UKRI GCRF Collective Programme – AHRC Network Plus Calls

Contents

1.   Introduction

As part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is pleased to announce three Network Plus calls in the following areas:

- Preventing Conflict, Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace
- Protection in Contexts of Conflict and Displacement

- Education in Conflict and Crisis Research

Further details of each call can be found below in 'Section 3: Call Aims'

These calls are designed to be a part of an interdisciplinary programme coordinated by UKRI and steered by the GCRF Challenge Leaders. Whilst the AHRC is managing these three calls on behalf of UKRI, the Network Plus model is intended to support cross-disciplinary working and applicants from all relevant disciplines are encouraged to apply. Proposals will be expected to be challenge-led, internationally collaborative and interdisciplinary in nature.

Awards will be administered by a UK research organisation (RO) eligible for UKRI funding but will be expected to involve international co-investigators and/or equitable partnerships with developing countries. Awards will be expected to commission and administer devolved calls open to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC)-led, as well as UK-led, collaborative research applications which respond to evolving research agendas co-developed with LMIC research partners, policy/practice needs, new priorities and crises/ contextual changes as they emerge.

Funding of £2 million and up to 4 years in duration can be sought for Network Plus applications. We anticipate making between 3 and 5 Network Plus awards under each of the three calls.

This call will utilise a two stage application process: an outline stage followed by a full proposal stage. Outline proposals will be reviewed and shortlisted, and only those which are successful will then be invited to submit at the full proposal stage. Applicants **must** submit an outline proposal in order to be invited to submit a full proposal. Please see 'Section 10: Application Process' for further details.

The deadline for outline proposals is: **16:00 BST - Tuesday 9 April 2019**

Please note that in addition to these Network Plus programmes there are also plans to commission a number of wider activities delivered by UKRI and other partners such as DfID and the British Academy.

2.   Background/Context

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a 5-year £1.5bn fund announced in 2015 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. Any proposals submitted to a GCRF activity must demonstrate how they meet ODA criteria, please see section 5 for further information.

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 Coherence Programme under the UKRI GCRF Collective Programme Fund 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

For administrative purposes individual calls will be hosted and managed either by a UKRI Council, delivery partner or the UKRI International Development Shared Capability.

AHRC are managing four programmes of activity under the Collective Programme which contribute to the strategic portfolios of Education, Food Systems and Security Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement on behalf of UKRI.

Research under these GCRF Network Plus calls will be expected to contribute to a fuller understanding of local contexts that is sensitive to historic, cultural, religious, linguistic, economic and political factors, and the intersections between them. Without this understanding, measures 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.

3. Aims of the Three Network Plus Calls

3.1 Preventing Conflict, Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace
Context

This call seeks to contribute to international development through strengthening the evidence base for effective policies and programmes that promote conflict prevention, and enhance positive peacebuilding.

SDG16[i] states that sustainable development can only be achieved with peace, stability, human rights and effective governance. The World Bank estimates that two billion people live in countries where development outcomes are affected by fragility, conflict, and violence and identifies this as "a critical development challenge that threatens efforts to end extreme poverty"[ii].

The recent OECD *States of Fragility 2018* report[iii] highlights that fragility *"poses a major global threat to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"* and that *"without action, more than 80% of the world's poorest will be living in fragile contexts by 2030"*. Despite this, the report finds that "*inadequate*" funding is devoted to conflict prevention and peacebuilding "*just 2% of total gross official development assistance (ODA) went to conflict prevention and associated*

activities in 2016". Too much funding, the report argues, is devoted towards "*firefighting that ultimately extends to prolonged humanitarian purposes, rather than for longer-term development that actually addresses the drivers of fragility*".

DfID's Rapid Evidence Assessment for Conflict Prevention Report (2016) states, "*Overall, the evidence base on conflict prevention and mitigation has advanced only moderately since 2010. This finding presents a major challenge for policymakers and resource allocation. If decision makers wish to know more about 'what works' and to have clearer foundations for resource allocation, there is a need to invest in a collaborative research agenda involving the co-production of knowledge by practitioners and researchers that examines the impact of different types of interventions on armed violence.*"[iv]

The current GCRF 'Security Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement' portfolio to some degree mirrors the imbalance outlined in the OECD States of Fragility report with a significant proportion addressing the consequences of conflict (e.g. forced displacement), with conflict prevention a less well developed theme. However, the foundations and capabilities for inter-disciplinary research have been laid under initiatives such as the RCUK Global Uncertainties and PaCCS programmes. This call provides an opportunity to build upon these foundations but also strengthen them through supporting further cross-disciplinary innovation and capability development.

Call aims, scope and themes
Addressing a key priority within the GCRF 'Conflict and Forced Displacement' portfolio, this call forms part of a collaborative programme with the British Academy and other Research Councils. This call seeks to strengthen the evidence base for effective and contextually sensitive policies and programmes that promote conflict prevention, and enhance positive peacebuilding. It focuses on the need for prevention approaches that address long term drivers of conflict and instability in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations (FCAS), as well as on the potential transformational effects that prevention strategies can have on individuals and groups who have the propensity to mobilise towards violence.

This call seeks to support actionable research which brings together knowledge to further our understanding of human interactions in contexts of protracted conflicts and also within emerging fragile conflict affected areas. It aims to develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of conflict and prevention of violence, including the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local actors, and to build the evidence base for policy and practice on the effectiveness of different approaches and strategies. A further aim is to identify the societal factors which are critical for building sustainable peace and to develop strategies which communities can use to build lasting peace, including addressing the issues of reconciliation. We welcome proposals addressing a wide range of conflict, fragile and development contexts, including those which seek to address geographical imbalances with some FCAS much less well researched than others and key unmet research needs in some areas, for example, in critical understanding of neglected geographies within border regions.

