



**Making research work
for global development**

The evolving research for development landscape

Yaso Kunaratnam

Outline

- Who we are
- Global and UK trends in research and development
- UKCDR vision and strategy
- Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- Equitable partnerships



Who we are

UK Collaborative for Development Research

We are a collaborative of government and research funders working in international development

Core financially contributing members



high-level strategic coherence and collaboration to maximise research impact for international development

Other members

- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- The Government Office for Science
- UK devolved government administrations



The SCOR Board

Strategic Coherence for ODA-funded Research



Prof. Peter Piot
Chair of the SCOR Board
(Director of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)



Prof. Charlotte Watts
Chief Scientific Adviser
DFID



Prof. Andrew Thompson
Executive Chair, AHRC
UKRI



Dr Sharon Ellis
Director International
Science and Innovation
BEIS



Prof. Fiona Watt
Executive Chair, MRC
UKRI



Prof. Chris Whitty
Chief Scientific Adviser
DHSC



Prof. Jeremy Farrar
Director, Wellcome



+ Two independent members currently being recruited

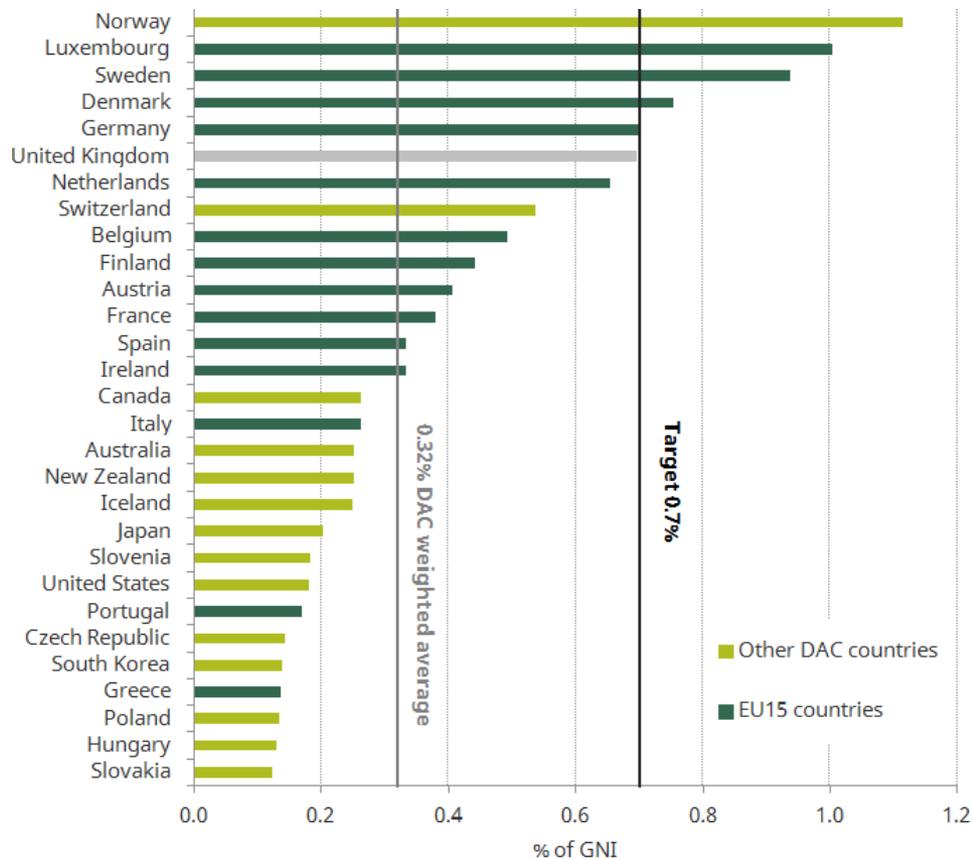
Global and UK trends in research and development



UN Target: 0.7% of GNI on ODA

(Official Development Assistance = foreign aid)

