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Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April on food insecurity following Russia's illegal, unprovoked and premeditated invasion of Ukraine.

As you set out, we are now witnessing wide reaching and devastating impacts on food security both inside Ukraine and globally. Prior to invasion, Ukraine was a leading exporter of food and fertiliser, feeding up to 400 million people per year worldwide. The country is now unable to export its own produce at scale. The UK and the international system are scaling up our collective response to immediate food security needs in Ukraine and rising global food insecurity.

1. An update on the amount of UK food assistance disbursed to Ukraine in monetary terms (i) to date and (ii) forecast for disbursement over the next financial year.

The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors having pledged £220 million of humanitarian assistance and £1bn in financial support, including through loan guarantees. As part of this we have committed up to £2 million for vital food supplies for Ukraine to meet urgent humanitarian needs. We have also delivered 17 truckloads of food and water to the Government of Ukraine including (but not limited to) 10,000kg of rice and 50,000kg of pasta, with the next tranche of food supplies to be delivered over the coming weeks. Access to hard-to-reach areas, including cities that have been encircled by Russian Forces, poses a real challenge to ensuring that vital food aid gets to those that need it most. We are working with international partners to put pressure on Russia to enable humanitarian access to encircled cities, and with UN agencies to ensure stocks of supplies are prepositioned in areas under threat in the East of Ukraine. We are engaging on a frequent basis with our international partners such as UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP) and International Organisation for Migration to monitor developments closely and ensure maximum impact on food security.

2. How is the UK Government coordinating with international partners to ensure enough funding is supplied for food assistance programmes in Ukraine?

We are working with our allies to ensure that the international humanitarian system delivers a well-coordinated and well-funded response, both within Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. The UK is a leading donor to the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) which supports UN agencies and partners (including the WFP and Food and Agriculture Organization) to deliver in-kind and cash assistance, as well as agricultural inputs to those most in need. The Food Security and Livelihoods sector received the highest allocation of the first and second tranches of the UHF as of 25 April 2022 (23% of the total \$44.4 million)

3. How is the UK Government working with international partners to help supply drivers delivering food in Ukraine (a) protective equipment and (b) fuel?

We recognise that supply constraints are making it difficult to deliver food assistance in the most conflict-affected areas. These include lack of available trucks and fuel shortages, as well as the reluctance of drivers to travel across frontline areas. As announced on 3 May, the UK will be stepping up our transport and logistical support to Ukraine by sending a fleet of 13 protective armoured vehicles to safely evacuate people from the shelled areas in the East of the country. They will also be used to transport key workers from Ukrainian ministries to temporary command posts set up for government work and the rebuilding of key infrastructure in besieged areas.

4. Considering this, how is the UK Government supporting (a) agricultural food production and (b) industrial food production in Ukraine?

The UK Government is undertaking a rapid assessment of global food security needs and looking at options to support Ukraine to sustain food production for consumption domestically as well as for export. Addressing urgent food needs is a priority and we are assessing how we can best support the agricultural production/livelihoods component of the revised UN Flash Appeal for Ukraine. We also aim to build donor consensus on collective action to support Ukraine to prevent food crises; for example, by addressing transportation blockages for export of grains and influencing International Financial Institutions that support the private sector to provide dedicated financing and technical assistance. We will lobby for stronger commitments from other donors to step up budgetary support to Ukraine and guarantees to the World Bank, noting that the UK has already provided approximately £400m in grant aid (economic, energy and reform and humanitarian) while unlocking over £700m of additional World Bank lending to Ukraine through financial guarantees.

5. How much did the UK Government spend in the last financial year and how much will it spend this financial year on international food programmes (a) overall and in (b) Afghanistan, (c) Chad, (d) Ethiopia, (e) Jordan, (f) Lebanon, (g) Libya, (h) Niger, (i) South Sudan, (j) Syria, and (k) Yemen?

