

Submission to the International Development Committee:

Evidence from Mosaic Middle East and Papua Partners

Mosaic Middle East and Papua Partners are UK-based, small international development charities delivering locally led, community-driven programmes with a peacebuilding mission. Our work focuses on education, livelihoods, and psychosocial trauma support in fragile contexts, particularly for women, girls, displaced people, disabled individuals, and indigenous groups. Our experience demonstrates the value of partnership-driven approaches, locally anchored decision-making, and flexible funding in delivering effective and sustainable outcomes.

1. Localisation and Delivery Reform

Shifting UK ODA priorities

- UK Aid should move beyond a purely income-based prioritisation model to focus on supporting peaceful, resilient societies aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes prioritising marginalised groups and communities affected by conflict or environmental harm.
- Mosaic Middle East's Olive Tree Centres in Jordan provide informal education, psychosocial support, and vocational training to Syrian, Iraqi, and other refugees, alongside host communities. These programmes strengthen social cohesion, reduce fragility, and deliver measurable peacebuilding outcomes. Similarly, Papua Partners supports and equips indigenous organisations in West Papua, Indonesia to deliver programmes including community led development, peacebuilding, prevention of gender-based violence, protection of indigenous lands and forests and sustainable livelihoods, demonstrating how local practice can inform ODA priorities more effectively than top-down, country income-based allocations.

Supporting small UK charities and local partners

- Small UK NGOs often have trusted access, contextual knowledge, and strong local partnerships that large agencies cannot replicate. Funding must include multi-year, flexible, core support, simplified compliance, and capacity-building for local partners.
- Example: Mosaic's ability to adapt services quickly to changing refugee needs is enabled by small, flexible grants. Conversely, highly restricted, short-term funding hampers responsiveness and efficiency. Papua Partners' community-led initiatives, trauma support programmes for gender-violence and internally displaced people, local savings groups and disaster mitigation programmes, similarly rely on locally trusted funding partnerships.

Integrating development and humanitarian approaches

- Humanitarian assistance should be rapid, flexible, and locally led, with decision-making devolved to in-country organisations.
- Mosaic's blended programmes combine psychosocial support, education, and livelihoods to reduce dependency and build resilience. Papua Partners' response to flash floods in Sentani, West Papua (2019) demonstrates the effectiveness of rapid, community-driven interventions that integrate immediate relief with long-term capacity-building. It was having trusted partners on the ground, who could immediately mobilise to the disaster that their community faced, which enabled this immediate response.

Recommendations

1. Create a dedicated Small and Local Grants Window with multi-year, flexible funding that small UK NGOs can apply to.

2. Apply proportionate compliance and reporting for small Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and local partners.
3. Explicitly fund partnership and local organisation capacity building, not just project delivery, through small UK-based NGOs who can shoulder the reporting burden for local partners.
4. Recognise and fund faith and civil society networks as legitimate delivery partners.
5. Exclude domestic asylum and border management costs from ODA to preserve development finance integrity.

2. Communicating UK Aid and Building Public Support

Educating the UK public

- Lifelong education on global citizenship, peacebuilding, climate justice, and SDGs is critical to public understanding of UK Aid. This strengthens societal support for development and humanitarian programmes.
- Examples: Mosaic Middle East shares stories with UK schools, faith groups, and communities, illustrating how investments in refugee education and livelihoods directly promote global stability. Papua Partners collaborated with a Hampshire / West Sussex children's environmental choir which included creating a song called "Its Time to Heal" which was performed to world leaders at the Glasgow COP26 back in 2021. This song, and others created, can be used within schools, faith groups and community events for climate education and peaceful global citizenship.

Shifting narrative framing

- UK Aid should avoid portraying recipients as passive victims and the UK as sole rescuer ("Drama Triangle"). Instead, aid should be presented as partnership-based, empowering, and mutually beneficial.
- Mosaic's community-driven programmes in both Iraq and Jordan demonstrate how refugees and host communities co-design interventions, showcasing resilience and local leadership. Sharing such stories fosters public pride, understanding, and trust in development initiatives.
- Papua Partners has almost 20 years of experiencing capacity building local indigenous organisations in Papua, on the invitation of one organisation back in the early millennium. For example, YASUMAT was established by leaders from four tribes to support contextual development in the remote areas of Yahukimo and Jayawijaya. They focus on interventions including education, healthcare, sustainable community development and environmental stewardship. Their work includes training and supporting teachers and health workers, equipping rural clinics and community schools, providing emergency health air evacuation, supporting community development through small businesses and agriculture, and enabling environmental stewardship through land restoration and participatory land mapping. West Papua is home to the third largest rainforest in the world.

Promoting enduring British values

- UK Aid reflects a long-standing commitment to justice, human rights, and international law. Communicating aid outcomes as an extension of these values reinforces public confidence and frames development as a strategic and ethical investment.
- Example: Mosaic's trauma healing, education, and women's empowerment work exemplifies the UK's historical and ongoing commitment to fairness, peace, and human dignity. Through initiatives such as vocational training and small business grants, individuals - particularly women - are being equipped to run their own enterprises, providing sustainable routes out of poverty and fostering local resilience. Mosaic's accelerated education programme ensures that children who have missed years of schooling

due to conflict or displacement can catch up and re-enter formal education, giving them renewed hope and opportunity. These programmes reflect the core British values of compassion, equality, and opportunity for all, which underpin the spirit and purpose of UK Aid, ensuring that assistance promotes dignity, self-reliance, and lasting peace.

