Addressing the Covid-19 pandemic:
Policy recommendations to the UK government

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global crisis that demands a global response, and the UK can and must play a leadership role. In today's globally connected world, no country will be free of the virus until global eradication is achieved. For the world, and the UK to build back better, there must also be effective and timely tackling of parallel, inter-linked crises exacerbated by Covid-19 – humanitarian, socio-economic, and the climate emergency. It is firmly in the UK's national interest to recognize that its own economic development and wellbeing is dependent on other countries through shared security, trade and globalised supply chains, and sustainable and equitable development.

The wealthiest nations must act quickly and boldly to support at risk populations around the world. The UK government has been providing bailouts, furlough schemes and various expanded social protection measures at home, and we need the same countercyclical approach applied in international development to avoid a global depression and an escalation in insecurity, hunger and poverty levels. This is a time when the world needs a comprehensive 'Marshall Plan' to address Covid-19, and provides an opportunity for the UK to demonstrate what 'Global Britain' really means.

The UK is showing leadership internationally: it is the third biggest donor contributing to Covid-19 global humanitarian response plan with funding of USD 313.4mn; following the High-Level Event on Financing for Development on 28 May, the UK is now leading the Sustainable recovery workstream to drive discussions on concrete proposals to overcome the challenges of Covid-19; and the UK's Secretary of State for International Development with colleagues from Nordic countries have endorsed the UN Secretary General's call for the recovery strategy to keep us on track towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. However, we need to ensure that these commitments are translated into clear actions.

The main aims of this paper are:

- To present the international development and humanitarian sector's main policy asks in relation to addressing Covid-19 in both the short and longer-term, acknowledging the pace of change and that these will evolve

- To outline the key areas which need urgent attention from and action by the UK Government and other global players

A comprehensive global response to Covid-19

Tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and interconnected global health, humanitarian, economic and climate crises will require a coordinated global effort. To ensure that the global response to this multidimensional crisis is not just about providing 'painkillers' to get back to 'business as usual' as quickly as possible, but rather addresses the root causes of pandemics and related emergencies and enables Building Back Better (BBB) and long-term sustainable development, we have identified 9 key areas, which require effective action. These are based on Bond members' input through expert working groups, CEO level discussions and wider context analysis.

1. **Adherence to core principles:** all efforts at the national and international level should use the SDGs as their explicit organising framework along with full alignment with Paris Agreement, the Leave No one Behind (LNOB) promise, International humanitarian law and International refugee law, protection of and respect for human rights, international labour standards, recommendations of ILO's Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019 and based on comprehensive gendered impact analysis. Where official development assistance (ODA) funding is used, it must be poverty focused and needs based, adhere to International Development Act (IDA) and OECD DAC rules as well as Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship, focus on reaching the most marginalised people first, advance sustainable development, and promote local ownership, conflict sensitivity and effective management of transparent aid programmes. Putting these principles in the centre of the response at national or global level is a precondition for BBB and truly sustainable development.

2. **Global leadership and adequate funding:** effective, collaborative, coordinated leadership from the UK Government alongside other governments, especially members of G7, G20, EU and OECD as well as multilateral institutions, especially UN, WB, IMF, WHO is essential to address the pandemic and deliver sustainable recovery to build back better. This should include effective engagement with and scaled-up funding to civil society, national governments, and multilateral institutions to enable a fast, effective and inclusive response.

3. **Leaving No-one Behind:** the response must be independent of donors' national interests and prioritise reaching the most marginalized first, with targeted measures and safeguards to ensure programmes are gendered, sustainable, inclusive, pro-poor, human-rights based, conflict-sensitive and observe best practice in safeguarding.

4. **Healthcare and health systems:** fundamental to an effective response is strengthened global public health capacity to prevent wider spread of the virus and support those affected and increased long-term investment in national public health systems strengthening.

5. **Humanitarian response and conflict sensitivity:** mobilisation of timely, coordinated, effective, inclusive, principled and needs-based funding that reaches frontline responders and is integrated across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus where appropriate, that addressed both the symptoms and root causes of poverty, conflict and fragility.

6. **Protection of rights and good governance:** ensuring people's rights are protected during and after the Covid-19 crisis and continuation of effective governance functions.

7. **Tackling wider socio-economic impacts:** comprehensive context-specific, inclusive economic and social support programmes including cash transfers, mass employment, livelihoods support offsetting unsustainable level of informal/ formal unemployment, loss of income, limited fiscal space for governments, conflict prevention initiatives.

