



Scotland's International
Development Alliance

Scotland for a Fairer World: 2021-26 Policy Priorities

Making Scotland a Leader in Sustainable Development



About Scotland's International Development Alliance

The Alliance is the membership body in Scotland for everyone committed to creating a fairer world, free from poverty, injustice and environmental threats. Our membership brings together a diverse range of over 200 international NGOs, faith-based organisations, companies, universities, charitable trusts and individuals that operate in over 100 countries.

Summary of Key Asks

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it apparent that we live in a truly interconnected world with shared global challenges. Crucially, it has become increasingly clear that our own economic prosperity and wellbeing can no longer, if they ever could, be decoupled from the poverty and environmental threats experienced elsewhere.

We now know, more than ever before, that sustainable development is a prerequisite for a fairer world. Scotland's contribution in this interdependent world should be: to champion economic, social and cultural rights; to put into practice the climate action needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement; and to help find the just synergies of human and planetary health.

Successive Scottish Governments, bolstered by welcome support from across the Parliament, have sought to develop Scotland's contribution to international development. The next Scottish Government should renew, and increase, Scotland's actions towards global sustainable development.

The level of financial commitment to supporting sustainable development and tackling humanitarian suffering is critical but aid alone will not be enough to end global poverty. The link between the National Performance Framework (NPF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) therefore needs to be taken further to identify how Scotland can best reduce global inequalities through everything we do. This goal can be achieved through policy coherence – the whole of government pulling together to achieve shared goals – and by crafting responses to multiple crises in systematic ways.

Members of Scotland's International Development Alliance urge political parties to consider and adopt the following commitments in five key areas. **Click on any ask under each of the five areas to find out more.**

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

- Key Ask 1** Put forward a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill during the next Parliament that makes all public bodies set objectives towards sustainable development outcomes, ensuring that they impact positively on people and the environment here in Scotland and in low-income countries.
- Key Ask 2** Formalise the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on PCSD.
- Key Ask 3** Measure and report on Scotland's global footprint holistically through the NPF and SDGs.
- Key Ask 4** Develop collaborative policymaking and foster a culture of participative decision-making through the Citizen's Assembly.
- Key Ask 5** Ensure systematic scrutiny of government legislation and activity using a PCSD approach (through sustainable development impact assessments, redefining parliamentary committee remits, etc)

A Sustainable and Equitable Economy for All

- Key Ask 1** Ensure the Scottish Exchequer aligns everything it does to sustainable development and wellbeing principles by assuring that all future budgets are aligned to sustainable development outcomes.
- Key Ask 2** Accelerate progress in shifting to richer measures of national success by adopting a headline measure of progress beyond GDP growth that represents the broader concerns of human and ecological wellbeing.
- Key Ask 3** Use public procurement, public policy and leadership on business practice in Scotland to support sustainable development.



Click on any ask under each of the five areas to find out more.

Key Ask
4

Ensure Scotland's status as a "Fair Trade Nation" is developed by supporting Fair Trade businesses as a key part of wider initiatives to support social enterprises and small businesses.

Key Ask
5

Upskill and train staff across government in the economics of sustainable development.

Key Ask
6

Pledge support for a 'debt jubilee' in low-income countries.

Climate Justice For All

Key Ask
1

In reflecting spiralling climate impacts, and Scotland's past and present influence on causing the climate crisis, significantly increase the Climate Justice Fund and champion global climate finance to ensure continued alignment with climate action principles, as set out in the Paris Agreement (para 5, Article 7).

Key Ask
2

Champion the issue of Loss and Damage in the run-up to, and during, the global climate negotiations in Glasgow.

Key Ask
3

Ensure that our national climate action to reduce emissions is proportionate to Scotland's share of historical emissions, consistent with global targets, whilst also reducing emissions created by goods & services produced overseas, but consumed in Scotland.

International Development Funding

Key Ask
1

Improve and expand the International Development Fund to £15m per annum.

Key Ask
2

Create a new thematic funding round, open to projects in any country, not just the four partner countries.

Key Ask
3

Maintain existing funding opportunities and support for key networks and partner countries.

Key Ask
4

Mainstream climate action in all programming and safeguard against climate risks relative to development impact.

Key Ask
5

Ensure that continued improvement and strengthening of safeguarding standards are prioritised and costed in all international development programming and organisations.

Global Citizenship Education

Key Ask
1

Commit to the continued direct financial support for the five Development Education Centres in Scotland.

Key Ask
2

Commission an independent review of Learning for Sustainability.

Key Ask
3

Ensure Fair Trade is recognised in school education and lifelong learning.



**Click on any ask under each of the five areas
to find out more.**

Introduction



The world is at a critical juncture, with multiple intersecting crises. No longer can we separate the nature crisis and the climate emergency from our consumption habits¹ and fossil-fuel dependency, nor can we decouple our own economic prosperity from the poverty experienced elsewhere.

Scotland prides itself on making a positive contribution² to the world, but this only holds weight if we measure that contribution holistically.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated clearly that the health of everyone, everywhere, is only as strong as the health of the most vulnerable and that we all have a responsibility to help one another. This is not only true for collective health, but also across all dimensions of sustainable development, our economic prosperity, our climate and our environment.

With the global economy suffering a historically deep economic recession, we must recognise that pre-existing inequalities mean that those with the least, especially in the Global South, are often affected in the most regressive ways.

It is more important than ever, therefore, **for the Scottish Government to maintain and increase its commitment to global sustainable development.** While, initially, it linked its NPF³ to the SDGs, this approach has largely been focused internally, on domestic wellbeing, rather than on making a more holistic assessment which would address the impact of Scottish actions on global inequalities and planetary challenges.

