

Briefing for MSPs for debate on: **Contribution to International Development Report** October 2018

Christian Aid welcomes Scotland's first [Contribution to International Development Report](#). In particular we commend the breadth of the report, its links to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the shift that it represents towards a more holistic 'policy coherent' approach to tackling global poverty.

Key points:

- Aid is only one part of a much broader response to tackling global poverty, with other decisions (across a breadth of portfolios) potentially having at least as big an impact in the long-term as Scotland's international development funding.
- Christian Aid supports a 'policy coherent' approach to international development in which policies across all of government are weighed up in terms of their likely effect on international development.
- The Scottish Government has taken steps towards a policy coherent approach, but it is early days. We look forward to working with MSPs of all parties and the Scottish Government to develop this report and the policy coherent approach.

Introduction

Christian Aid has been supporting the world's most vulnerable people and tackling the root causes of poverty for over 70 years. We know that poverty doesn't happen by accident. Our experience across more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America tells us that poverty tends to be the result of unequal access to power and resources – often linked to, or a consequence of, political decisions.

Going beyond aid – Policy Coherence for Development

Christian Aid has long understood that the role of political decision-makers in tackling poverty goes far beyond funding programmes in developing countries, however welcome and vital that may be.

Addressing fundamental issues such as climate change, corporate tax avoidance, gender inequality, conflict, unhelpful trade and foreign policies is crucial in tackling the root causes of poverty. We therefore support a government-wide approach that considers the impact of decisions across all departments on the world's most vulnerable women, men and children. Such a whole-government approach is often referred to as Policy Coherence for Development (PCD).

We therefore welcome Scotland's first Contribution to International Development Report, as its breadth and framing represent steps towards a more coherent, cross-governmental and cross-sectoral approach to tackling poverty. We call on MSPs of all political parties to support the continued roll-out of a 'policy coherent' approach to international development.

'Occasionally the terms 'aid' and 'international development' are used almost interchangeably. Yet the two are vastly different things. Aid only remains necessary because of the lack of true international development.'

Chris Hegarty, Senior Adviser, Christian Aid Scotland

Recommendations:

- Scotland's approach should learn from others. Scotland's International Development Alliance (formerly known as NIDOS) has produced some excellent [analysis](#) of how other countries embed a policy coherent approach and the lessons we can learn from them.
- By its nature, an approach that requires cross-government collaboration needs high-level political support. We warmly welcome the First Minister's recent speech at Scotland's International Development Alliance's Annual Conference in which she gave strong backing to policy coherence. It should now be made clear how such high-level support is going to be maintained for the long-term - for example via the creation of a Cabinet sub-committee.
- The policy coherent approach should continue to be fleshed out by the Scottish Government - in collaboration with civil society - and progress should be reflected in next year's report.

We remain in constructive dialogue with the Scottish Government on where the policy coherent approach goes next. Some examples of areas where we see potential to develop a more coherent approach include:

- **Education:** for example - by broadening attainment standards to reflect Learning for Sustainability
- **Climate Change:** for example - by setting new emission targets that genuinely reflect the urgency embedded in the Paris Agreement *
- **Procurement:** for example - by looking at how Scotland's £9bn procurement budget can better incentivise companies to be exemplary global citizens

We also support the [recommendations](#) of Scotland's International Development Alliance relating to the implementation of policy coherence and future iterations of the Contribution to Development Report.

***Gertrude Hamooya**, 38 is a small-scale farmer in the Chipembi area of Chisamba District in Zambia. She cultivates mainly maize and groundnuts but also keeps free range chickens.

Gertrude has called on Scotland to 'Give it 100%' in the new Climate Change Bill.

'Our lives have become harder as farmers due to climate change. Most of us won't even harvest anything this year because of the rains coming at the wrong time of the year. The heavy rains have also destroyed the few roads we have in the area making it extremely difficult for us to transport anything or even to go to the hospitals.'

'International development work does not stand in isolation from everything else that government does. So we need to ensure that our wider policies do not undermine our international development programme. In fact we go further – we try to ensure, where possible, that policy areas actively support international development.'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon,
Scotland's International Development
Alliance Conference, 25 Sept 2018