

UK Research and Innovation funds research projects for COVID-19 in Peru

International collaboration is key to fight against the pandemic. To that end, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) continues to fund research projects on the effects of COVID-19 in Peru and other countries around the world.

Currently, the UK and Peru are working together on five projects, investigating communities particularly vulnerable to the pandemic, such as the elderly, children, local farmers' markets and more. These projects funded under this scheme add to the scientific cooperation between the two countries already underway through the Newton-Paulet Fund, in partnership with CONCYTEC, and the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

So far, the UK has invested around £29.3 million in more than 50 projects on COVID-19 in developing countries, reaffirming its commitment to support science and technology applied to solutions to social issues.

On the announcement of projects' funding, UK Ambassador Kate Harrisson said:

I am delighted that Peru and the UK are collaborating on projects in response to COVID19. These projects will have a direct positive impact on the lives of thousands of Peruvians.

They will shed new light on the effects of the pandemic on food markets, fish workers, mental health in senior adults or nutrition in mothers and young children, and thus help improve their wellbeing.

The pandemic requires a coordinated and global response, and the cooperation of both countries is a sign of our commitment in this regard and our excellent bilateral relationship.

Most of the funded research focuses on the communities most affected by COVID-19 in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia, and, they are carried out collaboratively between UK and local experts and institutions. The purpose and importance of these projects is to develop short and long-term social, economic and health solutions, areas that have been severely affected by the pandemic. Finally, these projects seek to improve the response capacity of developing countries to future pandemics.

The projects in Peru chosen for funding in collaboration with UKRI are the following:

[Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of older Peruvian adults.](#)

- UK lead institution: University College London

- Peruvian Lead Institution: Universidad San Martin de Porres and PRISMA

Promoting health and safety in traditional food markets to combat COVID-19 in Peru and Bolivia

- UK lead institution: Royal Veterinary College
- Peruvian Lead Institution: Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos

Enhancing the resilience of fishing communities to the impacts of COVID-19 in Northern Peru

- UK lead institution: University of St Andrews
- Peruvian lead institution: Inter-Agency Consortium Piura (Project Partner)

Strategies to mitigate nutritional risks in mothers and children under 2 years of age in low-income urban households in Peru during COVID-19

- UK Lead Partner: Loughborough University
- Peruvian lead institution: UNICEF Peru (Project Partner)

COVID Observatories: Monitoring the interaction of pandemics, climate hazards and food systems among the world's most disadvantaged communities

- UK lead institution: University of Leeds
- Peruvian lead institution: Health Without Limits Peru (Project Partner)

Change of British High Commissioner to Canada: Susannah Goshko

Press release

Ms Susannah Goshko has been appointed British High Commissioner to Canada.



Ms Susannah Goshko has been appointed British High Commissioner to Canada in succession to Mrs Susan le Jeune d'Allegeersheecque CMG. Ms Goshko will take up her appointment during August 2021.

Curriculum Vitae

Full name: Susannah Goshko

Married to: Matt Goshko

Children: Two

Date	Role
2019 to 2021	FCDO, Principal Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary
2018 to 2019	FCO, Head of Intelligence Policy Department
2017 to 2018	Department for Exiting the European Union, Deputy Director
2013 to 2017	Washington, Head of Political Team, then Political Counsellor
2010 to 2013	Nairobi, First Secretary – Economic and also Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN Habitat
2007 to 2009	FCO, Head of Pursue Team, Counter-Terrorism Department
2006 to 2007	FCO, Head of Rule of Law and Europe Team, Human Rights Department
2004 to 2006	Washington, Private Secretary to Her Majesty's Ambassador
2001 to 2004	Havana, Second Secretary – Political
2000 to 2001	FCO, Desk Officer for Central Africa, Africa Department

You can follow Ms Goshko on Twitter at [@SusannahGoshko](https://twitter.com/SusannahGoshko)

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37th Universal Periodic Review: UK statement on Myanmar



The UK welcomes Myanmar's efforts to address human rights issues, such as ratifying the ICESCR. However, we remain concerned by limited progress regarding conflict in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states. Civilians bear the brunt of conflict, perpetrators of abuses are not held to account, and full humanitarian access is denied to many regions.

Recent elections were a welcome milestone towards democracy. But it is troubling that the Rohingya and those in conflict areas were disenfranchised.

We recommend Myanmar:

1. Implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine.
2. Amend the 1982 Citizenship Law and ensure the protection of the human and civil rights of the Rohingya and other disenfranchised groups as citizens of Myanmar.
3. Ratify the 2014 ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention.

Thank you.

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X-ray scanners stop over 1,000 illegal items entering prisons

Press release

Advanced X-ray body scanners have stopped over 1,376 illegal items, including drugs, weapons and phones, getting into prisons, just 4 months after being installed.



- game-changing X-ray technology finds over 1,000 illegal items within months of being installed
- 28 prisons across England and Wales now have the technology to bolster defences against drugs and mobile phones
- part of the government's £100 million package to tackle violence and boost security

The innovative equipment being rolled out across England and Wales is part of the government's bold £100 million package to boost security in prisons and crack down on crime behind bars.

The 28 scanners, developed specifically for the Prison Service, allow staff to see instantly whether prisoners are smuggling in illegal contraband items internally, and have picked up Spice, morphine tablets, mobile phones, SIM cards, phone chargers and tobacco. The illegal items would have been destined for the prison wings, fuelling the illicit economy and potential violence.

Prisons and Probation Minister, Lucy Frazer QC MP said:

Stopping the flow of illegal items into jails is a huge priority for us.

The scanners form part of our wider plan to step up security in prisons to cut crime and better protect the public.

HMP Hindley Governor, Natalie McKee, said:

We are confident this equipment will prove to be a successful deterrent to anyone wanting to smuggle illegal items into our establishment.

The X-ray body scanner supports our aim to provide a safe environment for our prison officers and the men in our prisons.

The cutting-edge technology is being installed at jails with high numbers of remand prisoners – posing the greatest risk of smuggling.

A further 24 scanners are due to be installed in prisons by March 2021.

The equipment is being funded by the government's £2.75 billion commitment to transform the prison estate. This includes:

- £100 million to bolster prison security, clamping down on the weapons, drugs and mobile phones that fuel violence, self-harm and crime behind bars
- £2.5 billion to provide 10,000 additional prison places and create modern, efficient jails that rehabilitate offenders, reduce reoffending and keep the public safe
- £156 million to tackle the most pressing maintenance issues to create safe and decent conditions for offender rehabilitation.

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New carbon efficient accommodation marks start of nationwide improvements on the Defence Training Estate

The programme is being part-funded using money from a £200-million investment to improve armed forces accommodation, which was announced by the Defence Secretary last summer.

The MOD is investing more than £35-million of this funding, in addition to funding from the British Army, into its nationwide programme, which aims to improve facilities for troops when they are training away from their permanent barracks.

38 new carbon efficient accommodation blocks, providing more than 1,700 bed spaces, will be installed across the UK Defence Training Estate by the

Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), working with industry partner Landmarc Support Services and its contractor Reds10. The remainder of the £200-million investment is being spent on Service Family Accommodation and training accommodation at Longmoor Training Camp, and improvements to Single Living Accommodation in Army barracks, RAF bases and Naval establishments.

Westdown Camp on Salisbury Plain was the first to receive the new accommodation. The modern facility has an A-rated Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), just 12 points from achieving net zero, thanks to air source pumps and rooftop solar panels. This prototype was further improved on for three new accommodation blocks at the second site, Nesscliff Training Area in Shropshire, which have an EPC rating of -5. This means the buildings generate power for the site, reducing electricity costs.

The buildings range in size as required, typically providing up to 46 bed-spaces each, which can be subdivided as needed. This innovative design means that different military units, whether trained soldiers or cadets, male or female, can be accommodated within the block together. Showers, ablutions and drying rooms are also part of the complex, improving the overall experience for personnel by removing the need for troops to move to different buildings.

An aerial view of the three new buildings at Nesscliff Training Area.
Copyright Reds10.

All accommodation is being designed and constructed offsite by modular building specialists Reds10 before being transported to site for assembly and installation.

The manufacture and installation of the single block at Westdown Camp took just 15 weeks. The team was then able to take what it had learned and reduce this to 13 weeks for three buildings at Nesscliff. Installation on site takes about a month, minimising disruption for training troops compared to traditional construction. Labour was locally sourced at each site, helping to reduce the carbon footprint and boost local economies by providing 400 jobs across the programme, 150 of which were new.

Another benefit of modular construction is that it allows the same design to be used for later blocks with improvements and alterations put in place as necessary. The buildings are also equipped with SMART building technology, which optimises energy use and provides data for improvements in the design and specification of subsequent modular constructions in the programme. Lessons identified following the installation of the Westdown Camp block have not only meant that Reds10 delivered the Nesscliff buildings as net zero, but also allowed for 30% reduction of embodied carbon compared to Westdown Camp.

Brigadier Jonathan Bartholomew, DIO's Head of the Overseas and Training Region said:

DIO supports our UK Armed Forces by providing what they need to live, work and train. Working closely with our industry partner,

Landmarc, and Reds10 we are proud to have delivered the first new accommodation blocks on time and during the current climate. These new buildings are modern, flexible and efficient and will support troops on exercise, providing them with the high-quality accommodation that they expect and deserve.

Mark Neill, Managing Director at Landmarc, said:

The welfare of the troops that use the estate is our top priority and the accommodation facilities are a key contributor in delivering the best possible training experience.

We are therefore delighted to work with DIO and Reds10 to deliver a programme that will not only support the government's commitment to improving living accommodation for our armed forces but will also provide a highly energy efficient solution that will help DIO meet its long-term carbon reduction commitments.

Paul Ruddick, CEO of Reds10 said:

Our brief was to deliver the lowest carbon usage possible. Air source heat pumps, which take supplementary electrical power from solar PV panels installed on the roof, generate the accommodation's complete heating and hot water requirements.

We installed SMART technology in the building at Westdown Camp, which provides detailed information on how that building is being used, its hot water and heating demand and occupancy rates. This has enabled the team to monitor the energy demands of the building and feedback directly into subsequent building design and specifications, allowing us to deliver the buildings at Nesscliff as the first net zero buildings of the programme.

We are proud to be able to continually push our modular construction methods to deliver these sorts of results throughout the programme.

The programme will continue into 2021 and early 2022 with the installation of more carbon efficient accommodation blocks on other training sites, some of which will be larger. These sites include Knook Camp on Salisbury Plain, Brunswick Camp in Hampshire, Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire, Warcop in Cumbria and West Tofts and Wretham in Norfolk.

Watch a video of [The opening of the Westdown Camp building](#).