Now, our collective endeavour must focus on the most marginalised across the world, doubling down on our efforts to support those in greatest need, showing others why this is critical and, in this way, supporting global commitments to leave no one behind.

Scotland's economic development has, for centuries, benefited from, and exploited, global inequalities, from the slave trade era to the vastly unequal burden of emissions on Global South countries. However, historically, Scotland has also been highly supportive of global development and funding for it, and the Scottish people continue to do so via the UK Government's Official Development Assistance. Today's challenges in an interconnected world, though, require more than just traditional aid from nation states. Achieving global sustainable development requires leadership from all corners of global society to reduce emissions, to consume ethically, to welcome migrants, to challenge injustice, to reject inequality and to

build a society that does not harm others, internationally or intergenerationally.

Our role in Scotland must be coherent in terms of reducing inequalities and achieving universal sustainable development. We must underpin our words with concrete actions that set an example as a good global citizen.

This report outlines the Alliance and its members' key policy priorities for political parties to include in their 2021 Scottish Election manifestos.

It also presents a vision for the next Scottish Government to make Scotland a leader in sustainable development, through joining-up and building upon existing activities, such as the international development programme, commitments to climate just action and the creation of the National Performance Framework (NPF) and, crucially, linking its external affairs and domestic agendas more coherently.

This report has been compiled by the Alliance Policy Committee, and was subject to extensive consultation with all members over summer 2020.

“ *Never before in the history of the world, has the need to stand up for each other become an absolute necessity. The COVID 19 Pandemic has shown us, that we are interconnected in more ways than we may think and, that our own survival as a human race depends on how far we are willing to go to keep each other alive. Scotland might be a small country but it has a big heart and I would encourage all Scots about the importance of international development at this time* ”

Emmanuel Murangira, Country Director, Rwanda, Tearfund

1. Oxfam, *Confronting Carbon Inequality* (21 September 2020): <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/confronting-carbon-inequality>

2. Scottish Government, *Contribution to international development report: 2018-2019* (24 September 2019): <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-contribution-international-development-report-2018-19>

3. <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/sustainable-development-goals>

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

“ Policy coherence for sustainable development is a central pillar of the 2030 Agenda... it provides us with the means to understand the barriers to sustainable development, the economic, social and environmental implications of global challenges, and the interlinkages between them. Ultimately, it is an important tool allowing us to promote and sustain change ”

José Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary General

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development⁴ (PCSD) is about responding to the multiple crises we face in a systematic way.

It ensures different parts of government - or society more broadly - work together to identify common goals while ensuring one area of work does not undermine that of another. It stops one arm of government inadvertently detracting from the good being done by another. It creates a systemic framework for identifying potential conflicts and, where possible, mitigating these in a transparent manner.

To ensure we do not make our planet uninhabitable, leave people behind or lose sight of what is important in terms of our own wellbeing, it is vital that we find a way to make sure we work together better and in a systematic way, especially in government, but also in society.

For the international development sector specifically, PCSD is about ensuring that we put tackling poverty, and equality and solidarity with the most marginalised and vulnerable people, at the heart of everything we do, rather than silo-ing this within our approach to external relations.

While important, our influence and impact on the world's most vulnerable is not simply about the projects we fund in our partner countries. It has to have a much broader scope, reflective of our interconnectedness, interdependence and responsibilities, whether that is about the way in which we trade, what we invest in, and where or how much emphasis we put on global citizenship, our broader approach to sustainable development matters, in and of itself, and in a PCSD context, to realise the significant outcomes that we see as necessary.

We have seen small but positive steps already taken to enhance PCSD in Scotland, with improvements to the NPF, and political commitment at the highest level. However, in order to augment this, the next Scottish Government must implement specific mechanisms and structures that promote joined-up thinking and broad stakeholder engagement, while ensuring it measures progress on sustainable development transparently and holistically.

4. <http://www.intdevalliance.scot/how-we-help/policy-and-advocacy/policy-coherence-sustainable-development>

Photo Below: Student climate activists from the Catholic University of Malawi in Blantyre who work with the Climate Challenge Programme Malawi (CCPM) to promote climate justice. The CCPM is a Scottish Government programme, administered by SCIAF, that supports communities in southern Malawi find sustainable solutions to the climate crisis they face, and improve climate literacy.

Credit: Colin Hattersley / SCIAF / CCPM





Kasthuri and her son Mathi, in Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu, India.
Credit: Chris Roche / Christian Aid

1 Enshrine a PCSD approach into legislation

The rhetoric on PCSD in Scotland has been ahead of the curve in UK terms for many years. However, this has not been backed up by enough concrete action to ensure policymaking and decisions are genuinely always supportive of sustainable development outcomes, here and elsewhere. To do this, the Scottish Government must build on existing legislation to ensure that policy-makers and decision-makers are bound by sustainable development principles in everything they do.

The Community Empowerment Act 2015⁵, which puts Scotland's NPF on a statutory footing, is a good start. The latest iteration of the NPF (2018) sets out 11 National Outcomes, including one which is internationally focussed⁶. There is broad top-level alignment to the SDGs and it has the stated aim to 'reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress'.⁷

However, this act only requires Scottish ministers to consult on, develop and publish a new NPF every five years. It does not require public bodies, the Scottish Parliament or local authorities to consult on the way we measure progress towards those national outcomes. Nor does it require public bodies to assess the impact of their decisions and actions against the 11 national outcomes. There is also limited understanding of how progress on the different outcomes impact upon one another. This act alone, then, cannot ensure a coherent approach to policymaking towards the realisation of the national outcomes contained within the NPF.

