

# **Campaign: Enough food for everyone IF**

## ***Response***

February 2013

Dear 'IF' campaign members,

I am writing to thank you, on behalf of the Government, for the recent letters received by a number of Whitehall departments outlining the key messages and aims of your campaign.

As your letters rightly state, hunger is one of the most serious development challenges the world faces. Nearly a billion people around the world do not get enough food, and undernutrition holds back the growth and development of millions of children.

The UK Government is committed to tackling these problems. Under the Coalition Government, UK annual spend on nutrition has almost doubled from £19.3 million in 2009/10 to £37.5 million in 2011/12. This does not capture the significant UK spend on nutrition-sensitive, humanitarian or nutrition research.

Last year, we used the exposure the London Olympics brought to the UK to hold a Global Hunger Summit, which generated a range of new commitments, for example, to develop and deliver drought-resistant and vitamin-enriched crops that could help to feed millions of people. By 2015, the UK will have reached 20 million pregnant women and children under five with nutrition programmes.

Together, the generosity of our people, the hard work of our charities and the UK development budget are helping millions of the world's poorest families to get the food they need now, as well as ensuring longer-term food security in the face of population growth, resource scarcity and climate change.

However, with nearly a billion people around the world still unable to guarantee when they will get their next nourishing meal, we have much more to do. That is why the UK Government welcomes the 'Enough Food for Everyone IF' campaign. We know this is an issue which people up and down the country feel strongly about, and we are determined that the Coalition Government will continue to lead the fight against global hunger in the year of our G8 Presidency.

The Prime Minister has announced that we will hold a major event on 8 June, ahead of the G8 Summit to drive further global action to reduce hunger and malnutrition. We will also take forward the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, agreed at last year's G8, which aims to lift 50 million people out of poverty over the next ten years through sustainable agricultural growth.

As well as tackling hunger, we want to use our leadership role in 2013 to focus on tackling the root causes, and not just the symptoms of poverty. That is why we will use our G8 Presidency to take action to promote greater transparency around the extractives industries, in order to increase revenues from natural resources and their investment in tackling the issues that affect the poorest people, such as hunger. We will galvanise support for land transparency, to promote more responsible and productive investments in agriculture. We will also work to help developing countries collect the tax they are owed, and we will promote trade, to spur growth and wealth creation.

Of course, if we are serious about eliminating poverty for good, we have to address the issue of climate change. If left unchecked, climate change could have a serious impact on global food production, and on the food security of millions of people in the world's poorest countries who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Climate change is a global challenge which requires global solutions. The UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund is an example of our commitment to tackling our fair share of the problem.

We believe the bold and transformative policy agenda we have outlined for our G8 Presidency, together with our action on a range of development issues, such as climate change, can make a difference to millions of people around the world. We welcome the energy, passion and commitment your organisations and supporters demonstrate, and we look forward to working with you to make progress in the battle against hunger in 2013.

**Justine Greening**  
**Secretary of State**