

GenderED Capacity Building Project: *Integrating Gender into GCRF Funding Bids and Projects: Getting to Sufficiency*

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- **The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)** is part of the UK's Official Development Assistance programme. It aims to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. GenderED's capacity building project **aims to help Principal Investigators (PIs), particularly in STEM, to integrate gender into their research projects and to promote gender balance on research teams in GCRF Projects.**
- GCRF projects are distinguished from 'traditional' research projects in three ways. Firstly, they aim to link scientific research directly to development outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - funding research on development problems in **low and middle-income countries (LMICs)**. Second, they are delivered through **research partnerships with Universities in LMICs**. Thirdly, because GCRF is part of the UK's development strategy, the projects it funds need to **integrate gender considerations into their projects and promote gender balance on research teams**, in order to comply with the gender equality standards embedded in the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014. The SDGs are underpinned by commitment to 'leave no one behind' and the promotion of gender equality is understood as a cross-cutting objective, integral to the pursuit and achievement of all SDG goals

<https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gender-equality-and-international-development-research-and-innovation/>

- GCRF's core themes include highly technical and practical areas such as sustainable urban infrastructure, food systems and resilience to environmental change. As such, GCRF projects pose new challenges for research teams working across disciplines and cultures – and new opportunities to make a direct contribution to development outcomes.
- Through this capacity building project GenderEd has provided the University Research Office with expertise on gender and development; and gender and science, highlighting the need for PIs to assess the *local* relevance of gender in their research projects and local barriers to women's participation in research.
- The project's outputs include toolkits and exemplars to help PI's fulfil GCRF gender equality requirements; advice on support structures for the delivery of gender equality requirements; and the identification and development of strategic 'wrap-around' legacy projects, that will help the University of Edinburgh support LMIC women's participation in scientific research and deliver solutions which meet LMIC women's needs.
- The University of Edinburgh has been highly successful in securing research funds from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). GenderED's capacity building project aims to **ensure that the University of Edinburgh leads the field, in its commitment to gender equality in LMIC partnership working and the integration of gender into research projects.** As such, the project contributes the University's strategic response to the changing role of universities, as demands interdisciplinary and applied research increase, bringing new opportunities and ethical challenges.

