

Organised by Christian Aid and FaithInvest

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Dr Lorna Gold

Director of Movement Building, FaithInvest

Dr Lorna Gold has more than two decades' experience of engaging faiths on environmental, climate and economic justice. She is a leading voice on faith-consistent investing within the Catholic Church and Chair of the Laudato Si' Movement.

Samuel Williams

Private Sector Partnerships Lead, Salt Business Network, Christian Aid

Samuel Williams specialises in strategic social impact business, pro-poor market development, sustainable and blended finance. He leads on strategic development and delivery of new business and high impact multi-year partnerships in Christian Aid.





Introductions

Patrick Watt
 CEO, Christian Aid

Patrick Watt has widespread experience of working in development and humanitarian organisations, including Oxfam, ActionAid and Save the Children, on education, global health, aid policy, and debt and trade. He has engaged extensively with the UN, EU, and African Union, as well as with UK government and parliament. He has degrees in Theology, from the University of Cambridge, and in Development Studies from the London School of Economics.

Martin Palmer
 CEO, FaithInvest

Martin Palmer is the Founding President and CEO of FaithInvest. Previously he was Secretary General of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), founded with HRH Prince Philip in 1995. Martin is an international specialist on all major faiths and religious traditions and cultures; the author/editor of more than 20 books on religious and environmental topics; and a lay preacher in the Church of England. He has been working with the faiths on their investments since 2001.





Reflection

Theological Reflection on Investment

Chine McDonald

Director, Theos Think Tank

Chine was previously Head of Community Fundraising and Public Engagement at Christian Aid. She has 16 years' experience in journalism, media and communications across faith, media and international development organisations.





Opening Keynote

Investing in a Liveable Future

Danyal Sattar

CEO Big Issue Invest

Previously Danyal was the Head of Social Investment at The Joseph Rowntree Foundation. During his tenure there, the organisation allocated GBP15 million to directly invest in charities and social enterprises, in line with their UK poverty-solving mission. He was also one of the six co-conveners of the Social Impact Investors Group.



Investing in a Liveable Future

15 May 2023











Investing in a Liveable Future and Roundtable Discussion

Chris Hegarty

Consultant to FaithInvest. Preliminary findings from Investing in a Liveable Future research paper

Dr Matthias Braeunlich

Global Innovative Partnerships Advisor,
The Lutheran World Foundation
Case study: Faith Sensitive Development Impact
Bond

Chaired by

Mathew Jensen, CFA,
 Director of Investment
 Solutions, FaithInvest







Chris Hegarty spent 10 years as an investment manager, running both ethical and mainstream funds, as well as investment trusts and pension funds. He subsequently left the sector to work with SCIAF and Christian Aid Scotland.

Dr Matthias Braeunlich, Global Innovative Partnerships Advisor, The Lutheran World Foundation, has been active in the humanitarian-development impact investing space for nearly a decade, including pioneering projects with UNICEF.

Mathew Jensen, CFA, Director of Investment Solutions, FaithInvest, has two decades of engaging institutional investors and consultants worldwide. His expertise includes multi-asset global investing, product development and management, and consulting across global institutional markets.





Non-aid financing in INGO programme funding

Chris Hegarty

Research Consultant to FaithInvest

- Introduction
- Current state of affairs existing interest and involvement
- Perceived advantages & disadvantages
- Blocking/limiting factors
- Learning & suggestions
- Conclusions





Introduction

- Looks at use of non-aid financing mechanisms, where in addition to social benefits some kind of investment return is expected.
 - * eg Impact Investing, Development Impact Bonds.
- Relates to deployment in programme funding, ie, as an alternative to grants.
- Based on feedback from c.20 organisations
 - * Mainly (but not all) faith-inspired NGOs
 - * Most focus on work in Global South, some in Global North
 - * Majority based in Europe and North America