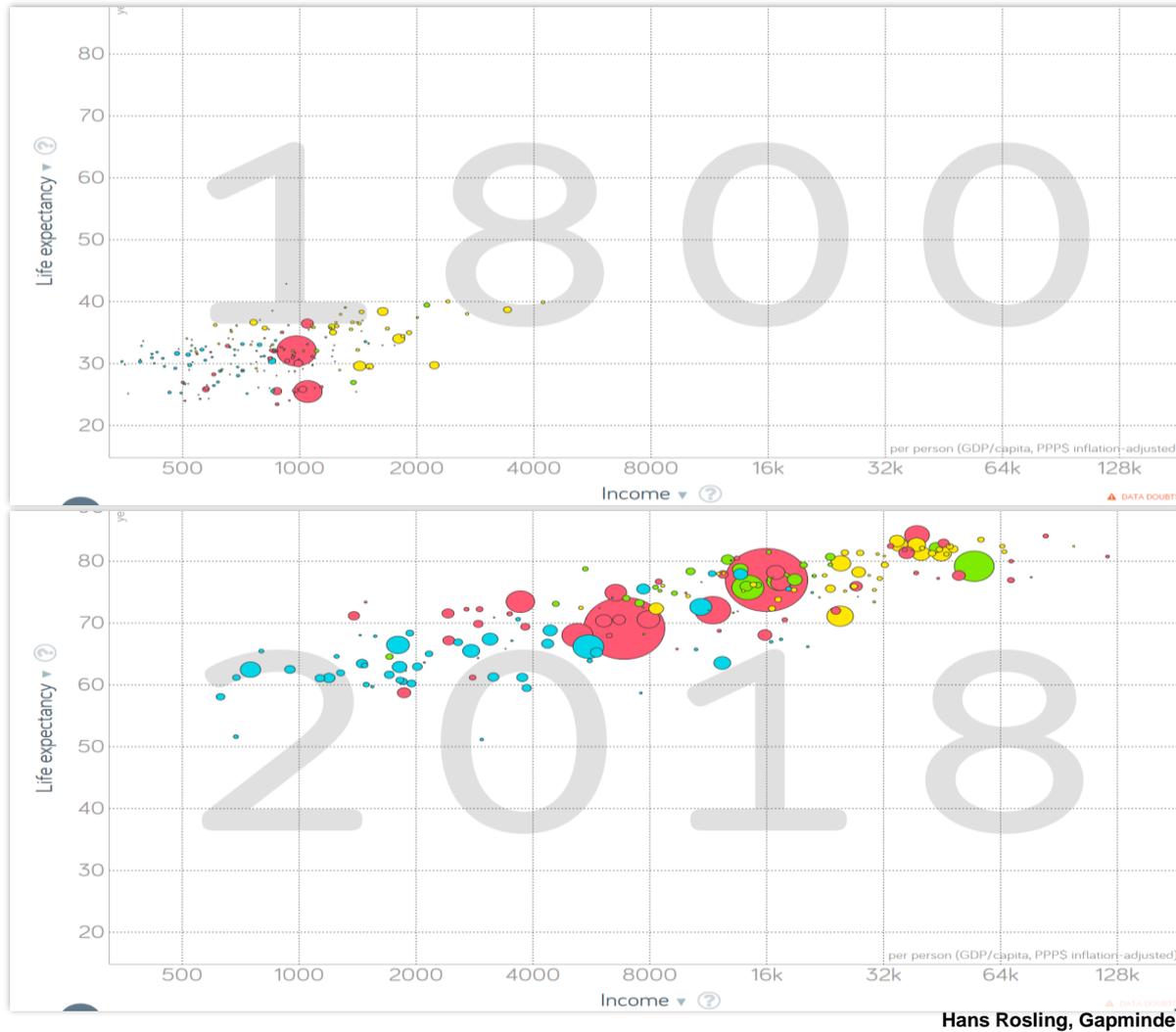
ODA as a percentage of GNI in 2016



In 2016 UK is one of only six OECD countries to meet the UN target of 0.7%



A changing world



Income & Life Expectancy



Research has been crucial in accelerating progress



Unprecedented progress

Major contributions from research



Photo: World Bank

Vaccines



Jessica Lear/DFID

Water purification technology



UNICEF Nigeria

Oral Rehydration Therapy



Mahabubur Rahman

breeding high-yielding rice/wheat



GSMV/DFID

Mobile phones



© IPRRI

Integrated pest management

Global risks threaten progress

- Climate Change
- Conflict and fragility
- Urbanisation
- Organised crime

Disease outbreaks more likely and harder to control



Ebola in 1976

Ebola in 2014

Interdependence



Interdisciplinary research and partnership is needed to solve interlinked challenges