As well as supporting further cross-disciplinary innovation and capability development the Network Plus model provides an opportunity to support research to test scalability and transferability in different contexts and to develop intellectual, analytical and policy frameworks through which to explore interactions, divergence, cross-cutting issues and comparative effectiveness. The Network Plus model also provides an opportunity to bring together current capability which is highly distributed across the research base and provide opportunities to share learning across contexts, cultures and disciplines.

Key research themes under this call include:

- **Risk-based approaches**, including integrated risk assessment, understanding the histories, evolution, drivers and risks of conflict, the changing nature of conflict (e.g. protracted, hybrid etc.) and risk-based approaches to prevention (e.g. risk-based targeting, early warning systems, road maps, critical reflection and learning from the past, etc.).
- **People and community-centred approaches and building societal prevention capabilities**, including role of civil society organisations (CSOs), role of women, young people and key societal groups, citizen engagement, community co-production and local actors, and empowerment of under-represented groups.
- **Addressing grievances, access to justice and understanding agency,** including: addressing legacies from difficult pasts; understanding structural factors underpinning grievances (e.g. poor governance, exclusive cultural and identity policies, inadequate protection of human rights, corruption, lack of access to justice, etc.) and agency in their transmission; identifying opportunities for early intervention to prevent emerging grievances from hardening; and, innovative and critical approaches to mediation, dialogue processes, restitution, reconciliation, rehabilitation/ reintegration of combatants, peacebuilding and transitions from conflict.
- **Tackling horizontal inequalities** as a part of prevention and peacebuilding, including interactions with issues around gender and other inequalities, empowerment of marginalised and underrepresented groups, sustainable livelihood development, building resilience, voice, governance and access to power.

The above themes are intended to be illustrative of key areas rather than exclusive and are deeply inter-connected – proposals which cut across these and other areas are encouraged.

The aim is to support actionable research and is translation into policy and practice in contexts of conflict and fragility. Key cross-cutting approaches are likely to include:

- developing better indicators and methodologies for understanding and monitoring success
- critical appraisal and building on learning from the past
- supporting more effective sharing of learning and translation from the local to the global, including between diverse conflict, cultural and language contexts etc.
- fostering inter-connections & integration, exploiting synergies, understanding how approaches and initiatives work in combination, avoiding misalignment or unintended consequences.

Collectively it is hoped that the Network Plus awards and other activities will add value to the current portfolio in a number of ways, including by:

- advancing our understanding of the development opportunities presented by nuanced, contextualised, pathways to peace and emerging localised solution-driven initiatives;
- maximising the impact of research that is co-designed and builds on community based partnerships and localised expertise on preventing conflict and building stability;
- fostering the sharing of learning across innovative prevention and peacebuilding research projects and testing the scalability, transferability and effectiveness of different approaches across diverse fragile contexts
- bringing conflict prevention research more centrally into sustainable development planning and programming.

In addition, under this call we will welcome proposals which explore the interactions and inter-connections between key factors in the development and dynamics of conflict which cut across the GCRF portfolios- such as urban exclusion, health inequalities, unemployment, food insecurity, environmental stresses, low literacy levels and gender inequality - and how this can support the development of prevention and peacebuilding strategies that lead to transformational change for individuals and groups who have the propensity to mobilise towards violence.

3.2 Protection in Contexts of Conflict and Displacement

Context
Humanitarian protection interventions aim to affirm protective rights and avoid/reduce/mitigate physical or psychological harm to people in need of assistance in the event of a crisis. In its broadest terms, humanitarian protection is defined as *"all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law)."* [v] As set out in the UK Humanitarian Reform Policy (2017)[vi] , "*upholding people's basic human rights and freedoms in times of crisis is a moral duty. Protection should be at the centre of humanitarian action, with minimum standards to ensure the safety and dignity of those most marginalised and vulnerable in times of crisis (such as women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities)*". A DfID report, 'What Works in Protection and How Do We Know' (2013)[vii], identifies an evidence gap in relation to measuring the effectiveness of protection, and recommends investment in both methodologies and capabilities to gather evidence on protection issues, and in further research.

By focussing on the risks faced by those affected by conflict, and what can be done to avoid and mitigate against them, this call directly addresses Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. It has the potential to intersect with the SDGs relating to poverty, hunger, health and well-being, education and gender inequality, among others.

Analysis of the current GCRF portfolio in this area reveals a diverse range of projects exploring different aspects of protection, ranging from responses to climate change, to community- and arts-based intervention strategies and linguistic approaches to understanding mental health, across a range of ODA countries and contexts. However, the current portfolio is somewhat fragmented with limited opportunities for learning across different contexts and research and policy domains. In addition, there is a need to build a more coherent and comprehensive understanding of protection encompassing closer examination of the drivers of protection risk, as well as the impact of protection interventions and connections to wider themes such as fostering resilience, social cohesion and reconciliation.

Call aims, scope and themes
Developed as a part of the GCRF Conflict and Forced Displacement portfolio, this call forms part of a collaborative programme with DfID, ESRC and other Research Councils. It aims to support the building of an evidence base on humanitarian protection of people affected by conflict, with an emphasis on the protection of the most vulnerable. The call seeks to fund contextually-informed research addressing the challenges of how to effectively affirm protective rights and avoid/reduce/mitigate physical or psychological harm to conflict-affected people, including displaced populations, in need of assistance.

