



## GCRF: Cultures, Behaviours, and Histories of Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition Partnership Award Call 2

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## II. Introduction

As part of the UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Collective Programme, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), in collaboration with other Research Councils including the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), is pleased to announce the second of two funding calls to support interdisciplinary, international research partnerships which seek to explore the intersection of culture, behaviours, history, and society with all stages of the food systems chain in Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).

This call is part of an interdisciplinary programme on ‘Cultures, Behaviours and Histories of Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition’ being delivered by UK Research and Innovation and contributing to the GCRF Food Systems Challenge Portfolio and steered by the [GCRF Challenge Leaders](https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gcrf-challenge-leaders/) (https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gcrf-challenge-leaders/). Whilst the AHRC is leading on this call, it is intended to support the development of highly collaborative, interdisciplinary, international research partnerships. Applicants from any discipline are encouraged to apply.

The activity should catalyse the creation of sustainable, balanced, equitable relationships and partnerships between UK based research organisations and researchers with those in developing countries. Learning and knowledge exchange should be reciprocal with clear mutuality of benefit for all collaborators.

Proposals should build contextually grounded understanding of food systems, bringing together expertise across disciplines in local cultures and food systems. Specific attention should be paid in the planning and design of activities to issues of gender, equalities and diversity and to inclusive and ethical engagement with local communities/intended beneficiaries.

Funding of up to £3million is available to support Partnership Awards between 12 and 24 months in duration. Applications for Partnership Awards can be made with total costs up to, and including, £200,000 fEC.

Funding requested should be commensurate with the activities intended for these projects. As such, there is no requirement to submit applications at the maximum if this is not appropriate for a particular project. All proposals will be assessed against the same criteria.

## A. First Call

A first call closed in May 2019, in broadly the same format as this call. We ran an optional information and networking workshop for this call on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in London. Presentations from the workshop can be found on the [AHRC website](https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/apply-for-funding/archived-opportunities/gcrf-cultures-behaviours-and-histories-of-agriculture-food-and-nutrition-call/) (<https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/apply-for-funding/archived-opportunities/gcrf-cultures-behaviours-and-histories-of-agriculture-food-and-nutrition-call/>).

Generic feedback from the assessment panel for the first call can be found at Annex E. Applications involving partners from Lower Middle Income, Low Income and Least Developed countries under-represented in the first call, including a range of countries and contexts in Asia and the Americas, are particularly welcomed in the second call. Proposals addressing issues related to food consumption and cultures are also particularly welcomed in the second call. However, applications addressing all areas within the scope of the call will be considered and all applications will be assessed on the same basis in terms of their individual merits and fit to the call.

## III. Context

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a 5-year £1.5bn fund and a key component in the delivery of the UK Aid Strategy: tackling global challenges in the national interest. The GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list. The GCRF presents an opportunity for the UK research base to make leading contributions to major international initiatives including the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The fund aims to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries through:

- Challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- Strengthening capacity for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries
- Providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

The GCRF Collective Programme is a series of calls designed to enhance the coherence, strategic focus and overall impact across the six strategic GCRF 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

The programme is being delivered by UK Research and Innovation and steered by the [GCRF Challenge Leaders](https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gcrf-challenge-leaders/) (https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gcrf-challenge-leaders/). For administrative purposes individual calls will either be hosted by a UKRI Council or the UKRI International Development Shared Capability. Interdisciplinary research excellence is central to the GCRF and investigators from all disciplines are encouraged to apply for calls within the parameters of each call regardless of the host function.

AHRC are leading on four calls under the GCRF Collective Programme in the strategic portfolios of Education, Food Systems, and Security Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement.

Interdisciplinary approaches incorporating research expertise in local cultures and contexts, play a key role in helping us understand the complexity of the world we live in, to collaborate effectively, equitably and inclusively across diverse cultures, and provide the means to imagine the future. Such contextually grounded interdisciplinary research has a fundamental role to play in responding to international development challenges and acting as a nexus for engaging diverse disciplines, partners and countries in this field.

Research under this Partnership Development call will be expected to contribute to a fuller understanding of local contexts that is sensitive to historic, cultural, religious, linguistic, economic, environmental, political and other local factors, including gender, inequalities and diversity, as well as poverty and malnutrition, and the intersections between them. Without this understanding, measures, partnerships, or interventions are more likely to be ineffective, and may even prove counter-productive to the long-term development of societies and communities. Engagement with local knowledge, expertise, creativity, organisations, communities and heritage plays a critical role in building such contextual understanding as well as vital resources for research innovation and impact.

**Projects submitted to this call must demonstrate how they meet ODA compliance and additional guidance particular to the GCRF and this call.** Further information is provided in Section V.

## IV. Aims of the Call

The primary aim of this call is to support partnership building activities which will develop interdisciplinary research capacity and capability in both the UK and developing countries, jointly and collaboratively and across career stages, and link this to development policy and practice. By investing more resources into understanding cultures, traditions, behaviours and social movements around food, **we aim to enable more effective, ethical, sustainable and contextually-driven development outcomes in food systems, encompassing: production (agriculture and aquaculture), processing, transport, consumption, and disposal (and the interconnections between them).**

### A. Collaborative Nature of Partnership Awards

Partnership awards funded through this call should provide opportunities to explore new cross—disciplinary research agendas, exchange knowledge, insights and ideas, and build networks and partnerships with researchers and non-academic groups in LMICs as a foundation for future research innovation. As part of this they should aim to support learning, stimulate innovation, and create more effective and nuanced decisions in development policy and programme design, implementation, and impact evaluation.

