



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

16 November 2009

Dear Richard

Thank you for letter of 16 October about the launch of Action Aid's 'Who's Really Fighting Hunger' report.

I agree that it is unacceptable that there are 1.02 billion hungry people in the world, and that it is the poorest, landless and female-headed households that are being hit the hardest. Last year alone, high food prices and falling household incomes pushed a further 100 million people into hunger.

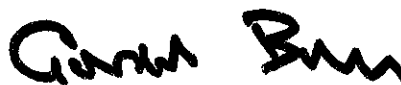
DFID's recent White Paper recognises that agriculture lies at the heart of most low-income economies, and commits us to ensuring that this and food security are given the highest international attention. We have taken the lead in pressing for a co-ordinated international response to growing food insecurity in the world, calling for the creation of a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. This proposal has received international support. At the L'Aquila G8 Summit in July, donors committed to spend \$20 billion over the next three years to increase agricultural productivity and tackle hunger.

The UK's share of this will be £1.1 billion. In addition we will support social protection measures to increase the food security of the poorest and most vulnerable. To give a few examples, DFID's spending on international agricultural research is being doubled and the Department's new global nutrition strategy will be launched in the near future. Over the last five years, DFID has contributed £133 million to the Productive Safety Nets Programme in Ethiopia, providing cash and food to some 7.5 million families in return for work rehabilitating natural resources and building clinics, classrooms, and roads. And Douglas Alexander recently announced a further £39 million in response to the

drought in the Horn of Africa, bringing our total contribution this year to some £83 million.

But the UK's efforts must be backed up by a co-ordinated international response that ensures all donors translate their commitments into action. This is why ActionAid's work to monitor these commitments is so vital. DFID staff are already in touch with your policy and campaigns department, and will be happy to provide you with more details of their spending plans for agriculture, food security, and nutrition over the coming years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gareth Bunn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mr Richard Miller