

GCAP Europe National Showcase Document

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GCAP Armenia

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

GCAP Armenian National Coalition consists of 10 NGOs working in different fields and regions of Armenia. In total 10 member organisations are actively involved in the GCAP national movement.

1. Armavir Development Centre (ADC) NGO Armenian Constitutional Right-Protective Centre (ACRPC) NGO
2. Bridge of Hope NGO
3. Economic Development and Research Centre (EDRC) NGO
4. Fund Against Violation of Law (FAVL) NGO
5. Institute of Democracy and Human Rights (IDHR) NGO
6. NGO Union of Shirak region
7. Oxfam GB Armenia Branch
8. Protection of Consumer Rights (PCR)
9. Support to Communities (STC)

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising)

GCAP Armenia had organisational and coordination problems during all the year 2008. Hence we couldn't develop one consolidated project proposal and find funding for 2008 activities. Up to the beginning of September we had no action plan for the Stand Up and Take Action activity. But in spite of difficulties we managed to mobilise Coalition efforts and resources and in a month we organised campaigns and events in the whole Armenian territory. The Coalition decided to organise not one but several events and mobilisation campaigns in all regions included in the area of operation of the GCAP Armenian Coalition members: Tavshuh, Shirak, Lori, Vayots Dzor, Armavir, Syunik and Yerevan. The list of events organised by the Armenian National Coalition includes drawing competition where children from different regions expressed their views on poverty eradication by drawing pictures in the frame of an art competition; a number of debates were organised in several regions on the topic of gender equality, climate change, poverty reduction, and so on. Thousands of people participated in the activities. The national Stand Up and Take Action activity gathered 1760 people who learned about GCAP's objectives and the need to meet the MDGs.

GCAP Armenian Coalition intends to organise an exhibition-sale of the pictures drawn by the children within the frame of the above mentioned competition. A number of policy makers and

government officials will be invited. They will have the opportunity to make their contribution to poverty reduction processes buying the pictures. The whole amount gained during the exhibition-sale will be spent to buy books for community libraries.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

Since its' establishment GCAP Armenia coordination was made by Oxfam GB (Armenian branch). Oxfam GB carried out the campaign and events organisation activities. Since 2008 the coordination is now provided by a local member organisation of the Armenian coalition: EDRC NGO. The Coalition drafted the statute of the Coalition which includes provision regarding to participatory mechanism of decision making process, mechanism of reporting, allocates responsibilities of member organisation, rotation mechanism of coordination. This gives GCAP Armenia's members more independence and ownership which we are sure will help us obtaining positive effects and outputs in 2009.

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

As above mentioned, for the year of 2009 GCAP Armenia is looking for more coordinated activities of its coalition thanks to the brand new coordination mechanism. We expect developing consolidated project proposals for not only 1 month of activities but throughout 2009. This will give opportunity to our members to work more intensively and through common objectives in order to meet our goals.

5) Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?

Since its inception GCAP Armenia introduced a unique culture of campaigning and advocacy which was totally new in post soviet countries. All campaigns, demonstrations and marches organised by the National coalition had exceptionally peaceful nature. We also are the only coalition advocating for the MDGs in the country.

The added value of the Armenian Coalition is that we work on the MDGs in Armenia and on poverty reduction together in the scope of GCAP Armenian Coalition and separately in the scope of our individual projects. All mentions give us the opportunity to involve more people and more donor communities in the process for more campaigning and lobbying activities.

GCAP Azerbaijan

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

GCAP Azerbaijan was set up in May 2005. It has around 80 members. All members signed a Memorandum of Understanding as the coalition is an open network for all local NGOs whose aim is poverty eradication. The coalition is ruled by one coordinator. The decision making body of the coalition is the General Assembly which is called once a quarter to take appropriate decisions. There is also a Working group which consists in 6 people elected on an annual basis to undertake the needs assessment, review of activities, find out lessons learned and to prepare appropriate draft papers for discussion.

The coalition works on the MDGs 4 and 5 and focuses its activity in 3 directions:

a) public awareness, b) research/surveys, c) lobbying & advocacy.

The coalition members communicate their daily news through the email azericoalition@yahoo.com and have its own website in Azeri and English: www.gcap.az

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising)

a) 8th of March- International Women Day:

The coalition cooperated with TV show production “Bu sheherde- In this town” which is very popular among Turkish –speaking people since it addresses critical issue such as domestic violence, early marriage, gender inequality and so on. The show operates since more than 10 years and regularly performs special shows on Women’s Day and highlights the most crucial points in the society towards women rights through comic scenes.

The coalition members together with the team prepared the show scenarios which highlighted the importance on the fulfilment of MDGs. The coordinator of the GCAP coalition made a statement of urgent necessity for achieving the MDGs and the paramount necessity of strengthening education and health opportunities in remote areas.

The show is usually broadcasted by TV channels 3 or 4 times a year and are produced .000 cassettes of show. We decided to send these cassettes to the families of decision makers.

OBJECTIVE: Make the general public to pay particular attention to the MDGs targets and their basic human rights, as well as calling the government to live up to their commitments on poverty eradication.

Campaigning innovations: As the political environment prohibits street actions and public is careful on raising their voices, the coalition decided to focus on the show programme which is popular among people and neighbouring countries. By this way we raise people and decision makers’ awareness on our concerns, as well as we remind the government about their promises to solve the issues we are fighting for.

Outcome: People are more informed about their fundamental rights and especially on the importance of achieving of the MDGs targets. The government sees the rising civil society’s activities calling on decision makers to immediately set up appropriate state programme to meet the MDGs by 2015.

b) Presidential Election in Azerbaijan:

The coalition members established contacts with 4 out of 7 presidential candidates, who expressed ardent desire to indicate the MDGs 3 and 5 current situations in Azerbaijan in their TV speeches as well as to put energy to work hand –in- hand with the coalition to raise public awareness through mobilization and TV/radio debates of the candidates.

OBJECTIVE: Take inestimable opportunity to reach decision makers and candidates as well as president of Azerbaijan and promote MDGs for the candidates to put MDGs them at heart of their election platform.

