



# CEDIL Call for Proposals

Guidance Note on DFID Priorities

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March 2019

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## Preface

This note provides additional guidance to applicants on how to ensure their projects address priorities for DFID. It should be read in conjunction with the other call documentation, including section 5 and 6 of the call overview document which cover priority countries and priority themes.

DFID's aim for CEDIL's programme of work is that it innovates methodologically and produces useful evidence at the same time. DFID's motivation for wanting projects to produce useful and used evidence is to:

- Increase the value gained from CEDIL's projects.
- Provide exemplars of how better evaluation methods are used to inform better development decisions. These exemplars can be used to encourage uptake of innovative evaluation methods.

## 1. DFID relevance: Engaging with DFID and UK ODA's policy and programming priorities

Project proposals will be assessed in terms of their potential relevance to DFID's policy and programme priorities. This is one of the criteria that will be considered by CEDIL's review panels.

Potential applicants should consider how their proposal fits with DFID's and other UK government Department's Official Development Assistance (ODA)<sup>1</sup> policy interests; DFID and other UK ODA's programming interests; and existing evidence needs. There are several ways in which project teams can understand DFID and other UK ODA's priorities:

1. **Review DFID's and other UK ODA's strategic policy documentation**, including the [Single Departmental Plan](#) and/or particular sector strategies. Examples of recent sector strategies include the position paper "[Governance for Growth, Stability and Inclusive Development](#)" and "[Saving lives, building resilience, reforming the system: the UK Government's Humanitarian Reform Policy](#)". UK government policy papers can be found on [international development section of www.gov.uk](#).
2. **Consider DFID's programming portfolio**. DFID is a large, international donor and many of DFID's programmes are big and complex. DFID's programmes aim for a wide reach and impact. They implement interventions which are affordable and implementable at scale, and which have a potential for transformation.

Potential applicants are encouraged to review current DFID programming in their sector. Documentation for current DFID programming is on [Development Tracker](#). Applicants can improve the strength of their application by citing how their project aligns to major programme investments by DFID.

3. **Consider evidence needs in the sector**. Applicants are encouraged to refer to existing evidence maps including [DFID funded evidence maps](#). Applicants should also refer to evidence needs identified by bodies scrutinising DFID and other UK funded ODA, such as Parliamentary Select Committees or the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI).

Proposals should include a justification of why the outcomes of their proposals would be of interest and relevance to DFID or other UK ODA, using the resources mentioned above.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/official-development-assistance-oda--2>

## **2. DFID relevance: DFID's commitment to be a world class commissioner and user of evidence.**

Applicants are encouraged to consider how their proposal:

- Matches the evidence produced to evidence needs.
  - Use the evidence needs identified for the sector to shape the proposal.
  - Provide evidence for promising but under proven interventions.
- Ensures evidence produced will be used.
  - Consider how the evidence produced and its products are of interest to potential users, particularly DFID.
  - Design the evidence and evidence products to enable decision making.
  - Ensure strong stakeholder engagement with potential users.