- Example: Papua Partners actively supports its Papuan partner organisations to influence policy from the local level to the UN and international governments. Through capacity building and empowerment, partners have been able to present evidence to UN Special Rapporteurs, UN Sessions (West Papua focused) and through global networks such as the World Council of Churches. Our voice, in partnership with others identifies the Indonesian Government, along with foreign actors to be active in land grabbing with violent repression and human rights violations; environmental degradation; a collusion between the government and national and foreign companies which ultimately, since 1969 has seen indigenous communities suffer painful dispossession and have been deprived of elementary freedoms and the right to self-determination. Papua Partners is active with our local partners collating evidence on this gross injustice.

Recommendations

1. Invest in public education and civic engagement programmes linking UK communities to international development outcomes.
2. Fund small and medium-sized UK NGOs to share authentic, locally grounded stories of impact and capture evidence that can be presented as evidence where there are human rights abuses.
3. Develop a coordinated communications strategy emphasising values, partnership, and mutual benefit, rather than dependency narratives.
4. Ensure transparency on aid outcomes, learning, and challenges to reinforce public trust.
5. Support democratic movements that brings to justice those who cause human rights violations that break international law.

3. Donor-to-Investor Transformation and Value for Money

Catalytic and blended finance for small charities

- Transitioning from a donor model to an investor model requires flexible, catalytic funding, enabling sustainable, measurable impact while leveraging additional resources. This should also include monies recovered by the Loss and Damage agenda. It must be understood that the injustices that our charities work hard to tackle are often a result of global interests and the involvement of foreign companies. Any UK Government funding initiatives with the private sector must not be from continued profiteering from the injustices being inflicted on the people that our charities exist to support.
- Example: With access to blended finance or small-scale social investment (£50k–£500k), Mosaic could scale business training projects for refugee-returnees and community entrepreneurs. Papua Partners similarly could expand livelihood initiatives, women and girls' empowerment and invest in local fishing and sustainable coffee growing initiatives including giving internally displaced people a livelihood.

Creating accessible programme routes

- Replicate initiatives like the Bangladesh Collaborative, providing clear, proportionate streams for small UK NGOs and local partners. **This allows organisations like Mosaic and Papua Partners to compete for funding without being absorbed into large consortia dominated by principal recipients.**

Strategic partnerships with philanthropy and Development Financial Institutions (DFIs)

- Matching funds, first-loss guarantees, and blended finance can mobilise private capital and philanthropic risk tolerance. DFIs should provide technical assistance, local-currency lending, and guarantees for small partners to reach low-income or displaced communities. However, their involvement must not be an opportunity to reach and exploit a vulnerable people group for their global shareholder profit and access to valuable resources and native lands.
- Example: A DFI-backed guarantee could enable microfinance loans to refugee returnees and community entrepreneurs trained through Mosaic's livelihoods programmes, stimulating local economic activity while reducing dependency.
- Example: DFI schemes should accommodate systems where local savings programmes are in their infancy, as in West Papua there are communities where there are no financial saving systems, for which Papua Partners has been pioneering in establishing savings groups so indigenous communities have been able to save for things like health and education for the first time, empowering local indigenous communities in their long-term sustainability.

Outcome-focused metrics

- Value for money should consider long-term social returns, including reduced fragility, improved education, livelihoods, and community cohesion. Mosaic's and Papua Partners' programmes demonstrate measurable social ROI, reducing future humanitarian costs and fostering sustainable peace.

Safeguarding mission and accountability

- Compliance and reporting must be proportional to partner size and risk. Criteria for funding provision must protect core public-good services such as education, health, protection (environment and people), psychosocial care and disaster response/mitigation, ensuring that the money is being invested in initiatives that will achieve impact and organisations applying for these funds are able to account for how it is allocated.
- Mosaic's and Papua Partners' experience shows that lighter, flexible reporting increases impact while maintaining accountability and transparency for taxpayers.

Recommendations

1. Establish a Grant Funding Programme that smaller organisations can apply for that include simplified application processes with effective criteria and decision-making to ensure money is going to initiatives that achieve impact related to UK Aid goals.
2. Offer matching funds or first-loss guarantees to crowd in private capital and philanthropy (from sources that are not detrimental to the causes that we are tackling).
3. Require DFIs to prioritise local Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and social enterprises, including refugee-host / Internally Displaced Peoples community initiatives.
4. Standardise outcome and social Return On Investment metrics to demonstrate long-term value for taxpayers.
5. Ring-fence grant funding to protect non-commercial, public-good programmes.

Conclusion

Mosaic Middle East and Papua Partners' work demonstrates the effectiveness of locally led, partnership-driven, and community-based development and humanitarian programming. By supporting small UK charities and their in-country partners, the UK Government can:

- Increase the efficiency, legitimacy, and sustainability of ODA and humanitarian programmes.
- Align development funding with UK values, international obligations, and taxpayers' expectations.
- Leverage UK Aid strategically to reduce fragility, build resilience, and generate social and economic returns which also promote long-term peace and stability to areas that have experienced conflict.
- Reform multilateral and blended finance mechanisms to channel resources rapidly and equitably to communities on the ground, while ensuring that the financial sources contributing are not profiting from human rights abuses and environmental harm.

Investing in locally led, partnership-based approaches, communicated effectively to the public, and structured to deliver long-term social impact, represents the most ethical, cost-effective, and strategically coherent model for UK international development in the coming years.

Charity Registration: 1133576

Charity Registration: 1117275