8. **Access to public services and systems strengthening:** access to and investment in inclusive, quality public services, particularly health, social protection and education.

9. **Climate and Environment:** as the custodians of the Paris Agreement as COP26 President, the UK must lead the global efforts to BBB whilst collectively limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, build resilience, and halt and reverse environmental decline.

1. Adherence to the core principles

In its immediate and longer-term response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the UK should champion and implement sustainable development that puts people and nature first, does not prioritise growth at the expense of the poorest countries and people, and is fully in accord with commitments made in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement.

The response to the pandemic must begin the process of BBB to ensure a more resilient, equal, sustainable, and healthier world in the future, with an explicit commitment to maintaining the principles of aid effectiveness and transparency, as well as to the SDGs as the organising framework for recovery.

What we want to see globally:

1. A global focus on 'building back better' with the SDGs as the explicit organising framework, supported by a UK government;

2. Effective humanitarian response adhering to International Humanitarian law and International refugee law as well as Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship;

3. Recovery interventions guided by the Paris Agreement, OECD DAC principles, Human Rights and international labour standards, so that all international investments and ODA drive sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, and do no harm to climate, environment, or people;

4. A focus on the 'leave no one behind' pledge by all governments, to ensure Covid-19 recovery directly addresses the specific needs of at risk groups and the most marginalised;

5. Comprehensive gender analysis ensuring that an understanding of the gendered impact of Covid-19 is used in designing, implementing and evaluating both prevention and response mechanisms in line with the Strategic Vision on Gender Equality and the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014 and the Beijing Platform for Action;

6. Commitments to localisation implemented to ensure that immediate response and post-Covid-19 recovery is locally owned and led, based on local needs using local capacity;

7. A joined up, inclusive, gendered, conflict sensitive and needs-based response at global, national or local levels.

What we want the UK Government to do:

Develop a clear and transparent strategy and plan in consultation with civil society, international development and humanitarian actors and other key stakeholders, including from the Global South, for how UK aid and foreign policy will support 'building back better', with the SDGs as the explicit organising framework for recovery (as well as other frameworks including the Paris Agreement, Human Rights and International Labour Standards).

2. Global leadership and adequate funding

A Global crisis requires global action with the leading nations and development actors at the front taking bold and responsible actions to create effective global solutions for the long-term. Robust humanitarian action should be followed by plans to build societal resilience and strengthened social systems to prevent similar shocks in future. Special attention should be paid to countries with already stretched health systems and fragile and conflict affected states.

What we want to see globally:

1. Effective global leadership to address the pandemic, with the UK playing a lead role, leading and leveraging action through interconnecting leadership of the Sustainable Recovery workstream of the UN Financing for Development, the G7 in 2021, and the COP26 Presidency;

2. Strong coordination of joined-up, inclusive, gendered, conflict sensitive and needs-based response at global and national levels involving donors and key stakeholders including INGOs, local CSOs and trade unions ensuring that resources are spent with the maximum impact, and value for money in transparent and accountable way;

3. Recognition of and responsiveness to the impacts of Covid-19 as potential drivers of conflict, and its interaction with the economic, humanitarian, climate and environmental crisis;

4. Immediate mobilisation of adequate level of funds for global response (a global 'Marshall Plan' for the 21st century) adhering to 0.7% ODA commitment and applying the same countercyclical approach applied at home in most of the OECD countries;

5. Action plans (at global and country levels) to ensure integration of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities, especially in fragile and conflict affected states (FCAS);

6. A balance of multilateral, bilateral and civil society funding mechanisms to ensure programmes reach the most left behind quickly;

7. Clear guarantees that all rebuilding and recovery programmes are conditional on local ownership and are created and implemented in full consultation with local civil society, including women's rights organisations, trade unions and other organisations representing marginalised groups and affected groups, and according to national sustainable development plans and strategies;

8. Due diligence and compliance processes adapted so that funding can reach organisations working with communities on the ground quickly;

9. Accelerated localisation through flexing local funding and compliance approaches to fast track funds to national and local civil society organisations on the frontline;

10. Sufficient, appropriate and flexible funding to enable CSOs and INGOs to respond both individually and collaboratively to the enormous demand;

11. Protection of a vibrant civil society in Covid-19 affected countries;

What we want the UK Government to do:

1. Use its influence in international fora, including UN General Assembly, to push for a coordinated global response with increased aid and financing (e.g. supporting the UN call for an extra US$500bn in aid for low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and advocating for compliance with 0.7% ODA/ GNI target);