Key interconnected themes for this call include:

- exploring the **social, political, economic and cultural factors that are conducive to restraint** from violence amongst different actors and how programming can support or hinder restraint;
- **understanding the impact of local protection mechanisms** and the opportunities and challenges faced by affected communities in protecting people, property, services, human rights and identities, and wider social, cultural, linguistic and heritage capital and assets in times of armed conflict. It also includes learning from the history of local protection mechanisms, how international humanitarian funding can support or inadvertently hinder these approaches and the role of local, cultural and other intermediaries in translating between local and international humanitarian protection;
- **impact of legal recognition** (e.g. refugee status, citizenship status, housing, land and property rights etc.), the barriers to recognition and how can these can be addressed. It also includes interactions with wider legal protection regimes (e.g. anti-slavery, child protection etc.) as well as with support for human rights and access to justice;
- **role of targeting**, assessment of protection risks and effective protection of vulnerable communities, including research exploring the protective effect of targeted/blanket/holistic services, who falls through the cracks, and the challenges of translation of targeting practices across language and cultural differences. Research targeted at vulnerable communities and groups such as children, persons with physical and/or learning disabilities, people affected by trauma or poor mental health, the elderly and women will be welcomed, as well as analysis of the rationale for, and ethical issues relating to, exclusion of others from targeting and the impact of such exclusion;
- **changing dynamics of protection in protracted conflicts**, including how protection conditions, triggers, and activities change over the course of a protracted conflict and what elements support or threaten civilians' efforts to maximise their protection
- the multiple and layered **protection risks associated with South-South displacement** (both within and across regions), including prior to displacement, along the journey, and at the destination.

The themes outlined above are interconnected, and it is envisaged that Network Plus research programmes will cut across more than one theme. Proposals will be expected to be underpinned by deep understanding of protection contexts developed collaboratively with LMIC partners. A focus on the protection of the most vulnerable is encouraged, as is bringing together a range of perspectives including socio-political, legal, ethical, cultural and historical. Engagement and interaction, as appropriate, with existing GCRF research in the field is welcomed and a strong focus on contextually-informed policy and practice relevant outcomes is expected.

This call aims to fund a portfolio of Network Plus awards that encompass a wide range of humanitarian contexts, geographical locations, social, cultural and historic contexts and conflict/humanitarian settings, allowing for comparative perspectives and learning, 'South to South' capability development, knowledge exchange and policy relevant outcomes.

Please note that as a part of this collaborative programme in partnership with DfID the AHRC also expects to issue a targeted call early in 2019 for an initial round of smaller scale individual research projects. Details of this separate call will be made available on the AHRC website.

3.3   Education in Conflict and Crisis Research
Context
One in four of the world's school-aged children now live in a country affected by crisis. In 2015 alone, more than 80 million children and young people had their education disrupted or destroyed

due to natural disaster or conflict[viii]. More worrying still is the fact that commentators agree that these figures represent only the 'tip of the iceberg,' for example if the disruption to learners across the lifecourse, in other educational settings or across generations is considered or if refugee or slum dwelling learners missing from official data are taken into account. Loss of education services not only leaves children, young people and vulnerable groups without vital services which can support their protection, wellbeing and human development during a crisis, but it also disrupts education's positive societal impact in the long term and can exacerbate gender and other inequalities. Out-of-school children and young people not in employment, education or training are at greater risk of violence, rape, and recruitment into fighting, prostitution, and other life-threatening, often criminal, activities and insufficient attention is paid in contexts of conflict and protracted crises to the quality of education and to non-formal education, adult literacy and skills development[ix]. Education in these settings can also provide learners with life-saving information survival skills necessary in the specific context[x]. In the long-term Education also protects against future threats to lives and livelihoods, increases participants' chances of staying healthy and participating fully in society – and it boosts their children's chances of leading healthy lives.[xi]

Yet, despite this understanding, there is a noted lack of empirical and theoretical research to guide the delivery of education services during conflict and protracted crisis. The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) has highlighted that there continues to be limited research on the 'impact of education in the prevention of, response to and recovery from natural disasters and complex emergencies'[xii]. Among the existing rigorous studies only a few considered the context (disaster or conflict), the complexity of marginalisation and vulnerability, and the effects of specific interventions on girls and boys, in the research design. Support is needed to address the critical lack of evidence on the role and delivery of education in conflict and protracted crisis, to ensure quality education opportunities for all.

Call aims, scope and themes
In response to this knowledge gap a range of inter-disciplinary activities on the subject of Education in Conflict and Crisis have been developed in collaboration with AHRC, DfID, British Academy, ESRC and other Research Councils. The purpose of these complementary activities, led by different delivery partners, will be to build in-country research capacity in this field, strengthen the Education in Conflict and Crisis research community globally and build evidence that will inform policy and practice in diverse contexts.

Addressing a key priority at the intersection between the GCRF Education and Conflict and Forced Displacement portfolio the ultimate goal of this Network Plus call is to support excellent research which will enhance access of children and learners affected by conflict and protracted crises to better quality education.

Research themes for the call are deliberately broad and expected to address a range of issues around:

- **education delivery, access and quality**, including the roles of, and intersections between, different formal and informal learning settings, stages and contexts during conflict and emergencies, responding to the needs of children, youth, women and girls and other specific crisis affected groups (e.g. displaced, ex-combatants, injured, orphaned, traumatised, disabled, etc.) and how to reach hidden /marginalised populations and populations on the move;

- the potential opportunities offered by **innovations in service re-design, digital and other technologies,** learning communities, environments and ecosystems to contribute to educational access, quality and progression and to enhanced learning outcomes; the potential for improved cross-organisational and cross-sectoral collaboration to deliver better educational services, and interactions and integration with broader strategies for humanitarian protection, employment & skills, building resilience and sustainable development;

- the **role of education in building future peace and stability** and addressing issues such as cultural identity and indigenous / local knowledge, language & skills development, empowerment, marginalisation, exclusion, gender and inequalities, difficult or conflicted heritages/pasts, transmission of narratives of peace and conflict, behaviour change and sustainable livelihoods;

- **understanding the interacting dynamics in the social, political, economic and cultural context** which enable or inhibit the democratisation and governance of education and training during conflict and emergencies and ensuring education and training policy, schools and other sites of learning are conflict and context sensitive.

