

Our Ref: SF10206-36

Date: 14 October 2020

Dear Sirs,

Whereas:-

The University Court of the University of Aberdeen, a charitable body registered in Scotland with registration number SC013683 and having its principal office at University Office, King's College, Regent Walk, Aberdeen, AB24 3FX, ("University") and the Govind Ballabh Pant Samajik Vigyan Sansthan, Allahabad, Jhansi, Prayagraj - 211019, Uttar Pradesh, India ("Uttar"), the Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave, North Campus, Delhi 110 007, India ("Delhi") and Bihar, A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, North West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800 001, India ("Bihar") and, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties" and each of them being "a Party", have agreed to collaborate on the project "Food insecurity and dietary diversity among low-income migrant workers affected by COVID-19 in India", which shall be funded by the University's Global Challenge Research Fund Covid-19 Response (GCRF Covid-19 Response).

We, the University, have been awarded funding under the GCRF Covid-19 Response and shall distribute an element of said funding to Bihar, Uttar and Delhi in accordance with the terms and conditions as set out herein.

The Parties shall perform all tasks and obligations as set out in Part 1 of the Schedule annexed hereto and hereby agrees that it shall perform these tasks using all reasonable skill, care and attention to perform such obligations timeously and professionally.

The budget awarded to Bihar, Uttar and Delhi is the following:

Party	Amount awarded
Bihar	£12,772
Uttar	£12,894
Delhi	£18,089 including the consultants share

Bihar, Uttar and Delhi shall send to the University their bank details on company headed paper and their latest audited financial report for review, when they return the signed agreement to Aberdeen. Following the review, the University of Aberdeen shall sign the agreement, and then Bihar, Uttar and Delhi shall send an invoice to the University for half of their budgets.

The University shall pay Bihar, Uttar and Delhi a further 25% of their budget on 31 March 2021 upon receipt of an invoice, accompanied by a statement of actual expenditure. The statement should state the actual expenditure under the appropriate heading of the budget as categorised in Part 2 of the Schedule and should be signed by a finance officer in the respective institutes. Backup documentation for the amounts claimed should be attached to the invoices with the exchange rate



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ist to approve the modified budget of project (SF10206-36) for Mid-November and
nber 2021

ges

al Keshri <kunalkeshri.lrd@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 26, 2021 at 4:08 PM

andale, Blair" <b.annandale@abdn.ac.uk>, "Kaloriti, Despoina" <d.kaloriti@abdn.ac.uk>, "Guntupalli, Aravinda"

fa guntupalli@abdn.ac.uk>

ri Narayan <badrinarayan.gbpssi@gmail.com>, archana singh <archanaparihar@gmail.com>, director <director@gbpssi.org.in>

Blair, Despoina and Aravinda,

you all are keeping well.

uld like to request **your quick approval on the modified budget of the project** entitled "Study of Food insecurity
dietary diversity among low-income migrant workers affected by COVID-19 in India".

have informed you all in my last communication dated October 13, 2021, that we have started the fieldwork on
ember 20, 2021, and now I am glad to update you that our fieldwork will be completed by the end of this month. We
to complete analysis and report writing in the next month itself (by December 31, 2021) as our request to extend the
for the other two months has not been accepted.

already communicated that due to some FCRA related formalities money could reach our local State Bank of India
ch (Triveni branch) very late and consequently we could begin our fieldwork in mid-September only. Therefore,
nically my team is getting only 3.5 months for the completion of the project instead of 6 months as mentioned in the
al proposal.

ertheless, as we are committed to completing the project within the stipulated timeline and for that, we need to hire
ic more research staff so that analysis of qualitative and quantitative data and report writing could be done without any
ry. I am sharing the revised expenditure plan for mid-November to the end of December whose details has been
vided in the attached document. **I would like to emphasise that the revised expenditure does not exceed the
ctioned budget.**

1. We had to extend the duration of fieldwork for additional half months since fieldwork got disturbed due to
festival season in north India as respondents were hard to be contacted
2. We are planning to do a dissemination seminar in mid-December. It needs to have some posters and a logo
(which will be designed by an artist).
3. As the joint dissemination will be organised in Delhi, also, Principal Investigator has been invited to join the
dissemination seminar of Bihar at Patna we need some additional budget which can be spent on the travel and
accommodation of Principal Investigator, project team and invited resource persons.
4. As we have collected voluminous qualitative data, it is taking a longer time than expected for the translation
and transcription.
5. Also, qualitative data needs to be analysed using a specialized package like Nvivo, we need to purchase it.