2. Execute its influence through the membership in UN, IMF, WB, WHO, WTO, OECD to boost international cooperation, coordination, solidarity and renewed multilateralism focusing on assisting and protecting the most at-risk populations;

3. Use its influence in UN-level conversations on post-Covid-19 recovery to push for inclusive and participatory dialogue between member states, civil society and other stakeholders;

4. Work with the Norwegian government during the next Global Disability Summit (planned for 2021) to lead a global discussion on disability inclusive approaches in response to Covid-19;

5. Use its influence with the multilateral system to lobby the UN to pass on flexible funding and reporting arrangements, increase funding allocation to NGOs, and deliver funding quickly;

6. Work with UN and other donors to speed up Country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) and implement regional CBPFs, assess effectiveness of IOM pilot, and if it is working successfully, scale it up;

7. Lead by example and advocate for the largescale use of grants not loans to support recovery, including climate finance, to avoid increasing indebtedness of poorer countries;

8. Maximise the amount of ODA that immediately and directly reaches developing countries and that targets and significantly benefits the most marginalised in those countries. More specifically:

   - Scale up responsive funding mechanisms to protect civilians and refugees that have been proven to work well, including RRF, Start Fund, IOM and country-based pooled funds in line with principles and good practice of humanitarian donorship;

   - Increase the amount allocated to the Rapid Response Facility (RFF);

   - Extend the Supplier Relief package in-line with the new Cabinet Office guidance until October 2020 and review its approach so more organisations can easily access and benefit from it, and DFID funded programmes are able to continue;

   - Commit to flexible arrangements for existing UK Aid delivery partners and releases clear guidelines, allowing partners to adjust ways of working to maintain critical life-saving operations while undertaking mitigation measures to reduce the risk of outbreaks;

   - Adapt DFID's compliance and due diligence processes and implement more flexible approaches to get funds to organisations on the frontline whilst not compromising transparency and aid effectiveness principles;

9. Engage in a meaningful dialogue with civil society at HQ and country level regarding funding decisions including any cuts or pausing of aid to ensure clarity and effective response.

10. Take institutional and practical steps to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development, between domestic and international action on Covid-19, and between all dimensions of international action, maximising potential synergies and minimising negative trade-offs;

11. Ensure transparency of UK Government allocations (both through multilaterals, funds and DFID Country Offices) and strict safeguards to ensure quick and easy access to sufficient levels of funding for NGOs and reduce corruption and misappropriation of funds intended for Covid-19 response and recovery;

3. Leaving no-one behind

The poorest, most fragile, conflict-affected and indebted countries are likely to face the worst impacts of Covid-19 and the slowest recovery and we can expect a widespread increase in inequalities as a result.[1] The same is the case for the poorest, most excluded, marginalised and at risk groups and communities, leading to stalled or reversed progress on the achievement of the SDGs with only ten years to go until 2030. Groups being disproportionately hit include women and girls, children, older people, people with disabilities, refugees and displaced people, migrant and informal workers, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities and LGBTQAI+ people, among others. Individuals with diverse and intersecting identities are likely to be further impacted due to the intersecting oppressions that impact their daily lives. For example, we have already seen an increase in violence and harassment against women, children and minorities.

What we want to see globally:

1. The most marginalized groups of all ages at the centre of the Covid-19 response: to be fully inclusive and accessible to left behind groups including women, girls and children, older people, people with disabilities, refugees and at risk displaced people;

2. Sufficient funds to address the needs of the most at risk in the world; £75bn (about 1% of total global fiscal stimulus packages) is needed to reach the most marginalised 10%;

3. Continued commitment from governments to the Leave No One Behind pledge demonstrated by meaningful dialogue with the representatives of the most marginalized communities and groups.