To that end, **the next Scottish Government should put forward a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill to Parliament**, a first of its kind in the UK.

This legislation would make it a statutory requirement for public bodies and local authorities in Scotland to think about the short and long-term impact of their decisions, both in Scotland and elsewhere, and set objectives towards sustainable development outcomes, ensuring that they impact positively on people and the environment there in Scotland and in low-income countries.

Crucially, this would include a requirement to ensure, minimally, that decisions have no negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of people in low-income countries.

The bill would aim to ensure that **actions in Scotland contribute to the betterment of wellbeing, both here in Scotland and elsewhere.** The legislation must be linked to the SDGs and the National Outcomes and ensure that bodies are working towards all of the outcomes, not just a selective few.

The bill would also create an independent commissioner who would support public bodies to work towards sustainable development and wellbeing goals across their policy remits, monitor progress in setting realistic and achievable objectives, and review their outcomes.

The bill should also make it a statutory requirement that mechanisms necessary to ensure policy coherence, including through good governance and healthy parliamentary scrutiny, are in place, such that PCSD approaches become embedded and, over time, are seen as normative. These mechanisms include all other asks laid out below.

5. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents/enacted>

6. <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/national-outcomes/international>

7. <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/index.php/what-it>



A woman walks carrying a drum of water in the Eilmidgan Community in Somalia.
Credit: Pablo Tosco/Intermón Oxfam

2 Demonstrate political leadership

The new **Inter-Ministerial Group on Policy Coherence**, announced by the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development in September 2019⁸, but as yet not formed, could become a powerful voice to foster whole-of-government action on PCSD, but only if the group is **formalised to outlive electoral cycles and changes in government composition**. Ideally, it should be overseen by the First Minister to ensure buy-in at the highest level of government.⁹

The group must be set up to **ensure the regular and systematic involvement of stakeholders** from different interest groups and be open to continual public scrutiny. Representatives from the Alliance should be given a permanent seat on the Inter-Ministerial Group for PCSD to ensure all policy discussions include an international-domestic dimension. It should report, transparently, to parliament and publish details of its activity annually.

Furthermore, the group should ensure that responsibility for achieving the SDGs is embedded and aligned vertically (from national policy and practice, through to local policy and practice) and horizontally (across sectors and across-ministerial portfolios) at all levels of government to ensure a joined-up approach to SDG implementation, domestically and internationally.

3 Measure Scotland's global footprint

The Scottish Government must do more to **measure and report on Scotland's global footprint holistically**. As indicators are developed and honed that aim to measure progress towards the NPF outcomes, particularly our 'positive contribution internationally', we must ensure they contribute to measuring coherence in relation to our global footprint across a full range of sectors, such as trade & investment, supply chains in procurement, travel & tourism and waste management.

The Scottish Government published its inaugural **Contribution to International Development Report** in September 2018¹⁰. It should commit to publishing this report regularly, but do so less frequently (such as biennially). This would allow the report to widen its remit, reporting on coherence across all policy areas rather than its current narrower remit covering Scottish Government international development funding and activities alone.

The report should offer a chance to **look thematically at Scotland's contribution to development** and to challenge us, constructively, to do better, as required. Ideally, it should have a remit to focus on coherence issues - identifying policy trade-offs and gaps - to help drive continuous improvement across all the areas required for sustainable development. Adopting specific theme(s), with a new focus every two years, would support this approach.

In addition, there should be **increased requirements of all Scottish Government-funded bodies to report on their activities to advance the 17 SDGs** and national outcomes to illustrate how, collectively, Scotland is contributing to sustainable development. This can be applied to SG departments, Scottish NGOs and all Scottish companies.

8. <https://www.intdevalliance.scot/news/minister-announces-inter-ministerial-group-alliance-annual-conference-2019>

9. https://www.intdevalliance.scot/application/files/6515/8869/4273/Recommendations_for_PCSD_Ministerial_group_Briefing_April_2020_Final.pdf

10. Scottish Government, Contribution to international development report: 2018-2019 (24 September 2019): <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-contribution-international-development-report-2018-19>



The Scottish Parliament building, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Credit: Zabolnova Inna / Shutterstock

4 **Develop collaborative policymaking in line with the SDGs and foster a culture of participative decision-making through the Citizens Assembly**

The Scottish Government should work collaboratively with civil society to develop and evaluate policy remits across its full portfolio, **ensuring full alignment with the SDGs**. Only through genuinely participative and collaborative approaches to policy development is substantive policy coherence for sustainable development possible. Using technology and open source online platforms - such as this open source wiki on policy coherence¹¹ to develop understanding on how policy areas interact - could enhance policy formulation. We know already that enhanced coherence is possible across a range of policy areas that the Scottish Government leads on and influences.

The new Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill should also seek to ensure greater public participation in the democratic process and decision making through building upon existing requirements for public participation under the Community Empowerment Act 2015 and, crucially **enshrining the role and remit of the Citizen's Assembly into law**.¹² Deliberative democracy can be a vehicle for better policy coherence through improved understanding of tensions inherent to the economic, environmental and social dimensions of Sustainable development.

5 **Ensure better parliamentary scrutiny**

The Scottish Parliament, and its elected officials, must also take a prominent role to ensure better policy coherence, and all political parties in the new parliament should prioritise this with the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body.

All new bills and legislation should be assessed through a sustainable development lens.

Existing tools can be of use, such as the parliament's own Sustainable Development Impact Assessment Tool¹³ developed by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).