In addition, projects funded through this call should seek to generate reciprocal benefits through integrating understanding of cultures, behaviours, histories, environments and society into food system challenges in a global context and to equip the next generation of researchers to work collaboratively across cultural and international boundaries and blend scientific, cultural, and policy research. They should also seek to build bridges with development policy and practice to help ensure that future food initiatives are grounded in understanding of local knowledges, beliefs, practices, environments and histories, social and cultural dynamics, community engagement, and trust.

It is expected that successful projects will engage extensively and equitably with research organisations, other organisations, and communities in the partner countries; proposals are normally expected to include relevant international co-investigators and to consider the appropriate balance between UK and LMIC investigators.

UKRI developed the following statement of expectation for research partnerships in consultation with stakeholders from researching and practising in a developing country context:

**“Partnerships should be transparent and based on mutual respect. Partnerships should aim to have clearly articulated equitable distribution of resources, responsibilities, efforts and benefits. Partnerships should recognise different inputs, different interests and different desired outcomes and should ensure the ethical**

**sharing and use of data which is responsive to the identified needs of society.”**

Although this will not be relevant to all applications, you are asked to note that, where applicable/relevant, the BBSRC’s policy on the “Utilisation of Genetic Resources in BBSRC-Funded Research: Access and Benefits Sharing (“ABS”)”, as stated at Annex D, applies to all awards funded under this Cross-Council call. Please note that the Nagoya Protocol referred to in this policy includes provisions relating to the use of traditional and indigenous knowledges related to the utilisation of genetic resources (see also more widely the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) as well as to the direct use of genetic resources in research.

A UKRI funded project conducted by the Rethinking Research Collaborative has produced a report and series of resources on equitable partnership working which applicants may find helpful:

<https://rethinkingresearchcollaborative.com/2018/10/04/research-report-promoting-fair-and-equitable-research-partnerships-to-respond-to-global-challenges/>

Additional resources which applicants may find helpful:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/programme-policy-practice/resources-fair-and-equitable-development-research-partnerships>

<https://connected-communities.org/index.php/connected-communities-foundation-series/>

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

## **B. Call Context**

Context-specificity is crucial to effective programming across international development, and food systems are a significant sectoral example of this. The current GCRF food systems portfolio contains substantial scientific research, particularly around issues of agriculture and food production, but much less research around the histories, cultures and behaviours linked to food systems and consumption. Although a rich body of literature exists around food as a lens through which to understand cultures, behaviours, and histories of people in their specific localities, environments and contexts, the connections between this understanding and enhancing aspects of food systems in development are not always made explicit in existing policy research and implementation.

Cultures, behaviours and histories have an impact on every aspect of the food systems chain, from production (for example, through historical farming methods and techniques that have emerged as more effective than modern methods in some contexts) through to consumption and policy (for example,

through the gender dynamics around allocation of nutritional resources within a household). Many interventions in relation to agriculture, aquaculture and food systems fail due to a lack of understanding of their cultural and historical contexts and their reception by the very people and societies they are intended to benefit. Efforts to address issues such as malnutrition, poor diet or protection of natural capital can be misdirected, or have unintended consequences, if cultural knowledge about food systems and ecosystems is not apparent or shared effectively across disciplines or professions. Historical lessons learned from previous initiatives can be missed and past mistakes repeated. Poor communication and community engagement can lead not only to poor uptake but also result in negative consequences for organisations, damaging trust in them or their ability to understand local needs or respect local cultures. Research into understanding cultures, traditions, heritages, knowledges and social movements around food can allow for more effective, contextually-driven policy and practice to emerge and enable the development of science, technology and innovation which takes into account cultural enablers and barriers to adoption.

Research looking at how shocks such as extreme weather have affected cultures, traditions, and practices over time, and linking this history to changing production techniques, their cultural acceptability and their impacts on environmental and social resilience can also have a deep impact on effective policy and programme decisions. Similarly, cultures, traditions and practices can increase the likelihood of environmental shocks or can amplify or mitigate their impacts, and understanding these feedbacks and interdependencies has the potential to enable the development of emergency response plans and risk mitigation strategies. Culturally ingrained practices around food and identity that can lead to biases against reaching certain groups of people such as women, or overstretched supplies or even associated diseases and infections, too, require interdisciplinary work incorporating cultures, science, environment and medicine to create positive and sustainable development outcomes. While much of this work is taken on in different and often deeply disparate silos across the international development landscape, this call offers an ideal opportunity to connect researchers in these areas to each other and to policy makers and advisors in the future.

**Examples of research and policy referred to above are intended to be illustrative and not to be prescriptive or a comprehensive indication of research issues which could be included under this call.**

### **C. Thematic Scope of Call**

In order to facilitate inter-disciplinary innovation and co-design between UK and LMIC partners, the call is deliberately open in scope and broad in its remit with regard to all stages across food systems. **Applications on any relevant topic are welcomed across all stages of food systems.** This includes: production

(agriculture and aquaculture), processing, transport, consumption, and disposal (and the interconnections between them).

Some examples of potential themes are provided below simply to illustrate some of the potential breadth. The call will not prioritise applications which address these themes nor will it de-prioritise those which do not. All applications will be considered equally against the eligibility and assessment criteria.

