



25th February 2026

One year on, the UK INGO sector highlights the devastating impact of the UK aid cuts

One year ago today, the Prime Minister announced in Parliament his decision to break Labour's manifesto pledge and cut the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget from 0.5% to 0.3% by 2027 – set to be the steepest reduction of any G7 country.

As 93 leaders of the UK INGO sector, we write to mark this grim anniversary and the devastating impacts of the cuts in the last year – and urge the UK government to restore the UK's position as a principled, reliable and ambitious development partner.

Over the past year, we have witnessed first-hand the consequences of these short-sighted cuts. Compounded with cuts by the US, France, Germany and others, these cuts mean fewer families in conflict zones able to access shelter, food and water, and fewer children able to go to school. Lifesaving health and reproductive programmes in some of the world's most fragile and conflict-affected countries across Africa and Asia are [at risk of closure](#). The UK government's own [Equalities Impact Assessment](#) of the 2025/26 cuts confirms that women and girls, people with disabilities, children and people affected by conflict, will be hardest hit.

The UK INGO sector has long worked in partnership with the UK government to support the lives of millions of people worldwide. However, these cuts were made without consultation with sector experts, who play a vital role in delivering the legal objective of UK aid: poverty reduction. Cuts to programmes and staffing within the FCDO have also been pushed through without adequate transparency on the strategy and rationale behind these cuts. This lack of clarity has eroded trust in the government: including among local partners with whom vital partnerships have been damaged.

While we acknowledge the fiscal pressures at hand, we strongly believe that no government should balance its books on the backs of the world's most marginalised people. UK aid represents a tiny proportion of public spending, yet delivers significant return on investment by preventing diseases before they become pandemics, reducing conflict and crises that force people to flee, and strengthening global stability to protect people in the UK and around the world. The savings from cutting UK aid are small, but the consequences are devastating – both for marginalised communities worldwide, and for the British taxpayer.

We know the UK public are concerned about global insecurity and instability and want to see us working with other countries to build a safer and more sustainable world. After multiple broken manifesto promises and U-turns, the British public are looking to the UK to do its fair

share in the fight against global poverty and insecurity – not delivering the steepest reduction in its aid budget in the G7.

This decision will arguably have the most damaging global consequences of any this UK government will make, and will shape Labour's legacy for decades to come unless the government steps up to reverse the cuts and ensure the UK aid budget is focussed on global poverty reduction.

With a significantly reduced UK aid budget, the government must step up its ambitions around global financial sector reform and help build a fairer economic system that enables lower income countries to invest in their own sustainable development. The UK's upcoming G20 leadership offers a critical window to advance this agenda, rebuild damaged partnerships, and reestablish the UK as a trusted global partner.

One year on from the announcement of the UK aid cuts, we urgently call on the UK government to set out a plan to reverse these cuts, ensure poverty reduction is at the heart of its development agenda, and play its part in making the global system fair for all.

Signed,

Adele Paterson, International Health Partners, CEO

Adrian Lovett, The ONE Campaign, UK Executive Director

Alex Daniels, APT Action on Poverty, CEO

Alex Kent, Restless Development, Co-CEO

Alex Ritchie, Global Giving UK, CEO

Alison Marshall, Age International, CEO

Alison Wallace, SOS Children's Villages UK, CEO

Andrew Betts, Advantage Africa, Director

Anuradha Joshi, Institute of Development Studies, Director

Ben Leather, Peace Brigades International UK, Director

Ben Simms, Global Health Partnerships (formally THET), CEO

Bethan Cobley, MSI Reproductive Choices, Director, External Relations

Camila Garbutt, People In Need UK, Director

Camilla Knox-Peebles, Amref Health Africa UK, Chief Executive

Catherine Pettengell, Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK), Executive Director

Charles Davy, Afghanaid, Managing Director

Chris Skeet, The Power of Nutrition, CEO

Christina Bennet, START Network, CEO

Christine Allen, CAFOD, Director

Darren Dovey, MapAction, CEO

David Evans, Ace Africa, Country Director

David Thomson, All We Can, CEO

Dominic Haslam, Sightsavers, Deputy CEO

Eleanor Harrison, Fairtrade Foundation, CEO

Eva Tabbasam, GAPS, Director

Fola Komolafe, World Vision UK, CEO

Frances Guy, Scotland's International Development Alliance, CEO

Gillian McMahon, Right To Play UK, Executive Director

Graeme Hodge, United World Schools, Global CEO

Hannah Bond, ActionAid UK, Co-CEO

Hannah Doornbos, SWIDN, Executive Director

Hannah Loryman, Send My Friend to School, Co-chair

Hassan Tabikh, Aman, Founder

Helen McEachern, CARE International UK, CEO

Helen Pattinson, War Child UK, CEO

Henrietta Blackmore, Habitat for Humanity Great Britain, National Director/CEO

Jack Farrell, Search for Common Ground UK, Director

Jacqui Hunt, Equality Now, Head of Office

Jamie Drummond, Sharing Strategies, Founder

Jamie Eyre, Embrace the Middle East, CEO

Jane Salmonson, Firefly International, Director

Jean-Michel Grand, Action Against Hunger, CEO

Jennifer Farrelly, GOAL Global, CEO

Jenny Willmott, STiR Education, Co-CEO

Jessica Woodroffe, Gender and Development Network, Director

Joel Gill, Geology for Global Development, Co-CEO (Research and Impact)

John McLaverty, Send My Friend To School, Co-Chair

John Plastow, Frontline Aids, Executive Director

Jonny Oates, United Against Malnutrition and Hunger, CEO

Joyce Idoniboye, Oxfam GB, Acting CEO

Julian Watson, Mbedza Projects Support, Director

Karl Hankinson, Able Child, CEO

Kate Newman, INTRAC, CEO

Katie Hesselby, Action for Global Health, Director

Kavita Prasad, Sense International, Chief Executive

Kirsty Smith, CBM UK, CEO

Kitty Arie, Results UK, CEO

Lara McIvor, Seenaryo, Joint CEO

Laurence Haddad, GAIN, Executive Director

Liza Tong, A Leg To Stand, A Hand To Feed, Director

Lorraine Currie, SCIAF, Chief Executive

Lynne Morris OBE, Toybox, CEO

Marcos Concepcion Raba, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Executive Director

Martin Drewry, Health Poverty Action, CEO

Matthew Carter, Depaul International, Group CEO

Matthew Lake, Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK, CEO

Maurice Omollo, Child & Women International Development, Country Director

Michael Deriaz, Friends of Kipkelion, Chairman

Nabeel Al-Ramadhani, Human Relief Foundation, CEO

Nic Hailey, International Alert, Executive Director

Dr Nick Hepworth, Water Witness, CEO

Nick Sankey, Pratham UK, Executive Director

Nik Kafka, Teach A Man To Fish, CEO

Othman Moqbel, Action for Humanity UK, CEO

Patrick Watt, Christian Aid, CEO

Paul Stuart, Ripple Effect, CEO

Peter Waddup, The Leprosy Mission Great Britain, CEO

Rob Capener, Railway Children, Group CEO

Romilly Greenhill, Bond, CEO

Rose Caldwell, Plan International UK, CEO

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Sarah Roberts, Practical Action, CEO

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Sean Farrell, Trócaire, CEO

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Silas Balraj, Tearfund, CEO

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Tom Mitchell, IIED, Executive Director

Tom Shelton, Humanity & Inclusion UK, Executive Director

Willeke van Rijn, Resource Alliance, CEO

Zia Salik, Islamic Relief UK, Director