Enough food for everyone

Every night one in eight people go to bed hungry.¹ 170 million children under five are stunted due to chronic malnutrition.² The global food system is broken but this year governments and decision-makers can begin to fix it.

The UK government has the opportunity to start tackling global hunger on Budget Day in March and when David Cameron chairs the G8 summit in Northern Ireland in June. The Irish government can help by using its European Union presidency in the first half of 2013 to provide the political will to make progress. Then, next September in New York, world leaders must demonstrate clear objectives to tackle global hunger when they meet to review the Millennium Development Goals.³

At Concern Worldwide, our ambition is a world without hunger. This is why we are joining over a hundred other non governmental organisations and civil society groups in a UK-wide campaign that will mark the beginning of the end of global hunger. We are campaigning on four key areas, and we need your support. There is enough food for everyone IF:

IF

WE GIVE ENOUGH AID TO STOP CHILDREN DYING FROM HUNGER AND HELP THE POOREST PEOPLE FEED THEMSELVES

We need to ensure continued development aid to support food production. The global food system has suffered from under-investment in agriculture.⁴ Poor farmers are finding it hard to earn or grow enough to support their families’ nutrition needs but the right investment could improve the lives of millions. In poor countries, economic growth fuelled by agriculture has more impact than any other kind of investment.⁵

WE STOP BIG COMPANIES DODGING TAXES IN POOR COUNTRIES SO THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE CAN FREE THEMSELVES FROM HUNGER

We need to ensure large corporations operating in poorer countries pay the tax they owe instead of pouring their profits into tax havens. The amount of money developing countries lose through tax dodging is three times as much as the development aid they receive.⁶ Corporations have to play their part in tackling hunger and improving nutrition by shifting to more sustainable and open financing.

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⁶ http://oecdinsights.org/2010/02/02/death-and-tax-havens-2/
WE STOP POOR FARMERS BEING FORCED OFF THEIR LAND AND USE CROPS TO FEED PEOPLE NOT CARS

We need to ensure poor farmers gain legally recognised certificates for their land. In Tanzania, Concern is already helping smallholders obtain formal documents that ensure their families get a fair price if they sell their land. Biofuel targets in the developed world mean food crops are increasingly being grown to fuel cars instead of feeding hungry people. Legal titles can prevent poor farmers being forced off their land by large institutions and help boost their income and food production.

Having the certificate is a security for the children.”

“Having the certificate is a security for the children.”

Enough food for everyone IF we protect the land of poor farmers’ like Mustafa Kibibi Balizila and his wife Mwajuma Ramadhani Kachira in Itumbiko village, western Tanzania. Photo: Jennifer O’Gorman/Concern Worldwide/2012/Tanzania

WE FORCE GOVERNMENTS AND BIG CORPORATIONS TO BE HONEST AND OPEN ABOUT THEIR ACTIONS THAT STOP PEOPLE GETTING ENOUGH FOOD

We need to ensure governments and corporations are transparent about how their behaviour affects the global food system. Governments must be more accountable to their citizens and private sector investors must be more open about how their practices can help the fight against global hunger.

We need to act now because hunger still affects 870 million people and progress towards reducing global hunger and malnutrition is fragile. Last year 20 of the world’s poorest countries had ‘alarming’ or ‘extremely alarming’ levels of hunger. In vulnerable regions like the Sahel and the Horn of Africa climate change and rising food prices are driving hungry people to the brink as food shortages turn into food crises. By 2050 the world will need to increase food production by 70% to feed a global population of nine billion.

Join Concern Worldwide and IF by showing your support:

Lobby your political representatives to bring about change in the four key areas
Sign our petitions
Spread the word through social media
Attend campaign events throughout 2013
Buy fair trade products and avoid food waste

Concern Worldwide is asking you to sign up and to show politicians and companies you care about – and are prepared to act on – global hunger.

In 2013 we can urge world leaders to change the future... IF we all get together.

For more information, please email francesca.fryer@concern.net.

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4 The 2012 Global Hunger Index, op. cit.
5 The 2012 Global Hunger Index, op. cit.