I hope you can understand our situation and **approve the attached modified budget ASAP** so that we will be able to
use the rest of the budget by the end of December 2021 and fulfil our professional commitment to complete the
project on time. Earlier budget modified in August this year has also been attached for your reference.

S: I will share the utilization of expenditure of the first instalment (E 6447) as provided by my accounts office later
oday.

hanking you in anticipation

best regards!

Kunal Keshri, M.Phil., Ph.D. (IIPS, Mumbai)

GCRF Covid-19 Response Application Form

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APPLICANT(S)

Name of lead applicant: Dr Aravinda Meera Guntupalli

Other applicants: Prof Jennie Macdiarmid

Host School(s)/Division: IAHS, Rowett, SMMSN

Email: aravinda.guntupalli@abdn.ac.uk

Existing grant reference and title if repurposing or seeking additional support: NA

PROJECT

Food insecurity and dietary diversity among low-income migrant workers affected by COVID-19 in India

Proposed Start and End Dates: August 2020 to July 2021

Summary (maximum 100 words): The lockdown imposed as a response to COVID-19 has had a massive effect on low-income migrant workers in India. This vulnerable group is already at risk of undernutrition, however, there is little evidence on what additional stress has been caused by COVID-19. The aim of the project is to carry out a scoping study to collate primary evidence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and dietary diversity of migrant workers from the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. Using secondary data analysis, we will also study the nutritional status of migrant households in India.

Project description

(1) Background to the proposed project in the context of the in-country response to COVID-19

In recent decades, India has witnessed large scale internal migration that is mostly seasonal from rural areas to cities. Based on the Indian Economic Survey (2017), internal migrants account for 1/5th of the labour force, i.e. 100 million people. The survey reported a dramatic spike of internal migration to Delhi from the states of Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar. Between 2002 and 2011, 18 million Indians migrated permanently or semi-permanently for employment (Census of India, 2011). In addition, 13 million seasonal or short-term migrants (IHD, 2011-12) are estimated to be 'distress' migrants, as migration was the only option for them to escape poverty and food insecurity (FAO, 2016).

The lockdown imposed as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic has forced seasonal migrant workers to return to their villages. These migrants are in precarious jobs with low wages, exacerbating the impact of the lockdown. As per the preliminary data released by the Union Skill Development Ministry, 2.4 million seasonal migrants returned to Bihar and 1.8 million to UP. A sudden loss of daily wages caused by the imposed lockdown and the fear of COVID-19 infection pushed millions of seasonal migrant workers away from cities. This movement of people broke lockdown rules and increased the risk of COVID-19 infection among them and others. As reported widely by the Indian media, in search of basic needs, like food and shelter, and to reunite with their family members and communities, these migrants have chosen to make long journeys that require days of walking with limited food and water. Some of these migrants were fortunate to receive food, water, or health care on their journey from a few initiatives run by individuals, state governments dealing with cross border travel, and third sector organisations. However, these activities were not synchronised due to a lack of data, monitoring and coordination. In addition, the government and third sector organisations underestimated the scale of distress migration, delaying appropriate responses.

While the sudden loss of income made food for some unaffordable, closure of highway restaurants and shops made it impossible to those with meagre savings to access any food. This has largely increased the risk of undernutrition, morbidity, and mortality in these groups. News of deaths of seasonal migrant workers became a 'new normal' reported in Indian media. Yet, data has not been collected on food insecurity and the short and long-term impact of the pandemic on nutritional status of migrants and their families. Moreover, the pandemic has affected their current livelihoods with a direct impact on their food security. In response to the huge

