



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

13 April 2023
Your ref: ML.KO.C0061.CM

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your email of 13 March to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of your constituents regarding the humanitarian response to the hunger crisis in East Africa following the recent drought. I am replying as the Minister responsible for public spending.

It is clear that vulnerable countries are suffering the compounding shocks of the climate crisis, the knock-on effects of the invasion of Ukraine and the residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The devastation must not go overlooked and the UK has an important role to play in helping countries navigate these challenges.

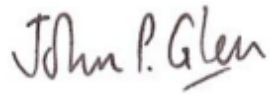
The Government remains committed to the international development agenda and ensuring the UK remains a champion globally. In 2021, the UK was the third largest development donor in the G7 as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI), spending over £11 billion on aid.

At the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the return to spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on Official Development Assistance when fiscal circumstances allow. We will review and confirm each year whether this is possible against the latest fiscal forecasts.

As you refer to in your email, in September, the UK announced a package of at least £156 million in humanitarian support to East Africa. On the ground our support is providing millions of people with essential services and supplies including food, clean water, nutritional support and healthcare. Since 2019, the UK has allocated more than £1 billion towards humanitarian operations in the region, helping to reach tens of millions of people with life-saving aid. In 2024-25 we plan to spend £1 billion on urgent humanitarian needs worldwide.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituents for taking the trouble to make me aware of these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John P. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

THE RT HON JOHN GLEN MP