- **Gender dynamics of food and nutrition:** For example, this could include research informing local strategies and cultural/behaviour change for addressing inequalities in household allocation of food-related labour and/or better quality foods between boys and girls.
- **Community dynamics around food and diet:** For example, this could include research informing ways to reduce food related conflicts such as those arising from divergent food practices or dietary restrictions related to faiths, beliefs, identities or traditions where different cultural communities and/or diaspora are living side by side or interact or communities are being affected by societal changes such as urbanisation, globalisation or population displacement. It could also include research exploring how community engagement/participatory approaches (including with indigenous/local communities, farmers, agronomists and others involved in the production of safe, nutritious food and managing local ecosystems) in diverse contexts might support transitions to more sustainable and resilient food systems which support natural capital, health and wellbeing. Research could also explore the limits to such community approaches, for example in complex or globalised food systems.
- **Collective memories of food shocks and their impact on policy/practice:** For example, this could include research examining how periods of famine have found their way into creative and cultural expression, and how this affects political, economic, environmental and social decision making or research on how indigenous knowledge or practices can inform strategies dealing with famines, market shocks, surpluses or interconnected factors disrupting food systems such as economic shocks, changing patterns of trade, major cultural events, conflict or displacement/people movement. Research under this heading could focus on particular 'vulnerable' groups or the role of different actors (e.g. role of humanitarian response organisations/food aid in response to food shocks).
- **Coping with climate, weather and environmental risks in food systems:** For example, this could include research which seeks to develop a more comprehensive understanding of how weather patterns, changing water management and land-use approaches, natural hazards and other environmental factors in food production and consumption have had historical impacts on traditions and practices. Similarly, it could include research which provides a more comprehensive understanding of



how traditions and practices have influenced environmental risks, and how this would allow for better-designed social and behavioural change programmes in the longer term. Such longer term programmes might seek to support more efficient and environmentally sustainable agricultural production, food distribution, and nutrition practices in ways which are appropriate for local needs, ecosystems and contexts. Research could also explore how changing food cultures may interact with and could potentially mitigate the current and future risks associated with climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation, for example through changes in the management of land-use, biodiversity, water resources, soils and to agricultural practices; including reverting to traditional approaches.

- **Diseases related to food practices:** This could include research which seeks to understand the link between social and cultural practices and contexts, and diet, nutrition, health and the prevalence of infectious or non-communicable diseases, and transmission of zoonotic pathogens. It may also include, interconnections with issues such as inequalities, globalisation, cultures of consumption, technological change, education and communication. It might also consider how understanding of socio-cultural context can support adaptive innovation and enhanced adoption of interventions to address known issues such as malnutrition, support disease prevention or promote healthier diets and the potential role of social and digital media.

#### **D. Additional Requirements**

Applications to this call must in some way explore the intersection of culture, context, history, behaviours or societal change with the food systems chain and have the potential to lead to changes in food systems **which will support the development or welfare of people in LMICs on the [OECD DAC list of ODA-recipient countries](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm)** (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>). Proposals may relate to any country or countries on the DAC list except those which are flagged as likely to graduate from the list during the course of the proposed project and of the specific partnership activities it is seeking to develop. **If a country is flagged as likely to graduate it cannot be the primary focus of a proposal, although it can be included as an additional case study or comparison or to develop South-South learning opportunities.** Proposals focused on Upper Middle Income countries are encouraged to pay particular attention to their impacts on reducing extreme poverty and inequalities in those countries.

The exact focus of a particular application and the choice over which researchers to include is open to applicants to decide and justify within their proposal. Successful projects under this call should be underpinned by a commitment to equitable partnership working and a strong research ethic based on mutual respect and understanding for different cultural, ethnic, social and economic beliefs and practices. Solutions to development challenge(s) must be rooted in,

and acceptable to, the institutions, communities and societies where they will operate.

**All applications should include a discussion of research ethics.** Ethical issues should be interpreted broadly and may encompass areas where regulation and approval processes exist as well as areas where they do not. Applicants must ensure that the proposed research will be carried out to a high ethical standard and must clearly state how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the research commences and all risks are minimised.

Funded proposals will be expected to adopt the highest standards of good research conduct. More guidance can be found on this on the [UKRI website](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/research-integrity/) (<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/research-integrity/>).

Proposals funded under this call will be expected to have in place appropriate provisions for safeguarding in line with the expectations outlined in the [UKCDR statement on safeguarding](https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/UKCDR-Safeguarding-Statement-1.pdf) (<https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/UKCDR-Safeguarding-Statement-1.pdf>). UKRI condemns all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying and harassment. We take a zero-tolerance approach to harm and abuse to any individual employed through or associated with our programmes in all contexts; whether in humanitarian or fragile and conflict-affected settings, in other field contexts, or within the international or UK research and development community which we fund. We expect institutions to promote the highest standards in organisational culture, and have in place the systems and procedures required to prevent and tackle all incidents of harm and abuse. Applicants should ensure that they are aware of the procedures that are in place for identifying and managing safeguarding risks and for reporting and investigation of allegations when they arise.

All proposals are expected to consider carefully issues of gender in line with the provisions of the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014 (see section below on Gender Equalities Statements) and, where appropriate wider issues relating to equalities, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

All proposals should include an assessment of project specific risks, including issues relating to ethics, safeguarding, gender and equalities as appropriate.

In addition, where appropriate proposals are encouraged to consider how they might contribute to developing and sharing best practices and building capabilities for the future in the above areas.

