enduring partnerships between UK and developing-country researchers to enhance the research and innovation capacity of both
- ✓ **Impact: Problem and Solution Focused**
substantial impact on improved social welfare, economic development, and environmental sustainability

What is GCRF looking for?

- Proposals need to be ODA challenge-led/solution-focused - compliance statements need to be focused on and specific to the partner/target countries
- Applicants need to demonstrate a deep understanding of the context (societal, cultural, political, historical, economic etc.)
- In-country partners need to be appropriate, involved in the scoping and delivery of the research, and add value
- Support adaptability and resilience by focusing on key competencies/expertise required rather than specific work streams and staff
- Be clear and realistic about the potential impact
 - Directly associated with this grant
 - What are the benefits beyond the lifetime of the grant?

Check the specific call documentation about Principal and Co-Investigator eligibility.

Entering applicants

- All Principal and Co-Investigators must have a fully registered 'Research Proposal' type Je-S account
- Please ensure that you **submit any account requests as soon as possible.**

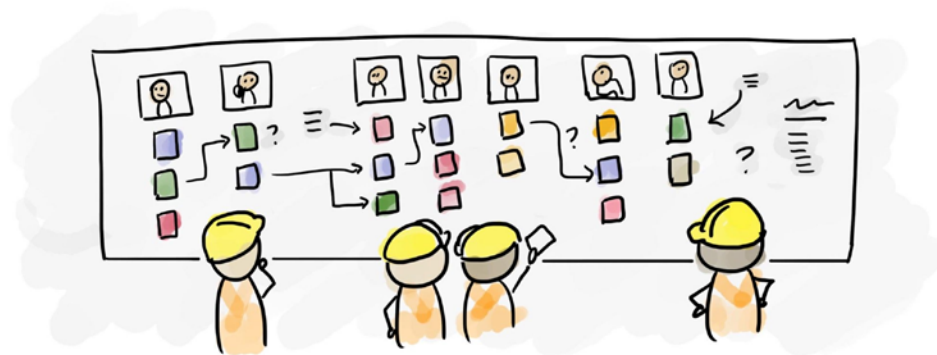
Contact Je-S helpdesk for technical queries

- JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk
- 01793 444164

Pathways to Impact

Should:

- provide timelines and milestones for grant specific activities
- identify a breadth of significant and measurable impacts
- demonstrate understanding of the societal and cultural context of the research
- outline the approaches taken to ensure sustainability and potential for legacy beyond the initial investment



Notes on Costs

- Principal investigators must be based at an eligible UK RO (ESRC 80% contribution)
- ESRC will fund the justified costs for international co-investigators from ROs of comparable standing with UKRI-recognised UK ROs at 100%
- No cap on costs associated with international co-investigators' contribution but all costs to be fully justified
- International co-investigators from countries not on the DAC list are expected to make a significant contribution to their own research costs and will not be eligible for indirect costs
- Contributions to indirect & estates costs for organisations from DAC list countries are eligible

Please see costings guidance for further detailed information

Points to Note

- Applications must demonstrate:
- ODA compliance
- Research excellence
- Appropriate leadership
- Interdisciplinarity
- Development of equitable partnerships
- Multi-partner engagement and collaboration
- Value for money and sustainability



Questions?

Contact us:

GCRFOff-GridCities@esrc.ukri.org

GCRFEnergy@esrc.ukri.org

gender.equality@ukri.org

<https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gcrf-collective-programme/>