

RESEARCH STRATEGY 2008 - 2013

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE FOR EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

(Work in progress)

This implementation timetable gives external stakeholders information about the likely content and timing of future research competitions and calls for proposals. It covers the research that DFID manages directly and also shows where new funding to joint and multilateral research programmes – for instance, to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research or one of the UK research councils – is likely to result in research funding opportunities that research providers can pursue directly.

The timetable also shows when DFID is likely to develop (i.e. scope) detailed research specifications. This activity has been included because it *may* generate requirements for external consultancy support, which DFID would advertise externally. (The main determinant will be the amount of funding involved).

The implementation timetable addresses new research initiatives developed in line with the strategy; so does not capture details of DFID's on-going research programmes, where contracts or memoranda of understanding are already in place. Details of these on-going programmes are available on the [DFID website](#) and on DFID's research portal [Research4Development](#).

During the course of 2008/9 DFID will also develop its research management arrangements in line with the new strategy, in particular by devising processes for **research synthesis, enhanced research delivery mechanisms and embedding by a new framework for monitoring and evaluation.**

The timetable covers this financial year and next (i.e. April 2008 to March 2009 and April 2009 to March 2010). For the current financial year, it indicates the quarter (i.e. three month period) in which activities are scheduled to take place. This timetable will be updated periodically, usually every quarter. **It is not a detailed work plan and entries may be subject to change.**

A number of the entries in this plan are cross-referenced to reflect the links and inter-dependences among DFID's six priority research themes. **Related to this, research that is scoped in a particular area will not necessarily result in a discrete programme on this topic. DFID may choose instead to create a multi-disciplinary programme bringing together research questions on related topics.**

Research Theme: Growth

Topic and relevant Research Strategy commitment	Year 1: 2008–9		Year 2: 2009–10	
	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms ¹	Research funding	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms	Research funding
<p>International Growth Centre</p> <p><i>“We will create an international Growth Centre...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 21 (Bookmark 1)</p>		<p>October - December: successful bidder for International Growth Centre likely to be announced</p>		<p>International Growth Centre advertises research contracts periodically</p>
<p>Infrastructure and growth</p> <p><i>“One of the biggest barriers to growth in DFID’s priority countries is poor infrastructure...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 22 (Bookmark 2)</p>	<p>December – March: Scope regional research on infrastructure and growth</p>			<p>Subject to approval, tenders associated with infrastructure and growth programmes</p> <p>Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP): specific research competitions held periodically</p>

¹ Scoping research programmes may require external consultancy inputs, particularly for larger programmes. Expressions on interest will be advertised at www.dfid.gov.uk, on www.Research4Development.info and where appropriate, in the Journal of the European Union.

<p>Political processes and growth (see also natural resources governance and growth)</p> <p><i>“Through our work on institutions and growth that benefits poor people...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 22 (Bookmark 3)</p>	<p>January – March: Exercise to take stock of the outcome of existing research on governance, effective political institutions and growth</p>			<p>Subject to approval, invitations for research on social processes, inclusion and growth during 09-10.</p>
<p>Social processes and growth</p> <p><i>“Growth is a necessary but not a sufficient means for tackling poverty...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 22 (Bookmark 4)</p>	<p>October – December: scope research on social processes, inclusion and growth, including the role of social protection schemes.</p>			<p>Subject to approval, invitations for research on social processes, inclusion and growth during 09–10.</p>
<p>Education and growth</p> <p><i>“DFID manages three major education research programmes...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 23 (Bookmark 5)</p>	<p>October – December: scope research on post-primary education, skills and the world of work</p>			<p>Subject to approval, invitations for research on post-primary education, skills and the world of work</p>

Research Theme: Sustainable Agriculture

Topic and relevant Research Strategy commitment	Year 1: 2008–9		Year 2: 2009–10	
	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms ²	Research funding	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms	Research funding
<p>New agricultural technologies</p> <p><i>“We will invest in research to develop food that is more nutritious, produces larger crop yields and is resistant to climate variations and pests...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 24 (Bookmark 6)</p>	<p>April – July: scope support to regional agricultural research programme in South Asia</p> <p>July – September: scoping for five year programme of support to international agricultural research (non Consultative Group centres)</p> <p>January - March: scope possible support to a southern African sub-regional research organisation</p>	<p>October to December: design of support to regional agricultural research organisations is finalised (FARA, ASARECA, CORAF)</p> <p>January – March: Research into Use programme invites African calls for Innovation proposals</p> <p>January – March: UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) invites responsive calls on animal health</p>		<p>Subject to approval, competitions held for International Agricultural Research (beyond the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research)</p> <p>BBSRC invites further responsive calls on animal health</p>

² Scoping research programmes may require external consultancy inputs, particularly for larger programmes. Expressions on interest will be advertised at www.dfid.gov.uk, on www.Research4Development.info and where appropriate, in the Journal of the European Union.