All proposals should include discussion of the ways in which planned activities will develop new partnerships or, in the case of already established partnerships, how an award will develop additional new partnerships, new strands of work,

new areas of research, etc. **Already established partnerships and groups should be clear in their proposal where an award under this call would build upon and advance existing activities.**

## E. Permissible Activities

The following activities are permissible under this partnership award scheme:

- Establishing interdisciplinary collaborative partnerships, teams or consortia.
- Developing research strategy and agendas to strengthen research activity and innovation across the field.
- Knowledge sharing across research departments and/or between Institutions and across sectoral boundaries both within the UK and with LMIC based colleagues.
- Small scale, pilot, proof of principle, exploratory, higher risk interdisciplinary projects to explore innovative boundary crossing collaborations.
- Cross-disciplinary (and cross-cultural/language) literature reviews, research synthesis, evidence analysis or integrative data sharing and analysis.
- Widening/extending the disciplinary breadth of existing teams and/or partnerships (e.g. through placements, embedding ethnographic research, or similar).
- Career development, interdisciplinary skills enhancement and capacity building.
- Establishing foundations for research collaboration such as: building stakeholder networks; developing research protocols; collecting 'baseline' data; building trust and understanding shared values; developing inclusive working practices including issues around gender, equalities, diversity, inclusion and language/translation; strengthening processes for safeguarding or risk management; ethical reviews; developing evaluation methods, collaboration and IP agreements.
- Engagement/consultation/co-design with local communities, groups and/or intended users or beneficiaries and/or ensuring appropriate local consent, access and permissions for further/future research, etc.
- Scoping potential for shared use of data, collections, fieldwork, facilities or other resources with a defined sustainable research outcome.

## V. Eligibility

Applications are welcomed from UK Higher Education Institutions, or accredited Independent Research Organisations. Applicants should ensure they meet the general eligibility criteria for Investigators set-out in the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](https://ahrc.ukri.org/documents/guides/research-funding-guide1/) (<https://ahrc.ukri.org/documents/guides/research-funding-guide1/>).

International Co-Investigators are eligible for funding through this call in accordance with [AHRC's international co-investigator policy](https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/internationalfunding/international-co-investigators/) (<https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/internationalfunding/international-co-investigators/>). However, in recognition of the aims of this call to build collaborations 'on the ground', some further flexibility and provision is also available in respect of such costs; this is detailed at Annex A.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- applications involving animal experiments will not be eligible for this call;
- capital or infrastructure expenditure (e.g. to build, develop or maintain facilities) is not an eligible cost for this call and equipment items essential for the conduct of the research may only be requested up to a limit of £10,000 per item);
- funding for PhD studentships is not eligible under this call.

**A. ODA Compliance**

As this funding call is being supported as a part of the GCRF, **Projects must be ODA compliant and must demonstrate how they are ODA compliant.**

To comply with ODA requirements, proposals must make clear how their primary purpose is to promote the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries. Further information related to eligibility of DAC-list countries can be found above in Section IVd.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how they meet ODA requirements throughout their 'Case for Support' and 'Pathways to Impact' submission. In addition, all proposals must include a mandatory 'ODA Compliance Statement' attachment which should serve as a standalone document, fully articulating the proposal's ODA compliance. All statements should include and fully answer the following three questions:

1. Which country/countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal?
2. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
3. How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

Further guidance can be found at: [ODA compliance under the GCRF](https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/) (<https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/>).

Initial ODA compliance assessment will take place within the AHRC, though final decisions may include input from the assessment panel as well as external sources of ODA expertise.

## B. Gender Equality Statement

All proposals must submit a Gender Equality Statement. This statement must outline how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities, as required under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act. This should be no longer than one page, and should be attached as a 'non-UK Component' through Je-S. It is expected that some projects will have less impact on gender and gender relations and professional judgement of the applicants should be exercised to ensure appropriate consideration of the context and intended aims of the project.

**Applicants are required to address the below criteria**, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria to address while considering gender impact:

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation and the beneficiaries of the research and innovation.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Further information can be found on the [UKRI Gender Equality and International Development Research and Innovation](https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gender-equality-and-international-development-research-and-innovation/) web page (https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gender-equality-and-international-development-research-and-innovation/).

Applicants for ODA funding administered by the AHRC (including this call) are encouraged, where appropriate, to **extend the statement to cover intersecting and wider issues relating to equalities, diversity, identities and inclusion, and the UN Sustainable Development "no-one left behind" agenda as well as to discuss any context-specific factors which need to be taken into account in addressing issues of gender and (in)equalities.**

Applicants addressing these intersecting and wider issues of inequalities may extend the statement to up to two pages where required.

## VI. Guidance on Costs and Project Timescales

Proposals should be submitted up to a maximum of £200,000 on a 100% full economic cost (fEC) basis recognising that UK research organisation costs will be supported at 80 per cent fEC. Guidance for the costs for work undertaken at an overseas organisation are outlined in Annex A.

Projects funded under this call must be between 12 and 24 months in duration and must start between 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

## VII. Application Process and Format

Unless otherwise stated, the application process and format as published in the AHRC Research Funding Guide will apply.

Applications should be submitted through the Je-S system at the latest by **4pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020**, and will need to go through the appropriate institution submission process. You should submit your proposal using the Research Councils' [Joint electronic Submission \(Je-S\) System](https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/) (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/).

To prepare a proposal form in Je-S:

- log-in to your account and choose 'Documents' from the menu;
- then select 'New Document';
- 'AHRC' as the Council,
- 'Standard Proposal' as the Document Type;
- 'Development Grants' as the Scheme;
- 'UKRI GCRF Collective Prog - Cultures and Histories of Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition - Jan 2020' as the Call/Type/Mode and
- 'Create Document'.

Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form.

Note that selecting 'Submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC. ***Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.***

**All Investigators need to have a Je-S account to be included in the proposal.** Please allow sufficient time to create a Je-S account and for the

account to be processed if an Investigator does not already have one. International Co-Is who cannot see their organisation on Je-S when attempting to create a Je-S account are advised to select the link 'self-registration for organisations' on the Je-S Welcome page and self-register their organisation first and then create their individual accounts.

Applications should address the aims of the Call as listed in Section IV.

Guidance on the Case for Support is provided in Annex B.

The ODA Compliance Statement should meet the requirements in Section Va above and must include and answer the three questions listed there.

The Gender Equality Statement should meet the requirements in Section Vb and must address the criteria listed there.

For all other attachments please see Section 4 of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/research-funding-guide/) (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/research-funding-guide/>).

The following is a list of attachments that are permitted for this Call.

<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Requirement and page limits (sides of A4)</b>
Case for Support	Compulsory. 7 sides A4. Additional guidance is provided in Annex B.
Curriculum Vitae	Compulsory for the PI, each Co-I, and any named researchers. No more than 2 sides A4 each.
List of Publications	Compulsory for the PI, each Co-I, and any named researchers. No more than 1 side A4 each.
Justification of Resources	Compulsory. 2 sides A4.
Pathways to Impact	Compulsory. 2 sides A4.
Project Partner Letter of Support	Compulsory if project partners are added. 2 sides A4 each, 1 per project partner.
Head of Department statement	Compulsory if International Co-Investigators are added. 2 sides A4 each, 1 per collaborating international institution submitting Co-Investigators. <b>Not required for any other Investigators.</b>
ODA Compliance Statement	Compulsory. 1 side A4. Upload using attachment type 'Other attachment'.



Gender Equality Statement	Compulsory. 1 side A4. (2 sides A4 if meeting additional requirements outlined in Section Vb.) Upload using attachment type 'Non-UK component'.
Data Management Plan	Compulsory. 2 sides A4.
Letter of Support	Optional. 2 sides A4 each.

**Please note:**

1. Attachments must be in standard Arial font (Arial Narrow is not permitted) no smaller than size 11 with margins of at least 2cm.
2. Attachments which are over the page limits or do not meet other requirements set out will lead to applications being returned for amendment or rejected prior to peer review.
3. General letters of support which simply express an interest in or general support for the proposed research are not permitted. Letters of Support are intended to provide reassurance to UKRI and to its reviewers that the appropriate authorisation has been given to the proposed contribution or commitment from a collaborating organisation.
4. Gantt charts and similar must be included in the relevant attachment (e.g. Case for Support or Pathways to Impact) and count towards their page limits. They cannot be attached as visual evidence.
5. References can be included but must be included in the attachment and count towards the page limit. For example, references can be included in the Case for Support but must be within the 7 side limit. You cannot upload a separate document for references.

## VIII. Assessment Process and Criteria

Full proposals will be assessed by a streamlined peer review process involving consideration by a specially convened, expert, multi-disciplinary assessment panel that will meet in March 2020. Panel membership will be drawn from a broad range of related disciplines drawing across relevant Research Council and UKRI GCRF International Peer Review colleges and should be written with these broad disciplinary panels in mind. **Full assessment criteria are listed in Annex C.**

**Please note:**

- there is no outline/EOI stage under this call;
- there will not be a PI/applicant response to reviewers' comments stage;
- individual feedback on unfunded proposals will not be provided.



## A. Call Timetable

Activity	Date
Call open for applications	7th Oct 2019
<b>Deadline for submissions</b>	<b>4pm, Thursday 9th Jan 2020</b>
Panel meeting date	March 2020
Funding decisions to be issued	April 2020
Start date of awards	Between 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2020 and 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020

## IX. Scheme Requirements and Post Award Reporting

Unless otherwise stated, the scheme requirements and post award reporting as stated in the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/research-funding-guide/) (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/research-funding-guide/>) will apply.

### A. Award Holders

Award holders will be required to submit outputs, outcomes and impacts that arise from AHRC's funding through the Researchfish system. Information can be added to Researchfish at any point once the award has started but award holders will also be required to 'submit' this information to AHRC at one 'Submission Period' each year. Award holders will receive an email with log-in details shortly after their award has started. More details on Researchfish are available on the [UKRI website](https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/research-outcomes1/how-we-collect-your-research-outcomes1/) (<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/research-outcomes1/how-we-collect-your-research-outcomes1/>).

Applicants should note that award holders funded under this call will form part of the wider UKRI GCRF Collective Programme, led by the UKRI GCRF Challenge Leaders. Therefore, additional reporting requirements might also apply. Successful applicants will be expected, as a condition of funding, to participate in further cross-disciplinary and collaborative partnership events, workshops, reports, knowledge exchange and synthesis activities organized as a part of this programme and to collaborate with the GCRF Challenge Leaders.

As part of UKRI funding assurance, non-UK research organisations may be requested to complete a UKRI Overseas Due Diligence Questionnaire. Please be aware that research organisations may be contacted by UKRI at any point during the review process. This is in order to expedite our assurance process. If UKRI does contact any non-UK research partner organisation named on an application, the lead organisation will be informed.

