Official Development Assistance in the Research Context

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Is it Official Development Assistance (ODA)?

Official Development Assistance is defined as:

those *flows* to *developing countries* and to *multilateral institutions* for flows to ODA recipients which are:

i. provided by *official agencies*, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and

ii. each transaction of which:

   a. is administered with the *promotion of the economic development and welfare* of developing countries as its main objective; and

   b. is *concessional in character* and conveys a grant element of at least 25per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent)

» The key decisive criteria in determining ODA eligibility is establishing “*economic development and welfare of developing countries*” as the primary objective
Who are the ODA eligible developing countries?

- OECD publishes a list of eligible countries ‘the DAC list’
- Updated every 3 years
- Based on World Bank – **GNI per capita**
- Includes countries such as China, India, Brazil, Kenya, Bangladesh
- In 2017 – Antigua & Barbuda, Chile, Uruguay & Venezuela will graduate.
What is ODA eligible research?

✓ Only research **directly and primarily relevant** to the problems of **developing countries** may be counted as ODA.

✓ Research should investigate a **specific problem** or seek a specific outcome which will **impact on developing countries** in the immediate or longer-term.

✓ Research proposals can **focus on a development topic or address an unmet capacity need** in the partner country.

✓ Research does not need to be solely relevant to developing countries, but **developing countries should be the primary beneficiaries**.

✓ Proposals should articulate a **pathway to development impact** (even if outside the timeframe of the project)

✓ Primary beneficiaries should be developing countries but **secondary benefits to UK** can also be articulated
Common pitfalls

- Reiteration of the OECD DAC definition
- Reiteration of the SDGs
- No clear articulation of the challenge, backed up with evidence/statistics
- Be realistic, don’t over promise
- If building capacity - needs to be in an area which can contribute to economic growth or welfare of DAC countries in the long term
- Development impact requires more than just a dissemination event – how can the country access/ make use of data/technology/model beyond the grant i.e.: what is the legacy?
Checklist for ODA Research

1. Supports countries and territories on the DAC list
2. Primary objective: promotion of economic development and welfare of developing country
3. Investigates a specific problem or seeks outcome that will have an impact – immediate or longer term
4. Country on DAC list as primary beneficiary
5. Research and innovation capacity building activities improve developing countries’ research for development
6. Team has appropriate knowledge and expertise to deliver
External Scrutiny

- Independent Commission for Aid Impact
- International Development Committee
- Role of Statisticians / UKSA
- National Audit Office
- OECD publish programme level data

Transparency of UK ODA

CREDIBILITY
UK Government ODA Research and Innovation Funding Streams

- £735M Newton Fund (BEIS)
- £1.5 Bn Global Challenges Research Fund (BEIS)
- £1.3 Bn Prosperity Fund (BEIS/FCO)
- £1 Bn Ross Fund (DH)
  - £195 M Fleming Fund (Welcome Trust/DH)
- DFID Research Funding
- International Climate Fund (BEIS/DEFRA/DFID)
- And many more…….
Thank you

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