

Number 10 spokesman:

"Britain has a long-standing tradition of helping people living in need and that is why we have ring-fenced the aid budget."

"The Coalition Government has led a shake-up of aid programmes to ensure maximum impact on the ground and full accountability to British taxpayers to ensure their money is well spent. This is about focussing our efforts on a smaller number of countries and agencies to ensure British aid makes an even bigger impact. Detailed plans and tough safeguards will be put in place to ensure we can fully track where the money has gone and be sure it is making a difference."

"We remain at the forefront of work to promote human rights around the world, and will continue to regularly criticise Governments which violate those rights. Our new approach, set out in detail in July this year, means we only provide aid directly to governments when we are satisfied that they share our commitments to reduce poverty; respect human rights; improve public financial management; fight corruption; and promote good governance and transparency."