

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd October 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: FOOD INSECURITY.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of food insecurity and World Food Day; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Unfortunately, food security has been deteriorating in many countries since 2015, due to conflict, climate change, shocks such as locusts, and economic slowdowns. COVID-19 is making this difficult situation much worse and may also drive new hunger hotspots. These challenges have, according to the UN World Food Programme, left 250 million people worldwide likely to face extreme hunger by the end of the year, with parts of Yemen, South Sudan and Burkina Faso on the brink of famine. This exacerbates the already high chronic hunger figure of 690 million worldwide, and 2 billion overall moderately or severely food insecure. Without international attention, many more will die from hunger and disease, so we must do what we can to tackle this.

In April, the UK worked closely with other G20 members to agree a statement of the G20 Agriculture Ministers committing to close cooperation and action to safeguard global food security and nutrition. This included the commitment to work together to help ensure that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people.

As we take on the G7 and COP26 presidencies, the UK is leading a global call to action to protect the world's poorest people from famine. In September, a package of £119 million was announced to combat the dual threat of Coronavirus and famine. The package is expected to help alleviate extreme hunger for over six million people in Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Sahel, South Sudan and Sudan. The Foreign Secretary also appointed Nick Dyer as the UK's first Special Envoy for Famine Prevention & Humanitarian Affairs. This is a welcome appointment which underlines the strength of the UK's commitment to tackling famine and shows 'Global Britain' leading the way as a force for good in the world.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE