

Partners for development

By **MICHAEL ANDERSON**

PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ENVOY ON UN DEVELOPMENT GOALS



MICHAEL ANDERSON holds degrees in political science, social anthropology, and law from the Universities of Washington, Oxford, and London. He joined DfID in 2001, and worked on programmes on justice, security, and rule of law, policy on fragile states, on the Middle East, North Africa and Iraq, and on India. He has been Director General for Policy and Global Issues since April 2010. In June 2012 the Prime Minister appointed him Special Envoy on UN Development Goals.

The UK and Brazil share the belief that hunger and extreme poverty are simply unacceptable in the 21st century. But how can we work together to tackle these challenges head on?

Brazil's story of domestic economic growth and poverty reduction has been truly inspiring. Thanks to decisive policies and actions, millions of Brazilians have graduated out of poverty over the past ten years, the once food-insecure nation has become a leading food exporter and Brazil's family farmers have helped to practically halve under-nutrition.

President Dilma's pledge to eradicate extreme poverty in Brazil by 2014 sets a fantastic example to the rest of the world and unsurprisingly, many developing countries wish to emulate Brazil's success. Brazil is determined to do all it can to help partner countries to benefit from its experience.

With the UK's continued strong leadership on tackling global poverty – by 2015 we will help more than 6 million of the world's poorest people to escape extreme poverty; and stop 20 million more pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children from going hungry – it makes perfect sense for the UK and Brazil to join forces. This is a partnership of equals and of innovation, where the two countries work together in new ways to improve the lives of millions of people in Africa and beyond.

This new partnership has already been cemented at the highest levels. At the close of the London Olympic Games, Prime Minister David Cameron and Vice President Temer of Brazil co-hosted a Hunger Summit, urging a global drive to tackle under-nutrition. This brought together senior representatives from international governments, business, charities and sport – including Pele and Mo Farah – to stimulate decisive action before the next Olympic Games in Rio in 2016. Together we want to transform the lives of millions of children by giving them the food and nutrition they need.

And it goes further. The Prime Minister was recently honoured to be appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon as one of three co-chairs of a new High-Level Panel. The Panel will consider how the world should best target its efforts to tackle poverty in coming decades, by establishing successors to the Millennium Development Goals. The Goals, which run to 2015 and cover issues such as

poverty, hunger, health and education, have for more than a decade served as a benchmark for developing countries to guide and strengthen their efforts to meet the needs of their citizens. Brazil, which is represented on the Secretary General's Panel through its distinguished economist Vanessa Correa, will be a key partner in agreeing how to build on the Goals for the future – not least because it hosted the UN Rio + 20 conference in June 2012, which agreed the importance of new goals to meet the challenge of sustainability and poverty in coming decades.

Brazil and the UK are also working together in a growing number of practical programmes on the ground. Our latest work will see successful agricultural programmes designed for Brazil's dry savannah, tested and adapted to conditions in Ghana, Tanzania and Mozambique. Across Africa, innovative researchers will have the chance to use Brazilian expertise to boost the productivity and resilience of small farmers. Brazilian skills and experience will help to strengthen national food and security strategies in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Senegal. And all of these initiatives will build in resilience to the growing challenge of climate change.

The world has made tremendous strides towards eradicating poverty and hunger. But the final furlong is often the hardest. Around one in seven people in the world face hunger and a further one billion are undernourished. The demand for food is rising in a world of limited resources and where changing climate can bring new threats and undermine successful strategies.

Prime Minister David Cameron's visit will provide a milestone in the UK's work with Brazil, strengthening this powerful new partnership for development, boosting global efforts to tackle poverty and recognising our strong joint work on the ground. It will demonstrate that the UK and Brazil are determined together to help future generations have the food they need and the lives they deserve. **E**

UK-Brazil Partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling global poverty • Challenge of sustainability • Agricultural programmes • Eradicating hunger