

Research and Engagement Funding Call Description

Last updated: 23rd May 2022

Dates of duration amended

The Disability Under Siege Network is making funds available to enable the investigation and reframing of the discourses on disability in contexts of education and conflict. We are seeking submissions for two large-scale research projects (up to £125,000 each), with comparative projects across Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine encouraged.

Projects can run between 12-16 months, but need to be completed by December 2023

This call is open to all individuals, disability groups, practitioners, researchers, higher education institutions, NGOs and international organisations whose key intended beneficiaries are persons with disabilities and their families in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

Call Launched: 5th May 2022

Online Information Event: 11th and 26th May 2022

Call Closing Date: 26th June

For more information, please visit www.disabilityundersiege.org



1 Background

Disability Under Siege is a Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Network Plus programme, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK. It is a co-created programme bringing together a community of researchers, educational practitioners, cultural institutions, advocacy organisations and disability-led groups in the UK and Middle East. The Network aims to contribute to research efforts by providing the intellectual and logistical resources that local practitioners need to transform education provision for children with disabilities in conflict-affected countries.

The Disability Under Siege Network has the following aims:

1. Re-shape public understandings of disability in contexts of conflict and crisis;
2. Support research and evidence building to change public policies and practices regarding disability inclusion in education;
3. Enhance local, regional and international capacity to address issues of access, quality and participation in education for those with disabilities in formal and non-formal educational settings;
4. Foster and support cultural events as a means to further research and evidence building to highlight priorities around disability inclusion in education
5. Legacy-building through the coordination and integration of outputs from the programme and scaling/transferring findings to other relevant global contexts.

Our research partners include Birzeit University (Palestine), Birmingham City University (UK), Islamic University of Gaza (Palestine), and the Centre for Lebanese Studies at the Lebanese American University (Lebanon), which bring complementary expertise in the fields of education under occupation, inclusion, public health and social action, arts and culture, disability and social justice.

2 Call Description

In support of our stated aims, the Disability Under Siege Network is making funds available to support interdisciplinary research projects and engagement activities to enhance sustainable and scalable local and regional capacity in education for those with disabilities in formal and non-formal educational settings.

2.1 Call Focus

The call focus is centred on the production of new interdisciplinary, equitably co-produced inclusive knowledge in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. Critical evaluation of dominant discourses in the particular contexts of conflict and crisis, and the strengthening of local and regional capacity to support the objectives of the Disability Under Siege programme directed towards education (formal and non-formal) are encouraged. The use of innovative humanities and social science methodologies, inclusive and participative approaches with children and their families, and the development of sustainable partnerships in the region, and beyond are also key aims.

2.2 Research Themes

- Primary, Secondary and out of school children with disabilities
- Non-formal and community education



- Disability, refugees and war
- Gendered dimensions of disability
- Disability in the curriculum at primary, secondary and tertiary levels
- Challenging conceptions of disability, e.g. decolonising approaches, critical studies of international measurement of disability and/or local/regional measurement of disability; media and social media representations, critical policy analyses, critical legal analyses, narrative, visual arts and performance representations
- Supporting research training for early career researchers, disability activists, and disability-led organisations in the field of disability and education.

2.3 Questions

- What are the opportunities and challenges for children with disabilities in primary and/or secondary education?
- What are the experiences of out of school children with disabilities and their families? What other forms of education do they access? What conceptions of the future do these children and families hold – for education, health, well-being, leisure, livelihoods?
- What are the dominant discourses held for people with disabilities arising from war and conflict? How does this relate to broader politics e.g. occupation, being a refugee, and personal characteristics e.g. gender, social class, region, country? What are the differential outcomes for education, health, well-being etc?
- What are the differential experiences and outcomes of boys and girls with disabilities? What other factors intersect with outcomes?
- How is disability represented in the curriculum at primary and secondary level? Where is the teaching and research of disability in higher education? (mapping and critical analyses of curriculum).
- How is disability constructed in public media and social media, in art, performance, literature, law, policy? What social movements have effected changes in policy, law, public representations?
- What are the issues with respect to the measurement of disability? What are the issues raised with international measures of disability in local contexts? How is disability measured and recorded for education purposes? Is it disaggregated by gender and type of disability, other attributes?
- What are the disability movement's key achievements? How is social change with respect to disability achieved?

2.4 What type of activities will the fund cover?

- Interdisciplinary research
- Pilot projects
- Action research
- Research training and partnerships within country / regionally / internationally
- Arts methodologies, performance, narrative projects, archives



2.5 What are some of the outputs and outcomes are expected?

- Research reports and publications
- Policy briefs, and engagement in policy development / decision-making / contributions to legislative change
- New archives
- Exhibitions, eg, photography, art, digital
- Narrative projects
- Curriculum development

2.6 What funds are available?

2.Up to a maximum of £125,000 for an overall funding pool of £250,000 for large-scale projects. These funds are available for up to 18 months in duration for all projects.

3 Application Process

3.1 How to apply

To apply, please complete and submit the following to disabilityundersiege@contacts.bham.ac.uk:

3.2 Timeline for applications

1. Applications Open – 5th May 2022
2. Information Event – 11th May 2022
3. Applications Close – 26th June 2022
4. Applicants notified of outcome – July 2022
5. Due Diligence and Ethics Review for successful applicants will occur immediately after notification
6. Project launch will occur upon finalisation of due diligence and contracts being signed

3.3 How will the application be assessed?

When you have submitted your application, the Disability Under Siege administrative team will check the application to ensure it meets the stated criteria (e.g., in respect to eligibility, allowable costs, supporting documents and word limits). The application will then be reviewed by a Commissioning Selection Panel. Before the panel meeting, the panel members will assess the application against the criteria detailed in the table below.

