**Global Challenges Research Fund**

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In February 2022, it was announced that GCRF, alongside the Newton Fund and the Fund for International Collaboration, will not continue in their current format, but legal commitments will be met until their natural conclusion.

UKRI has confirmed that it will support projects still running as part of these funds for the remainder of their grant period. See our [update statement on GCRF and Newton following the spending review 2021](https://www.ukri.org/publications/gcrf-and-newton-fund-post-spending-review-update-18-november/).

### How the fund works

The fund addresses the [United Nations sustainable development goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals). It aims to maximise the impact of research and innovation to improve lives and opportunity in the developing world.

UKRI is one delivery partner, alongside:

* Scottish Funding Council
* Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
* Higher Education Division Northern Ireland
* Academy of Medical Sciences
* Royal Society
* British Academy
* Royal Academy of Engineering
* UK Space Agency

We also work in partnership with other organisations including the [United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html). We have signed a memorandum of understanding with UNDP that commits us to ensuring closer collaboration between researchers and policymakers across the world by combining our collective expertise in driving international development, research and innovation.

We and our partners are supporting programmes that:

* promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, including the participation of researchers who may not previously have considered the applicability of their work to development issues
* strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through partnership with excellent UK research and researchers
* provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need

We and our partners outlined our vision for the fund in the [UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-challenges-research-fund). The fund has three themes and six challenge portfolios.

### Themes

The themes are:

* equitable access to sustainable development
* sustainable economies and societies
* human rights, good governance and social justice

#### Equitable access to sustainable development

We support projects that ensure everyone in the world has access to:

* secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
* sustainable health and wellbeing
* inclusive and equitable quality education
* clean air, water and sanitation
* affordable, reliable, sustainable energy

#### Sustainable economies and societies

We support projects that build:

* sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
* resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
* sustainable cities and communities
* sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources

#### Human rights, good governance and social justice

Developing an understanding of the institutions that embed human rights, good governance and social justice is inseparable from development. We support projects that help us to:

* understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
* reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
* reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities

### Challenge areas

We identified six global strategic challenge portfolios:

* cities and sustainable infrastructure
* education
* food systems
* global health
* resilience to environmental shocks and change
* security, protracted conflict, refugee crises and forced displacement

Our investments and partnerships are helping to tackle these challenges and deliver sustainable solutions.

The challenge portfolios align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. They help to maximise the real-world impact of research funded by GCRF both by focusing research in the challenge areas and by encouraging joined-up thinking and research across the areas.