

## **Newton Fund: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How have the designated countries been selected and is that a final list for the 7 years or is it likely to be opened up further?**

The countries under the Fund have been assessed to be at a stage of development to benefit most from science and innovation capacity building. The current list is being expanded to include Kenya from Summer 2016 and will be kept under review in the future.

### **What kinds of projects will be funded?** The Fund will cover three broad categories of activity:

- (i) People: capacity building, people exchange and joint centres;
- (ii) Research: research collaborations on development topics; and
- (iii) Translation: innovation partnerships. It will support projects which promote the economic development and welfare of the partner country and will be focused around their priority areas. For example, these might include energy security, climate change adaptation, and translation of research into innovation.

The types of activity are likely to include:

- joint research on development topics;
- student and researcher fellowships and mobility schemes;
- challenge funds to develop innovative solutions on topics of interest to developing nations;
- science and innovation capacity building.

### **Is there a definitive list of eligible development topics?**

The development topics will vary across the countries and will be dependent on the partner countries' development needs. Delivery partners will publish these when they issue their call for proposals.

### **How will applications be made?**

Activities under the Fund will be managed by a core group of Delivery Partners: the Academies; British Council; Research Councils; Innovate UK; and Met Office. They will allocate all funding through competitive processes which will be open to all interested parties and assessed against a set criteria central to which will be a demonstration of how the project or programme will address vulnerable communities. Calls are likely to be opened at different times according to the country and the programme area. These will be advertised through delivery partners, via the Newton Fund website at [www.newtonfund.ac.uk](http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk) and by following [@NewtonFund](https://twitter.com/NewtonFund) on Twitter.

### **Could an independent researcher bid to get funding?**

An independent researcher could get funding if their proposal meets the agreed criteria central to which will be a demonstration of how the project or programme will address vulnerable communities. Calls will be led by delivery partners in charge of the process.

### **Will there always be a UK institution involved in each bid?**

The intention of the Fund is to use the UK's science and innovation strengths to support economic development and social welfare in partner countries. Part of this will be through building

partnerships to ensure sustainability. We would therefore expect relevant UK institutions, providers and researchers to take part in the majority of programmes under the Fund.

**What is the expected size of contracts to be awarded?**

All funding will be allocated through a competitive process which will be open to all interested parties and assessed against a set criteria. The size of the allocated amount will depend on the type of programmes or projects being funded.

**Will there be a quota or a maximum budget to be directed to each of the three activities (People, Research and Translation)?**

The level of spend across the three activities will depend on the partner countries' development requirements.

**How will these projects help contribute to the UK's development goals?**

The Fund is part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) which forms part of the UK's commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income on development aid. The Fund's primary focus is to develop partner countries long-term sustainable growth and social welfare through building science and innovation capacity. Bids for activity under the Fund will be assessed against strict criteria and will be allocated only if projects demonstrate that they will address vulnerable communities and the development problem identified effectively and efficiently.

**The list of partner countries does not match DFID's list of priority countries (ie Mexico, Turkey and China). Why the discrepancy?**

These countries have developed beyond the need for permanent aid programmes. Instead, the Newton Fund will use our joint strengths in scientific research to promote development across the world and build long-term collaborations with countries that will produce leading innovations in the future.

Investing in science is at the heart of the government's long term economic plan and sustainable growth is key to tackling global challenges.

The Fund will lay the foundation for on-going collaboration between the partner countries and the UK, promoting the UK as an international partner of choice and seeking opportunities for commercial collaboration as we work towards sustainable global growth.

They are all on the OECD Development Assistance Committee's list of Official Development Assistance recipients <https://data.oecd.org/oda/net-oda.htm> which means they are eligible to receive ODA funds.

**What are the perceived benefits of shifting focus from low- to middle income countries? Are middle income countries currently overlooked in government's development strategy?**

Newton Fund projects will address vulnerable communities and develop partner countries' long-term sustainable growth and social welfare through building science and innovation capacity. It will use our joint strengths in scientific research to promote development across the world and build long-term collaborations with countries that will produce leading innovations in the future. Investing in science is at the heart of the government's long term economic plan and sustainable growth is key to tackling global challenges. The Fund will lay the foundation for ongoing collaboration between the

partner countries and the UK, promoting the UK as an international partner of choice and seeking opportunities for commercial collaboration as we work towards sustainable global growth.

**What are the benefits of taking this project outside of DFID? Can BEIS bring certain resources to development activities that DFID are lacking, for example?**

The Newton Fund's primary aim is to promote economic development and social welfare in partner countries through building their science and innovation capacity. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is responsible for managing the Government's core science budget. It is therefore appropriate that the Department is the lead. However, DFID is closely involved in the top-level governance of the Fund.