

Global Challenges Forum

Newsletter (July 2017)

Immediate GCF opportunities:

Shape the emerging research themes at University of Cambridge for the GCRF Collective Fund Interdisciplinary Research Hubs [call](#).

- Both GCF and the Research Strategy Office (RSO) have been convening meetings for the identification of such themes. [The most recent one, organised by RSO and chaired by the member of the GCF advisory committee Bhaskar Vira](#) on 25th July, followed-up on four previously identified topics: 1) Resilience, Sustainability and Healthy Lives, 2) Violence Reduction, 3) Knowledge Infrastructure Inequity and 4) Labour Informality. Please leave your email [here](#) if you would like to be informed about the main outcomes of this meeting, namely the involvement of numerous GCF members on the new theme of **Sustainable technologies for resource-poor communities**.
- Cambridge-Africa is circulating a [short note](#) suggesting one way by which it might contribute to large-scale GCRF bids or other similar large-scale proposals.

Funding

- **Global challenges- related funding calls closing in August.**

Deadline	Call	Description
Internal deadline: 4th August 2017 External deadline: 14th September 2017	Restricted call: Medical Research Council/GCRF Global Mental Health Research institutional "pump-priming" awards	Institutional "pump-priming" funds that will lay the grounds for future large scale, multi-disciplinary, cross-country global mental health research bids to address issues of primary relevance to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) - aetiology and epidemiology of mental illness and healthy mental development, and understanding how challenges to early brain development affect mental illness and cognition.
Internal deadline: 4th August 2017 External deadline: 14th September 2017	Restricted call: Medical Research Council/ GCRF Global Nutrition and Health Research institutional "pump-priming" awards	Institutional "pump-priming" funds that will lay the grounds for future large scale, multi-disciplinary, cross-country global mental health research bids to address issues of primary relevance to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) – mechanistic understanding, nutrition through the life course, understanding of nutrition and dietary patterns, nutritional interventions and methodologies.

14 th August 2017	DfID Developing Effective Private Education in Nigeria Challenge Fund	To support ambitious innovations designed by Lagos' private schools' proprietors, service providers and other entrepreneurs. The concept at the heart of the Fund is 'innovation
16 th August 2017	Elrha's Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises Programme (R2HC)- Open call	Open call for research that informs the prioritisation of public health humanitarian interventions and maximising value for money
17 th August 2017	EPSRC/GCRF Resilient and sustainable energy networks for developing countries	To support an internationally leading programme of research to tackle the energy distribution challenges faced by developing countries; proposals to this call must focus on sustainable local energy networks, including off-grid to grid transitions.
24 th August 2017	Restricted call: NIHR Global Health Research Groups	New NIHR call for internationally-outstanding applied global health research to benefit people's health in low and middle-income countries across the globe and build research capacity.
31 st August	Internal funding opportunity: EPSRC Global Challenge Research Fund grants	For research projects and knowledge exchange activities compliant with the ODA guidelines, i.e. research primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries and where establishing economic development and welfare of developing countries is the main objective of research.
31 st August 2017	Mission Innovation - Off Grid Access to Electricity Innovation Challenge	To promote affordable and accessible access to clean energy derived from off grid electricity through the development of systems that integrate innovative technologies (components, sub-systems etc.) at high readiness level, demonstrate their technical feasibility and cost effectiveness in diverse social contexts of countries requiring off-grid access to electricity, including India.

The [funding page](#) of the CGF is updated regularly with these and other funding opportunities relevant to the global challenges agenda.

Events

- **Cambridge Global Food Security [Symposium](#) – 6th September, 3-6pm**, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge. A day of multi-disciplinary talks and interactive sessions - including talks by Professor Tim Benton and Sir Brian Heap, two of the External Advisors of this Cambridge Strategic Research Initiative. The symposium and particularly the afternoon session on *Developing Country Challenges: GCRF and the Global Challenges Forum* with Dr Lara Allen (Director, Centre for Global

Equality) and Professor Howard Griffiths (Department of Plant Sciences) will offer the opportunity to establish working groups as collaborations between the Cambridge Global Food Security and the GlobalChallenges Forum.

- **Bioenergy 2017, Developing Sustainable Bioenergy Crops for Future Climates – 24-27th September**, Oriel College, University of Oxford. The aim of this meeting is to bring together researchers, breeders, growers and policy makers concerned with the development of new bioenergy crops for future climates.
- **REAP [conference 2017](#) – 7th November**, Chicago. Focusing on emerging farming practices and agri-tech that work with nature, the conference enables dialogue between researchers, technologists, regulators and early adopters about science, relevant metrics and consistent standards.

News

- **Many congratulations to TIGR2ESS, led by Prof Howard Griffiths** (Department of Plant Sciences) and to **CAPABLE, led by Prof John Danesh** (Department of Public Health and Primary Care) for [having been awarded almost £15 million in GCRF funding](#). TIGR2ESS (Transforming India's Green Revolution by Research and Empowerment for Sustainable food Supplies) addresses global food security in India and CAPABLE (Cambridge Programme to Assist Bangladesh in Lifestyle and Environmental risk reduction - to address public health challenges in Bangladesh) addresses public health challenges in Bangladesh.
- **Identifying 'best connected neighbours' to stop the spread of infection in developing countries.** Information about social networks in rural villages in the developing world is costly, time-consuming to collect and usually unavailable. Therefore, current immunisation strategies target people with established community roles: healthcare workers, teachers, and local officials. Cambridge researches [found](#) that a network theory approach-based algorithm leading to the identification of those with "most connections to sick people" can be more effective and easier to deploy than current policies in preventing disease spread. Please access the publication [here](#).
- **UK Aid-related FAQ are answered in an accessible way in [this](#) briefing paper at the House of Commons Library.** What is aid? What is the UN 0.7% aid target and why has the UK adopted it? Which government departments spend UK aid? What impact does UK aid have? What will be the impact of Brexit on UK aid?
- **Development Monitor has used public financial data [to show flows between the UK and developing countries](#).** This analysis, which aims to promote transparency and accountability for the UK's interactions with developing countries, also includes an exploration of the how exposing the UK's full impact on these countries can improve better policies that benefit all.
- **[New centre for Global Disaster Protection](#).** UK partnership with the World Bank and Germany for the Centre for Global Disaster Protection in London will support the poorest countries to strengthen their disaster planning and get finances in place before disaster strikes so they can better manage the economic impact of emergencies and build their resilience.
- **The Global Challenges Forum will become a University of Cambridge [Strategic Research Initiative](#) in October 2017.** Thank all the support, participation and enthusiasm provided by GCF's members and collaborators so far; we look forward to keep working with you.