distress migration the central government launched the PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana programme on 20th June 2020 to boost livelihood opportunities for migrant workers in rural India and to strengthen the rural infrastructure. This policy along with the initiatives designed at the state level, such as the Bihar government's skill survey of returned migrants to rural communities to improve job security, intends to strengthen the food security among these vulnerable groups. The government of Bihar has also initiated the Direct Benefit Transfer of 1000 Rupees to all food ration card holding families including migrant households to cope with food insecurity during lockdown. As of now, there is no initiative to compile evidence on the impact of the lockdown on food security and nutrition. The media also reports that some of the workers who have returned to villages may have less food given their lack of income. The pandemic can affect the nutritional status of members of the household differently, particularly women and girls. In the absence of focused interventions hunger and starvation cannot be ruled out. Very little is known whether these migrants want to return to their host cities to continue their low wage precarious work once the pandemic ends and the lockdown is fully lifted. The majority of families left behind depend on remittances as a major source of income. Any disruption of remittances widens the impact of this crisis. In particular, the nutritional status of women and children will be affected with serious implications on economic inequality and intergenerational mobility.

Time will tell how long the current approach of localised lockdowns in red zones with high level of COVID-19 related deaths and infections will have an impact on their well-being. It is also unclear how the current pandemic has impacted their livelihoods and how this in turn affects the dietary diversity and food security of the household following their return to their villages. Will migrants return to their place of work? If not, what are alternative sources of income and how will it affect their nutritional status? The GCRF seed funding would enable us to formalise our migration and nutrition research network and collect preliminary data from the affected states as a scoping study that can be scaled up in a larger project.

(2) What are the objectives and deliverables from the proposed project.

The aim of this scoping study is to provide an insight into the migration patterns in India during COVID-19 and the impact on food security with implications for nutritional status. The project will comprise five work packages. The objectives are as follows:

- To analyse nutritional status data in states impacted by distress migration both at the point of origin and destination (WP1).
- To conduct an exploratory study on food security and dietary diversity of low-income migrant households in Bihar (WP2) and Uttar Pradesh (WP3).
- To conduct an exploratory study on food and nutrition security of stay behind seasonal migrants in Delhi (WP4).
- To form a consortium for future larger scale funding proposals based on the evidence collated and to support the ECRs with skill building (WP5).

Evidence generated from this study will provide background information to assess in more detail the impact of COVID-19 on food security and diets with implication for nutritional status of migrant workers. We will also assess if there is a reversal of nutritional transition in India particularly in vulnerable populations, in that people returning to villages revert to eating traditional meals. The study will assess the effectiveness of the immediate government interventions in providing food security to these vulnerable population and explore the aspirations for future migration and the means of food security. At the end of the project we aim to submit a full proposal to a GCRF call, organise a webinar to disseminate the findings and to write two research papers (3/4*). A journal article on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and dietary diversity of low-income migrants in India will be prepared from the primary data collected. The secondary data analysis on nutritional status of distress migration affected states of migrants will result in a second paper.

(3) How will you achieve the objectives and deliverables?

The project will comprise five work packages, which will address each objective, with WP1-4 using existing and primary data to achieve the aim. At the end of the project we will be disseminated via a webinar the launch the migration and nutrition research network (WP5).

WP1. Analysis of nutritional status data in states impacted by distress migration both at the point of origin and destination (WP lead: Aravinda Meera Guntupalli (AMG) and William Joe (WJ)).

WP2. Exploratory study on food security and dietary diversity of low-income migrant households in Bihar (WP

lead: Sandhya Mahapatro (SM), and Jennie Macdiarmid (JM)).

WP3. Exploratory study on food security and dietary diversity of low-income migrant households in Uttar Pradesh. (WP lead: Kunal Keshri (KK) and Jennie Macdiarmid (JM)).

WP4. Exploratory study on food security and dietary diversity of low-income migrant households in Delhi (WP lead: WJ and AMG).