Campaigning innovation: Our voices and demands were heard through TV election campaigns. Getting the coalition members' useful research findings the candidates took chance of criticising the government's delay response on providing primary health care in remote areas. Besides, the candidates use our findings to put forward alternative solutions.

Results: Our voices were raised by the 4 candidates 3 times a week by Public TV and 3 times a week by radio. The debates based on our voices shake the authority concerned on MDGs 4 and 5 and the Ministry of health published a number of newspaper articles on their efforts for improving situation in this field. Coalition members also joined pre-election meetings with the special banners on calling the candidate to put the reducing maternal and child mortality on the top of their agenda.

Number of cities reached- 5

Number of people mobilized through pre-election meetings- 3000

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

- new members; - alliance building; - new partners/stakeholders (UN agencies, Ombudsman's office, State Committee on Women, Child, Family issues, Executive Committees and local self-governance bodies);

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

- To hold a strategic planning session. By this session we can determine our priorities, gaps, lessons learned and further way of working.

- To expand the GCAP coalition mandate. By this way we can involve new members whose missions are different ours and to get in -touch with new target groups and decision makers.

- To hold consolidated regional actions. By this way we can promote interaction among coalitions working in the similar environment and strengthen exchange activities.

5) Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?

a) Difference: In contrast other national coalitions, GCAP focuses on reaching MDGs and tries to create a balance among researches, campaigning and advocacy /lobbying. We involve both pro-governmental and critical NGOS.

b) Added Value: GCAP Azerbaijan is capable to provide experience and lessons learned on how work in hostile environment where mass mobilization and political actions are challenging.

GCAP Bosnia and Herzegovina

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

Bosnian Coalition 'Zajedno' includes 91 NGOs, associations and other civil society organisations which contribute to poverty alleviation by working in different areas such as: Advocacy for socioeconomic policies; Strengthening of process of social, economic and political stabilisation of BiH; Promotion of women rights; Strengthening of civil society through education, promotion of democracy, establishment of partnership among civil, business and governmental sector; Protection of rights of children – victims of war; Activities on peaceful reconciliation after the war; Protection of rights of people with disabilities.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising)

IN 2008 THE BOSNIAN COALITION MOSTLY WORKED ON ORGANISATION OF PUBLIC DEBATE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES REGARDING INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS THAT BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA HAS IN REGARDS TO POVERTY ERADICATION. DUE TO LOCAL ELECTIONS THAT WERE HELD IN OCTOBER THE FOCUS OF OUR GCAP COALITION WAS ON EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION IN PROTECTION OF THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN PRACTICE, PARTICULARLY THE WORKERS' RIGHTS.

ALDI, IN SCOPE OF ITS REGULAR ACTIVITIES ON MONITORING OF GOVERNMENTAL WORK, PUBLISHED THE REPORT 'WHO VIOLATES OUR RIGHTS?' THIS REPORT IS DEVOTED TO SPECIFIC GROUP OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS CATEGORIZED AS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS REPORT COMPRISES PROBLEMS IN THE EXISTING BH SYSTEM FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS ENSURING, BUT JUST POINTING OUT TO PROBLEMS OF EXISTING SYSTEM IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT. THUS, 55 CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES WERE PRESENTED IN THIS REPORT. THEIR FULFILMENT WOULD PROVIDE IMPROVEMENT AND HIGHER LEVEL OF RESPECTING THESE RIGHTS IN PRACTICE. THIS REPORT WAS USED AS FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC DEBATES ORGANISED IN DIFFERENT TOWNS IN BiH DURING 2008.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

One of the key results is that domestic authorities accomplished agreement to start making the national employment policy that should contribute to higher level of respecting workers' rights and our Coalition started that initiative.

ONE OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE WAS PLANNED TO BE DONE THROUGH EU INSTITUTIONS WITH AIM THAT EU INSTITUTIONS SET PRIORITIES FOR DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES (IN SCOPE OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION PROCESS) ON IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE WAY THAT THESE RIGHTS ARE SIMILARLY EQUAL TO THOSE RIGHTS THAT ARE IN FORCE IN EU COUNTRIES. THUS, WE ENDEAVOURED THAT ISSUE RELATED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS RESPECTING TAKES HIGH POSITION IN THE EC PROGRESS REPORT FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IN ORDER TO ADDITIONALLY INFLUENCE ON DOMESTIC GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS THAT THEY PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THESE ISSUES.

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

THE NEXT ACTIVITY IS UNDERTAKING CONCRETE ACTION IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WITH AIM TO INCREASE LEVEL OF RESPECT, PROTECTION AND FULFILMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WE HAVE TO WORK ON ADVOCACY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. SUCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WILL CONSIDERABLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

5) Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?

DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD BiH LACKED STRONGER CIVIL INITIATIVES IN STARTING, ADVOCACY, DESIGNING, EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF THE MOST IMPORTANT POLICIES IN THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE THREE KEY REASONS FOR WHICH CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROLE IN POLICY MAKING PROCESS IS CONSIDERABLY MARGINALIZED.

AT FIRST, BiH IS SPECIFIC TRANSITION STATE IN WHICH DOMINANT ROLE IN POLICY MAKING PROCESS BELONGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWER MINIMALLY PARTICIPATE IN REFORMS INITIATION PROCESS, WHICH IS MOSTLY LEFT TO EXPERTS FROM THE OHR, EC DELEGATION AND MMF WHO PROPOSE FINAL REFORM SOLUTIONS TO DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES. SECONDLY, PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL PARTIES, EVEN AFTER 15 YEARS OF ACTING IN MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM HAVE NOT SUFFICIENTLY ACCEPTED DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN POLITICAL ORIENTATION, REPRESENTING CITIZENS' INTERESTS AND PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR ROLE IN MAKING DECISIONS ON KEY PUBLIC ISSUES. THIRDLY, ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH EXTERNAL FACTORS HAS DOMINANT ROLE IN PUBLIC POLICY MAKING PROCESS AND ETHNIC ISSUE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA FOR MAKING DECISIONS BY POLITICAL PARTIES, IS VERY UNFAVOURABLE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROLE ENHANCEMENT IN POLICY MAKING AND PARTICULARLY IN AREAS RELATED TO THE MOST IMPORTANT CITIZENS' PROBLEMS.