This tool highlights cross-cutting issues and unintended consequences, and could help to mitigate against individual Scottish Parliament committees working in silos, thus supporting the delivery of policy coherence across devolved policy and practice. It is not currently being used routinely in committee scrutiny.

Parliamentary committees should also align their remits to both the SDGs (and targets) and the NPF outcomes to improve understanding of where responsibility to achieve the SDGs lies, and where interactions between outcomes exist.

Finally, the parliament must commit to holding regular debates on SDG and NPF progress and implementation, and conduct an independent annual review to hold the Scottish Government to account on its commitment to achieving the SDGs. This work should build on the 2020 landmark report¹⁴ on SDGs published by the government.

11. https://pcsdscotland.miraheze.org/wiki/Main_Page

12. <https://www.citizensassembly.scot/>

13. <https://pcsdscotland.miraheze.org/wiki/Scotland>

14. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-sustainable-development-goals-national-review-drive-action/>

A Sustainable and Equitable Economy for All

“The wellbeing economy does not start nor end with national borders. It demands we put global justice firmly on the agenda and do all we can here in Scotland to ensure everyone – wherever they are in the world – can thrive”

Dr Katherine Trebeck, Advocacy and Influencing Lead,
Wellbeing Economy Alliance

The way in which the Scottish Government approaches and supports our economy has more potential impact on global sustainable development than anything else because **the impact of our economic activity** - the way we produce, buy and sell our goods and services - **is rarely limited to Scotland**. Much of the discussion in response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been focussed, rightly, on ‘building back better’. To truly build back better, however, a sustainable development approach to the economy and a recognition of global impact needs to be central.

The human and environmental impacts of our economic activity ripple across the globe, and if approached through a sustainable development lens, can be one of the most powerful drivers for reducing global inequalities and protecting the planet.

However, in order to realise this potential positive impact, our economic goals must shift. **GDP growth for growth’s sake is no longer an option in a rich country like Scotland**, while it remains of vital importance in reducing poverty within the world’s poorest countries. We need economic thinking, planning and activity that is committed to long-term sustainable development, not short-term financial gains for some, at the expense of people and the planet.

1 **Ensure the Scottish Exchequer aligns its work to sustainable development and wellbeing**

The next Scottish Government should use the proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable development Bill, outlined above, to **enshrine a statutory requirement of all future Scottish Governments to align budgets to sustainable development objectives**. All future economic strategies should also be underpinned by long-term sustainable development objectives, never short-term GDP growth for growth’s sake, regardless of how inclusive that growth might be.

2 **Accelerate progress in implementing richer measures of national success, beyond GDP**

We support calls from the Wellbeing Alliance¹⁵ and others, to move away from GDP as our main measure of progress. As such, the Scottish Government needs to **adopt a headline measure of progress beyond GDP growth that represents the broader concerns of human and ecological wellbeing**, including the impact on future generations both here in Scotland and elsewhere. GDP growth must not be sought at the expense of people or the planet, and changing how we measure our progress will support that. The latest iteration of the NPF does do this, to some degree, with 11 broad national outcomes to measure success, but GDP growth retains relative dominance over all others. This must change.

15. <https://wellbeingeconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WEAll-Ideas-WBE-for-Scotland-Feb-6-2020.pdf>



Farmers doing some basic training in Muhanga District, Rwanda.
Credit: John Cairns / Opportunity International



3 **Use public procurement, public policy and leadership on business practice in Scotland to support sustainable development.**

Through its own purchasing, its requirements of other public bodies and agencies, and its public policy levers on the actions of private businesses, the Scottish Government should **focus on human rights due diligence in supply chains, with explicit consideration of living wages, living incomes and fair purchasing practices.**

Food systems and other supply chains need to be rebalanced in order to **ensure that value is reflected in all parts of production and supply**, thereby ensuring that the rewards from economic activity are more fairly shared. The Scottish Government can play a greater role in achieving this rebalancing through its own procurement, public policy requirements placed on public agencies and private businesses, and through its leadership in society.¹⁶

The next Scottish Government must **use public spending power to pursue, more effectively, policy coherence by using public procurement to support fair, ethical and sustainable business practice and supply chains.** This is necessary to ensure that human rights due diligence leads to fairer purchasing practices and business models, enables observance of human rights and reduces environmental damage, leading to positive outcomes for workers and smallholder farmers across the world.

The Scottish Government needs to **define, clearly, what it expects in public procurement relative to ‘fair and ethical trade’ and require public bodies not just to state their policy in this area but to show active commitment to it.**

The next Scottish Government should **use its regulation and support for private business to promote fair, ethical and sustainable business** practices that are coherent with commitments to sustainable development. While the revamp of the Scottish Business Pledge¹⁷ led to some improvements of this voluntary accreditation initiative, action is required to strengthen it, particularly given commitments to make decent work a criterion for accessing public funding.

The criteria used to assess applicants for public contracts should reflect sustainable development requirements. For example, in international development terms, this means **ensuring active consideration of poverty reduction in low-income countries through our economic activity.** It means a commitment to engaging in, and encouraging, trade relations and business activity that support greater economic and environmental justice globally. How Scotland trades and does business needs to be acknowledged as integral to any coherent approach to sustainable development.

The Scottish Business Pledge and other business regulation and support schemes should reflect this international consideration.