Key cross-cutting aims for the Network Plus call include:
- building in-country research capacity in this field;
- diversifying and amplifying local voices involved in debates about education & training;
- strengthening the Education in Conflict and Crisis research community globally, including specific support for early career researchers and extending and deepening cross-disciplinary collaboration; and
- building evidence that will inform policy and practice with the ultimate goal of more children and learners gaining access to better quality education and training in contexts of conflict and protracted crises.

3.4   Cross-Cutting Proposals

Proposals which cut across the remits of these calls or explore intersections between issues of relevance to more than one of the three calls, are welcomed. However, cross-cutting applications should be submitted to only one of the three calls, whichever is considered to be the prime focus / strongest fit of activities, noting any cross-overs where applicable. The relevant GCRF Challenge Leaders will be consulted and will advise panels on any cross-cutting / cross-portfolio proposals where appropriate.

We will expect the funded Network Plus awards to work collaboratively with each other, with the Challenge Leaders and other activities supported as a part of the portfolio (e.g. other research grants).

Proposals may also connect with other GCRF challenge portfolios or calls under the Collective Programme, provided that the prime focus is on one of the three challenges areas above. To ensure a joined-up approach to funding research in this area, proposals received under the calls will be shared between relevant GCRF Challenge Leaders where appropriate.

4.   Network Plus model

Projects will be commissioned using the 'Network Plus' model. This is a flexible mechanism whereby funding will be allocated to the lead RO to support a cross-institutional leadership team and international and non-academic partners. Each Network Plus will facilitate the development of partnerships between academics, NGOs, policymakers and practitioners in both the Global North and South, allowing for integrated and crosscutting activities.

Network Plus awards will be a source of robust evidence that informs debate and feeds into policy and practice. Collaboration with stakeholders will be key in order to co-create evidence and outputs that meet users' needs, such as briefing papers, thematic reports, 'rapid response' evidence, informational events and data visualisation.

Through devolved research funding, the Network Plus model allows for a proportion of costs to be allocated to flexible and agile activities that can respond to evolving research agendas co-developed with LMIC research partners, policy/practice needs, new priorities and crises/ contextual changes as they emerge. All elements of the Network Plus, including devolved funding, are required to be ODA compliant.

Each Network Plus will undertake 3 interconnected strands of work:

Scoping, research leadership and partnership development activities: to build sustainable partnerships between UK researchers and international partners in the region/area in order to identify research needs and opportunities and to co-design and co-develop research agendas to be explored through research and knowledge exchange calls. Eligible activity within this strand could include:
- intellectual leadership and research agenda development
- equitable partnership development and knowledge exchange activity
- seminars and workshops to explore and develop priority challenge areas
- scholar exchanges; training and skills development programmes
- support and mentoring for early career researchers
- placements for academics at partner organisations to develop joint research programmes
- local asset, landscape or network mapping
- literature / evidence reviews
- exploratory, feasibility and proof of concept projects.

Funding calls for innovative projects / activities: to address the identified challenges and with the capacity to respond to evolving research agendas co-developed with LMIC research partners, policy/practice needs, new priorities and crises/ contextual changes as they emerge. Eligible activity within this strand could include:
- funding for new collaborative research projects including 6-18 month pilot projects, exploratory and innovation studies, data exploration, fieldwork and support for projects led by early career researchers (with mentoring where appropriate)
- conferences, workshops and seminars; and fellowships, exchanges and placements.

All projects should be collaborative between the UK and LMIC partners in relevant areas / regions. It is anticipated that calls will be open to applications for collaborative research activities led by LMIC investigators. Funding for LMIC-led projects will be subject to relevant due diligence checks being completed by lead Research Organisation the Network Plus which meets with the requirements of the UKRI due diligence processes. Funding for individual projects commissioned through this strand should not exceed £150k (fEC). Any projects exceeding £30k (fEC) must be commissioned through open, peer-reviewed calls that are referred to the AHRC/UKRI – who will support dissemination -

before they are issued. Members of the core network leadership team will not be permitted to apply for funding through such open calls.

Outputs and outcomes should be clearly articulated and tailored to the activity and challenge area. They could include, but are not limited to:
- enhanced capabilities / facilities
- policy briefings
- journal articles
- conference papers
- websites and digital resources
- training materials
- public engagement
- exhibitions, catalogues
- new and changed projects, services, commercial outputs
- enhanced cultural / heritage assets / value
- creative outputs, performances etc.

All projects commissioned through this route must demonstrate how they are ODA compliant and meet the overarching aims of the project. Responsibility for the funding of these grants will be devolved to the leadership team and lead RO, subject to reporting on quality assurance, due diligence and ODA compliance to the AHRC/UKRI. Additional guidance on the inclusion of costs for this strand of activity in Network Plus applications is provided at Annex A.

Co-ordination, networking and synthesis of research funded as a part of the Network Plus grant, including:
- fostering links with other research relevant (including across disciplines and internationally) to the areas/regions
- support for collective knowledge exchange and pathways to impact activities
- support for the development and implementation of a strategic agenda for future research and dissemination
- leadership in promoting good research conduct, gender and equalities, ethics, safeguarding, risk assessment and management, and equitable ways of working;
- fostering the sharing of data, insights, learning and experience across disciplines and between project teams, development of integrative frameworks, analysing research convergence and divergence, comparative research
- taking a lead in supporting reflection, learning, synthesis, theories of change, evaluation and impact assessment and consideration of issues of translation and scalability across the portfolio of activities;
- stimulating / editing collective research outputs;
- leading legacy / sustainability planning.