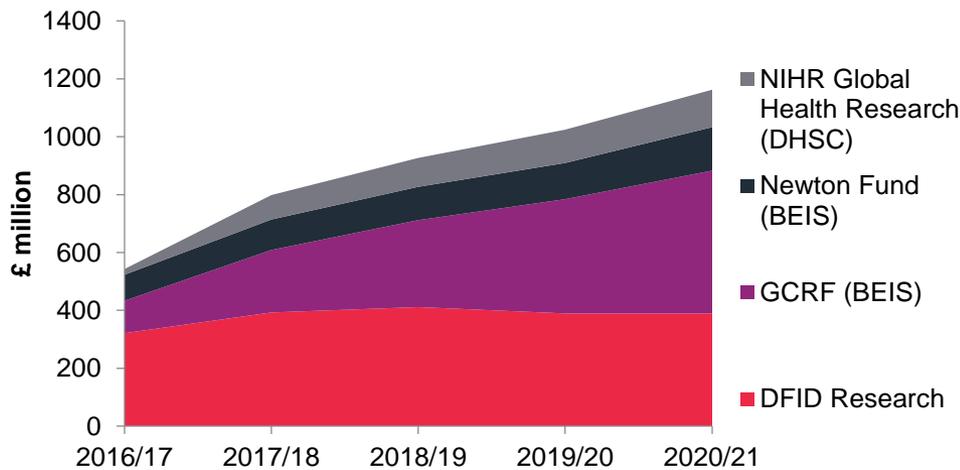


How UK government is responding to a changing world

- Whole government approach to international development effort
- Leveraging wider expertise through UK's world-leading science, research and development base to tackle global challenges



Increase in ODA research allocation



Major ODA research initiatives

DFID Research £1.5 billion (2016-2021)



To support high quality research, evidence, evaluations, innovation, science and technology to end extreme poverty

Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) £1.5 billion (2016-2021)



To support cutting-edge research and innovation that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries

Newton Fund £735 million (2014-2021)



To support the use of science innovation partnerships to promote economic development and social welfare of partner countries, through matched resources

NIHR Global Health Research £430 million (2016-2021)



To improve global public health outcomes through applied global health research

Darwin Initiative* £153 million (since 1992)



To protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. *not all research



How UKCDR will support this changing landscape

Our vision

- Accelerated global development through the power of research and knowledge

Our mission

- To amplify the value and impact of research for global development by promoting **coherence**, **collaboration** and **joint action** among UK research funders



Our strategy for the next 4 years



- Mapping, analysis and foresight



- Convening for collaboration and joint action



- Sharing information, learning and best practice



- A collective voice to shape policy

Official Development Assistance (ODA)