16. Scottish Government, Towards a Robust, Resilient Wellbeing Economy for Scotland: Report of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/towards-robust-resilient-wellbeing-economy-scotland-report-advisory-group-economic-recovery/>

17. <https://scottishbusinesspledge.scot/>



4 **Ensure Scotland's status as a "Fair Trade Nation" is maintained and developed.**

A commitment to Fair Trade is essential to ensure our positive contribution internationally. Maintaining, developing and promoting Scotland's commitment to being a 'Fair Trade Nation' is a key way of achieving this. This includes continued **support for the Fair Trade grassroots network of campaigners and businesses, recognising the importance of Fair Trade small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Scotland** and the potential for growth of this area of business. potential for growth of this area of business.

5 **Upskill and train staff across government on sustainable development commitments.**

A programme of upskilling and training staff across government and its agencies in understanding sustainable development, human rights due diligence and Fair Trade is important. This would **promote greater awareness of the relevance of the commitment across all areas of government policy and activities, including public procurement.** This could involve the creation of a public body modelled on NICO (Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas) that encourages public sector buy-in to the international development agenda with the opportunity to promote Scotland internationally.

6 **Pledge support for a 'debt jubilee' in low-income countries**

Building on the current government's recognition of the unfair and unjust nature of debt, the next government should pledge support for a global debt jubilee¹⁸. This would include, but is not limited to:

- 1. Supporting a call for cancellation of all external debt payments** due to be made in the next two years for those countries in need, and most urgently, for 77 of the world's lowest-income countries as identified by the World Bank;
- 2. Calling on the UK Government to be involved in a long-term process to reduce the debt burdens of all Global South countries** to sustainable levels through overall debt cancellation in the coming years;
- 3. Giving particular support to Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda, Scotland's international development partner countries,** to work with them to help ease their international debt burdens, including supporting them to call for the restructuring of debt if necessary. With these pledges, Scotland can take a clear stance in the ongoing global debt crisis, and consequently, further its vital support to its partner countries, Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda.

18. <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/handle/10546/621026>

Climate Justice For All

“ And the floods? That we cannot do anything about. Like the night turning into day, the floods come every year. Earlier, many years back, they were still manageable and would replenish our fields, but then the floods started becoming more and more unpredictable, staying for longer periods, and destroying our crop. ”

Kailash Chandra, a farmer from Singiri, Bhadrak, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. WaterAid

The climate crisis, and the way we choose to respond to it, will define this generation and our commitment to sustainable development. **Scotland must accelerate action during the critical 2021-26 period.**

Left unchecked, the current trajectory for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions amongst major emitters will take global warming to catastrophic levels within a generation. However, many of the world's poorest people are already suffering severely. **The climate impacts imposed by past, current and future emissions are unjust in that they affect, first and worst, the people with least responsibility for creating them.**¹⁹

In the medium term, climate change is the number-one threat to achieving global economic justice and sustainable development. The world is currently on a pathway towards 3-4C global warming, by some estimates, yet science tells us that if we exceed 1.5C of warming (likely to happen between 2030-40) we will see millions more people exposed to heatwaves, droughts, floods and their devastating repercussions including poverty, hunger and displacement.

Increased extreme weather events disproportionately impact the most vulnerable and countries without the economic means and governance to quickly adapt or respond to crisis. Alongside the impact of sudden onset emergencies, climate change is also causing slow burning crises to develop in the world's poorest countries, such as by reducing their access to clean and safe water, and increasing the seasonal variability of food prices.

These climate impacts have disproportionate effects on women, girls and other marginalised groups. To tackle these crises, all countries must, urgently, reduce their emissions, while rapidly investing in climate adaptation, and develop a global mechanism to adequately support countries affected by climate-induced crises. However, **rich countries like Scotland - which prospered as a result of unsustainable economic models - have a responsibility to do the most.**

In November 2021, Glasgow will host the 26th “Conference of Parties” to the UNFCCC – COP26. This is one of the most important conferences ever hosted in the UK, and is the most significant climate summit since COP21 in 2015 that generated the Paris Agreement. Scotland has the chance to show genuine leadership at a critical moment for global climate action.

Scotland has a relatively strong record on both GHG emissions' reduction achieved to date and the strength of our legal targets to cut emissions further. It has also demonstrated a welcome commitment to supporting those already impacted by the climate crisis, through the adoption of a climate justice approach, and a linked funding stream. However, climate impacts continue to spiral and greater action is urgently required to better support the poorest and most marginalised people to adapt their lives, while recognising the unavoidable and escalating losses and damages created by the climate crisis.

Scotland must continue to push forward and innovate to ensure that it remains at the fore of climate action globally.

19. Oxfam, Confronting Carbon Inequality (21 September 2020): <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/confronting-carbon-inequality>



Masada Assani, 32, photographed in what used to be her family's house in Macomia, Mozambique. Cyclone Kenneth destroyed many houses in the town.
Credit: Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam.



February 2017, heavy rains brought flooding to parts of Lilongwe, Malawi.
Credit: WaterAid

1 Significantly increase funding to the Climate Justice Fund. and champion global climate finance at COP26 and beyond

It is vital that finance to support countries suffering the consequences of the climate crisis is fully additional to wider development assistance, given that spiralling climate impacts are independent of existing development goals. We cannot rob funding from vital development projects, such as schools and hospitals. Too many countries, worldwide, simply repurpose and rename development finance as 'climate finance'. Too much support is also provided as loans that need to be paid back, increasing countries' unjust debt burdens, or rely on opaque private-sector financing. This is wholly inadequate and fails to address the problem.

We must boost the quantity of grant-based support and ensure more of it is focused on the least developed and most vulnerable countries.

In addition, while helping poorer countries to reduce their emissions is important, the share of climate finance committed to helping them adapt to the climate crisis is a key priority for the world's poorest countries and must rise.