What we want the UK Government to do:

1. Continue delivery of all existing inclusion strategies/frameworks e.g. the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, Disability Inclusive Development Strategy, Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan, Just Transition, and more meaningful implementation of its 2016 LNOB Promise;

2. Ensure that all Covid-19 interventions are gendered and accessible to/inclusive of women of all ages and girls, people with disabilities, refugees and displaced people, as well as sensitive to the needs of older people, young men and boys, LGBT+ people, and ethnic, faith and linguistic minorities;

3. Ensure 'Equity' forms a central part of the cost-benefit analysis on Covid-19 spending to ensure interventions that target those left behind, such as people with disability, are not deemed too expensive or an inefficient use of investments;

4. Collaborate with civil society representing the most marginalized to ensure that all rebuilding strategies and programmes are conditional on local support and ownership;

5. Provide direct funding and support to national and local civil society organisations throughout response and recovery, including those representing the most marginalized groups, women's and girls' rights organisations, organisations for people with disabilities, children, older people, refugees and internally displaced people;

6. Undertake appropriate monitoring and data disaggregation across all Covid-19 related interventions and maintain support for international efforts to strengthen data disaggregation, such as the World Bank Trust Fund for Sustainable Capacity, UNSD-DFID SDG Monitoring, and the Titchfield City Group;

7. Target programmes to address Covid-19 related gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and violence against children and minorities, and continuation of existing programmes such as education, sexual and reproductive health services;

8. Fully implement the best practice safeguarding principles at every level of response and recovery, including against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and labour exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking;

9. Prioritise practical programming that assists and protects the most marginalized groups through the crisis and beyond, with an emphasis on healthcare support, WASH, food security and social safety nets for marginalized people;

10. Develop programmes based on ILO Recommendation 204 concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy in order to formalise the informal economy and drive sustainable recovery;

11. Raise disability inclusion with all partners implementing Covid-19 responses and receiving UK aid, including all UN entities and the World Bank, and ensure they take concrete steps to ensure actions are disability-inclusive;

12. Strengthen community-based protection for children, and particularly for girls during Covid-19 response;

13. Ensure all interventions, particularly all public health communications, are accessible and available in multiple formats, including sign language interpretation and closed captioning;

14. Address all forms of discrimination and stigmatisation in development and humanitarian programmes that may impact peoples access to services and institutions essential for Covid-19 response and recovery.

15. Review and invest where appropriate in working inclusively online, and carry out inclusion audits of UK aid programmes looking at consultation with and engagement local organisations and communities to ensure their needs and perspectives are heard.

4. Healthcare and health systems

What we want to see globally:

1. A focus on preventing the spread of the virus, including scaled up investments in inclusive WASH, access to clean water, soap, toilets and access to public health information;

2. Expansion and strengthening of public healthcare systems to respond to Covid-19 with adequate standards and capacity as well as removal of user fees and other financial barriers;

3. Continued support to all existing public health and health-related programmes including those focussed on non-communicable diseases to prevent further, indirect, loss of lives;

4. Protection of government expenditure on already weak parts of health and social care systems, for example essential supports for older people with psychosocial disabilities;

5. Development of Covid-19 treatment, medicines, and vaccines with measures to ensure equal, public, global access to vaccines;

6. Alignment of public and private health facilities to fight the pandemic, with governments requisitioning existing available health care capacity to meet urgent health needs of the people;

7. Engagement of local CSOs, trade unions and health professionals in efforts to strengthen public healthcare systems.

What we want the UK Government to do:

1. Focus on preventing the spread of the virus, including scaled up investments in inclusive WASH, public access to clean water, soap, toilets and access to public health information;

2. Increase or at least maintain ODA for health at current levels concentrating on strengthening of public not private health care infrastructure;

3. Provide direct budget support and advice to governments to build strengthened, fully resourced, inclusive, resilient public health systems and to progress towards the provision of universal health coverage (UHC);

4. Sustain support to all existing health-related programmes and essential services, including: HIV, malaria and TB prevention and treatment; antenatal care; immunisations; WASH; sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); nutrition; and psycho-social/mental health support for those with intersecting determinants of socio-economic-political marginalisation who may be more at risk to developing mental health and psychosocial issues;

5. Make a multi-year pledge to fund nutrition programmes and mobilise other donors to do the same, and work with stakeholders to ensure provision of food and nutrition during the emergency;

6. Leverage the UK's role as a leading funder of R&D into Covid-19 diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics and treatments, to impose public interest conditions that ensure open innovation, and transparent and equitable access to the final product (e.g. supporting the global production of generic versions of vaccines);

7. Advocate for increased domestic resource mobilisation for public health;

8. Work with WHO and governments to support and enable them to remove all financial barriers, including user fees, to people accessing healthcare, and deliver free testing and treatment;

9. Instruct CDC to enable private sector health companies they have invested in to align to the national effort including by providing free treatment and care, whilst sacrificing profits. CDC could pass their stake in private hospitals and other relevant companies to national governments with the requirement they be used for public use;

10. Consider increasing investments in health institutions that have a proven track record for delivering for the world's poorest and most marginalised, for example the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria;

11. Maintain funding and support given by the UK Government to global health Research & Development and its Product Development Partnership portfolio.

