



UK Collaborative on
Development Research




**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2019/20



About UKCDR

UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) is a collaborative of government and research funders working in international development, governed by the Strategic Coherence for ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board. Our core contributing members include the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS); the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO); the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); UK Research and Innovation (UKRI); and Wellcome. UKCDR exists to amplify the value and impact of research for global development by promoting coherence, collaboration and joint action among UK research funders. For further information on UKCDR, please visit ukcdr.org.uk.



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Foreword from the Chair of the SCOR Board



There has been unprecedented progress in global development over the past few decades. The world has managed to halve child mortality and people living in extreme poverty. People around the world are living longer and healthier lives than ever before because there has been global will to move international development up the agenda. The UK has been at the forefront of this by enshrining 0.7% of our Gross National Income (GNI) to international aid into law, which reflects our commitment to eradicating poverty and improving lives.

However, there is still a way to go, in a world that is rapidly changing and where major development, demographic and environmental transitions are bringing new complex challenges that require different transdisciplinary and innovative approaches. Whilst children continue to die from preventable causes and too many people live in extreme poverty, we now grapple with new and more complex issues on the horizon that threaten our progress. Not only do these challenges pose a threat to development progress and risk pushing people back into poverty, they may lead to increased global insecurity, affecting citizens across the world.

We cannot afford to tackle any of these challenges in isolation. Solutions will only be found by bringing together research teams of scientists, engineers, clinicians, economists, historians, and anthropologists that can integrate different concepts, tools and perspectives. UK universities and research institutions have contributed significantly to these developments through a long tradition of outstanding work for and with developing countries, supported by UK research councils and government departments, alongside other donors.

With development research funding now distributed across several government departments, it is more important than ever that research funding efforts are joined up and not duplicated. The Strategic Coherence on ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board brings together Chief Scientific Advisers and directors within these departments with highly regarded independent academics in this sector. SCOR ensures that these coordination efforts are impactful and that the UK provides a strong voice of leadership to the international development research community. UKCDR, which is overseen and guided by the SCOR Board, plays a crucial role in this process.

Over the past year UKCDR contributed to important challenges, such as making development research safe for everyone involved in it, ensuring that partnerships with researchers in low- and middle-income countries are equitable, and building up vital research capacity in partner countries. It also laid the groundwork for funder collaboration by providing highly insightful topical analyses and reports, and by bringing research funders and other organisations together to identify opportunities for collaboration and joint activities. Without UKCDR the UK development research sector would no doubt be more fragmented and less able to meet the challenges facing the world today.

Professor Peter Piot
Chair of Strategic Coherence for ODA funded Research Board

Introduction from our Executive Director



The financial year 2019/2020 has been an ambitious and highly successful time for UKCDR in our role supporting UK research funders of international development in achieving maximum impact through mapping, convening, sharing best practice and being a collective voice to shape policy.

UKCDR has undergone significant structural changes that have set the team up for future success. Effective operations and governance mechanisms have been fully implemented, and the team have delivered a record number of high-profile reports and analyses. UKCDR has been instrumental in enabling sectoral changes and effective collaboration between funders.

Among the key milestones, we have been supporting the UK Government's new strategic partnerships with African nations. UKCDR brought UK and Kenyan government representatives and researchers together to discuss affordable housing and sustainable cities at a symposium in May. We also published three country level reports on UK funding for development in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, as well as a mapping and analysis of UK-funded fellowships and scholarships for Africa for research capacity strengthening. Through these reports we hope that UK research going forward continues to be demand-led and fosters stronger partnerships between the UK and Africa.

In addition, we are proud to be playing a part in supporting coordination of the COVID-19 research response. We convene our [UKCDR Epidemics Response and Preparedness Group](#) once a fortnight to support coherence and collaboration in the research funding response to COVID-19. We have also developed a live database of COVID-19 research projects with GloPID-R to help funders identify research gaps and opportunities and inform funding calls and decisions.

We also delivered a comprehensive overview of research on the built environment and its intersection with achieving the SDGs in the global South and launched it at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi. UK research funders have acknowledged the need to engage with the built environment, given its intersection with and impact on some of the most critical challenges the world faces, climate change, poverty reduction, sustainable development and rapid urbanisation.