In establishing the Climate Justice Fund with cross-party support in 2012, the Scottish Government made an important commitment to those who suffer most but have done the least to cause the climate crisis. Thus, it recognised that Scotland has helped fuel the climate crisis through its past and present carbon emissions and is now duty-bound to support those impacted by it. However, the fund has been frozen at £3m a year since 2016 and therefore, has lost value at a time of growing need. This worrying trend must now be reversed by

significantly expanding the fund, because maintaining the status quo is not enough, and those impacted cannot wait.²⁰

By increasing the CJF using public funding, ensuring its quality, and championing the need for climate finance to be additional to wider development funding, the Scottish Government can set a strong example as other global-north countries and devolved actors consider their own contributions in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow and beyond. We must bolster our own commitment, and then urge others to do the same. Our leadership has never been more important.

We call on the Scottish Government, therefore, to:

- 1. increase, significantly, the CJF, using devolved revenue-raising powers to ensure the money is additional** and not simply repurposed from other initiatives, domestic or international;
- 2. call, proactively, for other rich countries to increase their own contribution** while championing additionality before and at COP26 in Glasgow, building on Scotland's example to date; and
- 3. undertake a review of the CJF to build on its success**, ensuring that it is fully aligned with best practice in climate adaptation globally.

20. <https://oxfamapps.org/scotland/2019/12/07/climatejusticefund/>

Fostina Kamwendo is chair of a water pump committee in her community near Lake Chilwa in southern Malawi. The pump was installed with support from the Climate Challenge Programme Malawi (the CCPM) and she's one of 333 women who have taken on leadership positions through the programme.

Credit: Colin Hattersley / SCIAF / CCPM



Key Ask

2 Champion Loss and Damage

Before, during and after COP26, the Scottish Government must take the opportunity to show leadership and drive positive action globally. One of the key ways that the government can do this is by championing loss and damage in the build-up to the conference.

This concept refers to the loss and damages incurred as a result of climate change globally, and the need for concerted global action to address this. At present, when countries are hit by climate-incurred disasters or slow-onset events like rising sea levels, there is no global mechanism to offer financial support to them commensurate with the financial losses they endure. We believe this is an injustice. Addressing loss and damage is a priority issue for many climate justice movements globally and for the most climate-vulnerable countries when they engage at the UNFCCC.

The **Scottish Government can take steps to support progress on this issue at COP26.** We call on it to show leadership, by engaging with the most climate-vulnerable countries in advance of the meeting, and using its position to drive action on this vital issue during and after the conference.

Key Ask

3 Ensure that action, nationally, to reduce Scotland's GHG emissions is proportionate to Scotland's share of historical emissions

Scotland has shown leadership by enshrining ambitious emissions' reduction targets into law, but now it must make every effort to achieve them. It has an historical obligation to exceed global average efforts to reduce emissions, and the 75% target by 2030 goes some way towards addressing this. **The new government must commit to rapid and far-reaching policies to achieve, minimally, the 75% target.** Moreover, in line with the new Climate Change Act's requirements, every effort must be made to ensure that **domestic policies implemented to reduce emissions are coherent with our commitments to the SDGs, and underpinned by a principle of 'do no harm'.** We must also aim to reduce emissions created by goods & services produced overseas, but consumed in Scotland.

Crucially, **the next government must demonstrate its commitment and leadership to strong and quality climate mitigation by publishing an indicative nationally determined contribution (NDC) well in advance of COP26.** This should be used to drive global climate ambition in advance of, and at, the conference.

International Development Funding

“Through helping 21 schools to grow breakfasts, this grant has helped children to concentrate at school, which will increase literacy, and in turn help us farm more sustainably, look after trees, conserve our soils – and branch out from subsistence farming.”

Mwayi Chirwa, Lecturer in Environmental Management, University of Livingstonia, and a director of Scottish NGO and Scottish Government grantee Thrive

As the world emerges from the COVID-19 crisis, principled, coherent, transparent and accountable international development funding is more important than ever. Without significant intervention, the UN warns a “tidal wave of COVID will become a tidal wave of new poverty”.²¹

At the time of writing, global poverty levels are set to rise for the first time since 1998, with 71 million people pushed back into extreme poverty and a further 1.6 billion people working in the informal economy at risk of underemployment or unemployment.²²

The Scottish Government’s international development programming, although small, has a significant impact across its four partner countries in tackling these issues.

Minimally, **any future Scottish Government should aim, therefore, to maintain its programming and support of Scottish civil society organisations** to implement projects overseas that address all dimensions of sustainable development holistically.

It should also **maintain core funding to the key networks that support this work, including Scotland’s International Development Alliance, the**

Scotland Malawi Partnership and the Scottish Fair Trade Forum.

To improve transparency and accountability, and to avoid duplications between donors around the world, **the Scottish Government should commit to publishing its activities on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).**²³

21. A. Sumner et al., United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, Will COVID-19 lead to half a billion more people living in poverty in developing countries? (April 2020): <https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/will-covid-19-lead-half-billion-more-people-living-poverty-developing-countries>

22. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/sustainable/sustainable-development-goals-report-2020.html>

23. <https://iatistandard.org/en/>

Photo below: Mukamusoni Astherie at maize drying barns during Farmer training, Muhanga District, Rwanda.



Improve and expand the International Development Fund

The merging of the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, becoming the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, could undermine the principles of Official Development Assistance at a UK level, and undermine the principle that, first and foremost, it must meet the needs of the world's poorest, as laid out in the International Development Act.

In this context, and that of deepening global poverty, the Scottish International Development Fund (IDF) is more important than ever. Greater investment in it is necessary to demonstrate, further, the impact and importance of quality programming focused on the reduction of poverty.