The distribution of funding across the three strands is at the discretion of the applicants but a **minimum of 40%** of the overall budget should be allocated to the commissioning of research projects under the second strand (Funding calls for innovative projects / activities). Successful applicants will be required to submit regular monitoring reports and updates to the AHRC/UKRI, for example to ensure that research projects commissioned under the grant are ODA-compliant.

The Network Plus model is considered to be the most appropriate mechanism for this call on the basis that:

- embedding the networking / partnership building activity at the outset of the awards will facilitate the development of the interdisciplinary, international communities required to realise the aims of the call;
- in turn, this will enable the co-development and co-design of in-country research agendas with the capacity to commission projects aligned with specific development challenges and promote good practice in areas such as safeguarding, gender and equalities;
- it provides an open funding mechanism that can draw on relevant expertise which may be distributed across a wide range of UK and overseas research and partner organisations, including LMIC-led research;
- it provides a co-ordination and leadership function and a focal point for bringing together diverse activities in a field, creating opportunities for critical reflection, challenge, synthesis, shared learning and exploring divergence and convergence;
- the flexibility afforded by the model will accommodate activity that can be launched quickly and with agility to address new research and policy agendas, challenges and crises as they emerge.

5.   Expectations of successful Network Plus proposals

In accordance with the ambitions of this call as outlined above, applications must also demonstrate the following characteristics:

Research leadership and excellence
It is expected that projects funded through the call will be exemplars of excellence in the field, serving to define and promote the role of interdisciplinary collaborative research in international development and delivering a wide range of cultural value and societal, economic, academic and policy impacts. The successful Network Plus grants will be led by a strong, interdisciplinary team who can articulate a clear shared vision for the network and the community of relevant stakeholders. They will engage beyond usual stakeholders, supporting interdisciplinary approaches in novel ways. The leadership team should have a breadth of expertise that is commensurate with the complexity of this space; this may require a new grouping of researchers and stakeholders, drawing on strong, existing leadership across related areas. The leadership team will have demonstrable experience of working with a range of partners, and of supporting novel approaches to current and emerging issues. Given the challenges of undertaking engaged or co-produced activities, they will need to be unbiased and independent, and able to act as figureheads representing the aims of these Network Plus areas.

The leadership team must contribute a significant proportion of their time to the overall leadership and co-ordination of their Network Plus grant. The proposal should outline a clear management structure for the Network Plus, detailing how the network will be managed day to day. We encourage the Network Plus to include an academic network coordinator as part of the leadership team. The Network Plus will also be expected to participate in collaborative activities organised by the AHRC or other research councils.

The PI and their RO will be ultimately responsible for the administration of the grant and collaboration arrangements, but they should also work on this with a team of Co-Is (the number should be appropriate for the size of the network) which should reflect the interdisciplinary and sector relevance of the Network Plus. The proposal should clearly explain the division of roles between the PI and the rest of the leadership team. The Network Plus should convene an inclusive

advisory committee to support and advise the leadership throughout their project, with consideration to equality and diversity issues.

ODA Compliance

Because this funding will be allocated through the GCRF, projects **must** demonstrate how they are ODA compliant and will contribute to the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Further information on ODA compliance under the GCRF is available here. Applicants are encouraged to pay close attention to the three guiding questions when completing their proposal:

a) Which country / countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be ODA eligible for the duration of the research?
b) How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
c) 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?

These questions should be answered within the Outline ODA Compliance Statement.

As part of the government's commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DfID ODA reporting requirements, UKRI is responsible for publishing information about UKRI ODA grants including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DfID's national statistics.

The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All UKRI funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Therefore we ask that you write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication.

Please ensure that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words. Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is ODA-compliant, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the project and the beneficiary countries.

Development-Challenge focused

Proposals should provide the rationale for addressing a set of integrated development challenges – for example, those embedded in the UN Sustainable Development Goals - connected to the area of study and around a shared mission, whilst demonstrating the capacity to respond flexibly to emergent challenges in the area as they arise.

Capacity building

An important aspect of GCRF is capacity development, and we expect all proposals to identify research capacity-building activities as part of, and not separate to, the stated approach to the Network Plus.

The focus should be on the quality and impact of the activity of the Network Plus, 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

- funding for smaller ECR-led research networking / project activities
- exchanges / placements
- co-design of research and related activity, and implementation with developing country partner staff.

Please note that studentships are not eligible under this call.

Contextually informed
Proposals should be grounded in, and seek to enhance, deep understanding of specified LMIC contexts, including historic, cultural, religious, linguistic, economic, social, political, environmental and other factors and engage with local expertise, organisations, creativity, heritages and knowledges as vital resources for research excellence and innovation.

Multi/ Inter-disciplinarity
Proposals will be expected to approach the development challenges identified in a manner that engages relevant disciplines from across the arts and humanities, the social sciences and wider STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects as appropriate to addressing the challenges identified.

Multi-institutional
Proposals must be collaborative and include both relevant expertise drawn from across the UK research base (a minimum of 2 UK ROs within the core leadership team) as well as relevant parties in partner countries.

Multi-partner
Successful projects will be expected to engage organisations from outside the academic sector such as NGOS, policy bodies, business, third sector and community organisations that can contribute meaningfully to the development challenges identified. It is anticipated that these groups will be embedded across research stages from research agenda development and design through to pathways to impact and dissemination of the research.