Finally, we have made excellent progress on making research safe. In 2019 we worked with participants across the international development research community to examine the causes of incidents and harm and to raise standards. Guided by the outputs of an evidence review and international consultations, in March we finalised our guidance and principles to anticipate, mitigate and address harm in research.

Our funder fora continue to be effective mechanisms for collaboration, cohesion and transparency. A highlight was celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Disasters Research Group, marking the groups collective achievements and the work of each of its members on international disaster reduction initiatives.

We have achieved all this work through successful collaboration and partnership with our core members and wider stakeholder group, who have provided data and time to all our reports, advice and guidance including through the Safeguarding Funders Group, and contributed to constructive discussions in our funder fora.

Dr. Marta Tufet
Executive Director, UKCDR



Programme Spotlights

The 2019/20 financial year has been highly productive for UKCDR. The team has delivered a variety of reports and analyses that have gone on to influence strategic discussions at all levels of HMG, including a range of reports and activities to support the UK Government's partnerships with Africa, continued work on built environment research for development, and a flagship project on safeguarding in international development research. UKCDR also has been supporting UK research funders' response to the COVID-19 pandemic through its Epidemics Preparedness and Response Funder Group and by rapidly launching a COVID-19 research project tracker. These projects were delivered in the context of ongoing support to collaboration and alignment of development research funders in the UK.

Supporting UK partnerships in Africa

We have been proud to support the UK Government's new and distinctive commitment to work alongside, invest in and partner with African nations. In particular, driving greater coherence and impact across UK's investments in science, technology and innovation, as well as supporting long-term research partnerships between UK and African institutions.

UK-Kenya Affordable Housing and Sustainable Cities Symposium

The Joint UK-Kenya Oversight Board on Science, Research, and Innovation provides a platform to foster dialogue across both countries on the role of research, and from the UK side, with UKCDR and SCOR Board support, aims to provide a more holistic picture of the UK offer on science, innovation and technology. We have provided an overview of UK's investments and demonstrated the value of a joint UK offer and the value of coherence across the UK's ODA research and innovation footprint in Africa.

When the Oversight Board identified affordable housing as one of Kenya's top four policy priorities and an issue to address jointly, UKCDR worked in partnership with DFID, FCO and UKRI to deliver the UK-Kenya Research Symposium on 'Healthy Cities: Affordable Housing & Sustainable Infrastructure' in Nairobi, May 2019. The [symposium](#) aimed to broker dialogue across sectors towards the adoption of housing policies that promote sustainable

development. It showcased the strong partnerships between the UK and African stakeholders that are delivering innovations to benefit all. We also contributed analysis to understand the extend of investments in the area.

The outcome of the symposium was a [joint statement](#) signed by the UK and Kenyan governments which renewed the commitment for continued partnership and international research collaboration to address the issues of affordable housing and sustainable infrastructure research, policy and practice in Kenya.

This symposium has created an innovative model for brokering dialogue across sectors and building stronger partnerships between the UK and African stakeholders for international development research. This model has demonstrated logistical cross-organisation ways of working for future similar events. It has also contributed to raising the profile of UK Aid, GCRF and UKCDR internationally.

As a result, there has been much interest to replicate this symposium format annually on different technical or flagships areas of research in locations of relevance from the SCOR Board and other stakeholders, including the DFID East Africa Research Hub and the UK-Kenya High Level Oversight Board model in Uganda, using the same mechanism of British High Commission & Ugandan Government.



UK-Kenya Health Cties Symposium

Highlighting trends and opportunities for strengthening UK research investment and partnerships with Africa

On 30 January 2020 UKCDR published [three country-level reports](#), analysing the nature and reach of UK (ODA and Wellcome) funding for international development research and partnership activities between 2014-2019 in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The mapping provides a detailed overview of the scale of UK investments in partnership with research leaders in each country. It identifies important recommendations on strengths and gaps to facilitate partnerships its research partnerships in each country to inform priority setting based on national research priorities and effective communication with in-country stakeholders in support of UK diplomatic and prosperity objectives.

This was the first time the SCOR Board has commissioned such an extensive, high-level analysis on these three countries.

The report came together due to large contributions from 8 international development research funders providing data for these analyses, including:

- the Academy of Medical Sciences
- British Academy
- DHSC
- DFID
- Royal Society
- UKRI
- UK Space Agency
- Wellcome

Collectively, the reports received over 2,000 downloads over 2 months following publishing.

