Submission by the Global Public Investment (GPI) Network
The Future of the UK's Approach to Development and Humanitarian Aid
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Introduction

The **Global Public Investment (GPI) approach** is an equitable, 21st-century framework for tackling global challenges. It reimagines how the world finances progress, moving beyond traditional aid to a model where all countries contribute, decide, and benefit according to their means and needs. Grounded in fairness, accountability, and mutual interest, GPI takes a longer-term view that recognises shared challenges require collective action and public investment.

The **Global Public Investment Network** brings together the insights of organisations and leading experts on how this approach can be put into practice. Working with governments, civil society, and international institutions, the Network aims to demonstrate how a cooperative model of public finance can deliver more effective, predictable, and inclusive outcomes for all.

This submission is made to provide evidence and perspective on how the GPI approach can help shape the UK's future development policy. It also seeks the UK Government's engagement with the **GPI Coalition of Governments and International Organisations**, a growing alliance advancing regional consultations and pilot initiatives to show how shared public investment can work in practice.

By supporting both the **idea** and the **coalition** around Global Public Investment, the UK can play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of international cooperation, anchored in **equity, accountability, and mutuality**.

Executive Summary

The Global Public Investment (GPI) Network welcomes this inquiry as a timely opportunity for the UK to reimagine its global cooperation role, moving from a donor-recipient model to one based on shared responsibility and mutual benefit.

The Network and its partners believe this is a pivotal moment to reshape how international cooperation is financed and governed. The challenges the world faces today—climate shocks, pandemics, inequality, and instability—cannot be tackled through traditional aid models. They demand a system grounded in shared responsibility, equity, and accountability, not dependency.

We propose that the UK embrace a GPI approach, where all countries contribute, decide, and benefit according to their means and needs. GPI would strengthen accountability, flexibility, concessionality, and legitimacy, while reducing fragmentation.

GPI does not replace Official Development Assistance (ODA); it offers a pathway to a world beyond aid. By embedding equity, accountability, and co-designed governance into its cooperation framework, the UK can lead a new era of inclusive international cooperation, strengthen global stability, and rebuild trust.

Reframing the UK's Role in a Changing World

The UK has long been a leader in international development, committed to tackling global poverty and upholding multilateral cooperation. Yet, today's realities, rising inequalities, climate threats, pandemics, and geopolitical instability demand a new approach to how global challenges are financed and governed.

Traditional aid, while vital, is increasingly insufficient to address these shared challenges. The world's problems are interconnected, and so must be our solutions. The UK now has an opportunity to lead a new model of cooperation based on mutual investment in shared progress.

Global Public Investment (GPI) embodies this shift. It offers an approach where every country contributes according to its means; every country participates in decision-making; and every country benefits from collective outcomes.

This principle of shared responsibility modernizes aid without abandoning it, aligning perfectly with the UK's foreign policy objectives of global stability, prosperity, and democratic leadership.

Strengthening Partnerships

Around the world, governments are recognising that sustainable progress cannot depend on one-sided aid flows but on joint public investment in shared priorities. The UK's long-standing commitment to international cooperation provides a strong foundation for this evolution — one where national resources are deployed strategically to strengthen collective resilience, equity, and stability.

The GPI approach offers a framework for this shift. It enables national governments, including the UK to invest alongside others in ways that are predictable, transparent, and accountable, ensuring all countries contribute according to ability and benefit according to need.

This approach replaces hierarchical donor–recipient relationships with mutual accountability and co-designed governance, making international cooperation more inclusive and effective. By focusing on public investment rather than aid disbursement, GPI strengthens national ownership, aligns international spending with shared outcomes, and builds trust between partners.

Through this model, the UK can demonstrate how public investments in international cooperation advance both global wellbeing and national interests, creating a world that is more secure, equitable, and resilient for all.

Reforming Multilateral Institutions

Traditional multilateral institutions remain important, but they often struggle to respond quickly or equitably to emerging global challenges. Recognising this, a growing Coalition of Governments and International Organisations for Global Public Investment is now working together to design a fairer and more cooperative model of financing.

The GPI Coalition, launched as one of the initiatives under the Sevilla *Platform for Action* at the 2025 Financing for Development Conference, provides a practical mechanism for countries to collaborate on reform of multilateral institutions as part of the larger global financial architecture, through regional consultations, pilot programmes, and shared governance design. This approach focuses less on creating new institutions and more on demonstrating how inclusive, accountable financing can work in practice.

By engaging with this coalition, the UK would help shape an evolving agenda for international cooperation, one that promotes fairness, transparency, and collective investment in global stability. Such engagement would position the UK as a constructive reform partner, working through real-world coalitions rather than abstract institutional debates.

From Donor to Investor: Reclaiming the Power of Public Finance

The UK's stated ambition to shift from donor to investor, should not be seen as an entire shift to private capital, but a renewed commitment to the role of public resources as the foundation of effective international cooperation.

Public finance remains uniquely positioned to deliver what markets cannot, long term predictable funding and investment in public goods, fairness and collective security. The GPI approach strengthens this by encouraging all governments to contribute to these shared challenges according to ability and benefit according to need, creating a stable and accountable framework for shared progress.

Under GPI, public money acts as the anchor for sustainable financing, setting standards for transparency and inclusion while enabling cooperation across borders. Specifically for the UK, this offers a way to modernise development finance without diluting public purpose or accountability.

Rather than blending aid with private investment, GPI ensures that public funds remain focused on building resilient systems, in health, education, climate, and digital transformation, that benefit both partner countries and the British public through greater global stability and security.

By championing this approach, the UK can reaffirm its leadership in public international finance, demonstrating that strategic, accountable public investment remains the most effective path to shared prosperity.

Embedding Equity and Accountability

Public confidence both domestically and globally depends on visible fairness and accountability. GPI strengthens trust through transparent governance and participatory oversight.

By ensuring decision-making is shared and results are transparent, the UK can demonstrate that every pound of public investment delivers tangible, equitable outcomes. Accountability must extend beyond financial reporting to include community feedback and participation, reinforcing legitimacy and trust.

Recommendations

To help shape this transition, the UK Government is encouraged to:

1. Champion a shift from aid to shared investment, engaging with the GPI framework to modernise global cooperation and deliver mutual value and accountability.
2. Join and actively participate in the Coalition of Governments and International Organisations for Global Public Investment, which is advancing work on pilots, regional consultations, and shared investment design. UK engagement would bring its credibility, experience, and innovation capacity to this evolving collaboration.
3. Engage directly with the GPI Coalition, joining the group of governments and partners already working to test and apply GPI principles through practical initiatives. The Coalition provides a concrete platform for co-designing investment models and demonstrating how equitable financing can deliver stronger outcomes for all.