

# RESEARCH ENABLERS

## for IMPACT

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### What enables researchers to create impact?



Whilst not an exhaustive list, authors **Padilla Cuevas, Chadwick El-Ali & Heintz** set out six key elements for creating an enabling environment for research impact within research teams / institutions in their article **The Landscape of UK Development Research Impact: An analysis of REF2021 impact case studies.**

#### Understanding Impact

- Knowing when impact occurs
- Understanding the scales of real-life changing impact (e.g. micro or system-wide)
- Different ways in which impact can be evidenced
- The types of impact that your research may achieve

#### Co-production with research users



Engage the people who may benefit from (or be affected by) the research from the very start of the project. Provide equal opportunity for involvement and ownership, addressing power imbalances. Collaborate with different users.

#### Long-term equitable partnerships



Interpersonal relationships are key in partnerships, alongside understanding the value of lived experience. Be aware of power dynamics and address accordingly.

#### Embedded capacity building and learning

- Have a clear long-term aim with clear goals embedded into the project
- Multi-way shared learning drives engagement, provides opportunities and aids impact
- Have the right support systems in place

#### Funding Approaches

Explore different sources of funding. Encourage decentralised funding. Build flexibility into the project spends and collaborate on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research to increase funding and impact opportunities.

#### Operational Processes

Follow due diligence and ensure contract requirements are met. Seek project management support and build capacity for managing operations.