Equitable International Partnerships
It is expected that successful projects will engage extensively and equitably with ROs, organisations and communities in the partner countries; proposals which include relevant international co-investigators are strongly encouraged. 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."

Commitment to, and capability to run, Open Calls
Network Plus awards are expected to demonstrate a commitment to open / inclusive engagement with relevant expertise and capabilities and to responding to opportunities to expand networks and collaboration as appropriate opportunities arise. It is expected that calls launched by project teams under the second strand of activity (ii), and which fund projects exceeding £30k must be commissioned through open, peer-reviewed calls that are referred to the AHRC/UKRI – who will support dissemination - before they are issued. Where appropriate, these open calls are expected to include provision for LMIC-led, as well as UK-led, proposals. Funding through this process should not,

for example, only be made available to existing partners and/or institutions comprising the core project team. Proposals will be required to demonstrate how they will approach this responsibility, including due diligence processes for LMIC-led activities.

Members of the core network leadership team will not be permitted to apply for funding through such open calls.

Legacy
Networks must demonstrate a clear vision for how the work proposed will deliver a sustainable legacy beyond the funding period.

Research ethics
All successful GCRF projects must be underpinned by a strong research ethic based on mutual respect and understanding for different cultural, ethnic, social and economic beliefs and practices. Solutions to any 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. More guidance can be found on the UKRI website.

Safeguarding and research conduct
Funded proposals will be expected to adopt the highest standards of good research conduct, safeguarding and gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion (EDI). In addition, where appropriate proposals should consider how they might contribute to developing and sharing best practices and building capabilities for the future in this area. All full proposals will include an assessment of risks and meet the expectations outlined in the UKCDR statement on safeguarding and in the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014.

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. Proposals must detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks and what policies and procedures will be in place to enable reporting and investigation of allegations when they arise.

Research Organisation Support
Strong support from the research organisations involved, particularly the lead UK research organisation, is essential. Evidence is required of a supportive research environment and infrastructure within the host research organisation, for example to deliver open calls, distribution of resources, and support equitable partnership working as well as leadership on issues such as due diligence, risk management, safeguarding, IP, ethics, gender and equalities. Alignment with research organisation strategies will be essential in capability development, sustaining partnerships and legacy planning.

6. Assessment criteria

Applications to the call will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

Research excellence
- Is the proposed research novel, innovative and timely?
- Does the research programme offer a well-integrated and interdisciplinary approach?
- Does the proposed research meet the highest international standards and is it likely to advance the field?
- Would the Network Plus provide leadership for research excellence and innovation in the field, critically reflect upon, develop and drive forward research agendas and to develop new insights and areas of enquiry?

Fit with the call specification
- Does the proposal demonstrate a strong and central alignment to the research agenda outlined for the call?
- Does the proposal outline a clear approach to achieving development impact which takes into account relevant LMIC cultural and historic contexts?
- Would the proposal make effective use of the Network Plus mechanism (e.g. to draw in wider expertise and partnerships, co-develop research agendas, demonstrate flexibility to adapt over the lifetime of the award etc.)
- Would the proposal offer the potential to add significant value to the current GCRF challenge portfolios and to contribute to the wider Collective Programme (e.g. through opportunities to collaborate with other funded Network Plus projects)

Capability and interdisciplinary research team
- Does the proposed team have the appropriate track record, knowledge and expertise, including understanding of local contexts, assets and knowledges?
- Have the appropriate range of disciplines been identified and is the team well integrated?
- Does the whole team have access to appropriate preliminary data, resources, collections, tools, and technology to undertake the proposed research?

Capacity building and international partnerships
- To what extent have appropriate development and LMIC partners (including researchers, practitioners and policy makers) played a leading role in challenge identification and the design and implementation of the proposed approach?
- Does this proposal identify an appropriate range of relevant partners, and are these partnerships authentic, ethical, equitable and sustainable beyond the initial award?
- To what extent will the award develop new or enhanced research capacity for addressing development challenges/the SDGs in the relevant partner countries?

Likelihood and pathways to impact
- Does the proposed award identify realistic pathways with the potential to deliver a breadth of significant and measurable development impacts in LMICs?
- Have the applicants taken into consideration the relevant in-country context, languages and cultures and demonstrated local appetite and capacity to implement solutions?
- Have the applicants given adequate consideration to issues of gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion in their pathways to impact?

- Does the proposed Network Plus offer a sustainable programme with the potential to leverage activity, impact and financial/in-kind contributions (including from the private sector)?
- Does the Network Plus offer a sustainable legacy beyond the end of the award e.g. through the partnerships, resources, capacity and capability developed?

Leadership and management
- Does the leadership team demonstrate the appropriate skills and experience to deliver the proposed vision and effectively manage the proposed Network Plus?
- Is there an appropriate balance of leadership, management and resources between the partners, including an appropriate balance between developed and developing country partners?
- Does the framework demonstrate flexibility to adapt over the lifetime of the award and respond with agility to opportunities arising over the lifetime of the award?

Organisation, governance, research organisation support and evaluation
- Does the proposal describe an appropriate governance structure and plan for the research and operational management of the proposed Network Plus (including financial and risk management, assurance and governance)?
- Does the proposal outline an appropriate framework for monitoring and evaluation, and identify a robust set of deliverables and success indicators?
- Is there evidence of strong support from the research institutions involved, particularly from the lead UK institutions (including for example to support management of the Network Plus including running of calls, due diligence, safeguarding, risk management and related issues)

Ethics, safeguarding and risk
- Are the proposed partnerships and working relationships ethical and equitable?
- Have the applicants identified the ethical implications arising from the proposed research and provided sufficient detail of how these will be addressed?
- Does the proposal provide an adequate analysis of key risks and assurance on how these risks will be assessed and managed over the lifetime of the award?
- Have the applicants provided a framework which provides satisfactory assurance that gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion and safeguarding issues as well as risks to all participants in the research will be assessed and managed effectively?