ODA – Official Development Assistance

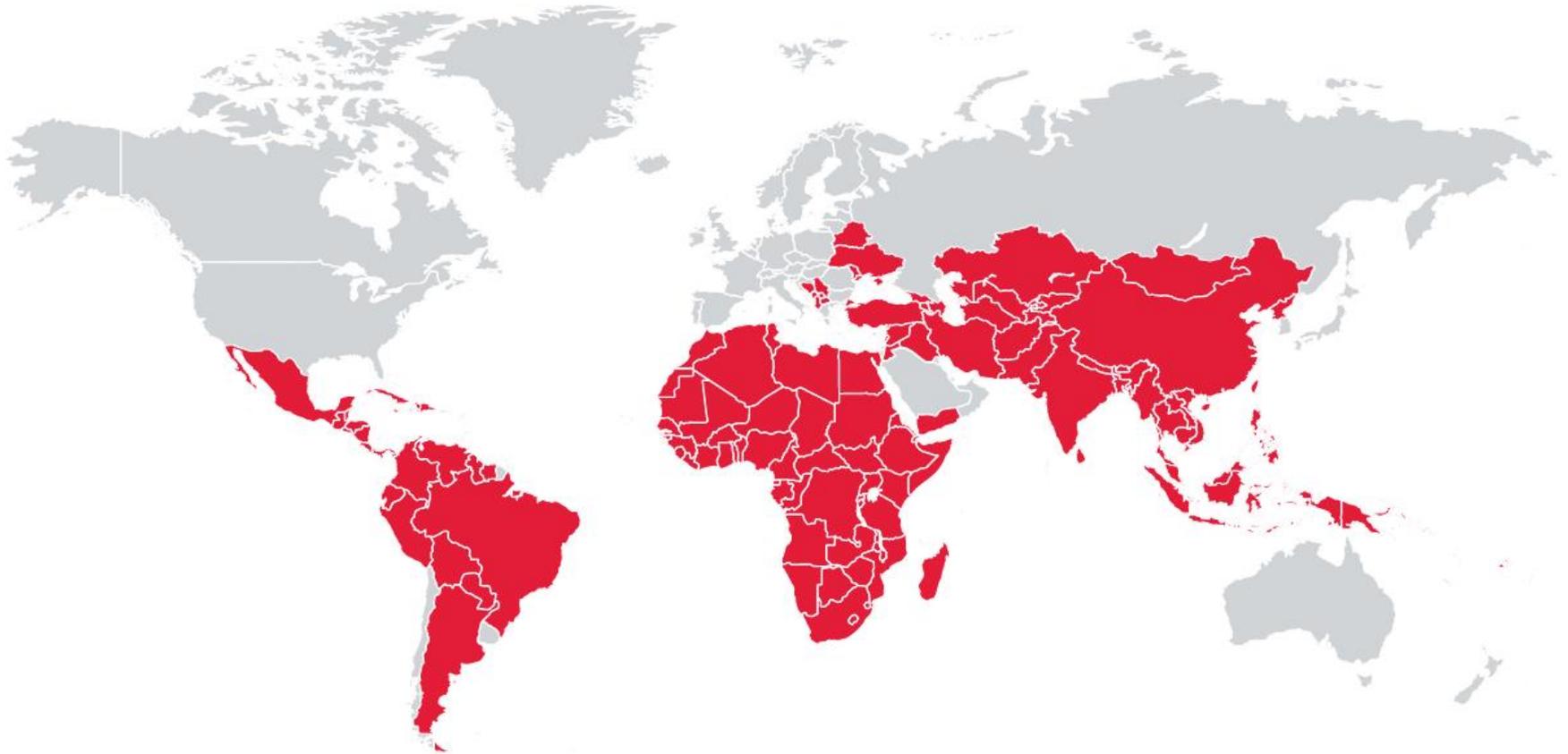
- An official flow from national government
- Provided only to ODA eligible countries (as determined by DAC of OECD)
- Primary purpose of ODA is to contribute to the economic development and welfare of ODA eligible countries
- ODA research has detailed directives and has to be specifically for research into the problems of developing countries

For more info: [OECD What is ODA?](#)



Countries eligible for ODA funding

as per the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list



ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the [OECD DAC list](#) and is administered with the promotion of economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.



Consistent with UK Approach? UK Aid strategy and SDGs



- Strengthen global peace, security and governance
- Strengthening resilience and response to crises
- Promoting global prosperity
- Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable

Is it consistent with international best practice?

- Is the research relevant and needed?
- Is there traction and engagement with the countries where the research is taking place/impacting?
- Does the research shed new light on complex challenges?
- Have you considered the pathway to impact and what you can do to facilitate impact?
- Will you be able to deliver excellent research AND build sustainable capacity?
- Are you creating and maintaining equitable partnerships?



Equitable partnerships



International research collaborations

- International collaborative research is the 'new normal'
- Range from individual researchers, bi-lateral to large consortia.
- In UK, international output made up 57.7% of total publications in 2016.
- **Widens talent pool, gains more attention than national research** and in UK higher citation of **international collaborative research.**
- **Essential to address global challenges.**



“It will be essential for grand challenges in physics, environment and health to have large, international teams supported by major facilities and rich data, which encourage the rapid spread of knowledge” (Adams, 2012)



Rising Economies and Investments in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)



UNESCO World Science Report, 2015



Benefits & Challenges of international collaborations

Benefits

- **Better access to scientific resources (laboratories, equipment) and talent, expertise and ideas.**
- **Mutual learning and knowledge exchange leading to broadened perspectives and new solutions to key challenges.**
- Greater access to financial resources.
- Enhanced/greater research impact.
- Innovative approaches and more rapid circulation of ideas.
- **Capacity building for individuals, institutions and national research systems.**
- Improved quality, cost efficiency and productivity of research programmes.
- Higher institutional and individual profile and esteem.
- Long-term relationship and continuity that is not dependent on individuals.