THESE FACTORS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO OPINION OF MAJORITY OF POPULATION THAT THEIR ENGAGEMENT CANNOT CONSIDERABLY CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGES IN SOCIETY, SO THERE IS NO BENEFIT FROM INVOLVING IN DECISIONS MAKING PROCESS. FOR THAT REASON, THE ADDED VALUE TO THE GCAP COALITION 'ZAJEDNO' IS INSTIGATION OF CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO TAKE JOINT ACTIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR SOCIOECONOMIC POSITION AND TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN THAT WAY.

GCAP Bulgaria

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

The GCAP coalition in Bulgaria is composed by the organisations participating to the Platform of NGOs dealing with official development assistance activities.

The coalition has been established in 2006 as a network without official registration. In 2007 after Bulgaria entered in the EU steps have been taken to officially register the Official Development Aid (ODA) platform and the coalition against poverty. The founding member organizations are as follows:

- 1) Blue link information network
- 2) GENDER EDUCATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGIES FOUNDATION (GERT)
- 3) BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SEXUAL HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING
- 4) GENDER PROJECT FOR BULGARIA FOUNDATION
- 5) CENTRE FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
- 6) INDEX FOUNDATION
- 7) ECIP FOUNDATION
- 8) SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES
- 9) ALLIANCE FOR REGIONAL CITIZENS INITIATIVES
- 10) EDUCATION AND BUSINESS FOUNDATION
- 11) CEGA FOUNDATION
- 12) BULGARIAN CENTER FOR GENDER RESEARCH

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising)

The main activities of the Coalition were in the frame of the 50 days of Action against poverty.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

1. Meeting of the coalition prior to the UN High Level Conference on MDGs. The launch of the MDG national report was supposed to happen at this time but actually it has been launched after the Stand Up and Take Action (SUTA) campaign on Oct. 24;
2. Production of campaigning materials: postcards, flyers, calendars and distributing them largely;
3. Putting the focus on gender issues in poverty and poverty alleviation (Jivka was the author of Chapter 3 of the National midterm MDG report);
4. Mobilization of university students around the Stand-up campaign in Sofia.

The main goal of the SUTA campaign were raising awareness of youth about the problems

connected with poverty and inequality. The target group were the students from the biggest universities in Sofia. The event was organized by GERT and the action took place in the Sofia University on Oct.17 – Oct.20. The youth coordinator of GERT Ms Elisabeth Dimitrova together with two volunteers distributes more than 5000 different postcards and flyers reproducing the main LOGOs of the GCAP campaign.

The event on Oct.17 lasted 4 hours, then there was a continuation on Monday Oct.20 where more materials was distributed.

3) **What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?**

The Bulgarian coalition managed to organise itself, is in a process of legal registration and has even a part-time coordinator. The meetings became regular and the platform has been acknowledged as a player in decision making of issues connected to ODA projects.

4) **What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?**

Better organisation, real participation to projects connected to ODA, better use of existing campaigning materials, more awareness of the whole NGO community.

5) **Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?**

The ODA/GCAP coalition is unique to talk about issues of poverty alleviation and the necessity of assistance which is not connected to the national poverty crisis. The coalition unifies organisations with different focus (environmental, gender, charity, educational, ethnic minorities etc) which did not cooperate before and this is the true added value.

5) GCAP France

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

GCAP France gathers more than 60 members representing civil society organisations, unions and local authorities. The CRID (Centre de recherche et d'information sur le développement) coordinates and stimulates the network. Secours Catholique deals with the Regional and Global issues of the movement. Some GCAP France active members are Vision du Monde, Cités Unies France, Oxfam France, Médecins du monde, CCFD, Coordination Sud, CGT, UNSA and Secours Catholique.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising)

GCAP France follows the MDGs agenda and organises every year a seminar focusing on a topic corresponding to one of the 8 MDGs. The seminar statements are being published.

GCAP France also participates, in partnership with ATD ¼ World and Secours Catholique, in the International Day for Poverty Eradication on October 17 which this year also hosted the GCAP France Citizen Summit on Migrations in Paris.

An activity is intended during the European Development Days (November 15-17) that will take the shape of a workshop held by Secours Catholique, Cités Unies France and the union CGT on the topic: « how to ensure that money coming from the exploitation of natural resources be a real lever for the development of local populations ».

Meanwhile, members of GCAP France continue to bring their expertise on topics covered by the platforms debt and development and tax heavens and through the committees on official development assistance and food and agriculture of Coordination Sud (French NGO national platform).

An innovation introduced in 2008 has been to organise on September 18, rather than a seminar, a meeting between European civil society and the French presidency of the European Union to prepare the Doha conference (November 29 - December 2) presenting French civil society recommendations in order to enable the South to finance its development. The recommendation document was given to participants at that meeting.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

The organisation of an annual seminar or a meeting each year encounters a growing interest. The notoriety of the coalition in this way but also by its presence at other events especially that of October 17, is progressively strengthened. The fact remains that, compared to many other national coalitions in Europe, the action of GCAP France and its ability to mobilize remain modest.

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

The aim of leading a more important campaign in 2010 at the 2 / 3 of the MDGs term. This is highly desirable but it requires greater involvement of the coalition members and the design of a common and cross vision.

5) **Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?**

The year 2009 should be an opportunity to consolidate our efforts with the Government; the European Parliament elections offer an additional opportunity. An action for the media and a more precise definition of the commitment of each member, for the mobilization of 2010, should also be conducted.

DEINE STIMME GEGEN ARMUT



DEINE STIMME GEGEN ARMUT (« Your Voice Against Poverty ») is a campaign run jointly by VENRO, artist Herbert Groenemeyer and friends who are specialists in the PR and media branch. They call the German Government to become more engaged in putting the Millennium Development Goals into practice. The campaign sees itself as part of the international campaign “Global Call to Action against Poverty“(GCAP). Everywhere and at any time, the “White Band” acts as a symbol of this world-wide campaign.