<p>High value agriculture</p> <p>“New research will explore how to improve labour productivity...”</p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 24 (Bookmark 7)</p>	<p>This will be included as a key topic within three scoping exercises highlighted above: for the regional agricultural research programme in South Asia; support to international agricultural research beyond the Consultative Group system and the southern African sub-regional research organisation</p>	<p>October to December: design support to regional agricultural research organisations is finalised (FARA, ASARECA, CORAF)</p>		
<p>Rural economies</p> <p>“We will get a better understanding of how the rural farm and non-farm economies interact...”</p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 24 (Bookmark 8)</p>	<p>This will be included as a key topic within three scoping exercises highlighted above - for the regional agricultural research programme in South Asia; support to international agricultural research beyond the Consultative Group system; and the southern African sub-regional research organisation</p>	<p>October to December: design support to regional agricultural research organisations is finalised (FARA, ASARECA, CORAF)</p>		

<p>Risk, vulnerability and adaptation</p> <p><i>“We will keep our focus on protecting farming communities against short-term shocks such as drought, pests and diseases...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 25 (Bookmark 9)</p>	<p>Also set out under climate change theme:</p> <p>January – March: complete the design of Climate Change in Asia and Latin America adaptation programme with Canada’s International Development Research Centre</p> <p>January – March: complete the design of the Eco Systems and Services for Poverty Alleviation research programme with Economic and Social Research Council and Natural Environment Research Council</p>			<p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research under a Climate change in Asia and Latin America adaptation programme</p> <p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research under an Eco System Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) programme</p>
<p>Markets</p> <p><i>“We will fund research that will help give farmers (both men and women) a bigger share in food markets...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 25 (Bookmark 10)</p>	<p>This will be included as a key topic within three scoping exercises highlighted above -for the regional agricultural research programme in South Asia; support to international agricultural research beyond the Consultative Group system; and the southern African sub-regional research organisation</p>			
<p>Managing renewable natural resources (RNR)</p> <p><i>“Renewable natural resources are undervalued and overused... “</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 25 (Bookmark 11)</p>	<p>April – June: scope research on the links between renewable natural resources governance and growth.</p>			<p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research on links between renewable natural resources and growth</p>

Research Theme: Climate Change

Topic and relevant Research Strategy commitment	Year 1: 2008–9		Year 2: 2009–10	
	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms ³	Research funding	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms	Research funding
<p>Climate science, especially in Africa</p> <p><i>“There is still only poor understanding of the impact of climate change on developing countries...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 26 (Bookmark 12)</p>	<p>January – March: scoping begins</p>			<p>Subject to approval possible invitations to tender</p>
<p>Climate change in national and international policy</p> <p><i>“There are already solutions for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 27 (Bookmark 13)</p>	<p>October – December: scope functions of the International Climate Change Centre</p>	<p>Subject to approval, possible tenders for the International Climate Change Centre</p> <p>Economics of Adaptation programme with World Bank and the Netherlands develops methodology and applies it in 6 countries</p>		

³ Scoping research programmes may require external consultancy inputs, particularly for larger programmes. Expressions on interest will be advertised at www.dfid.gov.uk, on www.Research4Development.info and where appropriate, in the Journal of the European Union.

<p>Adaptation strategies</p> <p><i>“We will continue to prioritise research and programmes that help countries adapt to climate change...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 27 (Bookmark 14)</p>	<p>January – March: complete the design of Climate Change in Asia and Latin America adaptation programme with Canada’s International Development Research Centre</p> <p>January – March: complete the design of the Eco Systems and Services for Poverty Alleviation research programme with Economic and Social Research Council and Natural Environment Research Council</p>			<p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research under a Climate change in Asia and Latin America adaptation programme</p> <p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research under an Eco System Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) programme</p>
<p>Mitigation and low carbon growth</p> <p><i>“Strategies to reduce the impact of climate change (mitigation strategies) will be more cost effective if countries adopt them sooner rather than later...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 28 (Bookmark 15)</p>			<p>Scope research on the barriers to climate change technology development and transfer (see also Challenges and Opportunities theme)</p>	