For organisations hosting non-UK co-investigators, due diligence checks are for UKRI's assurance purposes only and do not replace the due diligence requirements of the lead organisation. However, when obtaining information from non-UK research organisations UKRI will request permission to share the

provided information with the lead organisation. The lead organisation can then use this information for their own due diligence processes should they wish.

## X. Contact Information

For queries about this call such as eligible activities and costs or remit of the call please contact AHRC at [enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org](mailto:enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org) or telephone: 01793 416060 (available Monday to Friday 08:30-16:30, UK time).

For queries on using Je-S such as creating and submitting the application form or Je-S account creation, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or [JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org](mailto:JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org) (available Monday to Thursday 08:30-17:00 and Friday 08:30-16:30, UK time).

## XI. Annex A: Provisions for International Collaborative Research Activities

Applications under this call should be submitted on a full economic cost (fEC) basis recognising that UK research organisation costs will be supported at 80 per cent fEC.

AHRC's standard international co-investigator policy applies but has been expanded to include some additional provisions for the costs of work undertaken at an overseas organisation in Low or Middle Income Countries (on the DAC list) as summarised in the following table:

Description	Research Councils Contribution (percent)
Costs incurred for overseas Co-Investigators and any locally employed staff, e.g., per cent of actual salary based on time worked on the grant (entered as Other DI exceptions on Je-S form).	<b>100</b>
Costs incurred by the overseas organisation and associated with the research, e.g., consumables, field work etc. (entered as Other DI exceptions on Je-S form).	<b>100</b>
Costs incurred by overseas investigators or staff for travel and expenses (entered as Other DI exceptions on Je-S form).	<b>100</b>
A contribution towards indirect and estates costs at overseas organisations in developing countries is permissible, calculated at up to 20% of the total direct costs charged to the grant relating to the activities of the LMIC co-investigator(s) (entered as Other DI exceptions on Je-S form).	<b>100</b>

Applicants should seek contributions from project partners, e.g., business, government and third sector organisations where appropriate. In acknowledgment of the fact some smaller third sector organisations do not have the capacity to co-fund research activities, costs to support partners from third sector organisations, e.g. NGOs, are eligible under this call. This includes costs for staff salaries (normally no more than 1 FTE per annum), travel and subsistence, other direct costs and overheads. Costs will be funded at 100 per cent fEC and should be entered as exceptions on J-eS form. Total costs associated with third sector bodies' contribution should not normally exceed 30 per cent of the overall cost of the grant at 100 per cent FEC.

Key variations to the standard AHRC policy on international co-investigators for this GCRF call are:

- i. The 30% limit on total overseas co-investigator costs is removed for individuals based in developing Countries (on the DAC list), although a 30% limit applies to costs associated with overseas co-investigators who are not based in developing countries on the DAC list.
- ii. In addition to the costs for overseas academic co-investigators, costs for third sector/NGO partners may also be funded at 100% fEC, these are normally subject to 30% overall limit of the total cost of an award at 100% fEC with staff salaries (not normally expected to exceed 1 FTE per annum), where the 30% limit is exceeded a full justification in terms of the intellectual and practical contribution to the research of the third sector partner should be provided.
- iii. A contribution towards indirect and estates costs can be made for overseas organisations within DAC list (LMIC) countries, calculated at up to 20% of the total eligible direct costs charged to the grant directly relating to the activities of the LMIC co-investigator; however, in line with the standard AHRC co-investigator policy, estates/indirect/overhead costs cannot be requested for international co-investigators employed by academic organisations which are not based in a DAC list country (i.e. research organisations located in developed countries and their subsidiaries).

Given the ODA focus of this call on LMIC countries, costs for overseas co-investigators in high income countries should be kept to a minimum and be fully justified in terms of the unique capabilities which they will bring to the research which are not available within the UK or LMIC partner countries.

The balance of intellectual leadership and costs between high income countries and LMICs will be considered in the assessment of proposals. Please ensure budget breakdowns between high income and LMIC researchers are appropriate with the aims of this ODA funding scheme.

## **XII. Annex B: Additional Guidance for Case for Support**

The Case for Support must use the headings outlined below.

### **Importance**

- State the aims of the partnership.
- Explain why establishing a partnership is appropriate, and significant for this area(s) of food systems research in relation to LMICs.
- Explain how establishing a partnership will facilitate the work of the applicants in order to increase productivity and create added value.
- Describe how an inter-disciplinary approach will support innovation and add value to research in the field.
- Provide justification as to why the elements of support requested cannot be met through other means.

### **Partnership Plans**

- Describe the research methods and activities associated with the partnership. Explain why these methods have been chosen and how they were identified as being appropriate to help advance understanding of the food systems challenges in the chosen LMIC(s). Please include precise timelines and indicate where activities may be concurrent. You may include a Gantt chart to depict this.
- Describe the proposed approach to equitable partnership working and how this will be embedded in the partnership development activities.
- Please describe how the partnership will advance the research area, and outline future plans:
  - for sustaining the partnership beyond the proposed duration of award funding;
  - to obtain further funding (from Research Councils or elsewhere) to support any follow-on hypothesis-driven research, which may develop as a result of the partnership.

### **Participants in the Partnership and Existing Funding**

Provide the following information for the participants taking part in the partnership:

- How the Partnership award will enable researchers to work together and how it will build interdisciplinary capability in a key strategic area,

including highlighting how the partnership is bringing together researchers who otherwise would not work together from the respective communities. There should be clear distinction between CoIs and partners/collaborators.

