

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011
Questions on Notice: AusAID

Question No. 22

Senator Brown asked on notice

- a) What disbursements have been made through the Food Security through Rural Development initiative since it was launched in May 2009?
- b) What commitments have been made for future funding under this initiative?
- c) How much of the Food Security through Rural Development initiative is new money and how much was previously committed through AusAID?

Answer:

- a) To date \$91.5 million has been disbursed from the four-year, \$464 million Food Security through Rural Development initiative. This includes funding for initiatives in Africa (regional), Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, East Asia (regional), Indonesia, Nepal, the Pacific (regional), the Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Asia (regional) and Timor Leste.
- b) Most of the remaining funding under this initiative has been allocated for programs in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. To date, specific commitments of the Government to be funded by this initiative include:
 - \$100 million over four years to improve food security in Africa;
 - \$69 million to ACIAR over four years, including to double the level of annual funding for the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to \$44 million over four years;
 - a multi-country market development facility to support sustainable increases in employment and incomes for the poor in Fiji and the Solomon Islands;
 - a Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA) in Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- c) All commitments or disbursements made under the Food Security through Rural Development initiative are in addition to funding previously committed or disbursed prior to the announcement of this budget measure in May 2009.