



## Global Public Investment (GPI) approach gets \$2 million backing from [Ford Foundation](#)

A new bold reimagining of the international public finance system for the 21st century will be bolstered through a \$2 million partnership between Ford Foundation and [Equal International](#).

The partnership adds to the growing momentum behind [Global Public Investment \(GPI\)](#), an innovative way of financing global challenges on health, climate and inequality, whose cocreation is being facilitated by Equal International, a consultancy group that focuses on addressing marginalisations. A growing number of experts and organisations have endorsed the alternative approach which has been over five years in the making and builds on the work of advocates, academics and politicians from the last few decades.

*“The GPI approach is our best bet for modernising international public finance for the 21st Century,” said Rt Hon Helen Clark. “I am delighted to hear of this vote of confidence in the concept which I have long championed. “As the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to set back development progress for a generation, it is clearer than ever that serious structural changes are needed to safeguard communities around the world, and the planet itself,” she added.*

*“We need new ways of catalysing collective action where all contribute, all benefit and all decide; these are the core principles behind GPI”, said Anton Ofield-Kerr, director of Equal International. “The Ford Foundation partnership will allow Equal International to continue to facilitate the ongoing cocreation of this more inclusive approach.”*

This new collaboration is part of the Ford Foundation’s overall mission to disrupt the drivers of inequality globally. “If we had a GPI approach to vaccine equity we wouldn’t be in the mess we’re in today,” added Ofield-Kerr.

“The Ford Foundation’s commitment to GPI is a transformational investment in a bold and visionary idea that responds to the intersecting challenges that the pandemic has laid bare,” said Alicia Ely Yamin, a member of the GPI Expert Working Group and senior human rights advisor at US-based nonprofit [Partners in Health](#). “There is an urgent need for increased global public investment that goes beyond bandaging crises and the imperative of democratising governance in development.”

The endorsement comes amid a growing awareness of the importance of public investment to address the significant shared challenges of addressing health, climate and inequality. At last month’s Global COVID-19 Summit, the Biden administration urged countries to set up a Global Health Security Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF), as recommended by the G20 Presidency’s High Level Independent Panel and other international experts. Meanwhile experts say the current approach to climate finance needs an overhaul, and hope that GPI might be a new framework to build on.



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*“Climate finance is not working,” said Saleemul Huq, the director of the Bangladesh-based International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), speaking in the lead up to COP26.*

*“We need more international public money urgently if we are going to halt the climate crisis and set us on course to sustainable development worldwide. I welcome this added momentum to the GPI approach, which I think could unlock a new phase in international collaboration for a better world.”*

GPI calls for five paradigm shifts in the ambition, function, geography, governance and narrative of international public funds. Equal International has acted as Secretariat to an [Expert Working Group on GPI](#) since late 2020, and published its [Progress Report](#) in July. It is currently spearheading a [Global Consultation](#), set to end in November, which encourages individuals and organisations all over the world to engage in the cocreation of the GPI idea.

“New and innovative thinking to support and sustain civil society is required – from regulatory environments to operational financing,” said Lysa John, secretary-general of international civil society group [CIVICUS](#). “The focus on rethinking aid as GPI will be integral to achieving this, as well as key international frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

Jonathan Glennie, author of “The Future of Aid: Global Public Investment”, said, “Equal has been the powerhouse behind promoting GPI as the new approach we need”.

“Through this partnership we will be able to engage more and more thinkers, activists and organisations and governments around the world as we build a new way of financing international cooperation which responds better to the challenges we face today.”

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**For interviews with  
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**Equal International**  
is a UK and South Africa-registered specialist consultancy group that provides high quality global development expertise focused on advancing inclusive development through thought leadership, strategy development, implementation support, research, monitoring and evaluation.