The Kenya report has been very positively received by the UK-Kenya High Level Oversight Board in Research Science and Innovation and has informed government-level discussions on research priorities and investments.

This work has highlighted the value of detailed analysis of funding at country level, a level of granularity that is currently difficult to achieve.



Photo: Lindsay Mgbor



Photo: Thomas Omondi



Photo: Lindsay Mgbor

Supporting enablers of research



UKCDR is dedicated to supporting enablers of research for greater impact through working to improve research capacity strengthening, working with global funders to advocate for equitable partnerships in research and making research safe through our guidance for Safeguarding in International Development Research.

Improving research capacity strengthening in Africa through UK-funded fellowships and scholarships

Following our three country-level reports on Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, on 25 February 2020 we published a [mapping and analysis](#) of UK investments in Master's, PhD, postdoctoral and early career awards that support African fellows and scholars between 2014-2019, with special advice and much-valued inputs from Jeff Wage, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This report presents an overview of UK investments, learning on models, approaches, evaluation and impact across schemes, and identifies gaps and opportunities for the future.

The UK has a long history of supporting research capacity strengthening (RCS) in Africa through fellowship and scholarship schemes. Through this mapping and analysis, we aimed to increase the visibility of these investments to help identify gaps and opportunities for better coordination. Ultimately, to improve research capacity strengthening and contribute to the UK Government's new partnerships with Africa.

This is the first study, to the best of our knowledge, on UK national level investments into fellowships and scholarships in Africa.

Making research safe



On behalf of major funders of funders of international development research, we finalised a set of [principles and best practice guidance on safeguarding](#) to anticipate, mitigate and address potential and actual harms in the process of international development research.

This new guidance was developed over 18 months, in consultation with international development experts across the globe and collaboration with the Safeguarding Funders Group, following the commitment made in 2018 by UK funders to jointly raise standards of behaviour across the sector. Upon the outbreak of COVID-19, the launch was delayed beyond the timeframe of this report to add a 'companion piece' on the [practical application of this guidance during COVID-19](#). Continued communication and engagement activities also stretch beyond the timeframe of this report.

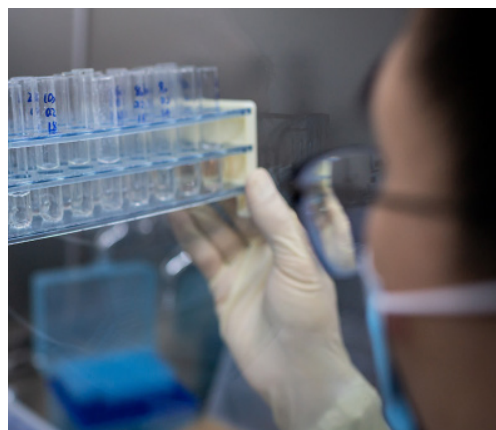
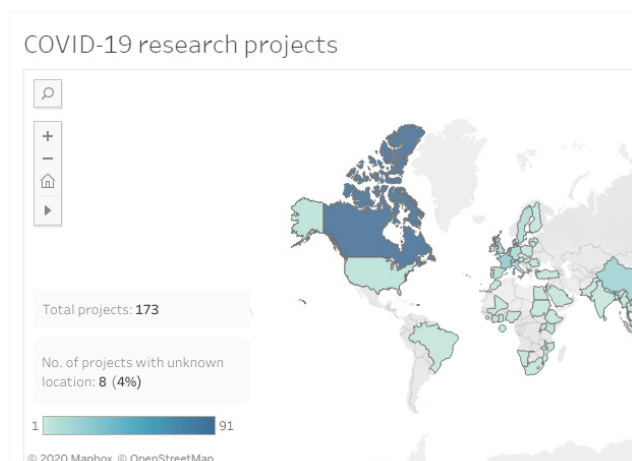
As part of this process, we commissioned an [evidence review](#) to characterise the nature of safeguarding issues and challenges that may arise in this context, identify existing guidance and review their implementation, published in June 2019.

The final guidance, developed by a team at the University of Liverpool with UKCDR, is designed to be used flexibly and collaboratively by a wide range of people involved in the international development research process, whether based in low-, middle- or high-income countries. To ensure the guidance is adaptable to different contexts, this guidance is not prescriptive and takes the form of questions for key stakeholders involved in international development research.

