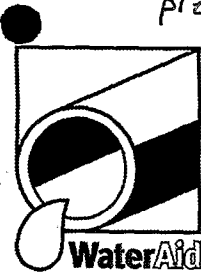


B.B.C. Charter Review - ~~More~~ <sup>MANY</sup> More Programmes on Charity Work  
Please Not So much Sentimental stuff + Soapy - Nonsense -  
Children are dying in Darfur

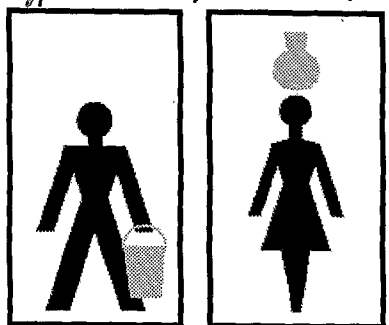


# WaterAid

## campaign news

Sudan + other  
Wat Zones!!

Yours sincerely  
Beyle Thomas.



### FLUSH OUT POVERTY

Welcome to WaterAid's campaign news. This newsletter is to keep you up-to-date on what's happening. Remember - this is your newsletter and all suggestions, comments and letters are very welcome so that you get the most out of it.

39,707 sign up to Flush out poverty  
THANK YOU

The Comprehensive Spending Review was announced on Monday 12 July. Along with other aid agencies and campaigning groups, WaterAid welcomed the announcement that international aid will be increased. The Government announced that aid spending will rise by an extra £1 billion per year to 0.47% of national income by 2007/8 and that they wish to reach 0.7% by 2013.

However while some overall commitments were made - to spend £1.5 billion on tackling HIV/Aids over the three years to 2008 and to be spend £1.25 billion each year in Africa by 2007/8 - WaterAid is disappointed that the Treasury did not choose to announce how much will be spent on water and sanitation.

WaterAid welcomes the continuing focus on health and education - both of which are critically dependent on water and sanitation as emphasised in Flush out poverty - but are disappointed that spending on water and sanitation was not given priority in this announcement. While the Department for International

Development (DFID) has suggested waiting until the autumn for more details of their specific budget allocations, WaterAid is not content to wait. Instead a letter will be written to ask for a meeting with the Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn, and WaterAid will also be asking MPs to table suitable parliamentary questions to find out the budget allocation on water and sanitation. So for now we have to remain on tenterhooks to know how DFID is going to respond to our call to Flush out poverty.

Ravi Narayanan, Director of WaterAid, said: "WaterAid welcomes the increase in the aid budget but, if the government forgets about drinking water and toilets, then the extra money will fail to help the world's poorest people."

On 1 July WaterAid handed 39,707 petition signatures into Downing Street calling for an increase in the percentage of aid spent on water and sanitation. This was beyond the expectations for the campaign and WaterAid is delighted with the show of support.

>>>

Continued from page 1:

MPs from the three main parties were invited to attend the hand in and WaterAid was delighted that Don Foster (Lib Dem) MP for Bath (right) and Peter Bottomley (Conservative) MP for West Worthing agreed to be involved (pictured below).



WaterAid/Alex Macro

### **Don't forget**

If you would like further support on how to lobby your MP then please get in touch for a copy of our FREE lobbying support pack.

Whether you are looking for advice on letter writing or visiting your MP then the lobby pack has lots of helpful tips and advice. There is also information on the parliamentary system to help you unravel the mysteries of parliament.

Or why not come along to our first ever Campaigners' Day - see the flier enclosed.

## **Examples of activity in the Parliament**

### **Early Day Motion**

In total 66 MPs supported the Early Day Motion which called for an increase in spending on water and sanitation. Thank you to all of you who wrote to or visited your MP. One in ten MPs is a good show of support for our campaign.

### **Parliamentary questions**

On 31 March Hilary Benn, Secretary of State, Department for International Development, responded to a written question asking what representations he has received regarding water and sanitation in the developing world. In his reply he said:

*"As Secretary of State for International Development, I receive regular representations regarding water and sanitation in the developing world. I also correspond with other donors, international organisations and individuals involved in water on a regular basis. The bulk of the letters were the result of campaigns launched by non-governmental organisations, namely: WaterAid's 'Flush out poverty' campaign; Tear Fund's 'Whose Earth' campaign; World Development Movement's 'Pull the plug on it' campaign.*

*The first two campaigns were aimed at ensuring that the UK government lives up to commitments made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Correspondents called on the UK government to give greater priority to water and sanitation, and to increase the amount of aid spent on sustainable improvements to water and sanitation for the world's poorest people.*

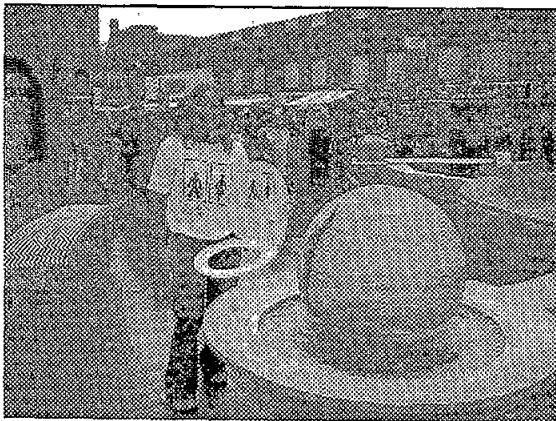
*The third campaign asked for the water sector not to be included in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations. Other correspondents have also expressed concern at the role of the private sector."*

## What you did

Thank you to everyone who wrote to us over the last six months we value all correspondence. Here are a few examples of letters we have received from you.

