

Public pressure = political will

WaterAid campaigners push sanitation and water further up the UK Government's development agenda.

End Water Poverty discussed in the Commons

A total of 226 MPs signed Early Day Motion (EDM) 1113 End Water Poverty in response to the efforts of WaterAid campaigners. This represents a huge success in exerting public pressure to get these issues debated and acted on.

Bill Cash MP, who tabled the EDM on WaterAid's and Tearfund's behalf, said at the Westminster Hall Debate on June 5, "The fact that we went to Downing Street with WaterAid only three weeks ago and presented a knitted petition and the fact that we are setting up a new all-party committee on water and sanitation to look more deeply into these questions, I again urge the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister to respond. I am writing to the Prime Minister today to urge him to bring the issue up at the G8. I do not think that what I have proposed is a challenge or an unreasonable request...it is essential."

WaterAid welcome the plans for creating an all-party parliamentary group on sanitation and water and we are very grateful to have been able to work with Bill Cash MP.

Sanitation an international scandal

The UK's International Development Committee says in their report that "deaths from lack of sanitation in the developing world are an international scandal". The findings are clear: of all the areas where aid money goes, sanitation and water are the most neglected. WaterAid welcomes this high level of recognition of the scale of the global crisis and the vital challenges it sets to the UK Government's aid policy.

The UK's Department for International Development (DfID) must continue to give prolonged assistance to developing countries to ensure that their policies are strong enough to manage the aid well and to ensure that it benefits the poor.

In WaterAid's experience empowering poor people with information and including them in decisions is one of the best methods for achieving success and strengthens the prospects of aid reaching them.

You can read the report at www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmintdev.htm



"I congratulate the End Water Poverty campaign, initiated by WaterAid, on encouraging all of us to do more." Hilary Benn MP, then Secretary of State for International Development

National Theatre hosts giant knitted river

On Saturday 13 July, WaterAid's giant knitted petition cascaded from the top of the National Theatre's fly tower 25 metres down to Theatre Square on the banks of the river Thames. The knitted river was part of Watch This Space, the National's summer festival of free riverside events.



Ludwig Hasikins

A new team at DfID

Douglas Alexander is the new Secretary of State for International Development. He replaces Hilary Benn who now heads the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. WaterAid plans to build on our successful relationship with Hilary Benn and keep up the pressure on DfID to make water and sanitation integral to action on poverty reduction.

Joining Gareth Thomas MP are new ministers Baroness Shriti Vadera and Shahid Malik MP.

Sanitation is a human right!

If you're in any doubt as to sanitation's central role in human development and dignity just imagine the whole of the UK living for just one day with nowhere to go to the toilet.

Imagine people squatting behind a wall or a bush in the park. Imagine how quickly the environment would become a dangerously squalid mess. Imagine how quickly public health would deteriorate.

2.6 billion people live that life every single day and the resulting disease kills millions. These are the issues we need everyone to take action on in 2008 – the International Year of Sanitation.

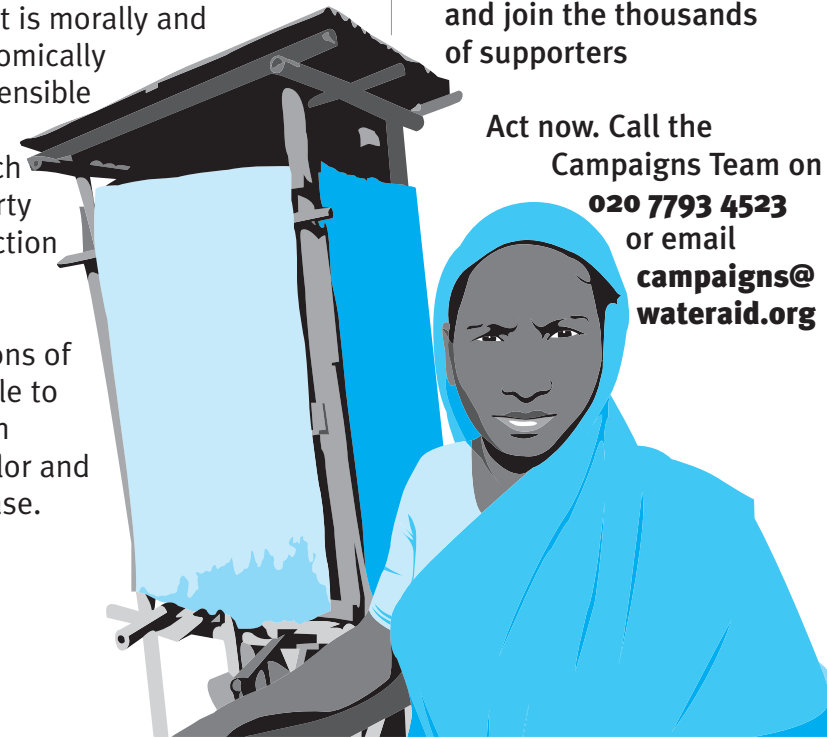
Effective disposal of human waste is something we take for granted in the UK but it is the foundation of our development as a country. Sanitation keeps people healthy, keeps the environment clean, keeps girls in school during menstruation, maintains dignity and provides safety. Sanitation is something everyone *should* take for granted so people can get on with their lives and build a strong and productive society.

So, why does sanitation remain such a low priority? The answer is simple: there is a lack

of political will to push through changes that benefit the poorest and most vulnerable people. Spending on sanitation has remained stagnant over the past decade and actually fallen when compared with health and education.

Demand immediate action. Governments must be told that it is morally and economically indefensible

to preach poverty reduction but leave millions of people to live in squalor and disease.



