

Response to Oxfam's Lift Lives for Good

The UK is committed to eradicate extreme poverty and build shared prosperity. Doing more to tackle the inequalities that limit the prospects for high, sustainable and inclusive growth is critical to meeting this ambition.

To tackle inequality DFID will increase support to social protection programmes in 17 countries to support more children in school and save the lives of mothers and children. By improving poor women and men's access to finance, land, property and jobs, we will help more than 50 million people access basic financial services and 6 million people secure rights to land and property.

By tackling social and legal barriers that prevent girls and women, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups from enjoying equal opportunities, 10 million women will have access to fairer justice through the courts, policy and legal assistance and will enable at least 10 million more women to use modern methods of family planning. The Girls' Education Challenge will enable approximately 650,000 marginalised girls to complete primary school and 1 million marginalised girls to complete the first 3 years of secondary school.

DFID is supporting 40 million people to hold governments to account so they have choice and control over their own development. We are also taking international action through the G8 and G20 to tackle tax evasion and avoidance to the benefit of both developed and developing countries.

The UK is demonstrating strong commitment to making sure the global community does more to tackle inequalities in the post 2015 framework. A criticism of the current Millennium Development Goals is that the focus on average measures of success has masked uneven progress between countries and population groups. The UK is supporting the call for a post-2015 framework that leaves no one behind. This includes a goal to eradicate extreme poverty, and stand-alone gender and women's empowerment goals, the use of disaggregated data to monitor all progress, a commitment that no target will be achieved unless it is met for all relevant economic and social groups and new goals on economic opportunity, governance and justice that tackle the causes of inequality.

Climate change has the potential to hit the poorest countries in the world and wipe out development and growth gains unless we act now. The UK Government is taking a leading role on the world stage, working towards a binding global deal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global average temperature rises to less than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Recognising the growing importance and urgency of tackling climate change and its impact on growth and poverty reduction, the UK Government established the International Climate Fund (ICF) to support international poverty reduction by helping developing countries to adapt to a changing climate, grow in a low carbon way and address deforestation.

The ICF is providing £3.87 billion between April 2011 and March 2015 to support actions that aim to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable. It will do this by, for example, supporting the adoption of climate resilient agricultural practices, protecting water resources, preparing communities for extreme weather events, encouraging low carbon technological innovation to aid economic growth, and enabling increased access to clean energy, and protecting forests.

The ICF will deliver direct value for money benefits and longer term transformation by helping developing countries work out their best policies and actions and remove barriers to private investment. The ICF will help to improve the lives of millions of poor people internationally.

If you would like to read more about the UK Government's international development work, this is available from our website www.gov.uk/dfid

JUSTINE GREENING