5. Humanitarian response and conflict sensitivity

What we want to see globally:

1. Global leadership and coordination for an effective and inclusive humanitarian response;

2. Humanitarian access to affected and the most marginalized populations;

3. Localisation / shift the power at the centre of the response;

4. A strong focus on humanitarian protection and human rights;

5. Conflict prevention, mitigation and sensitivity embedded in the response;

6. Support the UN SG's call for a global ceasefire in the context of Covid-19 and takes steps to promote its implementation;

What we want the UK Government to do:

1. Demonstrate an unqualified commitment to Humanitarian Principles and Good Practice Humanitarian Donorship, which aim to ensure the independence, neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian responses;

2. Rally diplomatic leverage in support of humanitarian access and protection of international humanitarian law (IHL) by aligning UK's combined diplomatic weight of the FCDO, UK embassies, and the UK's seat on the UN Security Council to support negotiations for continued principled humanitarian assistance;

3. Support UN agencies efforts to find new ways to expedite the flow of funding to first responders, including INGOs and local civil society actors;

4. Effectively mobilise timely and needs based funding that reaches frontline responders;

5. Create a clear strategy to provide more effective support to local leadership – including direct funding through country offices, securing more effective access (and influence over) multilateral funding and enabling INGOs to partner with local NGOs;

6. Ensure sufficient and flexible funding for an integrated response across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus, especially embedding conflict prevention and ensuring standing peace capacities (expertise in mediation and mediation support, participatory conflict analysis etc). This will enable swifter responses to rapidly evolving context and conflict dynamics;

7. Ensure FCDO has a strong focus on humanitarian protection, conflict sensitivity analysis and human rights within its own Covid-19 response plans, funding allocations etc; specifically, ensure that response to Covid-19 increases capacity to manage conflict and does not exacerbate drivers of conflict and overall UK's and global response is not deprioritizing support to conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts;

8. Prioritise and protect women and girls, children, older people and other groups at risk in humanitarian response, applying thorough safeguarding mechanisms, including the use of IASC Guidelines for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities.

9. Respond to food insecurity and hunger where it emerges via direct assistance, and by scaling up social protection measures and ensuring all communities have access;

10. Address systemic threats to food security – for example providing support to critical agriculture and infrastructure (not just through aid, but eg via CDC investments, trade, debt relief etc). This could include securing commercial as well as humanitarian exemptions at borders, and other diplomatic efforts to ensure food is available to all communities.

11. Maintain the UK's leadership on humanitarian cash programming which is proven to be fast and effective way of delivering assistance, supporting local markets and building resilience to shocks.

12. Ensure that efforts to communicate Covid-19 response and messaging around wellbeing are well aligned to local cultural perspectives, including by ensuring that people with disabilities are able to access messaging – best done by developing the messaging themselves;

13. Use its diplomatic channels to prioritise humanitarian protection and human rights, including non-discrimination within Covid-19 national emergency plans and responses, and ensure international humanitarian law and global commitments are upheld;

14. Take action to ensure that counter-terrorism measures and sanctions no longer impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance delivering on efforts to date by the Tri-Sector group in line with UN Security Council resolution 2462;

15. Reassess sanctions and counter-terrorism measures to ensure they do not hamper Covid-19 efforts – including providing humanitarian exemptions where needed.

16. Support humanitarian exemptions from lockdowns and workarounds to key operational issues (e.g. humanitarian passporting);

17. Support and fund shared resources such as common logistics pipelines and airbridges;

6. Protection of rights and good governance

Covid-19 presents itself with a number of challenges: threats to human rights and reduced space for independent scrutiny through excessive use of emergency powers and further closing of civil society space, increased levels of nationalism and chauvinism and the rise of abusive working conditions due to economic hardship. These in combination become heightened drivers for conflict and may stall peacebuilding efforts.

What we want to see globally:

1. Civil society space protected;

2. Accountability and good governance;

3. Transparency of and access to trusted information;

4. Protection of human rights defenders, journalists and media freedom;

5. Localisation and democratisation of development processes to increase social resilience; and in the long-run to address negative global power imbalances by co-creating new models for global solidarity.