- Describe how the proposal will support capacity building including: building UK research investigators understanding of national/local contexts of LMICs and an understanding of the local research context.
- The approach to gender and wider equalities, diversities and inclusion issues and the steps that will be taken to support inclusive participation in partnership activities.
- How the partnership between the participants will benefit the wider community and the research field including primarily LMICs.
- Justification as to how each of the named investigators will contribute to the partnership, including their level of time commitment.
- Explain why the specific research expertise of the partners and researchers has been chosen. You should detail the added value of the interdisciplinary perspectives, bringing together different disciplines to explore the intersection of culture, behaviours, history, and society with the food systems themes being addressed.

### **Research Environment and Activities**

- Describe the environment(s) in which the partnership will take place (e.g. how the proposed activities fit with the strategies, expertise, capabilities, other research projects, etc. of the research and other organisations involved).
- What support is to be provided to the partnership by the organisations involved? This should include details on the support and development activities in place for UK and LMIC staff involved in the project.

### **Management**

- Provide an overview of how the partnership will be managed. For example, plans for regular meetings, plans for bringing together disparate communities, strategy for the set-up of networks, approach to developing equitable partnerships/partnerships of equivalence, including issues of accessibility, equalities/inclusion, language differences etc.
- Detail the roles of investigators/project leaders and support staff and membership and role of any advisory groups if appropriate.
- Outline responsibilities and approach for safeguarding, ethics and risk management.

- Outline responsibilities within the team for supporting inter-disciplinary working and integration.

### **Outcomes and Legacy**

- Outline a communication/engagement/dissemination strategy for the partnership activities. Details should be included of any specific steps which are planned to ensure that outcomes will be communicated with target users and/or beneficiaries, including in relevant international development and/or LMICs contexts (e.g. issues relating to contexts specific languages, dissemination, feedback to participants, etc.).
- Include a summary of any key expected outputs that the partnership activities will contribute to, their proposed focus and the target audiences. For publications please indicate where you envision that these might be published. For learning/capability/capacity enhancement please indicate who is expected to participate/benefit.
- Provide an outline of what you see as being the key indicators of success from the partnership activities and how you will assess whether these have been achieved.
- Explain what you see as the longer term benefits from the partnership, including where appropriate plans for sustaining partnership activities or securing the longer-term value from the partnership beyond the end of the partnership award.

## **XIII. Annex C: Assessment Criteria**

All proposals will be assessed against the **extent to which the proposal meets the specific aims of the call**, including fit to the overall objectives of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and potential to add significant value to the current GCRF Food Systems (and where appropriate other connected) challenge portfolio(s) and to contribute to the wider GCRF Collective Programme.

In addition, the following will be taken into account when assessing proposals under this call:

### **Quality, interdisciplinarity and innovation**

- the significance and importance of the objectives of the partnership and research issues to be explored;
- the degree of innovation within the context of the wider food systems research field;

- the extent to which the research is grounded in understanding of the LMIC contexts in which it will be conducted and in which it is hoped the research will lead to development impacts;
- the extent to which the proposal would support the development of genuinely interdisciplinary research approaches, supporting mutual exchanges between expertise, literatures, and approaches from different disciplines to explore the intersection of culture, behaviours, history, and society with the food systems issues the proposal seeks to explore;
- the research quality of the partnership activities outlined, including grounding of the research agenda in the current research literature and evidence base, robust design and methods and appropriateness of intended outcomes;

### **Impact**

- whether the proposal identifies an appropriate range of potential users and beneficiaries in LMICs and/or organisations that support international development and demonstrates an appropriate strategy for collaboratively exploring pathways to impact with relevant LMIC/development partners;
- the extent to which the applicants have taken into consideration the relevant in-country context, languages and cultures and demonstrated local appetite and capacity to implement solutions;
- whether the applicants have given adequate consideration to issues of gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion in their pathways to impact;
- the potential sustainability of partnership activities and longer-term outlook beyond the funded period of the partnership and extent to which what is proposed will have a legacy;
- the extent to which the proposal would support the development of research capabilities or support research career development of applicants, or individuals working, both in the UK and in LMICs;

### **Research team and management;**

- the extent to which the proposal identifies an appropriate set of collaborations/partners for the proposed activities particularly in respect to the requirement for inclusion of appropriate collaborators with LMICs and/or organisations that support international development;
- whether the named investigators demonstrate the requisite skills to manage the proposed activities, support inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural working and whether there is a sufficiently broad range of expertise amongst the other named participants;
- the extent to which there are effective plans for management of the activities and the monitoring of progress, including provision of a realistic timetable and feasible resourcing plan for achieving the aims and objectives of the proposal and plans for managing any data produced or addressing any technical requirements;

- extent to which the host RO(s) have demonstrated commitment to supporting the partnership, including for example connections to wider research or collaborative strategies or activities;

### **Ethics, costs and risk**

- whether proposals demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to ethical and/or research governance issues, including gender and equalities, due diligence and safeguarding and wider issues relating to conducting research in the relevant LMIC cultural contexts;
- the extent to which the potential outcomes justify the costs (i.e. value for money);
- the extent to which project risks have been identified and measures to mitigate them put in place.

### **Equitable partnership**

- the extent to which the proposal identifies an appropriate range of relevant partners, and that these partnerships are authentic, ethical, equitable and sustainable beyond the initial award;
- the extent to which the proposal has been jointly developed in a genuinely collaborative way between researchers based in the UK, researchers based in DAC-list countries, and, where appropriate, other relevant partners such as charities and NGOs;
- the extent to which the proposed project would benefit all involved and develop new or enhanced research capacity for addressing food system development challenges in the relevant LMIC partner countries;
- the extent to which the proposed project would be jointly led, as appropriate, by researchers based in the UK, researchers based in DAC-list countries, and, where appropriate, other relevant partners such as charities and NGOs.