Our work on safeguarding has gained sector-wide interest, with UKCDR invited to present on the new guidance to research funders (including to over 300 members of the NIHR Global Health Research Units and Groups and the £1.5 billion Global Challenges Research Fund call cohorts), and widely at network events of universities, NGOs and private sector actors.

In 2020, UKCDR will continue to engage stakeholders to build awareness and drive implementation of the guidance in the research community.

Project in focus



UKCDR agile response to COVID-19

The ongoing COVID-19 epidemic is affecting all countries globally, including LMICs, and UK funders are key to accelerating research in this area. Given the speed and scale of the research response, UK funders were concerned about their ability to effectively coordinate funding programs with each other and in the global research context. From the early days of the pandemic UKCDR has played a key role in this, supporting global and UK research funders to respond quickly and in alignment with the global research priorities as set in the WHO Global Research Roadmap¹

A key resource launched by UKCDR as the pandemic unfolded in March 2020 was the [COVID-19 Research Project Tracker](#) (a collaboration with GloPID-R, the global research collaboration for infectious disease preparedness). It provides a resource in the public domain that captures the full spectrum of research funding covered by the WHO COVID-19 R&D priorities, including social sciences and ethics research. By coding this very comprehensive dataset against the WHO priorities and other dimensions, and providing in-depth analyses, UKCDR and GloPID-R are able to help funders identify research funding gaps and opportunities. The tracker has now informed a number of research investment decisions.

UKCDR also led on another key coordination mechanism: [Epidemics Preparedness and Response Funder Group](#), established in 2019. The group started meeting fortnightly while the pandemic is ongoing. It is a key forum for openly sharing information (including aligning funding calls and decisions) across HMG and organisations involved in relevant research and has helped support an agile and well-coordinated UK research response. In addition, the group acts as an important link to GLoPID-R and other international coordination mechanisms.

In FY20/21 UKCDR will continue to promote research priorities relevant to LMICs and support UK and international funders in coordinating and learning from COVID-19 research in lower resource settings. This will be a 12-month collaborative programme with GloPID-R.

¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/a-coordinated-global-research-roadmap>

Value for money for an effective mechanism

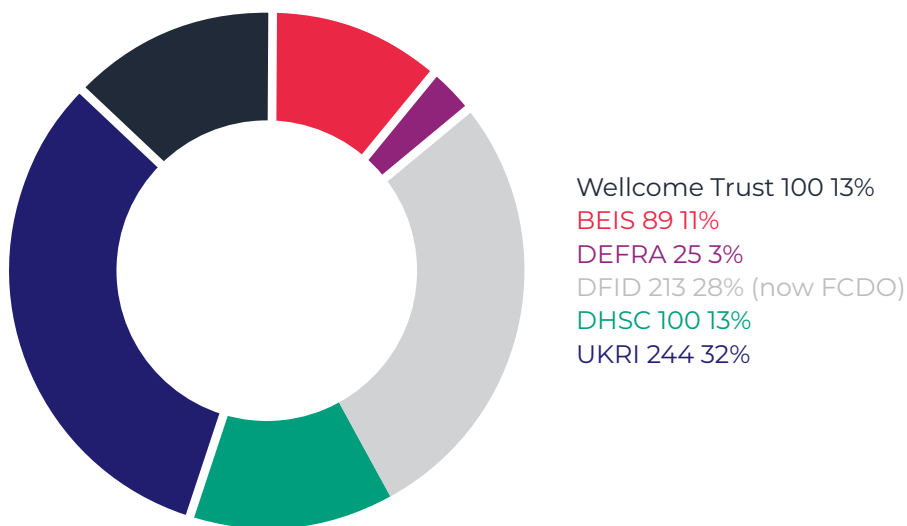
UKCDR continues to represent good value for money for its funders, as defined by the National Audit Office². Its effectiveness has been showcased in the sections above - it has delivered successfully on all aspects of its workplan, which was in turn driven by key strategic priorities for the main funder of development research in the UK. It is also economical and efficient as a result of its operating model:

UKCDR amplifies the value and impact of research for global development

UKCDR adds value by allowing each member and the UK's investment in research for development to be greater than the sum of its individual parts. UKCDR provides access to a range of expertise across its members, and the external research and international development community – more quickly than any member could hope to access independently.