VENRO is the Association of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the area of development. It comprises 117 German NGOs working as executing agencies of private or church development co-operation, emergency relief and educational, public relations and lobbying activities relating to development. VENRO’s member organisations and the incorporated NGO federal state networks – around 2,000 organisations in total – have been engaged in the fight against poverty for many years. Together with their local partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America, these organisations support projects and programmes focusing on direct poverty reduction in the health, education, rural development and democratisation sectors.

Occasionally we work together with **single issue campaigns and coalitions** such as Action for Global Health, Jubilee Debt Campaign, StopEPAs, Climate Alliance, European Alliance against Malaria, Stop Malaria Now!, Global Campaign on Education, Action against AIDS. We also cooperate with the UN Millenniumcampaign in Germany and ONE Germany. The mentioned campaigns and organisation are not formally part of GCAP Germany.



www.deine-stimme-gegen-armut.de

G8 in Japan



GCAP Germany collected more than 10,000 wishes and demands against poverty addressed to the German Chancellor Merkel and the G8 heads of State from German citizens during May & June 2008. Ahead of the G8 Summit we placed 50 trees decorated with G8 wishes in front of the Chancellor's office. The G8 wishes were arranged according to a Japanese tradition called "Tanabata", where wishes which are hung on bamboo trees on July 7th will be fulfilled. The most common wishes asked the G8 leaders to stick to their promises to eradicate poverty, to ensure that people had enough to eat, and to reach an agreement on climate issues.

A 3-minute video featuring the event is available here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAqTBZ5X6g8





Meeting with G8 Sherpa

THE GERMAN G8 SHERPA DR. PFAFFENBACH INVITED SOME 20 NGO REPRESENTATIVES TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND RAISE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE UPCOMING G8 SUMMIT IN HOKKAIDO. IN THIS MEETING, DR. PFAFFENBACH DISCUSSED WITH THE NGOs ISSUES, SUCH AS GLOBAL HEALTH, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FOOD CRISIS. JUST BEFORE THIS MEETING TOOK PLACE, CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBERS PRESENTED A TANABATA TREE TO DR. PFAFFENBACH, WHO IS ALSO SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS.

MEDIA ACTIVITIES AROUND G8

THE CENTRAL “TANABATA G8 WISHES” EVENT ON JULY 3RD IN BERLIN, AS WELL AS THE LOCAL G8 WISH-COLLECTING EVENTS CARRIED OUT BY CAMPAIGN PARTNERS IN THE RUN UP TO THE G8 SUMMIT WERE WIDELY FEATURED IN THE GERMAN PRESS AND RADIO. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF KEY JOURNALISTS THE CAMPAIGN TEAM WAS THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT NOT ONLY FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN, BUT ALSO FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION, ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY ON THE INCREASED GERMAN BUDGET AND THE G8 SUMMIT IN GENERAL.



Hand-over of New Year's Card to Japanese Embassy



A TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S CARD TO THE JAPANESE

GOVERNMENT WAS HANDED OVER ON JANUARY 29 TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN BERLIN. DOROTHY NGOMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI HANDED OVER THE POSTCARD TO MINISTER MR YOSHINORI FUJIYAMA, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION ON BEHALF OF GCAP GERMANY. THE TEXT ON THE CARD CALLS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO USE THE G8 PRESIDENCY TO FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY. SIMILAR CARDS WERE SENT BY OTHER GCAP PLATFORMS IN MOST OF THE G8 COUNTRIES.

Photo stunt UN High Level Event on the MDG, September 2008

GIVING THE DEVELOPMENT MINISTER A GRAND SEND OFF



IN THE RUN UP TO THE UN HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON THE MDGs ON SEPT 25TH, A BROAD COALITION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGNS (INCLUDING ACTION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH, JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN, CLIMATE ALLIANCE, EUROPEAN ALLIANCE AGAINST MALARIA, UN MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN, GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON EDUCATION, ACTION AGAINST AIDS) JOINED THE “YOUR VOICE AGAINST POVERTY” CAMPAIGN TO HAND OVER A SUITCASE PACKED WITH MDG-RELEVANT OBJECTS TO THE GERMAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER HEIDEMARIE WIECZOREK-ZEUL.

The suitcase was filled with mosquito nets (malaria), anti-retroviral drugs (HIV/AIDS), a white band (symbol for global solidarity), turnpike (trade), slate (education), teddy bear (child mortality), and a CO2-balloon (climate change). A sticker on the suitcases read "Poverty - pack up and go home."

A video recording of the event is available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO6eypb0-fk

SHADOW REPORT ASSESSES GERMAN ENGAGEMENT ON MDGs

IN TIME FOR THE UN HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON THE MDGs, AN MDGs SHADOW REPORT WAS PUBLISHED BY THE CAMPAIGN. THE REPORT PROVIDES AN ANALYSIS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE REALISATION OF THE MDGs TO DATE AND COMMUNICATES THE DEMANDS OF NOT ONLY “YOUR VOICE AGAINST POVERTY” CAMPAIGN” BUT ALSO A BROAD COALITION OF GERMAN SINGLE ISSUE CAMPAIGNS. TWO DAYS BEFORE THE UN MDGs SUMMIT, THE SHADOW REPORT WAS HANDED OVER TO MINISTER OF STATE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, MR. GERNOT ERLER. IT WAS ALSO PRESENTED DURING THE EVENING PARLIAMENTARY EVENT WITH MORE THAN A DOZEN PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM ALL PARTIES.

A German version of the report is available <http://tinyurl.com/4bvej2>

Evening Parliamentary Event

On the eve of the UN MDGs Summit in New York the Campaign together with the UN Millennium Campaign invited Parliamentarians and eight NGO Campaigns to attend a Parliamentary evening in Berlin. Next to the “Your Voice against Poverty” Campaign, the eight single-issue campaigns which contributed to the Shadow Report had the opportunity to introduce their work to the attending MPs.

