



United Kingdom

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. United Kingdom hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

United Kingdom:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.
4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions.*
5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.



6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food sector, skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.
7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.
8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Domestic policy implementation commitments

The United Kingdom acknowledges its role in the national-level implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to sub-national level policies and programmes.

The United Kingdom:

Commits to make its best efforts to implement, improve, and/or scale-up the implementation of policy instruments and programmes from among those contained in the Global Alliance's policy basket in our national context. These policy instruments and programme suggestions would be adapted to the specific conditions, realities and opportunities presented in our country.

In particular, the United Kingdom commits to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of the following policy instruments or programmes, referenced in the Global Alliance's reference basket:

- 1) **Universal Credit:** a social security benefit to support people of working age who are out of work, unable to work or who have a low income. It includes support for the costs of housing, disabled people, carers and children and childcare.



- 2) **Pension Credit:** Help with living costs and housing support for pension-age adults on low incomes.
- 3) **Employment and Support Allowance:** financial support available to people under State Pension Age, who have a disability or health condition that affects their ability to work. It includes support with living costs and with getting back to work if they are able to.
- 4) **Benefits-related Free School Meals:** free school meals available to households in receipt of certain benefits, or with no recourse to public funds, provided that certain income thresholds are met. Around 2.1 million pupils are registered to receive this support. Transitional protections ensure that while Universal Credit is rolled out, pupils who are eligible retain this entitlement even if their household income increases. Following the completion of Universal Credit roll out, they will retain their entitlement until the end of the stage of education they are in at the time (e.g. primary or secondary school).
- 5) **Holiday Activities and Food Programme:** the programme provides healthy meals, enriching activities, and free childcare places to children from low-income families, benefiting their health, wellbeing and learning, outside of term time.
- 6) **Healthy Start Scheme:** helps to encourage a healthy diet for pregnant women, babies and young children under four from very low-income households in receipt of certain benefits. It supports these families to buy healthy foods such as fruit and vegetables, milk and infant formula, and provides access to free Healthy Start vitamins. The scheme also covers those who are under 18 and pregnant, regardless of being in receipt of any benefits, once the baby has been born, they must meet the usual eligibility criteria to continue receiving Healthy Start.

Declares that these policy instruments are implemented within the wider portfolio of domestic social security, education, nutrition and agricultural initiatives aimed at securing sustained economic growth, good jobs and productivity, break down barriers to opportunity, ensure awareness and access to healthy nutritious diets and support transition of our food systems to become more sustainable and resilient to the impacts of the climate and nature crises.

The new UK Employment Rights Bill marks the biggest upgrade to rights at work for a generation, and we are working to publish a new Child Poverty Strategy in Spring 2025. This is alongside our commitments to roll out free breakfast clubs at all primary schools and our commitments as part of Make Work Pay to deliver a genuine living wage. The Government has already changed the remit of the independent Low Pay Commission so that, for the very first time, it will take account of the cost of living. This Government is also removing discriminatory age bands, so that every adult in the working world – irrespective of age – will be entitled to the same minimum wage.



Commits to observe good practices throughout the implementation of such policy instruments and programmes, including maintaining effective governance, seeking avenues for domestic resource mobilization for funding such programs and providing for appropriate monitoring and evaluation, with adaptation and learning based on social involvement and consultation, local stakeholder engagement, minimizing negative impacts and seeking to adequately manage policy trade-offs.

Policy cooperation and support commitments

Commits to, within its capacities, share its own learnings and otherwise provide appropriate help and support, within its means, to other Global Alliance member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of policies and programmes referenced in the Alliance's basket.

Specifically, informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities related to lessons-learned and international cooperation in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

United Kingdom is ready to share experiences and lessons regarding the following policies and policy instruments referenced in the Alliance's policy basket: Universal Credit; Benefits-related Free School Meals; Holiday Activities and Food Programme; Healthy Start Scheme.

United Kingdom *highlights* the interconnections between hunger and poverty and the climate and nature crises, and the urgent need for climate resilience, adaptation and more sustainable approaches to agri-food transformation.

Through the trilateral Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership, the UK is partnering with Brazil and African countries to bring together innovative research and businesses to promote and scale climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices.

Through the new Joint UN Initiative on the Prevention of wasting, the UK is partnering with UNICEF, WFP and WHO to strengthen the evidence base and build consensus around what works best to prevent child wasting in food insecure contexts.

We remain committed to using our international, bilateral and multilateral engagement, including through donor working groups, to share knowledge and engage in policy cooperation on evidence-based approaches to food security, nutrition, water security and WASH, social protection and sustainable and resilient agriculture to accelerate action towards achieving SDG2.

As a shareholder in seven Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) and a major contributor to the concessional arms of MDBs, the UK is critical in making support available for the most vulnerable. The UK uses its role on MDB boards and those of other governing bodies such as the Rome-based agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP) to influence policy discussions and multilateral investments in food and agriculture and



humanitarian action; including through better targeting of geographies and populations, informed by global standards, demonstrated results and impacts.

Financial support commitments

United Kingdom:

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the destination, allocation and alignment of the use of its resources, including through coordination and cooperation facilitated by the Global Alliance, to support member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of select programmes or policy instruments in the Alliance's reference basket to drive the fight against hunger and poverty, in line with sustainable country-led financing and implementation strategies.

Informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of SDGs 1 and 2 and the Global Alliance's objectives:

Declares that the United Kingdom will tackle the hunger and poverty, and the climate and nature crises together, and put equality at the heart of everything we do. We will use all our levers to push for progress towards SDGs 1 and 2, alongside other relevant SDGs, and the Global Alliance's objectives – including our Official Development Assistance (ODA); our humanitarian, development and climate expertise; UK science and research; our political and trade diplomacy levers; and our extensive partnerships in the Global South and multilateral system.

