

Group spotlight

UK Water Network



• *Women demand an end to water poverty.*
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The **UK Water Network** vision is for DFID to be a leading example in promoting access to water resources and water and sanitation services for the poor in all their activities, including in their direct country support and in their funding of multilateral institutions.

The UK Water Network has developed an effective working relationship with DFID, inviting members of the Water and Sanitation Team to attend two meetings a year. In 2009, we focused these meetings on transboundary water and climate change and water, highlighting member activities and discussing what DFID is doing to address the challenges.

Our work in 2009

During 2009, our working groups were active on two themes: DFID accountability and sanitation. The former is based on the commitments in the Government's 2008 Water Policy and allows for structured dialogue, agreement on aspirational milestones and coordinated actions on both sides (government and civil society) to ensure the commitments are reached. For sanitation, the focus has been on child health, working with a wide range of NGOs

and resulted in a seminar on 'neglected issues in child health' hosted by University College London. This sought to raise the profile of issues falling off the child health agenda, including Acute Respiratory Infections, diarrhoea and under-nutrition.

World Water Day

In 2010, many of our members will be supporting the World's Longest Toilet Queue. This will take place from 20-22 March 2010, culminating on World Water Day, which is aiming for a Guinness world record as people around the world take part to stand in solidarity with – and demand action for – the 2.5 billion people who are still waiting in line for their right to a safe and dignified toilet.

High Level Meeting

One month after this event, global politicians will meet in Washington DC for the sector's first High Level Meeting to take steps forward in addressing the sanitation and water crisis and lack of progress against the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals targets, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. This is part of the Global Framework for Action on sanitation and water, another global platform many UK Water Network members are actively helping to shape.

The purpose of the UK Water Network is to be an effective NGO platform to facilitate information sharing among its members, influence the UK Government's policy and practices on water and sanitation and water resources management and hold the UK Government to account on its commitments to the sector.

Bond members can find out more on the UK Water Network Group page on the members' area of the website – log in is required: www.bond.org.uk

For more information about joining the World's Longest Toilet Queue go to: www.worldtoiletqueue.org



Small NGOs event: 25 February 2010

In July 2009, Bond organised a special event for small Bond members (categories A, B and provisional) to mark the re-launch of the Bond Small NGOs Group programme of services. This event had a funding focus, and was attended by over 40 organisations. Following its success and reflecting the development of the 'Useful Resources' section of the Small NGO Group's online community area, we are now organising the next special event for smaller Bond members.

The event will take place in the afternoon of Thursday 25 February 2010, and there will be speakers from organisations offering information and advice on a range of topics related to the effective running of a smaller NGO, such as HR, legal issues, fundraising and accounting. To view the event details and to register, please visit the Small NGOs Group online community area on the Bond website (members must log in).

Make sure you are there to make contacts and find out how much practical help is out there.

Want to join a Bond group or find out more about what they do?

Bond members can get more information about the work of the groups, join or group, share information or take part in an online discussion by logging onto the members' area of the website.

If you have not already done so, registering for the members' area is easy:

1. Go to the website – www.bond.org.uk
2. Click on the 'New user?' link on the right hand side of the homepage and follow the instructions
3. When you have logged in, click on the 'Groups home' link on the top left side

Group meetings

Funding Working Group

Wednesday 24 February
10.00am – 1.00pm
Registration and coffee from 9.30am

EC Funding Group

Wednesday 24 February
2.00pm – 5.00pm
Registration and coffee from 1.30pm

Small NGOs event

Thursday 25 February
Details to be confirmed

Voluntary Income Fundraising Group

Wednesday 17 March
2.00pm – 5.00pm
Coffee and registration from 1.30pm

Diane Mulligan awarded an OBE

Diane Mulligan, Bond Disability and Development Group (DDG) steering group member and former chair, has been awarded an OBE in the New Years Honours List. Diane, who is the disability and social inclusion advisor at Sightsavers and campaigns on human rights and child rights issues nationally and internationally, has been awarded an OBE for her services to disabled people and equal opportunities.

Diane comments, "This honour reflects the tireless contribution of the people I work with on disability issues nationally and internationally. There are numerous supporters whose names also deserve recognition; without them I could not do my job."

Congratulations to Diane from us all at DDG.