## **XIV. Annex D: UTILISATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES IN BBSRC-FUNDED RESEARCH: ACCESS AND BENEFITS SHARING (“ABS”)**

1. The [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization](https://www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf) (<https://www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf>) is now part of the international Convention on Biodiversity. Both the European Union and the UK have ratified the Protocol, becoming Party on 12th October 2014 and 22nd May 2016 respectively.

2. BBSRC-funded researchers utilising genetic resources accessed on or after 12th October 2014 are legally obliged to consider potential obligations under [Regulation \(EU\) 511/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal->



content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0511&from=EN) on compliance measures for users and [UK Statutory Instrument No.821 \(March 2015\)](#) ([http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/821/pdfs/uksi\\_20150821\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/821/pdfs/uksi_20150821_en.pdf)). Researchers are also subject to any prevailing national access laws for obtaining and utilising genetic resources originating in other countries.

3. Researchers accessing and utilising genetic resources for BBSRC-funded projects should check whether their activities fall within scope of applicable legislation, both in Europe and the provider country. Where compliance is required, researchers should follow due process to obtain Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and seek Mutually Agreed Terms (MATs) for access and utilisation before obtaining the research material in question and conducting any research and development. Further guidance is available via [Defra](#) ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/415474/nagoya-consult-sum-resp.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/415474/nagoya-consult-sum-resp.pdf)).

## **XV. Annex E: Generic Feedback (Call 1)**

The Assessment Panel which considered all of the applications submitted under the first call for GCRF Cultures, Behaviours and Histories of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition highlighted a number of common issues occurring in different combinations in applications:

- not all proposals provided a sufficiently clear description and/or justification of the proposed methodologies for conducting the research;
- over-ambitious aims and/or unrealistic plans for what could be achieved within the limits of the funding and time allowable for these awards;
- some would have benefitted from a greater historical framing, for example in terms of what be learnt from past interventions or what past factors leading to the current situation might need to be addressed/changed, and from giving more attention to potential for unintended consequences from ‘well-intended’ research, policy or practice initiatives;
- insufficient attention to the ethical implications of the proposed research;
- gaps in relevant research expertise within the team relevant to addressing the contextual factors of the work they were proposing or specific methods or approaches (e.g. researchers with experience in arts-based approaches);
- not taking a sufficiently interdisciplinary approach, and/or not adequately integrating different disciplinary approaches or work packages and/or ‘bolting on’ contributions (e.g. from arts and humanities or science without fostering engagement through all stages of the research);

- insufficient articulation of the impact, or pathways to impact, of the proposed work or lack clarity around how it was envisioned that proposed solutions would be implemented in the longer term and/or inadequate explanation of how impact and/or outcomes would be assessed/evaluated;
- a need for more attention to be paid to project risks and/or to provide adequate risk assessment and/or mitigation;
- whilst the call included a strong focus on the development of equitable international partnerships, and linked to relevant guidance on this, many proposals did not elaborate a sufficient clear strategy for achieving equitable partnerships and/or did not embed such relationships in the structure of teams, allocation of roles or resources, leadership and setting of agendas or outputs. In some proposals it was not clear to what extent LMIC partners had been engaged in agenda setting in preparing the proposal and/or routes to achieving local/community engagement were not spelt out fully. Specific issues in this area evident in some proposals included:
  - insufficient engagement with existing literature and best practice surrounding equitable partnerships and participatory approaches;
  - a lack of evidence of extensive knowledge of the in-country communities and their challenge(s) related to food systems or of the local systems of consent and permissions that would need to be addressed;
  - not enough evidence that the communities the project intended to work with/intended beneficiary communities had been consulted or engaged in preparing the application;
  - little evidence of awareness of, and/or absence of a plan to mitigate, internal power dynamics within the team;
  - inadequate attention to issues of language, translation and cross-cultural communication both within the team and within and between the communities and contexts the partnership was planning to work in;
  - use of language, and/or imbalances in team roles/governance/advisory (etc.) structures, that gave an appearance of taking a top-down/North-South approach to constructing and delivering proposed work, or to the anticipated flows of knowledge and learning.
- there were a welcome number of proposals addressing issues around indigenous knowledges, cultures and heritages but not all of these made clear what engagement there had been with such groups in developing

proposals and/or how issues of permissions would be addressed in line with (for example) the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

- not adequately stating (where applicable) how the research would comply with relevant international good practice, standards or protocols, for example in relation to the use of genetic materials (e.g. Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization) or cultural heritage;
- not defining clearly technical or specialist vocabulary or key principles or terms used in project goals or visions which might have unclear or multiple interpretations, scope or meanings;
- failure to fully justify the selection of countries or a focus on limited contexts within a region when attempting to address an issue at a regional level and/or inadequate attention to the impacts of focusing on a specific local context when the research aims to scale to wider, more diverse, or different contexts;
- insufficient evidence of engagement with relevant non-academic stakeholders for example NGOs, grassroots organisations and policy makers;
- issues of gender and wider inequalities were not always given sufficient attention in proposals despite this being flagged extensively in the call for applications; in this regard it was noted that all funded applicants under this call and all applicants under the second call would be required to submit a Gender Equalities Statement in line with the new UKRI requirements.