By leveraging funds from six funder organisations, UKCDR can also maximise the impact of each core member's investment, whilst reducing the financial risk of any given member.

Figure: Actual spend per funder in FY2019/20 (£'000)

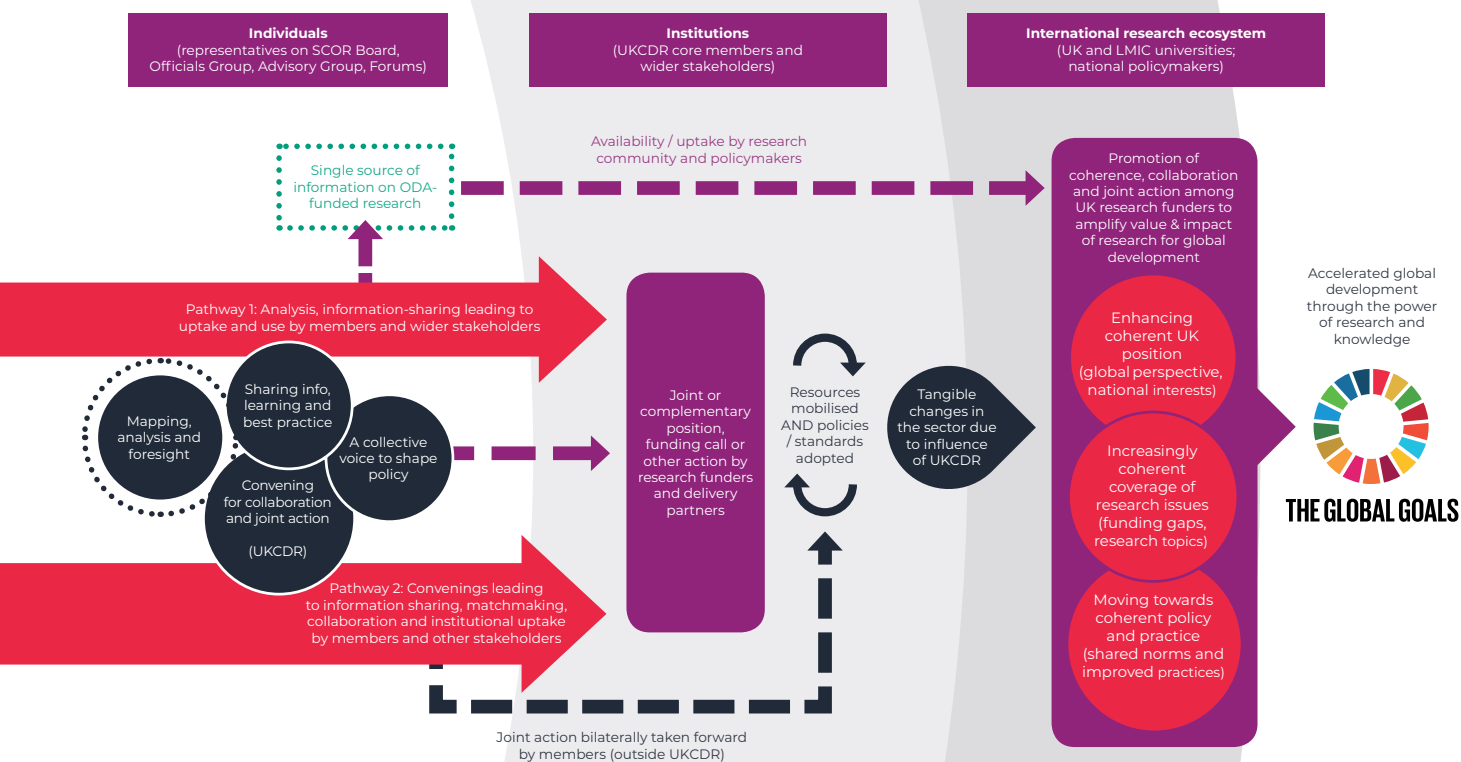


² National Audit Office: Assessing Value for money; <https://www.nao.org.uk/successful-commissioning/general-principles/value-for-money/assessing-value-for-money/>

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

How we expect our work to have impact

Following the launch of a new strategy in 2018, UKCDR developed a Theory of Change in 2019. It describes interventions (what UKCDR does), desired outcomes (how others respond), and ultimate impact (what difference it makes).