What we want the UK government to do:

1. Speak out against governments that take advantage of the crisis to restrict human rights and civic freedoms, further close civil society space or target political opponents and the media;

2. Use diplomatic channels to mitigate the risk that Covid-19 is used as a pre-text to impose new unjustified access restrictions on aid and development agencies;

3. Strengthen enforcement of legislation and principles on responsible business and take action against such companies/ employers which disrespect fundamental rights of their workers;

4. Speak up for the rights of marginalised groups within the Covid-19 response and call out any exploitation or misuse of Covid-19 public health measures to suppress rights or entitlements;

5. Provide funding and support for civil society organisations such as Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPO's) who protect the rights of marginalised groups and petition for inclusive policy and government funding;

6. Support and introduce mandatory due diligence for human rights and environmental protection, especially during Covid-19 recovery;

7. Support strengthened social dialogue to promote good governance;

8. Provide direct funding and support for the long-term sustainability and empowerment of local civil society organisations working on Covid-19 recovery;

9. Carry out meaningful collaboration with local civil society and peacebuilding organisations, and build participatory, accountable decision-making for the future;

10. Increase funding for interventions to tackle violent conflict, strengthen social cohesion, including support for peacebuilding, fully recognising that violent conflict will continue to grow as a result of Covid-19 and indirect economic and political shocks;

11. Avoid programming which empowers security sectors with poor human rights records;

12. Promote access to trusted and reliable sources of information, through support for media and initiatives that increase the availability of reliable information, counter mis/disinformation and/or address critical governance issues (e.g. transparency, accountability, social cohesion).

7. Tackling wider socio-economic impacts

The economic impacts, and both at macro and micro level, of the pandemic are vast, as are social and other impacts. Some of these include:

- Significant fall in GDP, trade and FDI around the world, disruption of key industries, essential supply chains, financial tax revenues and remittances;

- Protracted economic crisis/es, leading to increased poverty, conflict, exacerbated social and economic inequalities and stalled/reversed development gains. UNCTAD estimates that Covid-19 will push additional 33 million into extreme poverty in 2020;

- A shrinking of ODA budgets in relative and absolute terms, at the same time as we see increased reliance on ODA among countries without the fiscal space to boost spending;

- Rapid, sharp loss of employment and livelihoods combined with inadequate social safety nets, especially for informal, young, female, disabled and migrant workers. Negative livelihoods impact on farmers, pastoralists and agricultural producers;
- Worsened working conditions and reductions in wages, especially for women workers; and rise in unpaid care work among women and girls negatively affecting women's economic empowerment;
- The negative impact on wellbeing of isolation and other mitigation policies has been huge, especially a major rise in mental health problems, which is particularly the case for the most economically marginalised, including people with disabilities;
- inequality will increase as burden of pandemic will inevitably fall on low income and marginalised groups.

It is in the UK's interest to ensure that these impacts are addressed in an effective and sustainable way, given the UK's role in international trade and investment and dependency of UK supply chains on suppliers in developing countries.

What we want to see globally:

1. Recovery programmes to build sustainable, inclusive and resilient economies and livelihoods, through economic models that prioritise people and nature rather than inequitable or unsustainable growth;

2. Fair, green, sustainable and inclusive trade systems;

3. Concerted, immediate effort to address unprecedented levels of formal and informal unemployment, with new programmes for creation of decent, inclusive, green jobs in sustainable and environmentally-friendly industries;

4. Effective response which addresses rising hunger risks through scaling up social protection systems, increased support to household and community food security and nutrition as well as securing commercial as well as humanitarian exemptions at borders to ensure food is available to all communities;

5. Concerted efforts to address systemic causes of increasing food insecurity supporting critical agriculture and infrastructure;

6. Debt cancellation for 2020 and 2021 to ensure Southern countries can prioritise the response and sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery;

7. A UN-led binding sovereign debt workout mechanism;

8. Joint declaration restricting and suspending use of investor-state dispute settlement in the context of the pandemic;

9. Access by business to public aid and ODA should be conditioned to a higher bar of human rights and supply commitments to be met, and compliance to international agreements on both human rights and the environment.