Action alert

Plan a campaign activity on World Toilet Day or any day throughout 2008 – the International Year of Sanitation. Order your campaigning pack, full of great ideas and resources, on 020 7793 4523 or email campaigns@wateraid.org

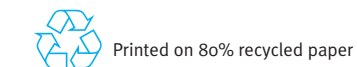
Write to Douglas Alexander MP, the new Secretary of State for International Development, urging action to provide sanitation and water for all

Encourage everyone you know to log onto www.endwaterpoverty.org to sign the online pledge and join the thousands of supporters

Act now. Call the Campaigns Team on 020 7793 4523 or email campaigns@wateraid.org

Email us your email address! Sending out information and newsletters by email saves money, time and resources. No third parties will have access to your details. Please email campaigns@wateraid.org

Your support makes our vital work possible. We'd like to keep in touch and tell you more. If you don't want to hear more from WaterAid and WaterAid Trading just let us know.



WaterAid campaign news

Summer 2007

Thank you!

WaterAid campaigners sent over 22,000 End Water Poverty postcards to German Chancellor Angela Merkel demanding sanitation and water be put at the top of the G8's agenda in June. Read on to find out what happened.

In this issue:

Mud, sweat and cheers End Water Poverty activities from Glastonbury to Ghana

UK Government talks the talk Sanitation and water debated in Parliament

Sanitation as a human right It's all cisterns go for the 2008 International Year of Sanitation



WaterAid/Steve Bainbridge

WaterAid's knitted river winds its way to Whitehall

The march to End Water Poverty

Hundreds of people marched on Downing Street in support of End Water Poverty, carrying WaterAid's knitted river and demanding sanitation and water for all.

London on May 12 was part of the global campaign activities demanding the G8 take decisive action this year at the summit in Germany to provide sanitation and water to the world's poorest people.

The knitted river petition symbolised the power of collective action. WaterAid received almost 100,000 blue woollen squares, stitched together by volunteers to raise awareness of the drastic lack of safe water and basic sanitation undermining all human development.

Malcolm Bruce, Chair of the UK Parliamentary International Development Committee, said, "All the work put into this special petition demonstrates the huge levels of support among ordinary people for the campaign to provide safe water and sanitation across the developing world."

"The international community must act now to deliver these services in line with the Millennium Development Goals and in doing so help to combat the illness and mortality caused by poor access to facilities throughout the developing world."



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WaterAid's mission is to overcome poverty by enabling the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

Global activities to End Water Poverty

On the road to the G8 summit in June, campaigners made a noise all over the world – in Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh, in the fields and festivals of Britain and the demos in Germany.



In Nigeria this rally visited an area of poor sanitation and water services to highlight the issues



Raising hands and voices in Mali to demand sanitation and water for all



More than 500 people joined a three-hour long procession in Ghana, handing out End Water Poverty manifestos to spectators



Campaigners in London took their demands to the door of the German embassy – hosts of the G8 summit



Stop press! End Water Poverty was front page news in Bangladesh



End Water Poverty was on the social justice agenda at the alternative G8 summit in Rostock, Germany

...but the road ended in G8 failure

The message to the G8 leaders ahead of their summit was clear: put sanitation and water for all at the top of the agenda.

So, WaterAid is extremely disappointed by the absence of sanitation and water in the G8's discussions in 2007. We are now looking to the Japanese Government, next year's hosts, to set an agenda in 2008

which really responds to the world's basic needs: sanitation and water.

The lack of action on sanitation and water is a disaster for billions of people. The G8 appear to have overlooked the UN's acclaimed 2006 Human Development Report, which consolidated the economic, social and moral case for immediate action to tackle the global crisis in sanitation and water.

In 2005, the G8 committed to boosting development

assistance by \$50 billion a year by 2010. Two years on, the rich countries that make up the group are only 10% of the way to their target. When will these agreements be met?

This year's G8 summit has done nothing for the millions of poor communities living without clean water and sanitation. For the almost two million children who will die from water-related diseases before the next G8 convenes, the 2007 agenda will prove fatal.

The muddy road to Glasto and beyond...

Thousands of revellers signed up to End Water Poverty during the wettest and muddiest English summer ever.



John Simm, back in the present, signs up to the campaign



A volunteer relights Mark Owen's campaigning fire!



Thumb-thing special – the End Water Poverty hand covered in thumbprints of support!



The flag flies in front of the Pyramid stage and a TV audience of millions



Stephen Merchant from the Office – easily amused



BBC's Andrew Marr shows a rare lapse in impartiality!



Phil Jupitus says never mind the politics and lends his support

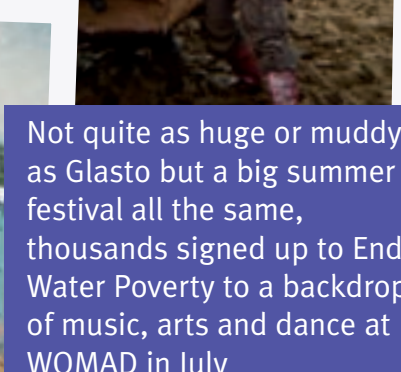


Guardian journo Charlie Brooker takes a screen break to give us a wave

180,000 people in a field for four days in rain, mud and occasional sunshine – Glastonbury is the biggest festival on the planet and End Water Poverty had its hands all over it.

Over the weekend 12,000 people waded over to our stalls and signed up to pledge their support – including the galaxy of stars above.

WOMAD 2007



Not quite as huge or muddy as Glasto but a big summer festival all the same, thousands signed up to End Water Poverty to a backdrop of music, arts and dance at WOMAD in July



Is it Rio? No, it's Norwich, where End Water Poverty was showing its colours at the carnival



Always be prepared...with toilets and fake poos for a wholesome game of Poopla at the International Scout Jamboree in Essex



Glastonbury pics: WaterAid/Matt Simpson

All pics: WaterAid

Indymedia Germany