Challenges

- **More complex management and decision-making processes.**
- Additional workload above existing responsibilities.
- Higher financial costs and difficulty in overhead recovery.
- Power imbalance and research agenda dominated by the Northern institution.
- Side-lining of local and long-term research agendas.
- **Diversion of staff and resources away from parts of the LMIC institution not involved in the partnership.**
- **Logistical challenges (visas, international travel, difficulty transporting samples between countries).**
- Tensions due to cultural differences.
- **Power imbalance and research agenda dominated by the institution in HIC. Fairness.**

Fairness and equitability in research partnerships

Before the research happens:

- Joint shaping of the research agenda
- Explicit research plan with clear budgets, roles and responsibilities
- Assessing research and management capacity needs
- Awareness of financial management challenges – payment in arrears, due diligence

During the research:

- Fair contracting and compensation
- *Building capacity locally including research leadership*
- Avoid imbalance in status e.g. research planning, authorship, governance/management/supervision
- Inclusion of communities and policymakers

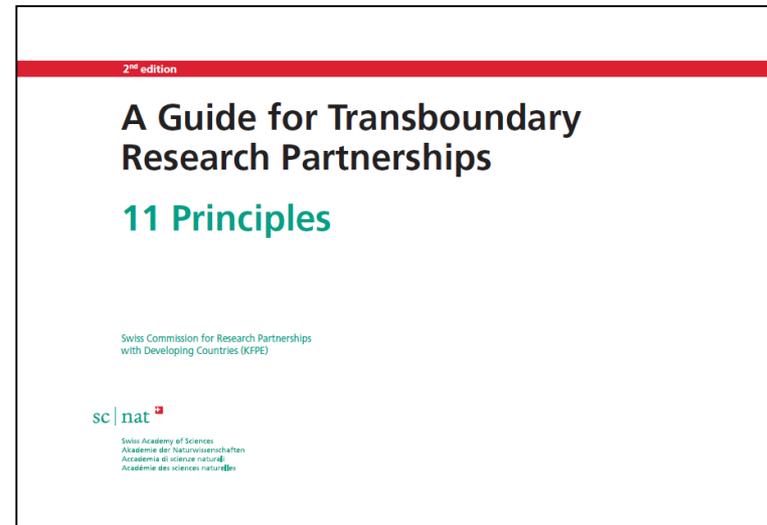
After the research – fair benefit sharing:

- *Credit and recognition for contributions*
- *Access to data and intellectual property*
- Sustainable legacy planning



Equitable research partnerships (KFPE)

1. Set the agenda together
2. Interact with stakeholders
3. Clarify responsibilities
4. Account to beneficiaries
5. Promote mutual learning
6. Enhance Capacities
7. Share data and networks
8. Disseminate results
9. Pool profits and merits
10. Apply results
11. Secure outcomes