Current state of affairs

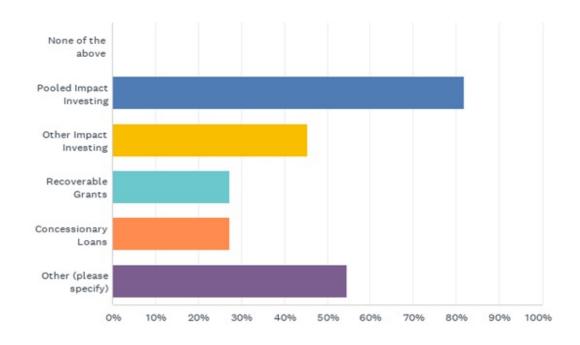
- All respondents have either major interest (61%) or moderate interest (39%) in these funding mechanisms
- 61% are using or supporting the use of such instruments already
- Over three-quarters (78%) think it likely or very likely that their organisation will use them in lieu of grants within the next 3 years





Current state of affairs – existing types being used

Q4 What type(s) of these financial instrument(s) does your organisation currently use or support?

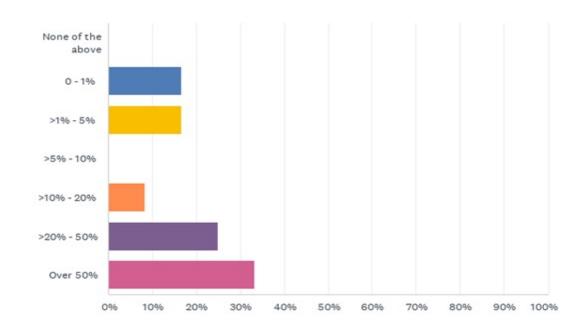






Current state of affairs – proportion of resources

Q5 What proportion of your organisation's overall resources would you estimate are committed in this way?







Current state of affairs – summary

- High levels of interest & momentum behind this
- Already lots being done around the world, using a wide range of instruments
- We're starting from different places some are experienced practitioners, some haven't done this at all.





Perceived advantages – sustainability

Expectation of covering costs (and ideally a surplus) leads to more sustainable programme design & delivery:

'It's creating sustainability where we don't have it in our regular programming';

'The ability to thrive sustainably without external support';

'It can decrease dependency...make projects more financially sustainable';

'An effective way to transition from traditional aid to more sustainable marketbased approaches'

'Eventually, we are trying to end aid dependency...'





Perceived advantages – agency

Increased agency/autonomy for the recipient of the investment:

'Investees [have] agency they would not have as grantees'

'Overwhelming advantage' of being able to 'set your own strategy'... and 'not being dependent on other donors' agendas'

'Economic empowerment for vulnerable groups'

'Breaks paternalistic donor/recipient patterns and can positively challenge power relations'

• Linked by several to a change in mind-set for all involved:

'Change of behaviour from reliance to resilience', ... 'you have to repay this'

Changing to a business-oriented approach challenges the 'continuation of colonial trade patterns'





Perceived advantages – increased impact

Ability to attract new types of funding/support:

Can appeal to new types of donor (often those with entrepreneurial or business backgrounds)

Can unlock access to different kinds of donor funding streams

In broad terms, to meet SDGs, private finance is required on a scale that dwarfs aid flows.

By re-using funds again & again, and using surpluses generated:

'To have the scale required, a model is needed that's circular and self-perpetuating'

'\$100 becomes \$120-130, we can use the additional \$20-30'

Ability to 'use and re-use funds over time', or how this cycle 'can be repeated and sustained'.







Perceived disadvantages

- Potential loss of focus
- Not all situations are suited to a commercial approach
- Culture/reputation

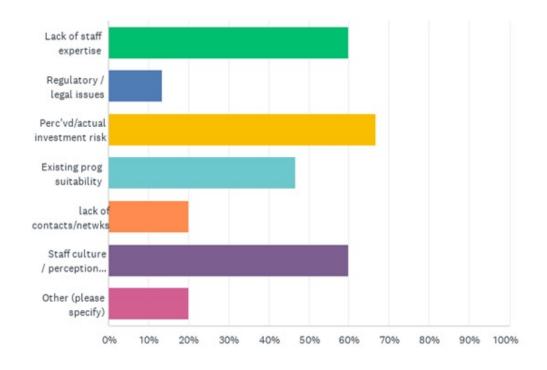






Blocking/limiting factors – survey

Q9 What do you consider to be the main factors that may limit/deter your organisation's use of such options at this time?







Blocking/limiting factors – interviews

- Staffing & cultural unfamiliarity
- Legal/regulatory set-up
- Getting the right advice





Suggestions/learning

- Better fund options
- Collaborative networks and peer support
- Enthusiasm
- Cultural challenges
- Working closely with partners in advance
- De-risking initial steps.





Conclusions

- Interest is high. Wide range of instruments used already, supporting array of projects.
- Perceived advantages sustainability, agency and increased impact are significant (fundamental?). Disadvantages and hurdles are notable too – but most respondents already using these instruments – so not insurmountable...
- We're all at different starting points. Appetite to learn from each other, and to share experiences... a great starting point for today's discussion.







Chris Hegarty spent 10 years as an investment manager, running both ethical and mainstream funds, as well as investment trusts and pension funds. He subsequently left the sector to work with SCIAF and Christian Aid Scotland.

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The Finance Innovation Journey

Understanding, buy in, strategic decision(s) Building readiness, embark on journey

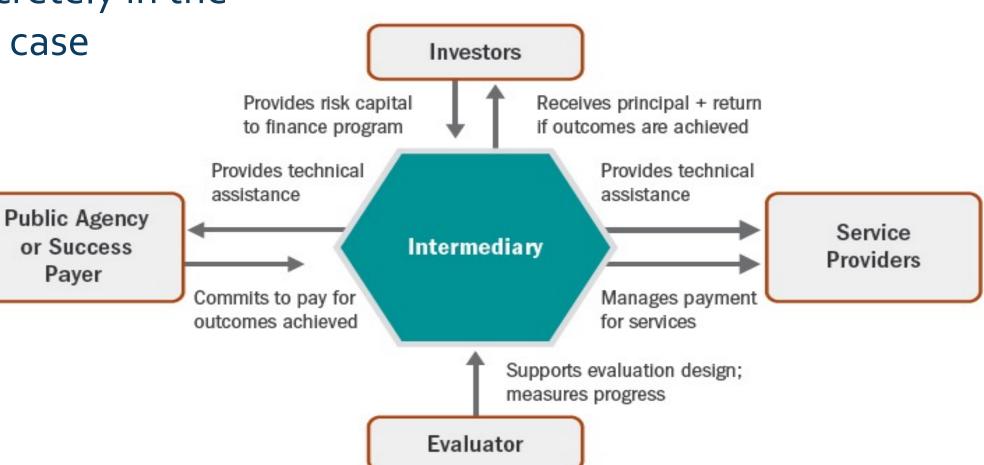
Investments, Partnership development (all parties) Concretizing: designing a project, negotiations and contracting







Concretely in the LWF case



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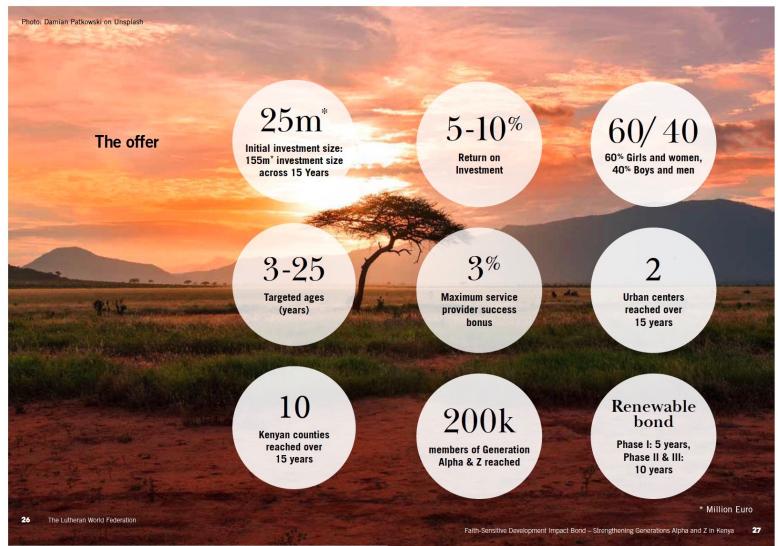




World Service

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What's in it?









REFLECTION: What are « profits » in this model?









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Roundtables of Collaboration

- Discussion Question: Based on what you've heard so far, what do you see as the key advantages and blockers in engaging in additional financing options beyond aid (impact investing, recoverable grants etc)?
- Word Cloud Question: Which key skills or resources need to be developed most to enable *your* organisation to engage in effective social and environmental investment? (Please submit one phrase per answer you can submit multiple answers.)

