

UK-funded Research on Climate Change & International Development

(UKCDR analysis 2015-2020)

Research is crucial to understanding the relationship between climate change and international development, and how we can achieve both the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the terms of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

To date, the UK has been a leading global funder of research on climate and international development.



UK research investment in climate change and international development



£564.2m

Between 2015-2020, the UK committed £564.2m on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Wellcome-funded climate-development research



694

On at least 694 research projects across 111 countries of focus



616

616 institutions from 64 countries partnered on these projects

This has led to significant impact including:



Shaping policy



Better understanding of weather patterns



Innovative solutions to reduce emissions and build resilience



Increased community engagement



Improvements to health and air quality



Strengthened research capacity

Key strengths of UK-funded research



- Openness to collaboration and mutual partnerships
- Global standing and thought leadership

Areas for further improvement



- Aligning research to local contexts
- Sustainability of the funding cycle

Future research demand

Research priorities varied by survey respondents' location:



Stakeholders called for research that was transdisciplinary, solutions-orientated and locally aligned.

Impact of COVID-19



- The research community must align to further maximise its impact with limited resources



- COVID-19 presents significant challenges for the research community and vulnerable groups, as well as opportunities to promote a low-carbon recovery, behaviour change and in-country leadership