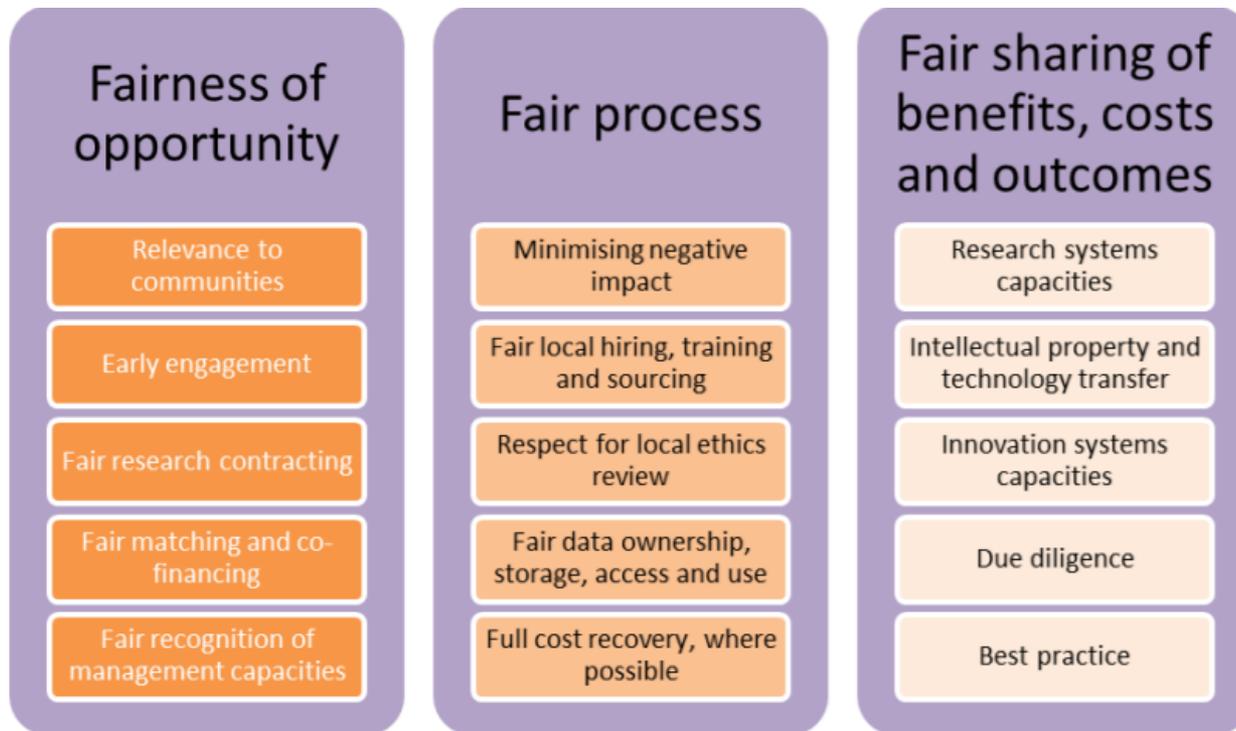
A Guide For Transboundary Research Partnerships
Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with
Developing countries (KFPE) 2012 / 2nd edition 2014

https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions



Research Fairness Initiative (COHRED)

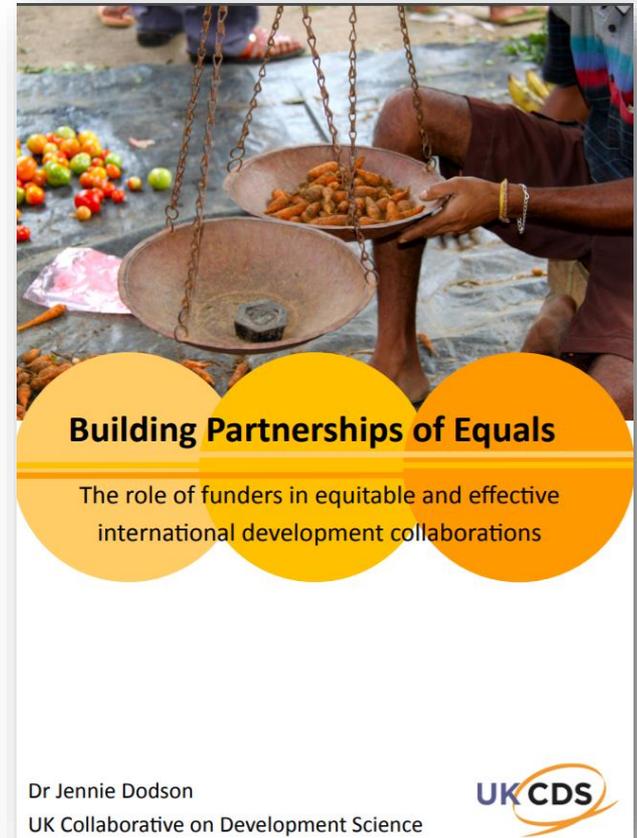
- Global reporting system for institutions which aims to drive fairer research partnerships <http://rfi.cohred.org/>
- 15 indicators which are basis of reporting - developed through a global consultation process – tool for benchmarking best practices in partnership.