Therefore, in order to maximise impact and demonstrate Scotland's commitment to high quality development assistance, **the Alliance and its members wish to see the IDF increase to £15m per annum with a commitment that the fund will rise in line with inflation throughout the next parliament.** This would amount to an initial £5m increase, and take total ID spending to £19m, representing less than 0.04% of total Scottish Government spending (at 2020 levels).

Further to this increase, **a normative approach to international development budgeting would be welcome.** This would inflation-proof the budget and drive towards political consensus, over time.

This increase, delivered through a partnership model, would deepen Scotland's contribution within the four partner countries, while allowing for the creation of a new thematic funding round, focusing on vital cross-cutting issues such as gender or Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), as outlined below.

Improvements to existing programming should be done through a policy coherence lens. This would be done by systematically assessing programming through climate, poverty, gender and human rights perspectives, **in line with the 2030 Agenda.**

In addition, as outlined below, **climate-proofing should be made an absolute condition for all projects in receipt of public funding for international development.**

While the IDF should remain publicly-funded, **the new Scottish Government should also encourage greater private-sector participation and build Scotland's capacity in international development** by facilitating partnerships between Scottish civil society organisations working internationally, and Scottish businesses with relevant expertise, technology, networks and capital.



The water in the Dacope region of Bangladesh is saline, and so it is unsafe for drinking. WaterAid, with funding from HSBC, has installed a series of filtration plants in the region just like this one to provide local people with safe drinking water. **Credit:** WaterAid

The new Scottish Government should also seek to widen access to the IDF through the provision of contracts as well as grants. This would allow for impact investment and open doors for better partnerships with non-traditional development actors.

2 **Create a new thematic funding round, open to projects in any country, not just the four partner countries**

A new 2 or 3-year thematic funding round should be created for projects and interventions that maximise impact on a specific priority thematic area, such as gender, or WASH, in any country where the need is greatest, not limited to our partner countries. **This would add significant value to Scotland's international contribution,** and also complement the proposed thematic approach to its **Contribution to International Development Report** as outlined in the section above, 'Measure Scotland's global footprint'.

The additional funding on specific thematic areas could also help to maximise coherence with other sectors or domestic policy priorities, as well as opportunities for collaboration between Scotland's public and private sectors on aid projects in specialist areas.

This would build on the experience of, for example, Police Scotland's support of justice initiatives in Zambia and Malawi, Scottish Water and WaterAid's collaboration on WASH in Rwanda and Malawi, and the many projects over the past 15 years working with NHS boards, other SG departments and the private sector.

Crucially, **this would support improvement and learning for what works best in different parts of the world, help harness Scottish expertise, and maximise Scotland's contribution to creating a fairer, kinder world.**

Finally, **this fund could also support practical academic research** into development priorities that will inform a thematic focus for future activities.

3 **Maintain other funding streams**

The Small Grants Programme, that has allowed many smaller agencies to contribute to our poverty reduction goals, **should also be continued.** The small but significant impact of smaller Scottish organisations cannot be underestimated, and is one of the key strengths of the sector in Scotland.

The establishment of the **Humanitarian Emergencies Fund** by the last government was also important in terms of our role as good global citizens. The £1m a year fund, created in 2017 to respond to humanitarian emergencies, provides much-needed support to those facing immediate crises.

Joseph Mwale is a farmer in Machinga, southern Malawi who has worked with the Climate Challenge Programme Malawi(CCPM) to install a pedal-powered irrigation system at his farm.
Credit: Colin Hattersley / SCIAF / CCPM



However, the fund has lost value in real-terms since its introduction. Minimally, its value should be restored, and then rise in line with inflation throughout the next parliament.

Critically, the fund's value should be seen as a floor, not a ceiling, with the Scottish Government responding flexibly to meet humanitarian needs, as required.

4 **Maintstream climate action in all programming**

All IDF programming must be climate-proofed.

As climate risks escalate, without mitigating action, the effectiveness of climate-sensitive initiatives will decrease. Projects funded through the IDF, therefore, should be developed and assessed through a PCSD lens to ensure they are coherent with climate-change issues.

Climate-proofing IDF projects in this way recognises the extent to which a project is vulnerable to climate change, ensures they do not contribute, inadvertently, to climate change, and incorporates opportunities to adapt to, and mitigate, climate risks.

Climate-proofing should be conducted at programmatic and intervention levels. Both the Scottish Government International Development team and the agencies implementing IDF-supported projects should be able to conduct climate-risk analyses and climate-proofing.

The OECD guidance²⁴ on how to incorporate climate adaptation into development projects should be integrated into management of the IDF and the interventions it finances.

The new Climate Change Act commits Scottish ministers to supporting international adaptation, and to outlining policies and programmes to achieve this, within both the climate change, and domestic adaptation, plans. This exemplifies PCSD in action.

The next Scottish Government should realise this commitment by increasing the Climate Justice Fund, climate-proofing the IDF, and ensuring that all domestic policies are aligned with the mutually complementary global aims of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

24. <https://www.oecd.org/development/integratingclimatechangeadaptationintodevelopmentco-operationpolicyguidance.htm>

5 **Mainstream safeguarding in all programming**

Since 2018, safeguarding has been scrutinised considerably following heightened media attention on the international development sector and the abuses that had occurred in development and humanitarian work settings.

Scotland's role as a global citizen means that we have a responsibility to keep safeguarding at its heart and it must remain high on the agenda. In particular, a healthy safeguarding culture, guided and influenced by strong ethical and integrous leadership, underpins all areas of international development work.