Panel members will assess the application independently of each other and give the application a score between 1 and 6, where 1 is 'unfundable' and 6 is 'outstanding' on the assessment criteria outlined below. The Assessment Panel will then meet to discuss and agree on the final grade, and to rank applications in order of funding priority and will decide how many projects to fund.

Assessment Criteria	Description
Assessment Criterion 1	Originality: Potential contribution to knowledge
Assessment Criterion 2	Strategic aims and methods
Assessment Criterion 3	Value for Money



Assessment Criterion 4	Innovative collaborations / networking
Assessment Criterion 5	Outputs, Dissemination and Impact

For further information on the assessment process please see the [Assessment Criteria Document](#):

4 Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Who can apply?

This commissioning call is open to all individuals, disability groups / Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, practitioners, researchers, higher education institutions, International Organisations etc. whose key intended beneficiaries are persons with disabilities and their families in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

Our funding forms part of the UK's foreign aid budget. Our grants therefore have special requirements in regard to involvement of Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) [List of Official Development Assistance Recipients](#).

Lead Organisations are normally expected to be legally registered within their home countries. Exceptions may be possible, so please contact disabilityundersiege@contacts.bham.ac.uk at the earliest opportunity if your organisation is not legally registered. Potential issues include the ability to conclude legally binding contracts and receiving payments.

- All projects must be led from the UK, Jordan, Lebanon or Palestine.
- Projects should have a focus on Jordan, Lebanon or Palestine and comply with ODA funding guidelines.
- The project team will be composed of a Principal Investigator (responsible for the leadership of the project) and up to three Co-Investigators. These investigators should include at least one researcher from Jordan, Lebanon, or Palestine.
- All projects must adhere to the aims and expected outcomes of the Disability Under siege Network.
- Applications can be from Academic, Research and Non-Academic organisations.
- Applications must detail the Ethical Review Process the research proposal will undergo if successful.
- Applications that are led by non-Academic organisations (i.e., NGOs, government agency, local community organisation) are eligible.
- Applicants may act as Co-I on multiple applications. However, they may only be PI/lead applicant on one application.
- Applicants must be willing to undergo a 'Due Diligence' and Safeguarding review process with the University of Birmingham (see Guidance Notes for additional details)



5 Budget Development

5.1 What costs can be covered?

Funding may be used for any research-related activity and to communicate the findings of research. This could include, but is not limited to:

- Funding to cover the time that individuals commit to the project including Staff time/administration costs/expert consultancy
- Travel, subsistence and consumables related to the research/project activity and its direct participants
- For events or performance-related activities eg venue hire, refreshments, printing, translation and interpretation costs
- Visual and performative artistic tools needed for collaboration in the funded project (i.e., materials for art related projects)
- Fieldwork, focus groups, interview-based research and surveys
- Data and digital technology costs
- Workshop or training fees
- Indirect costs (overheads) associated with the project (not to exceed 20% of total award).

5.2 What costs cannot be covered?

- Capital or infrastructure expenditure (e.g., basic office/ laboratory / accommodation furniture or equipment, building/ site construction, maintenance or refurbishment work, improvements to digital connective infrastructure, etc.)
- Where possible accessible venues and facilities should be selected; please note that infrastructure costs cannot be requested for example to make structural alterations to venues for improved accessibility
- Fees for undergraduate or postgraduate courses
- Activities that show no clear connection to the applicant's original proposal
- Applications made on behalf of applicants without the applicants' agreement
- Costs for activities that do not adhere to ODA Guidance (see below)
- Any application where equipment forms over 25% of the total budget or £10,000 (whichever is lower) of their budget and/or where this is more cost effective than other options such as hiring equipment.

5.3 Overseas Development Assistance Funding Guidelines

Organisations in countries on the OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients (except China, India, or countries due to graduate from the list) will receive funding to cover the full costs of the project (100%). Organisations in the UK will receive funding in accordance with standard procedures for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grants, in other words 80% of full economic cost, with the recipient organisation required to cover the balance.



6 Due Diligence

All successful applicants must undergo due diligence checks in order to be awarded the funding and starting their activities. Full details on the due diligence process are provided in the supporting [resources on the website page here](#).

Due diligence is conducted by the finance team at the University of Birmingham, and is required by the funder, as a risk mitigation strategy. The due diligence process consists of a questionnaire that will cover financial, ethical and policy checks at the lead institution. All new partners must complete this process.

7 Support

7.1 Where can I get support with my application?

The Disability under Siege Network will help to facilitate your application. Whilst we cannot make comments on the academic content of your submission, we can offer assistance with the practical elements such as budgets, formatting, Arabic translation and helping to form a project team. If you have any questions when completing your application, please email disabilityundersiege@contacts.bham.ac.uk where we can assist you.

In addition, the Disability Under Siege team will be hosting sessions for prospective grant holders to support with application development. The following topics will be covered:

- Application Development and Writing
- Ethics and Safeguarding
- Budget preparation and Q&A

All our documents and further information about the Disability under Siege Network can be found on the [Disability Under Siege website](#).