WP5. Form a consortium for future larger scale funding proposals based on the evidence collated and to support the ECRs with skill building (WP lead: WJ, SM, KK and AMG)

Methods and timeline

WP1 (August to January 2020): WJ and AMG will lead on the secondary data analysis on nutritional inequalities in states that play a major role in migration. The Comprehensive National Nutritional Survey will shed light on the recent nutritional status and dietary diversity of Indians in distress migration affected states, whereas the India Human Development Survey-2 and National Family Health Survey-4 will be used to capture the nutritional status and dietary diversity of migrant households. The data analysis will be supported by Dr Agrawal, and a consultant based in Institute for Economic Growth, India. The sampling frame of the datasets are not designed to represent migrant households; however, we can assess nutritional status of migrant households from a subsample in the NFHS-4 and IHDS-2 surveys in addition to nutritional status and dietary diversity in distress migration affected states. The analysis will be conducted using STATA.

WP2, WP3 and WP4 (August 2020 – March 2021) A questionnaire survey will be carried out in each of the three regions on food insecurity and dietary diversity of the distress migrants' households. A questionnaire with closed ended questions on migration, dietary diversity and food insecurity will be designed and administered either face-to-face or by telephone in India. Given the pandemic, the sample size is kept broad between 300 and 600 questionnaire respondents, with 100-200 low income migrant households from each state. The survey will capture pre-pandemic and current dietary diversity, as well as experiences of food insecurity of migrant households. We will use FAO Diet Diversity Score questionnaire (2016) and FAO Food insecurity instrument (2016). In addition, we will carry out 10-15 semi-structured interviews in each state to explore in more detail migrants experience of migration and their future migration plans. This will include food and dietary challenges they might have faced following the lockdown to get a great insight into the nutritional implications for moves and change in diets due to COVID-19.

The lockdown has eased in the past weeks resulting in increased mobility. Hence, we aim to administer the questionnaire by visiting the households between October and March. While the data collection will happen in a 3-month period, we require additional time to prepare the questionnaires in Hindi and apply for ethical approval at the University of Aberdeen and our partner institutions. As the participants will have low technical skills due to their lower education and poverty, they would not be able to fill the questionnaire on their own. If a face-to-face interview is possible, we will provide masks and disinfectants (costed in the study) to avoid risk of infection to the research team and the participants. In that case, interviews will be carried out following 2-meter social distancing in open area. The data will be recorded using mobile phone for Snapsurvey or recorder for semi-structured interviews (costed in the study). A surge of COVID-19 cases among distress migrants returning home might make it difficult for a field-based study. Hence, we will focus on one or two districts per state in Bihar and UP and their selection will depend on the floods and COVID-19 situation in these two states. Our aim is to carry out the work in Saharsa and/or Muzaffarpur districts in Bihar and Prayagraj and/or Chitrakut districts in UP. While lockdown has eased in India enabling us to carry out fieldwork, we still anticipate that the majority of interviews will be carried out on telephone using purposive and snowball sampling methods. We will use the approach safest for researchers and participants at the time we will collect the data. Semi-structured interviews will be recorded and transcribed for analysis. All the data will be anonymised and stored in encrypted devices or safe locations. We will carry out data analysis between April and May 2021.

WP5 will disseminate the results widely by organising a webinar in June 2021. The UK and India team will form a consortium that will support our future work on this topic. All the WP leads will support the early career researchers with research skill building and explore opportunities such as co-supervising PhD students.

Team

Dr Aravinda Meera Guntupalli's interdisciplinary research focuses on health and nutritional inequalities among vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries. She has substantial experience of working on

nutritional inequalities in low income settings and slums in India where the proportion of low-income migrant workers is disproportionately higher. She also worked as a consultant on migrant health in India for the Indian Marketing Research Bureau. She will be overseeing the project and will be meeting the India team regularly.

Prof Jennie Macdiarmid's research is interdisciplinary and focuses on the impact of dietary habits on climate change and land use, with implications for food and nutrition security. She will be overseeing the food insecurity and dietary aspects of the project and as the senior member of the team will be mentoring mid-career researchers. She will be contributing to the outputs along with the PI of the project.

Dr William Joe's research focuses on health economics, demography, and development economics. He is currently providing research and technical support on maternal and child nutrition in India for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the NITI Aayog, Tata trusts and the UNICEF. He is also engaged in monitoring and evaluation of National Health Mission in India. He will be responsible for the delivery of WP1 and WP4.