What we want the UK Government to do:

1. Push for alternative measures of success for post-Covid 19 recovery than GDP, to better track national progress and wellbeing;

2. Focus its full attention and provide innovative responses to socio-economic impacts of Covid-19 with built in resilience of economic development initiatives;

3. Use its influence at the global level to call for global debt cancellation, including immediate cancellation of all sovereign debts due to the UK in 2020 and 2021 - as well as all private debts managed under UK law - to support sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery;

4. Take steps to ensure ODA spending is as concessional as possible, with more grants and fewer loans, to avoid accumulation of new unsustainable debt;

5. Support a moratorium on all arbitration claims during the pandemic by private companies against governments using international investment treaties, and permanent restriction on all arbitration claims targeting measures governments have taken to tackle the health, economic and social dimensions of the pandemic and its effects;

6. Strengthen regulatory framework for responsible business and supply chains to enforce corporate accountability and compliance with human rights and international labour standards;

7. Support targeted programmes to address the heightened economic impact of the virus on the most vulnerable, including informal, casual and migrant workers, people with disabilities, older people, women, adolescents and youth, and to address the rise in unpaid care work among women and girls;

8. Review DFID's Economic Development Strategy to:

    o Ensure that small- and micro-enterprises (SMEs), the informal sector, where the majority of marginalized people are employed, and unpaid care are at the core of UK government's response and recovery efforts;

    o Emphasise investment in shared public goods, including an analysis of the limits of liberalised markets to drive sustainable development in a post-crisis environment.

    o Support fiscal measures by governments maintaining jobs and social protection;

9. Advise, support and advocate for other governments and businesses to secure all working conditions during the crisis and to put in place safeguards against exploitation, with particular focus on women and informal workers;

10. Continue and strengthen implementation and enforcement of the Modern Slavery Act, including that directly related to the impacts of Covid-19;

11. Scale-up investment in the creation of (and reskilling for) new, inclusive, decent jobs and livelihoods in sustainable and environmentally-friendly industries, including grants and loans for small- and micro-enterprises and workers in the informal sector;

12. Ensure restrictions are avoided for all essential goods, including food, medicine and humanitarian aid;

13. Support government interventions such as affordable finance, interest rate reductions, income and corporate tax reductions, and reduced taxes on exports that benefit mission-driven and socially responsible businesses, small producer cooperatives, social enterprises, and personal level (workers);

14. Enact a genuinely consultative approach to new trade treaties including EU-UK, USA-UK trade deals to ensure proper safeguards for human rights, workers' rights, sustainability, climate, environmental and economic justice are in place;

15. Reduce transaction costs for remittances from the UK during the crisis, so resources can be more easily sent where they are most needed;

16. Proactively support a global wealth and financial transactions tax, as well as taxes on windfall/excess profits during the crisis, with proceeds going to countries most in need to support post-Covid-19 recovery;

17. Put in place binding safeguards to ensure that international actors receiving ODA or bail-out support guarantee the right of collective bargaining and fundamental workers' rights, provide safe employment and minimise lay-offs, provide decent wages and uphold occupational health and safety and sick leave benefits;

18. Lead by an example and develop incentives for sustainable investors to build inclusive, decarbonized, human rights-based and productive economies as part of recovery.

10. Access to public services and systems strengthening

The Covid-19 pandemic threatens to overwhelm already weak social protection systems and public services where they exist. 55% of the world's population — about four billion people — do not benefit from any form of social protection whatsoever. Increased school closures and dropouts threaten long-term impacts on youth and children, especially girls. Massive disruption to food production, food supply and price fluctuations are negatively impacting food security, and the number of acutely food insecure people is on the rise.

What we want to see:

1. Global public investment focusing on essential public services;

2. Governments and donors putting public financing and access to services at the centre of the response for health, education and particularly social protection;

3. Action on commitments to social protection as one of the key pillars of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and ILO Convention 102 and Recommendation 202;

4. Measures to protect against economic shocks that disproportionately harm the poorest, including funded social protection/safety net mechanisms;

5. Scaled-up investment in nutrition and wider food system sustainability and resilience (supply, access) with particular focus on small-scale producers;

6. Continued/increased support for public education, distance learning, and training programmes, with a particular focus on young people, girls and children with disabilities, to reduce impact of loss of education/drop out;

What we want the UK Government to do:

1. Support scaled-up ongoing public financing, access to and investment in inclusive public services for people of all ages, particularly health, social protection and education;

2. Provide advice, in-kind support and financing for increased, sustainable public financing and domestic resource mobilisation and to support the implementation of cash transfers and universal social protection systems;

3. Resist any attempts to attach structural readjustment conditions to loans/bailouts to governments in the vulnerable countries such as privatisation of public services;

4. Use the UK's international influence to promote, support and fund proposals for a global safety net, including emergency relief and investment in longer-term resilience;

5. Invest in the preparedness and early warning/early action needed for at risk communities facing seasonal impacts this year in the context of the pandemic and high risk of famine;

6. Support/advice for the introduction of 'flexible lockdowns' in countries with limited social protection, according to context, to ensure continued access to food and services;

7. Scale-up investment in long-term food system sustainability and resilience and programmes to support food system stability, emphasising sustainable agriculture, small-scale and local producers and trade;

8. Continue support for public education, distance learning, and training programmes, with a particular focus on young people, girls and children with disabilities;

9. Invest in stronger post-crisis food security and production, with emphasis on small-scale producers;

10. Ensure the UK's post-Brexit trade deals do not undermine access to public services, especially in developing countries.

