



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Email:
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Our ref: TO2024/15875
Your ref:

10 June 2024

Claire Rogers
St. Paul's Catholic Primary School
Sundridge Park
Yate
Bristol
BS37 4EP
admin@stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk

Dear Claire Rogers, and the CAFOD Club at St Paul's Catholic Primary School (Isla-Rose, Sara, Bianca, Jenson, Otto, Nessa, Maya, Romie, James & Lizzie),

Thank you for your letter of 22 November about the food system, hunger and climate change. We warmly welcome your interest and your passion on subjects that matter a great deal to the UK government.

As you know, hunger and climate change are urgent issues. Almost 1 billion people worldwide regularly do not have enough food to eat. New figures for 2023 show over 281.6 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity – a five year high. Famine and food insecurity have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, marginalised communities, and the disabled.

Preventing hunger and food insecurity, including through more sustainable food and agricultural systems, particularly for the poorest countries in Africa and beyond, is a priority for the UK in our International Development White Paper. We champion this in the G7, G20, World Bank and other partners.

Our White Paper outlines that the UK will help farmers to secure their livelihoods through sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems. We will do this by mobilising investment in sustainable practices, through evidence and knowledge-sharing, partnerships and technical support, and by scaling up innovation.

The work the UK does on commercial agriculture extends beyond support for exports. For example, the FCDO's Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness programme (CASA) works with producer organisations and agribusinesses in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia to increase sourcing of agri-food products from smallholder farmers and to help farmers adopt climate-smart and productivity-enhancing agriculture technologies. CASA has reached 450,000 smallholder farmers in the last five years, directly supporting adaptations against climate change and helping them to increase their incomes.

Our work through the CASA programme also supports smallholders to access markets and increase incomes, alongside providing technical support on effective use of seeds, fertilisers and other agriculture inputs. Furthermore, our funding via CGIAR helps the development of commercial rollout of seeds, alongside technology and best practice to help smallholders grow climate resilient crops.

We recognise that more needs to be done to tackle the climate crisis, protect the environment, and support the most vulnerable people, including farmers. The UK Government has committed to doubling spend on International Climate Finance (ICF) to £11.6 billion from 2021/22 to 2025/26, at least £3 billion of which will focus on climate change solutions that protect and restore biodiversity.

We encourage the CAFOD Club to continue its engagement in this important area.

Yours sincerely,

Global Food Security, Agriculture and Land Team

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office