Dr Sandhya Mahapatro's research from the AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, Bihar is related to population and development issues with a focus on migration, health, gender, and employment. She has recently led a large project on health and nutrition in Bihar funded by the UNICEF. She will be leading the Bihar related WP of the project and will be overseeing the research in Bihar.

Dr Kunal Keshri's research from the GB Pant Social Science Institute, UP focuses on the migration, health and development. His recent funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, focuses on seasonal and permanent migration from Jharkhand, one of the states that experiences high levels of outmigration. He has done consultancy for UNFPA to prepare a report on status of inter-state migration in India. He will be leading the UP related WP of the project and will be overseeing the research in that state.

Dr Benoy Peter has over two decades of experience in grassroots programme, policy, and advocacy in Migration/Displacement, Public Health and Social Inclusion. As a consultant in the project, he will be strengthening the migration aspect of our project and will support us in questionnaire design and WP5. He will be playing an important role in the migration aspect of the project and the webinar organisation.

Dr Sutapa Agrawal has over fifteen years of experience in analysing large-scale data on non-communicable disease, public health nutrition in India and other LMICs. As a consultant in the project, she will analyse the CNNS data to assess some of the nutritional and dietary diversity related inequalities in Bihar, UP and Delhi.

(4) Evidence that this proposal is ODA compliant.

The primary purpose of the study is to promote welfare of migrant workers in India by collating evidence on their food insecurity and dietary diversity. The proposal mainly targets the No Poverty (SDG)1, Zero Hunger (SDG2) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG10) sustainable development goals. The evidence stemming from the project would affect public policy and the lives of migrant workers. The evidence can be used to minimise the health impact of COVID-19 in India and most of the countries on the DAC list. Most low- and middle-income countries have seen that lockdowns have affected the food insecurity of migrants. By collating and analysing evidence with our multiple stakeholders, we will be able to identify challenges and address underlying issues. The evidence stemming from this research will benefit state governments and third sector organisations working on health of vulnerable populations including the migrant workers, as well as government and third sector organisations to improve policy focus on health and nutritional of low-income migrant workers.

References

- Indian Economic Survey (2017) mofapp.nic.in:8080/economicsurvey/index.html
- FAO, Methods for Estimating Comparable Rates of Food Insecurity Experienced by Adults throughout the World (2016)
- Census of India (2011). Migration Tables. Migration Tables (CD ROM). Government of India, New Delhi.
- FAO (2013) Guidelines for measuring household and individual dietary diversity.
- FAO (2016) Addressing rural youth migration at its root causes: A conceptual framework.
- India Human Development Survey-II (IHDS-II) (2011-12). Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS**£87,459****£49,955**

- (b) A full justification of the costs being requested from the GCRF-Covid-19 Response Fund.

The project focuses on migrants in low income settings in three states of India. As it is hard to identify the exact location of migrants returning from various metropolitan cities to villages in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, we have costed for two research assistants in these two states to collect data. We also included a research officer in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh who will assist in the selection of the districts and households and will oversee the work of the research assistants. If COVID-19 infection rates are low during the fieldwork period, we will carry out face-to-face interviews in remote areas. The budget provides costs for travel and daily allowance for 50 days in these two states. In Delhi as the travel is limited to the wider city, the budget accounts for 40 days of travel and allowance for three research officers to align with the partnering institution structure. To ensure social distancing, we will record interviews from distance. We also cost for masks and disinfectant gels for the participants and team. We anticipate that COVID-19 cases continue to surge in India in the coming months. Taking that into consideration, we assume that most of the data collection will be carried out on telephone. The budget assigned for travel will be used to arrange telephone surveys. The preliminary data analysis will be carried out by research consultants in the three states. These consultants will be early career researchers, and we aim to strengthen their research skills. We will have a minimum of two meetings per month and weekly email catch-up to ensure that the project is progressing well. The partnering institutions would not collaborate without a contribution to overheads and hence following the UKRI 10% overhead rule, we included overhead costs for all three institutions. As the CO-Is will be overseeing the work throughout the project period, we have included their costs for 25 days following the recommendations of their institutions.

