

United Kingdom

Fast Facts

- **Life Expectancy:** 82.1 years
- **Income Classification:** High
- **Population Below Poverty Line:** 18.6%
- **Region:** Europe and Central Asia
- **Drinking Water Source:** 100%
- **Sanitation Facility Access:** 99.8%



National Actions

As a high income nation with ample access to drinking water and sanitation facilities, the United Kingdom does not directly face **water scarcity** and has some of the highest quality water in the entire world. The UK's drinking water is sourced from many locations including rivers, groundwater aquifers, reservoirs, and in some unique places, directly from the sea. The United Kingdom's national water rules follow the standards created by the European Union and the World Health Organization, which ensure that drinking water is **free of pollutants** and safe to drink. Overseen by the independent Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI), the water industry is constantly investing and adapting its processes to ensure that standards remain exceptionally high. In the United Kingdom, water companies spend billions of dollars to protect the environment and ensure that they can provide water and wastewater services now and in the future. They are aware of changes happening due to climate change and are working on ways to adapt technology so they are able to continue to provide **clean water** to all residents.

International Actions

The United Kingdom has contributed to efforts to solve the **global clean water crisis**. For example, the UK Department for International Development has worked in developing countries including but not limited to Ethiopia, Somalia, and Nepal to help provide more access to **water sources**, improve access to **sanitation facilities**, and provide basic education on **proper hygiene**. Speaking at the UN High-Level Conference on Water, UK Climate and Environment Minister, Lord Goldsmith announced new support to improve the quality of water supply, and sanitation and hygiene services in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. 18.5 million pounds in UK funding will help provide safe, reliable, and affordable water supply sanitation and hygiene services that help prevent disease, protect people's health and safeguard the environment from pollution. Between 2010 and 2020, UK funding helped over 120 million people gain access to clean water supplies and sanitation and focused on spreading information regarding hygiene to support 1.2 billion people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Image: [United Kingdom](#)

Fast Facts: CIA World Factbook, World Bank

National Actions: [Drinking water- Water UK](#).

International Actions: [Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries/ UK announces new support for Asia and Africa](#)

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