UKCDR measures Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) aligned with the impacts, outcomes and outputs described in our Theory of Change. We focus on evaluating UKCDR convening activities, mapping, analysis and foresight projects, UKCDR communications, and overall UKCDR impact. In FY19/20 UKCDR performed well against its performance targets:

Output: Effective convening and networking among funders of International Development Research

KPI: Meeting themes & outcomes (% of meetings with completed Synthesis Forms) Achieved 100% (Planned 90%)

Output: UKCDR outputs effectively support joint or complementary policy and action (mapping, analysis and foresight, sharing of learning and best practice, collective voice)

KPI: UKCDR has delivered outputs that are aligned with SCOR Board strategic priorities (% of outputs on annual workplan delivered) Achieved 100% (Planned 90%)

KPI: UKCDR has effectively managed its projects (% of project milestones met) Achieved 98% (Planned 90%)

Output: Communications that are effective in reaching key audiences

KPI: UKCDR delivers successfully on its communication plan (% of key objectives documented in annual communications plan completed / performing on target) Achieved 100% (Planned 90%)

Outcome: Joint or complementary positions, funding or action across funders of International Development Research

KPI: Member perceptions of outcomes and value of UKCDR convening (stakeholder survey) Achieved 100% (Planned 90%)

KPI: Uptake and influence of UKCDR outputs (stakeholder survey) No data for FY19/20³

Impact: Accelerated global development through the power of research and knowledge

KPI: Coherence of UK position for the development research sector Delivered planned milestones

KPI: Coherence & coordination around research issues and challenges (responding to funding gaps) Delivered planned milestones

KPI: Coherence of policies and practices (setting standards) Delivered planned milestones

³ Sufficient data could not be collected due to logistical challenges relating to the COVID-19 epidemic

Forward look

The SCOR Board is committed to a progressive agenda which reflects emerging Government priorities and topical global issues. For the year ahead SCOR has identified the following priorities, which UKCDR will support:

Research for climate action. Developing countries are the most vulnerable to environmental shocks and climate change and are often the least able to afford its consequences. SCOR has asked UKCDR to contextualise UK research and innovation funding for climate change and international development, identifying opportunities for collaboration, joint action and sharing good practice.

Covid-19 research in LMICs. UKCDR in partnership with GloPID-R will support the alignment of research funders towards a coordinated effort for supporting COVID-19 research in, for and with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This will improve relevant research outputs, ensure outputs are shared rapidly to permit consolidation and review, inform policy and practice and ensure lessons are learned to improve responses within this outbreak and for future outbreaks.

Research enablers. UKCDR will continue to strengthen engagement and alignment with other major international funders on equitable partnerships in research and innovation, as well as developing joint principles to build on its safeguarding action and underpin the UK's commitment to "do no harm" in development research. It will also continue to engage with the research capacity strengthening agenda, including the delivery of a cross-HMG review (publication in 2021).

Data and evidence. The fragmentation of the UK's funding landscape for international development research can pose challenges relating to lack of coherent data across research areas on capability, funding gaps, or research outcomes. UKCDR will lead an initiative to improve availability of robust, relevant and timely datasets and analyses to UK funders, UK missions overseas and partners in developing countries.

The team

Dr Marta Tufet, Executive Director

Marta Tufet joined UKCDR as Executive Director in January 2018. Marta leads UKCDR providing high-level engagement and strategic coordination of the SCOR Board. Formerly Marta worked for a range of funding organisations, including Wellcome, Department of Health, the African Academy of Sciences and the Gates Foundation. Marta has a research background in malaria with a BSc and PhD from Imperial College London.

Henrike Grund, Head of Operations

Henrike Grund joined UKCDR in February 2019. She works closely with the Executive Director and across the UKCDR team to manage and improve operational systems, processes and policies in support of UKCDR's mission. Through prior experience as a management consultant in the life sciences industry, she brings her expertise on strategies, processes, structures and performance management. She studied Biology at Philipps University in Marburg, Germany and holds an MBA from Leeds University Business School.

Alice Norton, Head of COVID CIRCLE

Alice Norton joined UKCDR in April 2020 to lead their COVID-19 Research and Policy work and the development of COVID CIRCLE. Alice has substantial experience of global health research, policy, and funding gained through nine years with Wellcome and with the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative in Tanzania. She has an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Oxford and a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology from Imperial College London.