Bryan Johnston, a retired Doctor from Stoke-on-Trent wrote to tell us he had visited his MP George Stevenson who was very receptive to Brian and keen to be kept informed of WaterAid's work. George Stevenson MP has since written directly to us to support our cause.

Anne O'Riordan collected petition signatures at the Shelley fountain in Horsham with a toilet seat around her head to attract attention (pictured). She contacted her local media and managed to get publicity including a photograph and article in the West Sussex County Times.



Mr Rob from East London requested the Lobby Pack and commented, "Now that I'm well aware and informed about the UK parliament and the responsibilities of MPs, I am delighted to be able to represent WaterAid's interests by getting involved with your campaign to Flush out poverty."

## Flush out poverty went to the

## Glastonbury Festival

Flush out poverty went to the Glastonbury Festival and managed to collect 10,082 signatures over the three day event. Fantastic! Volunteers at the WaterAid stand next to the Pyramid Stage and at the WaterAid African-style pit latrines in the King's Meadow worked really hard and spoke to over 10,000 people about Flush out poverty.

WaterAid was also delighted to increase celebrity support for Flush out poverty by signing up Vernon Kay, Fran Healy from Travis, John Peel, Billy Bragg and lots of bands including The Killers, Basement Jaxx, Keane, Snow Patrol and Franz Ferdinand.

WaterAid is one of the three main charities supported by the Glastonbury festival since 1994, and in that time it has received over £220,000 from the festival. This year Michael Eavis, the festival organiser produced a special video, shown at regular intervals on the main stage big screens, calling for festival goers to sign up to Flush out poverty.

## Water Action Plan

In March 2004 the Department for International Development (DFID) launched a new water action plan which describes how DFID will take forward its commitments in water and sanitation and continue to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The emphasis on prioritising water and sanitation within national poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs) is a significant change in approach and one that WaterAid has been lobbying for. WaterAid will continue to challenge DFID to demonstrate that the change is actually being implemented.

## What next?

Please do try and come along to one of our Campaigners' Days – see flier inserted.

These are a first for WaterAid and we really hope as many of you as possible can come to one. The day will be a chance for you to get to know us and other campaigners and to look at working together on the development of future campaigns.

## Party political conferences

The New Statesman and RWE Thames Water are organising a fringe meeting at each party political conference. Stephen Turner, WaterAid's deputy director, is a member of the panel which will also include the respective international development spokespeople from each of the political parties, Richard Aylard, CSR Director at Thames Water Utilities and Professor Sir Richard Jolly, Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Geoffrey Lean from *The Independent* will chair the event.

The title of each meeting is 'Millennium Development Goals: are they attainable and realistic?' The timing and location of the meetings are as listed right. Please do come along to any of the meetings. Let us know if you intend to come so we can look out for you.

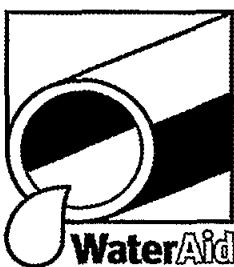
Liberal Democrat Conference  
Monday 20 September 2004  
12.45pm - 2.15pm  
Piano Room, Bourne Hall Hotel,  
Bournemouth

Labour Party Conference  
Monday 27 September 2004  
6pm - 7.30pm  
Cloisters Restaurant,  
Belgrave Hotel, Brighton

Conservative Party Conference  
4 October 2004  
5.45pm - 7pm  
Purbeck Room, Bourne Hall Hotel,  
Bournemouth

For more information about WaterAid and its campaigns please get in touch:

WaterAid, Prince Consort House  
27-29 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7UB  
T: 020 7793 4508  
E: [campaigns@wateraid.org](mailto:campaigns@wateraid.org)  
W: [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)



### WaterAid—water for life

The UK's only major charity dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.

Charity reg no 288701

## 2005 Make Poverty History – Flush out poverty

2005 will be a monumental year in the UK for international development and one in which WaterAid will be campaigning to ensure that poor people's need for access to water and sanitation is not forgotten.

In 2005 Britain will host the G8 meeting at Glen Eagles in Scotland and hold presidency of the European Union for six months; the Prime Minister will attend a UN meeting to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals and globally it's the start of the International Decade of Freshwater. Many UK development agencies, environmental groups and community groups will be taking action in 2005. To create a powerful voice WaterAid has joined over 50 organisations under the banner 'Make Poverty History' to demand increased quantity and improved quality of aid, debt cancellation and solutions to global trade injustices.

The Flush out poverty campaign has been urging the UK Government to live up to previous promises, champion water and sanitation for the poorest and increase the amount of aid spent on these essential services. Under the Make Poverty History banner Flush out poverty will continue to demand for increased investments and spending these in a more effective way.

As a WaterAid campaigner you will receive three newsletters a year with the latest campaigns news, ideas for campaign actions and tips on campaigning and may be occasionally asked to take an urgent action or provide details of local events. WaterAid's campaigning efforts would mean little without your active support, it is invaluable. Whether you have just five minutes to send an email, enough time to join local events, or are interested in volunteering to promote the campaign locally, your involvement can make a real difference to poor people's lives.

*You have been sent this newsletter at your request to be kept informed about campaigns, however if you would not like to receive it please let us know.*