Value for money
- Are the requested costs appropriate and justified? Is the scale of impacts reasonable for the amount of funding requested and staff time included?
- Does the proposal overall represent good value for money? i.e the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcome.
- Are there appropriate processes and controls to ensure due diligence and assurance are in place?

Assessment at the outline stage will be undertaken in accordance with these criteria by a shortlisting panel comprising members of the AHRC, UKRI & other Research Council GCRF Peer Review Colleges and other experts in international development. At the shortlisting stage the Panel will be looking for evidence of the **_potential_** for the outline proposal to be developed into a full proposal which fully meets all of the above criteria. This panel will make recommendations to the Research Councils for projects to continue to the full proposal stage. Assessment at the full proposal stage will comprise peer review, PI response and interview panel.

In providing advice to the Research Councils on shortlisting and final funding amongst proposals judged to be of similar overall quality, panels (advised by relevant GCRF Challenges Leaders) will also be asked to take into consider issues relating to the overall balance of the funded portfolio, including issues of geography and coverage of priority areas outlined for the calls. Shortlisted teams may be given advice on these issues in relation to the development of their full proposals.

7.   Eligibility

Applications are welcomed from UK Higher Education Institutions, or UKRI-accredited Independent Research Organisations. Applicants should ensure they meet the general UKRI eligibility criteria for Investigators as set-out in the AHRC's Funding Guide here.

Proposals must be collaborative and include both relevant expertise drawn from across the UK research base (a minimum of 2 eligible UK ROs) as well as relevant parties in partner countries/ third sector etc.

International Co-Investigators are eligible for funding through this call in accordance with AHRC's international Co-Investigator policy as detailed here. 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.

Studentships are not eligible under this call.

8.   Funding

Funding of £1.5-2 million is available for each Network Plus award on a full economic cost basis (fEC) with AHRC meeting 80% of the fEC. Exceptions to this rule will apply to certain international costs that can be charged at 100% (see Annex A for further detail).

Network Plus awards may be for up to 48 months in duration and to commence (following a short preparatory inception phase starting 1 February 2020) on the **1st April 2020**, and should allow time within awards following commissioned research for synthesis reflection and impact activities (tracking and continued development) before the completion of awards.

We anticipate making between 3 and 5 Network Plus awards under each of the three calls. We will expect the funded Network Plus awards to work together collaboratively as a cohort to explore synergies and share learning and experience. Some opportunities for successful Network Plus awards to seek additional funding for additional collaborative / partnership activities between Network Plus awards may be provided.

Costs should be completed in accordance with AHRC Funding Guide. Projects are encouraged to demonstrate the potential to leverage additional funding, both to enhance activity during the course of the project and to secure its legacy.

Reporting and due diligence

Successful applicants will be required to report research outcomes on Researchfish in line with standard UKRI Terms and Conditions. In addition to the standard outcomes all award holders will need to complete sections under the 'GCRF Collective Fund' outcomes and submit monitoring reports and other updates to AHRC as required.

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.

9.   Timetable for Network Plus calls

- Outline call opens in Je-S: **12 February 2019**
- AHRC town hall meetings:
  - 14 February 2019 - Birmingham
  - 25 February 2019 - London
  - 12 March 2019 - Edinburgh
- Deadline for outline proposals: **16:00 BST - Tuesday 9 April 2019**
- Outline stage panel: **w/c 13 May (3 separate panels for each call, run over same week)** Outcomes of outline stage announced: **w/c 27 May**
- Full stage call launch: **30 May**
- Deadline for full stage applications: **16:00 BST - Thursday 19 September 2019**
- Peer review (October-November) and PI response (mid-November)
- Moderating & interview panel meeting: **w/c 2 December and 9 December**
- Final outcomes announced: **End of December**
- Successful projects preparatory inception phase starts: **1 February 2020**
- Projects officially start: **1 April 2020**

10.   Application process

Outline proposals should be submitted through the Je-S system at the latest by **16:00 BST - Tuesday 9 April 2019**, (please see above for the deadline for each specific call) 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.

To prepare a proposal form in Je-S log-in to your account and:
- Select 'New Document'
- Select 'AHRC' as the Council
- Select 'Outline Proposal' as the Document Type

- Select 'AHRC Outline' as the Scheme
- Then find the relevant call which you would like to apply to as the Call/Type/Mode:
  - ➢ 'UKRI GCRF Collective Programme – Education in Conflict and Crisis Research Outline Proposal Stage', or
  - ➢ 'UKRI GCRF Collective Programme – Preventing Conflict, Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace Outline Proposal Stage', or
  - ➢ UKRI GCRF Collective Programme – Protection in Contexts of Conflict and Displacement Outline Proposal Stage'
- Finally, select '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 clicking '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.

Further guidance on the Je-S submission process can be found in the additional Je-S guidance document on the call website.

Applicants are reminded that this call will apply a two stage application process: an outline stage and a full proposal stage. Please note applicants must submit an outline proposal in order to submit a full stage proposal.

During the outline stage, proposals should be focused on articulating a compelling, coherent and deliverable vision in accordance with the aims of the scheme. It is recognised that some components of the proposal such as costs and partnerships will not be finalised at the point of outline submission. A process of consultation between the two stages should support the development of shortlisted projects prior to the submission of full proposals, at which point further detail will be required.