We believe the importance of the issues, and the quality of the work undertaken to date, demands a continuous strategic approach in order to maintain the provision of high quality, comprehensive information and services around safeguarding, thus ensuring that they are widely accessible to everyone involved in meeting the needs of people and communities in low-income countries.

It is particularly important, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, that the focus on safeguarding is maintained, so that progress is sustained, and furthermore, to be prepared for new and emerging safeguarding risks in the changed context.

To maintain this momentum, **it will be essential for the collaboration between the Scottish Government and the Alliance to be upheld and funded** so that resources, tools, training and specialist guidance are available and accessible to those engaged in delivering international development and humanitarian interventions.

It is also critical that realistic costings are built into international development programming support and grants so that organisations are both able, and motivated, to continue to strengthen and improve their safeguarding standards and practice.

With sustained resources for safeguarding and continued improvements in standards, this will ensure that we can mitigate the likelihood of further incidents, manage safeguarding appropriately and ensure that those delivering, and in receipt of, international development and humanitarian assistance, are safe and protected.

Cocagi Coffee Cooperative female employees preparing for training funded by the Scottish Government. Rwanda.
Credit: Challenges Group/Laura Mulkerne Photography

Global Citizenship Education

“ I am now able to integrate Lfs into my practice as I am more aware of the Global Goals. Making the children aware of the injustice in the world and the impact they can have is of high importance in my classroom. ”

West Dunbartonshire Newly Qualified Teacher
March 2019

Global Citizenship Education (GCE) supports the development of engaged citizens, capable of thinking critically about challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, food insecurity and gender discrimination, in both their local and global manifestations, and empowers them to take positive action. The knowledge and skills underpinned by GCE encourage a joined-up way of thinking about the world and the interconnected challenges we face.

GCE allows individuals to make informed decisions that are coherent with sustainable development and is a type of transformative education that supports a better understanding of PCSD.

It is a lifelong learning process and an approach that should be embraced by all parts of society including government institutions, not just within the formal education system in Scotland. The NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Network has already taken steps, working to champion ‘Scotland as an Active Citizen’ both at home and abroad, with the Covid-19 crisis making it clearer than ever how interlinked our societies are.

GCE, within formal education, must be recognised as fundamental to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

‘Enabling young people to become responsible citizens’ is one of the four key capacities of CfE, and GCE can help deliver on the aspirations of the CfE, as well as addressing many of the national outcomes for Scotland.

Scotland’s Development Education Centres (DECs) have been providing high quality professional learning for teachers and schools in GCE for many years. Since 2014, this has been funded annually by the Scottish Government and it is critical this continues.

Photo below: Pupils from the Fair Trade Group at St Elizabeth’s Primary School in Hamilton promoting learning about Fair Trade at a local event.



Credit: Edinburgh Photographic and the Scottish Fair Trade Forum

1 **Commit to the continued direct financial support for the five Development Education Centres in Scotland**

The next Scottish Government can help equip the next generation of young people with the skills, and instil the behaviours, of responsible global citizens, thus helping them to face our shared global challenges, encouraging and stimulating enquiry into past mistakes (such as colonialism, empire and racial injustice) and shaping solutions to the ongoing climate breakdown.

DECs are integral to achieving this: by helping shape the collective mindset required to bring this about; valuing the needs and rights of all; and encouraging critical thinking on the global challenges we face.

It is vital, therefore, that the next Scottish Government commits to a further five years of funding, with this increasing in line with inflation throughout the next parliament.

2 **Commission an independent review of Learning for Sustainability**

Learning for Sustainability is Scotland's internationally-recognised educational framework for realising a better future. Scotland's five DECs have a track record in providing high quality, expert provision which bridges the gap between policy and educational practice in GCE, and are key stakeholders in the Learning for Sustainability Action Plan.²⁵

Globally, DECs work to ensure Scotland's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Explicitly, they play a key role in ensuring delivery on SDG 4.7: 'By 2030, ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles...global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.'²⁶

Therefore, to support robust monitoring and reporting of progress on SDG 4.7, **in 2022-23, the next Scottish Government should commission an independent, in-depth assessment on the impact Learning for Sustainability policy and practice has had within Scottish schools.**

3 **Ensure Fair Trade is recognised in education**

Through the next Scottish Government's commitment to GCE, **Fair Trade must be embedded at all levels through curriculum and learning activities** and in research, contributing to learning for sustainability and global citizenship.

25. <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/LearningforSustainability-Vision2030ActionPlan.pdf>
26. UN Sustainable Development Goal 4; targets and indicators, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg4

Photo below: Pupils at Stenhouse Primary School (Edinburgh) taking part in a Fairtrade breakfast as part of their learning about Fairtrade.



Conclusion

This report, reflecting the view of Alliance members, puts forward a wide-ranging vision for the next Scottish Government to make Scotland a leader in sustainable development, through joining up and building upon existing activities, such as the National Performance Framework and, crucially, linking, more coherently, its external affairs and domestic agendas.

We make the case that in an interconnected world, international development can no longer be seen as a discrete policy concern, and must, instead, form part of a universal policy agenda that has sustainability and wellbeing at its heart.

We set out a number of actions that can help make this a reality in Scotland, at all levels of society, including through our economy, governance, education, and international development funding. However, it should be emphasised that no single action in isolation can bring about the degree of change necessary for Scotland to rise to challenges that the planet collectively faces.

Mujawimana Marie Josee, a rice and maize farmer in Muhanga, Rwanda.
Credit: John Cairns / Opportunity International



Cover Image - A fisherman preparing his boat in Zambia.
Credit: Wiaan Coffee/ Shutterstock



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