Laura Scott, Senior Research and Policy Officer

Laura Scott joined UKCDR as Senior Research and Policy Officer in December 2019. Before joining UKCDR, Laura spent four years evaluating government policy and performance for Parliament, on behalf of the National Audit Office and the House of Commons' Environmental Audit Committee. Her specialisms include climate change mitigation, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and big data handling. Laura studied History and International Relations, and holds a Masters of Research in International Crisis Management, both from Loughborough University

Adrian Bucher, Research and Policy Officer

Adrian joined UKCDR in July 2017, he is responsible for coordinating the disasters research group as well as leading on our data mapping work. He is experienced in research, project management, and administration from the international development sector. Adrian holds a BSc in Economics from the University of Essex, and an MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics.

Yaso Kunaratnam, Research and Policy Officer

As Research & Policy Officer at UKCDR, Yaso is responsible for providing research and policy advice to UKCDR member organisations and key stakeholders. Yaso joined the team in December 2015. Her areas of expertise span across evidence into policy, research uptake, knowledge mobilisation, partnerships, capacity development and networks. Yaso has a BSc in Geography from the University of Exeter.

Sheila Mburu, Research and Policy Officer

As a research and policy officer at UKCDR, Sheila is responsible for providing research and policy advice to member UKCDR organisations and key stakeholders. Sheila joined UKCDR in April 2017 and her areas of expertise span across global health and nutrition research. Sheila has an MSc in Biochemistry & Genetics from the University of Nottingham and an MSc in Nutrition for Global Health from LSHTM.

Nicole Huxley, Communications Manager

As the Communications Manager for UKCDR, Nicole is responsible for delivering strategic communications to share work by UKCDR, members' organisations and key stakeholders. She joined in April 2019 and her areas of expertise are in communication and media strategies, and stakeholder management. She has a BA in International Development and Mandarin Studies from the University of New South Wales.

Mimoza Murati, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director

Mimoza Murati joined UKCDR in February 2019. She supports the UKCDR Executive Director, other staff and the day-to-day running of the office, enabling UKCDR to deliver their strategic responsibilities, and

leading on the events that UKCDR produce. Mimoza brings experience in project management, with strong expertise in administration and financial management. She has an MSc in Human Resource Management from the University of London and a BA in Literature.

Rachel Miles, Programme Manager

For FY 2019/20 Rachel was seconded from Wellcome to provide UKCDR with programme management support. Rachel's experience is in management of large and diverse research funding portfolios, including financial and logistics expertise. She completed a BA in Social Anthropology at the University of Kent, Canterbury and conducted a voluntary HIV research project in Sierra Leone for Christian Aid. As of August 2020, Rachel is now the Programme Manager for UKCDR's COVID-CIRCLE Initiative.

Emma Clegg, Senior Data Specialist

Emma joined UKCDR in March 2020 working jointly with the Department for International Development. She is leading a project to align data on ODA research and innovation activities across UK funders, supporting better analyses of the UK-funded development research landscape. Emma's experience is in data analysis and statistics and operational research. She holds a BSc in Mathematics from the University of Surrey.

Alice Cross, Graduate Secondee/Consultant

Alice worked with UKCDR between March – August 2019 on secondment from Wellcome, and then re-joined the team in March 2020 in a research and project management role. Alice works across the UKCDR team and portfolio, providing project, coordination, and communications support. Alice has a BA in Geography from University College London, and an MSc in International Development from the University of Manchester.

Callum Boyd, Graduate Secondee

Callum was seconded from Wellcome to UKCDR between September 2019 and February 2020. During his time at UKCDR, Callum provided project and communications support across the team. Callum has a BA in French and History from Durham University.



Thank you

We have achieved all this work through successful collaboration and partnership with our core members and wider stakeholder group, who have provided data and time to all our reports, advice and guidance, and contributed to our funder fora.



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



UK Research
and Innovation



Get in touch

UKCDR

c/o Wellcome Trust
Gibbs Building
215 Euston Road
London
NW1 2BE
UK

t: +44 (0)20 7611 8327

t: @UKCDR

e: info@ukcdr.org.uk

ukcdr.org.uk