These included four party development spokespersons, as well as Mr. Thilo Hoppe from the Green Party, who is the head of the Development Parliamentary Committee. The members of parliament welcomed the opportunity to learn more about the MDG-relevant work and noted that the campaigns' were a crucial pillar to their parliamentary work. The event was timed to coincide with the Parliamentary debate on the German 2009 Budget.

“Stand Up & Take Action”, October 17th to 19th

In the run-up to the “Stand Up & Take Action” we mobilised our constituency to take part in the world’s biggest mobilisation event against poverty. In Germany 120.000 people stood up in 170 events all over Germany. The UN Millenniumcampaign was also very much involved in the mobilisation and held a main event in Berlin. GCAP Germany published two paid ads in two nationwide newspapers on Oct. 17. In these ads people were asked to participate in



SUTA.



Further activities

Opinion poll

SCHLUSS MIT DEM KONJUNKTIV!

DU WÜLLST UMFASSEND WISSEN?

89,8% DER DEUTSCHEN WÜRDEN FAIR GEKANNTE PRODUKTE KAUFEN, UM ARMUT ZU BEKÄMPFEN. 84,9% WÜRDEN EINE PARTEI WÄHLEN, DIE SICH FÜR WELTWEITE ARMUTSKÄMPFUNG EINSETZT. 39,3% WÜRDEN AN EINER DEMONSTRATION TEILNEHMEN ODER SICH IN LOKALEN GRUPPEN ENGAGIEREN.

JETZT HANDELN:
AUFSTEHEN UND AKTIV WERDEN, AUFSTEHEN UND DEN POLITISCHEN DRUCK MACHEN, AUFSTEHEN UND ENGAGIEREN!

BRÜCKE STÄRKE GEFÜHLE

BRÜCKE STÄRKE GEFÜHLE

BRÜCKE STÄRKE GEFÜHLE

Once a year the "Your voice against poverty" campaign

conducts a comprehensive public opinion poll (together with TNS Infratest GmbH) to assess the German public's knowledge and attitudes towards the MDGs and poverty. In a series of multiple choice questions, a sample of 1,000 were surveyed on their knowledge of the MDGs, the level of their commitment and which actions they would take to tackle poverty, to name but a few. The results provide the campaign with invaluable information on their target groups, their habits and attitudes. Here are some of the key outcomes of this year's poll from October 2008: www.deine-stimme-gegen-armut.de/fileadmin/BILDER/doc/DSGA_Opinion_poll_2008_Summary_EN.pdf

Updated Position Paper



The “Deine Stimme gegen Armut” Campaign has updated its Campaign Position Paper. The previous version was centred on the German G8 Chair, now the updated paper, which forms the basis for the Campaigns’ universal demands vis à vis the German Government, equips and unites all campaign partners with a common purpose and common demands for the upcoming years. In a transparent and participative process campaign partners, befriended single-issue campaigns and policy specialists developed the comprehensive paper. As a consequence, the paper can be viewed as a synthesis of German civil society positions.

'Chasing the Dream' – MDGs Photo Competition

In early September the campaign launched a German-wide photo competition entitled “Chasing the Dream – Germany in light of the MDGs” in co-operation with UN Millennium campaign and an organisation working in the field of political education. The competition calls in particular upon young people aged 12 to 26 to submit expressive pictures with a positive upbeat take on the Millennium Development Goals. Submissions are being accepted until the end of November after which a prominent jury, made up of celebrities and development experts will select the winners.



Online activities

GCAP Germany boosts its online activities in Social Network Communities: On MySpace we have more than 10,000 friends (www.myspace.com/deinestimmegegenarmut).

Approx. 400 people joined our group on Facebook

(www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6361629574) and more than 100 people are “fan” of GCAP

Germany on Facebook.

We publish our videos on MyVideo (www.myvideo.de/gruppen/DeineStimmegegenArmut) and via Youtube (www.youtube.com/deinestimme)

Paid Media: International Women's Day (see right)

What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

GCAP Germany was established as a well known brand which has a positive connotation. Thanks to the support of celebrity supporters in 2007 we were in the position to influence the public debate on poverty eradication and global justice.

However, after three years of campaigning the support by organisations in the coalition has weakened slightly. The novelty of a new global campaign with celebrity supporters all over the world has worn off. Now we have to build up sustainable structures.

Structures and ways of communications were strengthened. On local level the cooperation among actors improved.

What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

TIME TIME TIME

The organisations that support GCAP Germany do not work on an ad hoc basis. They have work plans for months in advance. Coordinated mobilisation activities (such as G8 send-offs, Stand Up...) have to be discussed and signed off well in advance. Detailed information about the processes (e. g. Stand Up registration and counting) as well as material (e. g. Tanabata Online Tool) have to be finalised early enough.

Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?

- 1) Legitimacy of 2,000 civil society organisations. GCAP Germany is linked to the Association of development NGOs. We have the experience from field work in poor countries.
- 2) Support of most recognized German celebrities.

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Join our Millennium-Spot (English): www.millennium-spot.org/en

GCAP Georgia

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

The Georgian Coalition “Future Without Poverty” is made of up to 50 Civil Society Organisations, including 4 implementing partners (organisations) – Welfare Foundation (WF), Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), Georgian Association for Patients’ Safety (GAPS) and Georgian Young Medics Association (GYMA).

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising)

Objectives:

- To improve access to health services for poor people;
- To improve the quality of health care service, especially for poor people'
- To increase the transparency of the healthcare reform and civil society participation in the decision making processes.