11.   Climate and environment

The global pandemic threatens to slow action to address the climate and ecologically emergencies, and in doing so exacerbate poverty and inequality, and put the goals of the Paris Agreement and SDGs beyond reach for good. There is a risk that governments will prioritise rebuilding the old, unsustainable economic ways as a quick economic fix and in so doing lock in another decade of accelerating climate change and environmental decline, rather than appreciating the need to use this unprecedented moment to invest in a just transition that secures all our futures. We cannot afford to emerge from this global pandemic locked into a climate emergency, an ecological emergency, and a poverty emergency. Decisions taken now represent a crucial juncture; a moment in history when the actions to respond to the pandemic and to rebuild economies will determine whether humanity succeeds in our goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, halt and reverse the decline of nature, and build the resilient and inclusive future envisioned in the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

What we want to see globally:

1. Economic bail-outs, stimulus packages and recovery plans at global and national levels that deliver the goals of Paris Agreement and SDGs and deliver a 'just transition' so that countries emerge from the pandemic with more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economics and communities, and not having locked in the 'triple emergency' of climate emergency, environmental degradation and poverty and inequality.

2. Strict conditions to be applied to bailouts/investments to protect people and the environment that ensure a fast and just transition and prevent vast numbers of redundancies;

3. Polluting businesses that are set to fail should be repurposed for socially useful production e.g. renewables, healthcare equipment etc;

4. Multilateral development banks and public finance institutions phasing out fossil fuel finance and scaling up investments in renewable energy and energy access as part of recovery investments to facilitate the just energy transition, in tandem with private finance institutions undergoing TCFD disclosures, and taking steps to limit their exposure to climate risk;

5. Increased awareness of and research into zoonoses, and the role of fragmentation and degradation of nature - and agriculture on the margins - in increasing pandemic risks;

6. Reduced threats to environmental defenders in the name of economic recovery and introduce environmental and social safeguards for corporate accountability in recovery efforts.

What we want the UK Government to do:

1. Use its leadership of the G7 and Presidency of COP26 in 2021 to lead a global conversation on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery that is locally-led and enables the just transition and increases global ambition to deliver the Paris Agreement;

2. Put forward an early and ambitious enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that catalyses global ambition, is net zero and 1.5˚C aligned, is fair and equitable, includes quality nature-based solutions and forges a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery;

3. Invest in a UK recovery that delivers for people, nature and climate, using tools that provide lasting and immediate economic benefits while also accelerating the transition to a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. Including:

   - corporate bailouts with green strings attached
   - investment in nature-based solutions and sustainable agriculture
   - loan and grants for green investments
   - subsidies or tax reductions for green products, and the removal of brown subsidies.
   - green R&D subsidies
   - reinforcing environmental regulation and avoiding deregulation.

4. Invest in the preparedness and early warning/early action needed for at risk communities facing seasonal impacts this year in the context of the pandemic and high risk of famine;

5. Support sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery in developing countries by ending all UK public support - both aid and export finance - for fossil fuels overseas; supporting countries instead to leapfrog to renewable and efficient energy, and energy access for all; and call on MDBs, other financial institutions, and other governments to do the same;

6. Ensure new and additional (to ODA) sources of climate finance are established for vulnerable countries suffering loss and damage, such as through cancellation of debt during times of crisis, shifting subsidies, and a climate damages tax. This is needed even more than ever due to shrinking ODA, the global pandemic, and the climate emergency;

7. Ensure that the UK's footprint in other countries is socially and environmentally responsible, enabling all countries to 'build back better' and pursue a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery:

   - ensure the finance sector is aligned to Paris Agreement and SDGs,
   - end harmful environmental and social impacts across supply chains,
   - ensure ESG sustainability considerations are built into trade agreements,
   - support the transformation of food and farming practices to create a sustainable food system.

8. Ensure the UK's post-Brexit trade deals do not undermine climate action.