The UK is committed to supporting those in greatest need around the world, which is why the FCDO has committed to spending £1.5 billion on integrating nutrition outcomes across our Official Development Assistance (ODA) portfolio by 2030. In the last financial year it is estimated that the UK allocated over £198 million to provide food assistance across the globe. This is in addition to the UK's efforts to protect food security through multi-sector and social protection interventions and in addition to our efforts to build more resilient food systems and nutrition.

In the financial year 2021/22, the FCDO allocated over £128 million across Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Niger, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, towards humanitarian food programmes. This includes £49 million for food programming to Afghanistan, £1.5 million in Chad, £17 million in Ethiopia, £7.4 million in Jordan, £7.2 million in cash transfers to extremely poor Syrian refugee households in Lebanon, £3.4 million in Niger, £8.8 million in South Sudan, an estimated £5.2 million in Syria, and £34 million in Yemen. ODA spend along with a full analysis of humanitarian assistance by country in 2021 will be published in Autumn 2022 and in Autumn 2023 for 2022. The Department is currently finalising Spending Review allocations for 2022-25. These will be published in due course.

6. What percentage of people reached by UK aid food assistance programmes in the last financial year were in extreme poverty? How many people in extreme poverty will the FCDO reach with food assistance programmes this financial year?

As set out in the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, the UK committed to provide principled humanitarian assistance at moments of crisis. Our funding allocations to humanitarian crises are informed by the scale and severity of need, drawing on the Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC), the gold standard for food security data and analysis. The UK

reached over 11.7 million people in humanitarian and social protection support (food, cash and vouchers) in the financial year 2021/22. Our partners such as the WFP target food assistance (both in-kind and assistance delivered through cash transfers or vouchers) based on indicators of food security. Vulnerability criteria are also considered to ensure the specific needs of women and girls, older people, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups are met. We continually engage with the WFP and other partners through our overseas missions to ensure that those in greatest need are prioritised for UK Aid-funded food assistance.

7. What UK aid programmes providing food assistance are currently being affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions on Russia and Belarus? How is the Government mitigating the impact on these aid programmes?

The UK is working with the international partners and the UN to support global production, maintain open trade, protect WFP supplies, and prioritise resources to countries in greatest need. We have secured the largest ever World Bank financial commitment to low-income countries around the world to support countries faced with economic hardship as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine; \$170 billion over the next 15 months. As a supporter of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the UK contributed £63.5 million in 2021 and welcomed the recent announcement of a \$100 million CERF allocation to tackle the disruption to global food markets.

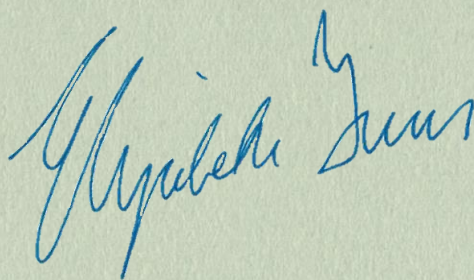
The UK has also announced a package of emergency humanitarian assistance to address critical rising food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, including £6.6 million to Ethiopia, £3 million to South Sudan, £1 million to Kenya and £38.5 million to Somalia. This funding includes a £25 million uplift to Somalia agreed in April to provide vital services to almost a million people already at or on the brink of famine, including food relief and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) support. The UK has also allocated a further £10 million to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), bringing the UK's total contribution to £186 million. We are the fourth largest donor to this global initiative that was launched by G7 in 2009, providing rapid, inclusive and sustainable solutions to food security crises, focused exclusively on the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

8. What support is the UK Government providing to shipping companies which are continuing to supply food from the Black Sea?

Working with the Government of Ukraine and the private sector to help export grain and other supplies and protect Ukrainian market is a priority. The Russian blockade of Ukraine's ports has severely impacted Black Sea shipping. Our international partners have informally told us they are actively exploring ways to address Ukraine's agri-logistics bottlenecks over the medium-term, including via rail and inland water transportation.

The UK Government and our allies will continue working closely to support Ukrainian farmers and provide humanitarian assistance to those in greatest need around the world.

Yours sincerely,



THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP