

Response to Water Aid's 'We Can't Wait' report campaign

I welcome this report into a critical issue for women and girls in developing countries. The UK Government believes that access to clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene are among the most basic of human needs. It is indeed shocking that even today 2.5 billion people do not have a proper toilet. That is why this Government has committed to support 60 million people gain access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services in the developing world, mainly in Africa and South Asia. We are on track to achieve this target through expanding existing projects and by entering into new partnerships with major WASH organisations.

I agree with the conclusion of the "*We Can't Wait*" report that there is a role for the private sector in delivery of water and sanitation. The Department for International Development recently won an award¹ for its work with Unilever on a new approach to urban sanitation project Ghana. With regard to the report's recommendation on the post-2015 development framework, the UK strongly endorses the recommendations in the report of the High Level Panel, which was co-chaired by the UK Prime Minister. This included an illustrative, dedicated goal for water with ambitious targets for water and sanitation services.

On the report's recommendation that the world should keep its promises: the UK was instrumental in establishing the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) initiative. This partnership provides a mechanism for developing countries and donors to make commitments on sanitation and water and be mutually accountable for delivering on previous commitments. The UK Government is an active member of the SWA Steering Committee and leads work to improve global monitoring. We fully intend for the UK to be represented at the 2014 High Level Meeting of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership.

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¹ <http://awards.civilserviceworld.com/civil-service-awards/shortlist/operational-excellence-clean-team>