Informs that UK ODA is spent on a wide range of programmes and policies tackling hunger and poverty, centrally and across our network of embassies, which in 2023 alone included £302 million spent bilaterally on Food Security related sectors¹; £105 million on Social Protection² and approximately £1,123 million on Education, Health³ and WASH. Multilaterally, just over 2 billion was spent in 2023 through UK contributions to the International Development Association; Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN; World Food Programme; and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

¹ In the absence of an universally agreed method, the FCDO has defined Food Security ODA, for the purposes of an indicative estimate, in line with the [G7 Financial Report on Food Security and Nutrition](#) (driving the accountability for the 2015 G7 Elmau Commitment to lift 500 million out of food insecurity by 2030) agreed methodology for "Direct Assistance for agriculture, fishing, food security and nutrition" (Indicator 3.1) which is the amount of ODA extended to these sectors captured via OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) codes which are selected by programme teams. It is likely an underestimate as it will not capture spend that was not classified under a food -related sector code but contributes to food security.

² This captures UK bilateral spend against the DAC social protection sector codes – 16010 to 16012.

³ Excluding Nutrition sector code which is included in the Food security related ODA spend figure.



Our active multi-year, multi-country programmes include: Global Food Security and Agriculture Programme (GAFSP), Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) and our longstanding support for AgDevCo working to mobilise much needed investment and technical assistance for small agribusinesses; Just Rural Transition programme supporting countries to undertake inclusive and equitable agricultural reforms; Global Land Governance programme promoting more effective, efficient and equitable rural and urban land tenure and governance; Just Transition for Water Security programme supporting countries, businesses and civil society (including in the agri-food sector) to enhance resilience to the impacts of water security and drive forward water stewardship as the global norm; the WASH systems for Health programme, working with governments in Africa and Asia to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services; Agriculture Investment and Innovation Platform, delivered in partnerships with the Gates Foundation, Acumen and Shell Foundation, to support innovative and cutting-edge agricultural SMEs to reach impact at scale, including through use of AI; the Child Wasting Innovation Programme, and its support to the Child Nutrition Fund, strengthening the quality and coverage of services to prevent and treat child wasting across countries in Africa and South Asia.

Committed to harness more climate finance to build the resilience of hundreds of thousands of vulnerable and food insecure households to extreme weather and other shocks caused and exacerbated by climate change - with an investment of up to £50m across 8 countries through a Resilience and Adaptation Fund in development.

Committed that it will work to increase climate finance for smallholder farmers and small agri-food businesses, to increase their food security and incomes, drive growth and poverty reduction, and accelerate climate adaptation, in lower income countries - through a £25.5m uplift to the UK Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness programme that leverages and catalyses private investment at scale.

Committed that it will help unlock and better coordinate finance to increase the coverage of cash transfer programmes, to help poor and vulnerable people meet their basic needs and withstand shocks, including in fragile and conflict settings, through a £3m contribution to the World Bank Rapid Social Response Trust Fund Fragility Window.

Committed that it will provide expertise support to the Alliance's Support Mechanism to help it achieve results at scale.

In addition, *declares* that it will help drive global food systems transformation and support countries to transform their food and farming systems to be more productive,



nutritious and sustainable, for healthier diets, better incomes and growth, *and* protection of the environment, including through our support for the post-Malabo agenda and other national and regional initiatives. We will continue to drive water security up the global agenda, recognising the fundamental interdependencies between water security and food systems and accelerating access to WASH services. We will continue to champion disaster risk financing mechanisms which enable governments and humanitarian agencies to insure themselves against major climate risks and will promote earlier warning and anticipatory approaches to improve response and build resilience to food crises. We will strengthen quality and coverage of services to prevent and treat child wasting, and will support government, private sector, civil society and global action to prevent and reduce malnutrition in all its forms.

Knowledge support commitments

United Kingdom:

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging, and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

Informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

The United Kingdom has a range of programmes that provide technical assistance, capacity building and evidence which can be mobilized to support Alliance member governments in implementing, improving or scaling-up a range of policies referenced in the Global Alliance's basket of policy instruments for example:



- a) **Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) programme** through which we are strengthening the evidence and providing technical assistance to support national governments, multilateral agencies, and donors to build and maintain social protection systems targeting crisis-affected populations.
- b) The **UK Gender-Responsive Social Protection programme** which works in a similar way to enhance the outcomes for women and girls from social protection programmes and policies.
- c) The **UK Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC) programme** which improves local and national capabilities to build long-term resilience to food crises.
- d) The **Just Transitions for Water Security** programme which supports countries to better integrate water into their national climate and development plans, businesses to drive forward water stewardship as the global norm, and seeks to address the market barriers to invest in water security.
- e) The **WASH Systems for Health** programme which includes the WASH Systems Hub that offers technical expertise to any low or lower-middle income country to strengthen WASH systems.

The UK is a significant global funder of agriculture research and innovation which strengthens the evidence base on what works to transform the food system for people, planet and prosperity. Our longstanding support for CGIAR, the world's leading agricultural science organisation, has contributed to the food security of millions of people, for instance by increasing the resilience of crops to drought and disease.

The UK science and research institutions are part of major international research collaborations including: the Pirbright Institute, the Roslin Institute, the John Innes Centre, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Universities of Cambridge, Leeds, Nottingham, Sheffield and Warwick. In 2023, the FCDO launched a new UK-CGIAR Science Collaboration Centre to help forge further research collaborations between UK institutions, emerging science powers and CGIAR. These research collaborations could be leveraged to facilitate the sharing of data and knowledge with Alliance Members and beyond.

General acknowledgments

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and



modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.