Word Cloud

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Voting code 4775 0470







Panel discussion

How can blended finance help deliver community development?

- Theodora Hadjimichael
 Chief Executive, Responsible Finance
- Stewart McCulloch CEO, Stewardship
- Ian Thorpe
 CEO, The Africa Trust

Chaired by

 Vanessa Morphet, Head of Social Impact Investment, Church of England



Panel biographies



Theodora Hadjimichael, Chief Executive, Responsible Finance. She joined the organisation in November 2013, working in economic development consulting and community finance in the US and was appointed as Chief Executive in 2019.

lan Thorpe, CEO, The Africa Trust. Ian has been the Chief Executive of The Africa Trust for twelve years and, before, he was the Chief Executive of Pump Aid for ten years. He was twice awarded the St Andrews Medal and St Andrews Prize for the Environment.

Stewart McCulloch, CEO, Stewardship, was appointed in 2018. He is also a director of the holding company of Kingdom Bank in the UK, a trustee of the microfinance charity Opportunity International and a council member of the Evangelical Alliance.

Vanessa Morphet, Head of Social Impact Investment, Church of England. Vanessa previously worked in Goldman Sachs, Arma Partners, Wellington Management and Impetus as well as the UK Government's Inclusive Economy Unit.



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Reflection

Faith Reflection

Waseem Ahmad

CEO, Islamic Relief Worldwide

Waseem joined the Islamic Relief family over 20 years ago, where he became Head of Programmes in Pakistan. He then moved to Oxfam and Tearfund before returning to Islamic Relief. There, Waseem led the response to major crises across the globe, including the East Africa drought, Pakistan earthquake and the Indian Ocean Tsunami. He served for nearly six years as Director of International Programmes before becoming CEO.





Panel

Climate as a major challenge – and opportunity for transformation

- Stewart Wallis
 Chair, Wellbeing Economy Alliance
- Rev Timo Plutschinski
 Director, World Evangelical Alliance Business Coalition
- John Weakliam CEO, Vita Impact
- Dr Assheton Stewart Carter
 CEO, The Impact Facility

Chaired by

Dr Lorna Gold,
 Director of Movement
 Building, FaithInvest







Stewart Wallis, Chair, Wellbeing
Economy Alliance, was previously the
Executive Director of the New Economics
Foundation and International Director of
Oxfam GB. He is also Chair of the Conservation
Farming Trust

John Weakliam, CEO, Vita Impact, John set up the Vita programme in Eritrea in 2000 and travelled to Ethiopia to help establish Vita's first programmes there in 2005. He has been CEO of Vita since 2008.

Rev Timo Plutschinski, Director,
World Evangelical Alliance Business
Coalition, he is also a Fellow at the Olivet
Institute for Global Strategic Studies and
Partner of MIC Corporate Finances.

Dr Assheton Stewart Carter, Founder & CEO, The Impact Facility & CEO of TDi Sustainability. He also chairs and serves on several boards and expert panels for standard-setting organisations, NGOs and private companies.



Roundtable Discussion



Roundtables of Collaboration

- Discussion Question: To enable radical collaboration, what have you heard (or not heard) that needs further development? What contribution could your sector make?
- Word Cloud Question: What needs further development to move this discussion forward?

Word Cloud

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Plenary Round Up



As the day draws to a close...

- Summary
- Key Takeaways
 - What was new?
 - What has changed?
 - What will you do?
- What Happens Next?
 - If you write a pledge on the document that is on your table we'll be in touch

Presented by **Dr Lorna Gold** (FaithInvest) and **Samuel Williams** (Christian Aid)





Reflection

Faith Reflection

Sangita Lakhanpal

Sangita is a British-born artist whose work is rooted in the spiritual wisdoms of her Indian heritage. Starting out as a human rights lawyer, Sangita discovered yoga and pioneered taking yoga and meditation into prisons, drug rehabilitation centres and schools. Sangita also set up an Arts Education Centre for disadvantaged women and children in central India. She has now returned to the UK to develop her practice of storytelling and mantra singing.



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Thank you for your company, your comments and your contributions.