Research Theme: Health

Topic and relevant Research Strategy commitment	Year 1: 2008–9		Year 2: 2009–10	
	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms ⁴	Research funding	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms	Research funding
<p>Making health programmes more effective</p> <p><i>“Research has already shown us what essential health programmes developing countries need...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 29 (Bookmark 16)</p>	<p>October – December: scope new health research programmes to be taken forward through new Research Programme Consortium model</p> <p>October – December: develop and prepare a 5 year agreement with the UK Medical Research Council</p> <p>Prepare a new 3-year programme of support to co-sponsor Tropical Disease Research Programme (TDR) and Human Reproduction Programme (HRP)</p>	<p>July design of new Research Programme Consortium model announced</p>		<p>July – September: advertise competitions for new Research Programme Consortia</p> <p>Subject to approval, UK Medical Research Council periodically invites research proposals funded by the DFID/MRC</p>

⁴ Scoping research programmes may require external consultancy inputs, particularly for larger programmes. Expressions of interest will be advertised at www.dfid.gov.uk, on www.Research4Development.info and where appropriate, in the Journal of the European Union.

<p>Health systems</p> <p><i>“Research into health systems has been a neglected area...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 30 (Bookmark 17)</p>	<p>This topic will be central to the work highlighted above, namely:</p> <p>New health programmes to be taken forward through the new Research Programme consortia model, our work with MRC and our support to TDR and HRP</p>			<p>Health Research Capacity Strengthening Programme in Kenya and Malawi invites research and research training proposals periodically</p>
<p>Developing new drugs and vaccines and getting them to poor people</p> <p><i>“In the past, we have focused support to public/private Product Development Partnerships (PDPs) on vaccines and microbicides 3 for HIV and AIDS and drugs for malaria and TB...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 30 (Bookmark 18)</p>		<p>October – December: performance assessment of future funding to Product Development Partnerships that DFID already supports</p> <p>January – March: competition for investment in new Product Development Partnerships</p>		

Research Theme: Governance in challenging environments

Topic and relevant Research Strategy commitment	Year 1: 2008–9		Year 2: 2009–10	
	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms ⁵	Research funding	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms	Research funding
<p>Conflict, state fragility and social cohesion</p> <p><i>“DFID has carried out research into conflict, recovery from conflict, inequality, human security and ethnicity...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 31 (Bookmark 19)</p>	<p>January – March: scope new research on governance in fragile and post conflict environments</p>	<p>January – March: detailed design of new Research Programme Consortium model announced – this is likely to be relevant to a number of the topics under this theme</p>		<p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research</p>
<p>Social exclusion, inequality and poverty reduction</p> <p><i>“The relationship between social exclusion, inequality and growth has an important effect on development...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 32 (Bookmark 20)</p>		<p>October – December: consider proposals for services to integrate disability across all DFID research</p>		

⁵ Scoping research programmes may require external consultancy inputs, particularly for larger programmes. Expressions on interest will be advertised at www.dfid.gov.uk, on www.Research4Development.info and where appropriate, in the Journal of the European Union.

<p>Strong and effective states</p> <p><i>“Our policy research across countries will examine different forms of state responsibility...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 33 (Bookmark 21)</p>		<p>October – December: design and approve Africa governance research capacity development programme with other international research funders</p>		<p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research and capacity development</p>
<p>Hardest to reach MDGs</p> <p><i>“Slow progress in the MDGs for water, sanitation, education and hunger is closely related to failure to recognise and address challenges with political processes...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 33 (Bookmark 22)</p>		<p>October – December: scope research on how to achieve better sanitation coverage</p> <p>October – December : scoping research-into-use programme in water and sanitation</p>		<p>Subject to approval, possible invitations for research</p>
<p>Migration</p> <p><i>“Developed countries tend to be concerned about illegal or irregular migration...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 33 (Bookmark 23)</p>	<p>Scope new research on international and regional migration, including the role of the diaspora</p>			

Research Theme: Future challenges and opportunities

Topic and relevant Research Strategy commitment	Year 1: 2008–9		Year 2: 2009–10	
	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms ⁶	Research funding	Specifications for new research programmes are developed (i.e. scoped) both in terms of content and likely funding mechanisms	Research funding
<p>Future of aid and beyond</p> <p><i>“Research must now look beyond the MDGs...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 34 (Bookmark 24)</p>			Scope out support	DFID-supported International Initiative on Impact Evaluation (3IE) periodically invite proposals for Impact Evaluation
<p>New and emerging technologies</p> <p><i>“New and emerging cutting-edge technologies are being developed for industrialised markets...”</i></p> <p>See Research Strategy Page 35 (Bookmark 25)</p>	January – March: scope research on the potential of science and technology to achieve the MDGs and the barriers to technology transfer			New funding mechanism announced

⁶ Scoping research programmes may require external consultancy inputs, particularly for larger programmes. Expressions on interest will be advertised at www.dfid.gov.uk, on www.Research4Development.info and where appropriate, in the Journal of the European Union.