10 ways funders can influence equitable partnerships

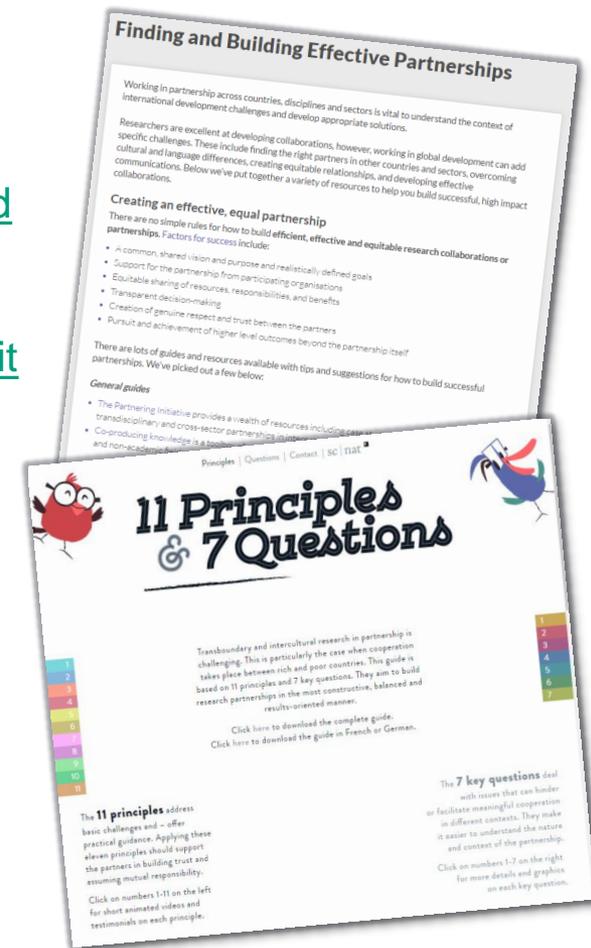
1. Inclusive agenda setting
2. Funding new research questions and valuing complementary skills and knowledge
3. Setting the tone in research calls
4. Rewarding skilled project managers
5. Looking for equality beyond the leaders
6. Equitable budgets, research and financial management
7. Providing ongoing institutional capacity strengthening
8. Widening participation
9. Investing for the long term
10. Working closely with other funders and agencies in the North and South.

<http://www.ukcdr.org.uk/resource/finding-and-building-effective-and-equitable-research-collaborations/>



Other resources on partnerships

- [Finding & Building Effective Partnerships](#), UKCDR
- [Promoting fair and equitable research partnerships to respond to global challenges](#), funded by UKRI
- [Rethinking research partnerships: Discussion guide and toolkit and learning resources](#), Christian Aid
- Rethinking Research Collaborative - <https://rethinkingresearchcollaborative.com>
- [Montreal Statement on Research Integrity](#) in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations
- [Co-production of knowledge](#) guide, Swiss Academy of Sciences.
- [The Partnering Toolbook](#) and [Brokering Guidebook](#), The Partnering Initiative.
- [Collaborative agreements: a 'how to' guide](#), ILAC.



Resources on research uptake and impact

- [ESRC's impact toolkit](#)
- [DFID's Research Uptake Guide](#)
- [Top 20 research impact stories](#) in international development - UKCDR
- [REF case studies and lessons](#) in international development 2015 – King's College London
- [Templates and examples of good practice](#) – Fast Track Impact
- [ROMA guide on policy influence](#) - ODI



UKCDR resources

The collage features several elements from the UKCDR website:

- UK Collaborative on Development Research**: A banner with the text: "UKCDR is a crucial part of the UK international development landscape. Its work to promote coherence and link up development research funding in the UK and its impact in developing countries cannot be overestimated." It also mentions Professor Peter Piot, Chair of the Strategic Coherence of ODA-funded Research (SCOR).
- Researcher hub**: A purple box with the text: "Your research: working across disciplines and in partnership to drive global development progress." Below it, it asks: "Do you want to use your skills and knowledge to help tackle the world's toughest development challenges?"
- THE GLOBAL GOALS**: A grid of 17 icons representing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- UK ODA funding overview**: A purple box with the text: "Want to know who's funding what, and where? We map major UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) research investments, looking to support the international development research community to understand and respond to a complex and dynamic funding landscape."
- Navigation and Footer**: Includes the UKCDR logo, navigation menu (About us, What we do, Funding landscape, Guidance, Blog, News, Events), and footer text: "Looking for open funding calls? See [current UK funding opportunities in global development research here](#). You can also find [more information on major UK funding programmes here](#). The UK government is committed to spending 0.7% of its Gross National Income on ODA. In 2015, it adopted a greater cross-governmental approach to ODA, involving a greater number of players in funding for international

- Researcher Hub
- Funding Hub
- Sign up to weekly and monthly updates on research for development news
- Twitter: @UKCDR





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for global development**

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