ACTIVITIES:

Creating list of privatised health care facilities nationwide (both PHC and hospitals)
Expert panel meeting on unregulated privatization and monopolization and implementation of privatization contracts by private companies (new owners of health facilities)
Conference on risks associated with unregulated privatization and monopolization and implementation of privatization contracts by private companies
Monitoring of development and approval of clinical guidelines by health authorities
Monitoring of development of clinical guidelines by hospitals owned by pharmaceutical companies
Campaign on dangers of unsupervised self-treatment (print materials and video)
Expert panel meeting on dangers of unsupervised self-treatment
Conference on risks of irrational drug use and importance of adequate guidelines
Media monitoring for “aggressive” advertisement of non-evidence based medical practices (TV and print media)
Expert panel meeting on “aggressive” advertisement of non-evidence based medical practices
Survey of health professionals on prescription procedures
Expert panel meeting on survey findings
Comparative survey: Access to health – (poor people with free services and poor people without free services)
Conference on survey results and recommendations
Media campaign about importance of health system reform strategic plan (video)
Publication of possibly comprehensive document describing current developments in health care sector (print media)
Distribution of the document nationwide
Publications and video on Primary Health Care and access to it
Conducting survey of people living under the poverty line and receiving free medical services (follow-up of the survey conducted in June 2008 by WF)
Publishing report and media campaign on survey results of people living under the poverty line and receiving free medical services
Conference on survey findings and recommendations (survey of people living under the poverty line and receiving free medical services)
Survey on access to maternal and child health
Publishing report and media campaign on Survey on access to maternal and child health

Conference on maternal and child health (Survey on access to maternal and child health)
Mobilisation Day activities (World Health Day – 7 April)
Mobilisation Day campaigning activities (17 October - International Day for Poverty Eradication)

3) **What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?**

There is newly formed Steering Committee that includes representatives of different coalition partners. The committee makes joint decisions, plans activities, implements them. This means a bigger representation of Coalition partner organisations.

4) **What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?**

Strengthening policy and advocacy component will contribute to more effective campaigning actions.

Besides, the coalition decided to concentrate on health and poverty related issues. This will make its activities more focused and contributed to a better allocation of resources.

5) **Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?**

Georgian coalition represents a wide range of civil society and it is politically neutral. It is an independent voice that is heard by both the government and the people. By mobilising people around the issues (such as health for all) the coalition contributes to policy changes that are more poor oriented.

GCAP Luxembourg

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

Caritas Luxembourg is the Whietband focal point for GCAP in Luxembourg. Planned activities are proposed on an ad hoc basis to national development NGO coalition and to others, depending on the subject of the specific campaign. For the campaign on 17 October 2008 most participating organisations work on local poverty, on refugees etc. The white band is used as a recognisable symbol for a specific campaign, but there is no formal GAP platform for Luxembourg.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

Friday 17 October 2008, World Poverty Day

18h00 Solidarity March, Luxembourg city

19h00 Your Voice Against Poverty, concert, Luxembourg city free entry

Objectives:

1. raise public awareness (media, decision makers and larger public) about the reality of poverty in the world an locally
2. promote active participation of poor people to show them support and make them feel they are not alone
3. activate networking among civil society organisations that work on poverty alleviation

Report:

A network of social organisations working on national and north-south solidarity organised a march for solidarity and a concert. The march gave place to art interventions in the public space and put people who are usually on the edge of society, because they are poor and alone, in the middle of the action. It was an important opportunity to listen to their testimonials.

The march joined the concert hall where a choir concert took place. The choir was composed of hundred people from all backgrounds: people who are used to sing and people who are themselves affected by poverty. We were singing together with one voice against poverty. The message is: if we succeed the rest of the year this way as we did for the concert, there would be no excluded or poor people! This concert was the continuation of the Poverty Requiem project 2007. The music was composed especially for this occasion by Emmanuel Sejourné, who based the text on the Universal Human Rights Declaration.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

Nothing specific

GCAP Malta

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

Our coalition comprises 42 organisations. Unfortunately not all the 42 organisations are active but KOPIN, the founding member of the coalition is still very active together with SKOP, KKG, Inizjamed and Kare4Kenya. SKOP continuously offers support to the campaign through its secretariat. SKOP's Chair usually calls for a meeting of the coalition beginning of summer so as to prepare for the 17th October activity, which is the main activity taken up by our coalition. The organisations who respond to this call are usually the members of the coalition who would be eventually involved in the decision making process of the activity/ies organised around October 17.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

This year's success was the organisation of the Stand Up and Take Action activity and the National Conference on the MDGs. The fact that a few weeks before these activities we received a grant to support us in these activities was also a great achievement for us. Another success was that an organisation has accepted to pay for a resource person active in gender issues to come to our Conference to give a keynote speech. Unfortunately the resource person was not available on the requested date but we have found a local resource person who could deliver a keynote speech on gender issues. Though it was unfortunate not to have the foreign resource person for the Conference, this absence enabled us to forge a new relationship with a local resource person on gender issues. This helped us increase our network of resource persons.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

One of the major improvements was our ability to involve the highest levels of policy makers in the debate, that is, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is directly responsible for development and the Maltese Overseas Development Aid, the Shadow Minister and Ambassadors. The Ambassador of France gave a keynote speech during our Conference on the EU's Contribution towards the achievement of the MDGs, being the biggest aid donor.

Another improvement was that we managed to involve the national education department in the Stand up. In fact the Director of the Department personally issued a memo to all state schools encouraging them to participate in the Stand up activity. This resulted in a good number of schools participating not just in the stand up activity but also by being present at our Conference. Other citizen groupings not directly involved in development were also involved. This helps to increase the awareness on MDGs throughout the country as these citizen groupings will act as multipliers.

Another improvement was the media we have managed to attract. We had several articles published on main local newspaper before the events as well as after. We also had the media present in the Conference. The media's involvement helped us to increase not only the Coalition's visibility but also helped to increase awareness of the MDGs in general.

Another improvement is that the Chair of the Conference itself was a journalist of one of our main newspapers. We consider this to be an improvement within our Coalition as it shows that members of media trust in the work we do, otherwise the journalist would have not accepted our invitation.

4) **What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?**

We accept more predictable funding.

It would help that around the main action dates such as the 17th October, the different country coalitions meet together to brainstorm actions and share resources.

The members of our coalition are more active at least around the action dates.

5) **Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?**

It brings to the fora the discussion of issues that otherwise would have not been highlighted, for example this year we gave a lot of importance to gender issues. The awareness about the MDGs and development in general would be much less visible in our country if the coalition is not active. The added value is that the coalition tries to involve organisations and people who are not necessarily development focused and through this effort development issues are mainstreamed into other organisations who would not discuss these issues.