- (c) The total you are seeking from the GCRF-Covid-19 Response Fund.

Cost

AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Bihar**Data collection costs in rupees**

Research Officer's (RO) salary (6 months)	150000
Two Research Assistant's (RA) monthly salary (3 months)	120000
Travel and daily allowance for 3 RA/RO (50 days)	225000
Voice recorder	5000
2 mobile phones for recording and survey	20000
Disinfectant gel and masks for the team and participants	20000

Other research costs in rupees

PI costs in Rupees @5000 Rupees for 25 days	125000
Research consultant's salary for 6 months for data analysis and writing	360000
Other costs like hard disk, printing, and stationery expenses	20000
Total cost in Rupees	1045000
Overhead 10% in Rupees	104500
Total with overhead in Rupees	1149500
Total in GB Pounds @90 Rupees/£	12772

GB Pant Social Sciences Institute, UP**Data collection costs in rupees**

(16)

ENDORSEMENT BY HEAD OF SCHOOL

The Head of School of the lead applicant should endorse the application. In doing so they agree to take responsibility for provision of the necessary facilities and undertake to ensure timely reporting by the applicant.

Name Amanda Lee

Signature

Date 24 June 2020

SIGNATURE OF LEAD APPLICANT

Name Aravinda Guntupalli

Signature

Aravinda Guntupalli

Date 20/06/2020

Breakdown of costs:

Budget

(a) An FEC costing analysis for the project.

Project Dates: 01.08.20 to 30.06.21 - 12 MTHS

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Applicant Time:

A Guntupalli - 15% fte 12 mths
J MacDiarmid - 10% fte 12 mths

Project Staff:

No UoA Project Staff

Other Costs:

Research Consultant Dr Benoy Peter
Research Consultant Dr Sutapa Agrawal
Conference Costs
Infrastructure Tech
Estates
Indirect Costs

100% FEC

Funds Requested

£11,665
£9,901

N/A
N/A

£0

£0

£1,500
£1,500
£6,500
£273
£2,700
£12,965

£1,500
£1,500
£6,500
N/A
N/A

£47,004

£9,500

TOTAL UoA COSTS

HEI INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

Bihar, AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies
Research Costs (Indian Rupee 11149500)

£12,772

£12,772

Uttar Pradesh, GB Pant Social Science Institute, Uttar Pradesh
Research Costs (Indian Rupee 11160500)

£12,894

£12,894

Delhi, Institute of Economic Growth
Research Costs (Indian Rupee 1331000)

£14,789

£14,789

Research Officer's (RO) salary (6 months)	150000
Two Research Assistant's (RA) monthly salary (3 months)	120000
Travel and daily allowance for 3 RA/RO (50 days)	225000
Voice recorder	5000
2 mobile phones for recording and survey	20000
Translation of questionnaire and semi-structured interview to Hindi	10000
Disinfectant gel and masks for the team and participants	20000
Other research costs in rupees	
PI costs in Rupees @5000 Rupees for 25 days	125000
Research consultant's salary for 6 months for data analysis and writing	360000
Other costs like hard disk, printing, and stationery expenses	20000
Total cost in Rupees	1055000
Overhead 10% in Rupees	105500
Total with overhead in Rupees	1160500
Total in GB Pounds @90 Rupees/£	12894

Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Data collection costs	
Three Research officer's salary (3 months)	360000
Travel and daily allowance for RA (40 days)	180000
Voice recorder	5000
2 mobile phones for recording and survey	20000
Disinfectant gel and masks for the team and participants	20000
Other research costs in rupees	
PI costs in Rupees @5000 Rupees for 25 days	125000
Research consultant's salary for 6 months for data analysis and writing	480000
Other costs like hard disk, printing, and stationery expenses	20000
Total cost in Rupees	1210000
Overhead 10% in Rupees	121000
Total with overhead in Rupees	1331000
Total in GB Pounds @90 Rupees/£	14789

Research consultant Benoy Peter on migration in India in £	1500
Research consultant Sutapa Agarwal to analyse Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey in £	1500
The total costs in India in £	43456

Other costs

Conference/travel/meeting	5500
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Total project cost in £	48351
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