Submitting more than one proposal:

A PI may submit only one proposal under these 3 GCRF Network Plus calls. It is, however, acceptable for a PI on one proposal to be named as a Co-Investigator on others where it can be demonstrated that sufficient time is available to dedicate to all projects.

11.   What we will do with your information

UK Research and Innovation understands the importance of protecting personal information and is committed to complying with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR). It is committed to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability by demonstrating compliance with the principles set out in the regulation.

GDPR sets out the rules for how organisations must process personal data and sensitive personal data about living individuals. It gives individuals the right to find out what personal data is held about them by organisations and to request to see, correct or erase personal data held.

UK Research and Innovation needs to collect and process personal data about the people (including employees and individuals) it interacts with to carry out its business effectively. UK Research and Innovation is committed to ensuring that employees are appropriately trained and supported to achieve compliance with GDPR. For more details see UKRI's full GDPR policy.

Please be aware that by submission of a proposal, the applicants and organisations involved will be giving consent to the sharing of data between the funders involved in this activity (the Research Councils that are part of UKRI and DfID).

Please note: To facilitate networking and partnership development, we anticipate publishing on AHRC's website a list of the shortlisted outlines in the summer of 2019.

12.   Contact information

Eligibility, Costings or Process

Enquiries regarding the type of activities that can be supported through this call should be directed to enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org

Je-S Registration

Enquiries about Je-S registration or completing the proposal form should be directed to the Je-S Helpdesk which is available between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and can be contacted by email at jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk or by telephone on 01793 444164.

Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

Enquiries about the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the extent to which proposals may fit with the aims of the GCRF may be directed to gcrf@ahrc.ukri.org.

Annex A - Additional Funding Provisions for Research Activities under the AHRC Network Plus Calls

1. Additional Provisions for International Collaborative Research Activities

Network Plus proposals should be submitted on a full economic cost basis recognising that UK research organisation costs will be supported at 80 per cent fEC.

AHRC's standard international co-investigator policy applies but with some additional provisions for the costs of work undertaken at an overseas organisation in Low or Middle Income Countries (i.e. all 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 exceptions on J-eS form).	100
Costs incurred by the overseas organisation and associated with the research, e.g., consumables, field work etc. (entered as exceptions on J-eS form).	100
Costs incurred by overseas investigators or staff for travel and expenses (entered as exceptions on J-eS form).	100
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 exceptions on J-eS form).	100

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-investigator policy 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 third sector organisations and 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 limited to 30% of the total cost of an award at 100% fEC, with third sector staff salaries not normally expected to exceed 1

FTE per annum; where the 30% limit or 1 FTE 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).

iv. If a co-investigator is from a country flagged as likely to graduate from the DAC list during the course of the project, this should be treated as a country NOT on the DAC list.

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 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.

2. Additional Provisions for Commissioning of Research Projects

As outlined above, it is expected that a minimum of 40% of the overall budget for Network Plus applications (total fEC of the application) should be allocated to the commissioning of research projects under the second strand (ii) (i.e. a minimum of £600,000-£800,000 on applications between £1.5m and £2m fEC).

Individual commissioned project costs do not need to be broken down in detail in the JoR but the commissioned funding line should be justified in line with the overall strategy for commissioning projects outlined in the Case for Support, for example in terms of an indicative profile of number and size of different types of commissioned project/activity.

In view of the anticipated international collaborative nature of the commissioned projects / potential for LMIC-led projects, and in order not to dilute the size of funding pot for commissioned research, funding for commissioned projects may be included as an exception (as with overseas Co-I Costs) within the Network Plus application and will be paid by the AHRC to the lead RO at 100% fEC.

Within this pot of funding, it is expected that the UK component of individual commissioned research projects supported by the Network will normally be funded in accordance with standard AHRC funding terms and conditions for grants i.e. at 80% fEC for UK research organisation costs (with the UK ROs involved in projects contributing 20% fEC) but that the additional provisions for international collaboration as outlined in section 1) above would also apply to these projects. In addition, it is recognised that it may be appropriate for commissioned research activities to be led by overseas investigators / partners based in the areas of study.

On this basis, the maximum value of individual commissioned projects is £150,000 (fEC), but only 80% of the fEC costs of UK components would be funded by the lead RO through the commissioned funding pot, with the exception of any international costs eligible, as above, to be paid at 100% fEC.

In some cases, splitting funding for UK-LMIC collaborative projects between UK and LMIC-led components for managing funding may be considered.

Further guidance on this may be provided to shortlisted applicants at the full proposal stage.

[i] SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, UNSDG https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16
[ii] https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview

[iii] https://www.slideshare.net/OECDdev/states-of-fragility-2018
[iv] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/58245e85ed915d7ad500001a/effectiveness-conflict-prevention-interventions1.pdf

[v] ISAC definition as quoted by Global protection Cluster at:
http://globalprotectioncluster.org/_assets/files/about_us/GPC_strategy/gpcstrategicframework.pdf
[vi] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/659965/UK-Humanitarian-Reform-Policy1.pdf
[vii] Binder, A., Niland, N., Reichhold, U (2013) https://www.gov.uk/DfID-research-outputs/scoping-study-what-works-in-protection-and-how-do-we-know
[viii] UNICEF, 2017
[ix] Christopher Talbot, Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG), Working Paper #3, "Education in conflict emergencies in light of the post-2015 MDGs and EFA agendas." January 2013.
[x] Phillip Price, University of Denver, "Education in Emergencies: Benefits, Best Practices, and Partnerships." 2011
[xi] UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report, "Education transforms lives." 2013. & UNESCO, "Data tell us." 2014.
[xii] INEE, 2018