

Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) Official Development Assistance (ODA)

This document provides general guidance on ODA compliance to bidders for Newton Fund through the Met Office WCSSP Programme.

Newton Fund

The Newton Fund aims to promote the economic development and social welfare of either the partner countries or, through working with the partner country, to address the well being of communities. It will do so through strengthening partner country science and innovation capacity and unlocking further funding to support this work. The Newton Fund is part of the UK's official development assistance (ODA) commitment.

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

The OECD defines ODA as:

“Those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which are:

- *provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and*
- *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 25% (discounted at a rate of 10%).”*

All awards made by the Met Office through the WCSSP Programme automatically comply with the first bullet and (b). Bidders must therefore demonstrate that the proposed work complies with (a).

International Development Act

Newton Fund grants are issued pursuant to section 1 of the International Development Act 2002. Any Newton Fund activities therefore must be likely to contribute to a reduction in poverty, and aim to further sustainable development or improve the welfare of the population of one or more countries outside the United Kingdom. Sustainable development is explained in this scenario as development that is likely to generate lasting benefits for the population of the country to which it is provided.

Bidders must therefore demonstrate that the proposed work complies with the International Development Act.

ODA compliance

The Newton Fund requires that the funding be awarded in a manner that fits with ODA guidelines. All bids under the WCSSP Programme must therefore be compliant with these guidelines. The Met Office asks all bidders to demonstrate ODA compliance by providing an ODA compliance statement. The ODA compliance statement is assessed as a stand-alone document and, should the bid be successful, may be subsequently scrutinised by BEIS, DFID, the OECD or other bodies involved in ODA scrutiny.

Guidance on writing your ODA compliance statement

1. As the ODA compliance statement should be a standalone document and might not be read in conjunction with the rest of your bid, please ensure it contains all information necessary to demonstrate that your proposed work is ODA compliant. Any evidence of ODA compliance held within other sections of your bid may not be taken into account.
2. Your ODA compliance statement should explicitly demonstrate that your project has the primary aim of promoting economic development and social welfare in the partner country, contributing to poverty reduction and furthering sustainable development in the partner country.

Any anticipated benefits to the UK can be articulated but should be a secondary consideration.

3. Your ODA compliance statement should clearly define the challenge(s) that your project will seek to address. You can do this by explaining the impact that the problem or challenge has on the economic development of the recipient country or the welfare of its population.

The statement should include plausible evidence of the development need or challenge that you are seeking to address. Examples of plausible evidence can include peer-reviewed papers, in-country government documents, requests from partner organisations based on their understanding of in-country stakeholder needs and other credible sources.

4. Your ODA compliance statement should include a credible description of the likely pathways to impact of your proposed research. It can be helpful to articulate the anticipated outcomes of your proposed work, and what steps would need to be taken to use those outcomes to tackle the development need or challenge that you are trying to address. Consider whether this might happen through another part of the project (e.g. another work package). Are there specific stakeholders or beneficiaries that will benefit from the proposed work? How will they benefit? What will need to be done during and after the project to increase the likelihood of the research reaching the identified beneficiaries and maximise the likelihood of the identified benefits being achieved?

Please note that we don't ask bidders to produce a separate pathways to impact document so this needs to be included in the ODA compliance statement.

5. Please include any aspects of the proposed activities that will support capacity building aimed at improving partner countries' ability to undertake and disseminate research in order to maximise its impact on the issues of poverty and their economic growth. This could include workshops, scientist exchanges, up-skilling of local researchers.

Links to further information

- <http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>
- <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm>