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BlueOrchard: blended finance needed to solve inequality, 'the greatest threat to humanity'

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Impact investor BlueOrchard called for greater "cross-sector collaboration" between the public and private sectors to help tackle inequality, which it branded "the greatest threat to humanity".

Blended finance is seen as key to tackling some of the most pressing environmental and social issues, because it would allow public money to be leveraged by 'crowding in' private sector capital, through mechanisms such as derisking or guarantees.

The Schroders-owned investor said in a white paper: "Through cross-sector collaboration we can foster broader visions for change and create synergies that have greater potential to provide solutions to the great challenges we face.

"Collaboration between the private and public sectors has been consistently highlighted as one of the most important factors. In the area of impact investing in particular, this collaboration has proven to be especially successful ... whether it is in the empowerment of women or in the creation of jobs.

"We need more such partnerships and must continue to raise awareness and shape mindsets."

The investor argued for greater cooperation to solve the "interrelated" issues that stem from inequality. BlueOrchard said: "The greatest threat to humanity is neither overpopulation nor climate change, nor the flare-up of warfare. It is growing inequality in all its facets..."

It added that "goals and ambitions cannot be translated into action without collaboration between different stakeholders, be they entrepreneurs, consumers, policymakers, scientists, artists, or other parts of our society."

The investor told *Environmental Finance* in August it planned to launch two new funds in the new year, also centred around solving inequality.

It follows other impact investors, such as Bamboo, that have told *Environmental Finance* it is mulling over the need for greater blended finance.

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