



Introduction

The announcement that the UN Climate Talks are to be held in Glasgow has been a catalyst for the Alliance to engage more proactively with the climate crisis. This document sets our aims, priorities and supporting activities around COP26, now to be held in November 2021.

Climate action and sustainable, global development are inextricably linked. Despite doing least to cause the climate crisis, it is the poorest communities around the world that are most vulnerable to the devastating impacts of changing weather patterns, floods, droughts and storms. The climate crisis impacts nearly every aspect of people's lives and threatens to undo all the progress we've previously made on tackling global poverty.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced in late spring that a decision had been taken to delay COP26 by a full year. There is no doubt that this decision was absolutely necessary due to the massive impacts of COVID-19, but the need for us to take action on the climate crisis remains as urgent as ever and here at the Alliance we remain committed to our COP26 Strategy with a new timeline in place.

Our position and principle aims

The arrival of COP26 to Glasgow provides us first and foremost with an opportunity to amplify the voices of people and communities who are on the front line of the climate crises in different countries.

These voices need heard to raise awareness in Scotland that climate change has the largest impact on those that have done least to cause it, often the most vulnerable and marginalised across the world.

We will help share their stories, highlight the challenges faced and celebrate new and existing responses to rapidly changing climates in order to build support for urgent climate action here in Scotland and overseas as part of a broader commitment to the UN SDGs.

Our priorities for COP26

1. More ambitious climate policy and action at Scottish, UK and international levels
2. Increased awareness in Scotland of how climate crises are affecting the most vulnerable and marginalised in other countries, particularly the poorest countries.
3. Increased awareness in Scotland of achievements relating to adaptation and resilience in other countries
4. Increased support in Scotland for urgent climate action here and elsewhere
5. A sustainable platform/narrative on climate justice and Scotland's role as a sub-state actor to build on after COP26.

Our plans

To influence the above priorities, we are planning much of work and major events around COP26. As such, we are committing to the following activities in our strategic planning for 2020-2021:

1. Regular planning meetings, working groups, and online spaces to collaborate

All notes available from our initial planning meetings in December 2019 - February 2020 are available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Smaller working groups were launched to focus on specific areas of work including communications (messaging, social media and events planning), developing a climate charter, and public exhibition planning. Alliance members can log in to [the Alliance Community](#) to join these working groups.

2. Work with SCCS, Bond and other networks on policy asks

The Alliance is now a member of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, and will work with its International working group to ensure we co-develop and align our policy asks on Climate going forward. We will also work with broader coalitions where appropriate, with the SDG Network Scotland and with Bond DEG.

3. Photo and film competition

The 2020 competition (launched in March 2020) will now bridge 2020-2021 due to COVID-19. The competition invites anyone with a link to Scotland to submit entries under the broad theme 'The Climate Crisis from the frontline'. More details [here](#). Top entries will be displayed as part of a broader public exhibition on the climate crisis in spring 2021.

4. Climate crisis themed Cross Party Group Meetings at Holyrood

To engage MSPs on why COP26 must be climate justice oriented, we will use our role as secretariat of the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on International Development to develop an engaging agenda with members.

5. 2021 Annual Conference

Taking place in September 2021, this event will have the Climate Crisis as its overarching theme. Interactive breakout sessions will explore topics such as how to make climate action gender responsive, supporting just transitions, promoting climate justice through meaningful partnership, and ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change are heard.

6. Photo and film Exhibition: The Climate Crisis from the Front Line

We will hold a public photography and film exhibition entitled 'The Climate Crisis from The Front Line' in the run up to COP26 in spring 2021. The aims of this exhibition will include:

- raising awareness of climate justice (amplifying the voices of our member's partners overseas) and climate action (the work our members and their partners do) to a broader audience in Scotland
- providing a space and platform to showcase our member's work
- Using the curated content as the backdrop of any 'Alliance Hub' during COP itself.
- Providing content that can be developed into other products (such as calendars and postcards) and/or be used in COP26 legacy work in 2022 (e.g. form part of a roadshow exhibition around Scotland)

7. Developing an Alliance 'Climate Charter' and a climate resilient international development and humanitarian sector in Scotland

This 2-year project is framed by this imperative to do international development differently and better. The overarching aim is to leave a powerful legacy in Scotland for our sector – helping to embed climate and environmental principles into organisational culture and project and programme design, symbolised by the creation of a climate charter that members work towards and sign up to after COP26. This climate charter and supporting work will be co-developed with members throughout 2021 and ultimately aim to help build a sector that is climate resilient, and aware of climate considerations in their project design, implementation and communications with partners.

8. Ensure a strong climate justice focus in the Scottish Government controlled areas during the COP

Our members would like the Alliance to have physical space inside the Scottish Government's 'Engagement Space' during COP26. We aim to showcase the work of our members in this space as much as possible to raise awareness of their work and crucially provide space to amplify the voices of their partners on the front line of the climate crisis.