GCAP Netherlands

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

- EEN is the campaign of the Dutch Platform of Millennium Development Goals. This platform is a composition of 60 Dutch development and societal organisations. They decided it was time to join forces and reach the broad Dutch public with one campaign. This is EEN (translation for one).
- We have a steering committee
- We have a team of 3 people and 2 students. EEN exists since May 2007. In May 2008 the decision was made that EEN will be financed at least until 2010.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising)

- In 2007 we asked people for their vote against poverty. On 17 October we gave these votes to the Minister of Development Cooperation, 100.000 votes. For this we used avatars, online figures brought to life, in a demonstration. In 2008 we elaborated on the idea of the avatars and organised an online stand up. From September 1 – October 19 the visitors of www.EEN.nl could register for the online stand up. 26.000 people did so. They ‘received’ an avatar. Everybody could change the looks and clothes of the avatar. On our website all the avatars sat on chairs. On October 17 all those who registered received an email to stand up. On EEN.nl you saw the avatars standing up from their chairs. More than 10.000 people did so.
- 3000 people stood up in real life.
- We have 22.000 new EEN supporters
- We have the biggest baby shop, Prenatal, as a partner. They are working on an EEN fair-trade baby clothes line to sell in all the shops. The partnership was announced on the 15th October.
- There are more Dutch celebs that openly support EEN.
- 17TH OCTOBER: WE ORGANISED AN EMPTY SHOPPING CART RACE WITH DUTCH CELEBRITIES AND EEN SUPPORTERS. AT THIS EVENT, WE ALSO STOOD UP AGAINST POVERTY. THIS GOT A LOT OF PRESS COVERAGE ON THE INTERNET AND NATIONAL RADIO PROGRAMMES. UNFORTUNATELY, NOT SO MUCH NEWSPAPER COVERAGE. WE NOTICED IT WAS HARD BECAUSE THE NEWSPAPERS MAIN FOCUS IS THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.
- We are creating a new website
- Financing until

HOME NIEUWS & AGENDA EEN ACTIE EENLOG MILLENNIUMDOELEN GALERIJ PARTNERS OVER EEN

EEN ARMOEDE DE WERELD UIT

WORD OOK EEN
en zet je in tegen armoede

VOORNAAM

ACHTERNAAM

WOONPLAATS

EMAIL

AANMELDEN

In 2000 beloofden wereldleiders met de Millenniumdoelen een einde aan armoede. Jouw stem houdt ze aan die belofte. [Lees meer over EEN](#)

NIEUWS MEER NIEUWS

03 nov Fairtrade verbetert levensstandaard van boeren Fairtrade draagt in hoge mate bij aan de...[meer](#)

28 okt Voetballen voor de Millenniumdoelen FC Den Bosch, Fortuna Sittard en MVV besteden rond...[meer](#)

EEN wil armoede de wereld uit
doel 6: bestrijding van AIDS

2010

3) **What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?**

- We learn from last years' experience.
- To work with the international angle, the Stand Up. This is very powerful.
- In the world of development cooperation we are innovative online.
- Our strategy changed. Last year we focussed on a political message: reaching the Dutch government through the voices of Dutch citizens. This year and in the coming years, we focus on a public message: In daily life, everybody can contribute to achieving the MDGs.
- More and more in our actions we will use the international GCAP angle.
- There is more cooperation between organisations in the Platform
- More and more organisations in the Platform contribute to EEN.

4) **What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?**

- We are making a new website. This is part of our strategy to make it easier for Dutch citizens to contribute to achieving the MDGs. The website is a portal where the visitor is inspired to incorporate the MDGs in their (daily) life. On the site you can 'shop' against poverty. Not only hip, modern, fair products, but you can also sign petitions or sign in for lectures offered by organisations in our platform. The site has a strong community feeling, EEN is a movement. Visitors can also upload their ideas, movies and photographs. You can search in two ways: if you have a specific interest in MDG5, you can find the products and events linked with MDG5. If you just want to buy a present for your girlfriend, for example you search on 'jewellery'. With each product there is a short explanation about to which MDG you are contributing buying this bracelet.

5) **Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?**

- A lot of organisations in our Platform specialize in one or two MDGs and/or have diverse campaigns on certain issues. EEN does not specialize in one or two MDGs, but covers them all.

- Most of the organisations cover a certain public that is already involved and interested in Development Cooperation. EEN also reaches a new target group: those who are not yet involved.
- With our new website, we offer a low key way to contribute to achieving the MDGs in the daily life.
- EEN joins together organisations, commercial companies and individuals.

GCAP Romania

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

So far there is no established national coalition in Romania, but there are several FOND (Romanian platform) members that are interested in GCAP and that have organized events to support the GCAP “Stand Up and Take Action” Campaign. Therefore, there is a potential to establish a national coalition.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

Some of our members have supported the GCAP “Stand Up and Take Action Campaign” like:

World Vision Romania and Peace, Action, Training and Research Institute in Romania (PATRIR)

More than 800 students in Cluj, north-west Romania stood up against poverty on October 17, the International Day against Poverty, to raise public awareness for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to express their concern about deepening poverty worldwide.

The Romanian initiative consisted in sharing information about the eight MDGs in high schools and universities, organising a discussion forum hosted by the Political Sciences Faculty at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj, and in offering statistics about poverty worldwide during the Stand Up and Take Action moment, which took place on the streets of Cluj.

The event was organised by World Vision Romania and Peace, Action, Training and Research Institute in Romania (PATRIR), in partnership with the British Embassy in Bucharest, the Center for the Study of Democracy and the UN Information Center.



Tineri pentru Viitor - 2006:

- the purpose of the campaign was to make pupils from different high schools in Petrila, Romania aware of the GCAP campaign and of the gravity of the situation of extreme poverty and how can we fight against it (120 participants)



ARTFusion

- there was a flash mob organized in order to attract the attention of the pupils studying at “Ion Creanga” highschool in Bucharest, those present to the event were registered and flyers were handed out (130 participants) – to see the flash mob click here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iq7JasQy0o>

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

N/A

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

In order to make our actions more effective, we need to organize ourselves better by gathering all the members of the Romanian platform interested, perhaps within the Development Education Working Group, which should work in promoting and supporting GCAP campaigns.

5) Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?

So far, it doesn't at a national level. But we are very interested in promoting the GCAP campaigns in our country.

GCAP Scotland

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

Made up of the main INGO's with operations in Scotland: Oxfam, Save the Children, Christian Aid, SCIAF, Concern, Jubilee Scotland, World Development Movement, Scottish Youth Parliament 'Roars not Whispers' project, Amnesty, and others

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

Two main public mobilisation moments:

21 June Rally in Glasgow with CIVICUS World Assembly Delegates and Scottish supporters - about 400-500 people, march and rally, Kumi Naidoo, Mary Robinson, speakers. National media coverage, TV, radio, Press and web.

17 October Rally jointly with the Get Fair coalition in Glasgow's George Square - much smaller 150 and less press attention.

We also developed new relationships with human rights organisations in Scotland the Equalities and Human rights Commission and Scottish Commission for human Rights.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

We've been sustaining things rather than improving. A lot of energies are going into climate change coalition work amongst the same INGO's.

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

We need to reappoint a new chair and recover some strategic direction. Gavin McLellan has not been able to secure a successor from within the members and until we do we will be less effective. The support from the Global Council and global media team is excellent and we find that there is always a need to root the stories in Scottish context, being part of a global movement of 116 million sometimes doesn't get attention unless we can make the local linkage strong.

5) Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?

We have are well positioned for impactful access to UK Government ministers through constituency based actions: Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State DfiD, Alistair Darling, Chancellor and Gordon Brown Prime Minister.

This amplifies and leverages the engagement by GCAP in London with the same ministers

GCAP Spain

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

The campaign Pobreza Cero of the NGDO Spanish Platform is a campaign at the state level and has been developed territorially through 57 local platforms. The structure is as follows:

► GCAP (global) ► Pobreza Cero Campaign at the state level ► regional platforms ► Pobreza Cero platforms at the local level

The Spanish Alliance Against Poverty It is a platform promoted by Pobreza Cero Campaign formed by organisations, citizens and social movements for the mobilization around the MDGs. This alliance brings together more than 1.000 organizations.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

- **I have a question for you on poverty:** On the occasion of the general elections in March, the national coalition organised a public event with the heads of the main political parties, in order to discuss the contents of their proposals regarding international poverty and inequality.
- **I Encounter Platform Pobreza Cero:** Pobreza Cero campaign was born three years ago. During this time, the implication, and involvement of the local campaigns have been growing significantly. There are nearly 60 local platforms Pobreza Cero, coming from different regions and localities. On April 19 we met in Toledo in order to share experiences and to establish agreements regarding future plans of the campaign. This forum was also useful to evaluate the success of having a decentralised campaign. This success was demonstrated through the signing of pacts against poverty not only at the state level, but also regionally.
- **Tanabata-G-8:** The Spanish Team opened a website where the people could sing their demands to political leaders.
- **Food Crisis:** The national coalition has joined the global action "Stop of the Food Crisis" in relation to the demands of the Roma meeting. We have prepared different reports and articles about food crisis.
- **In my name:** Following the International campaign, we designed different actions. People could do their request through our website, in their clothes, through public gatherings, etc... Actors and singers joined us in our action.
- **Suitcase to Zapatero:** We delivered a "suitcase" with demands of the NGOs for the Spanish government. With this symbolic act, civil society wanted to remind the executive its commitments against poverty before their trip to New York. Furthermore, for the first time a member of the civil society travels with the Spanish official delegation
- **Publication "Better Aid: a necessary condition for development":** The aim of the publication "Best Aid: a necessary condition for development" was to develop a critical analysis of the Paris Declaration, and to make proposals on how to improve the effectiveness of aid to eradicate world poverty and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. This publication was carried out jointly with the UN Millennium Campaign.

- **Awareness raising activities to the Expo-Zaragoza:** Platform Pobreza Cero of Aragón organized awareness raising activities for the general public, associations, companies and governments visitors to the Universal Exhibition in Zaragoza, taking advantage of the media attention of this Expo. The Platform demanded measures that improve the Aid, condone the external debt of economically disadvantaged countries and establish fairer trade policies. In addition, Platform Pobreza Cero of Aragón works to secure the signature of local pacts against poverty.
- **Rebel against poverty:** For the fourth consecutive year, we call citizens to “rebel against poverty” and get out into the streets of Spain. The demonstrations were held in 60 Spanish cities at the same time organised by the local Platforms Pobreza Cero. During the “Week against poverty” (13- 20 October), 400 awareness raising activities were carried out in relation to the Millennium Development Goals. The slogan this year was "A promise does not nourish, a promise is nothing". During demonstrations the citizens demanded “More facts and less talking”.
- **Committee to carry out the National Pact against poverty:** The goal is to ensure the political commitments signed out in the National Pact Against Poverty.
- **Local Pacts Against poverty** following the National Pact.

3) **What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?**

The National Meeting Platforms Pobreza Cero was an important milestone for strengthening our network at the state level. The success of this meeting supposed a significant increase in the number of cities that joined the action "Rebélate Against Poverty". This action has been held during four consecutive years and has already a foothold in the political and media agenda.

In addition, during this year, and after the signature of the National Pact Against Poverty (December 19, 2007), the local platforms promoted the signature of local pacts against poverty by regional and local political parties.

4) **What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?**

Thinking in 2010 and given the growth that the Campaign has experienced at the local level, during 2009 we have stronger goals related to the three fields which characterised the Pobreza Cero Campaign:

- To increase our regional and local presence through our work with the Pobreza Cero platforms.
- To coordinate with the actions carry out by NGDOs members of the Spanish National Platform
- To involve more organisations, citizens and social movements in the Spanish Alliance Against Poverty

5) **Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?**

- Strong territorial presence.
- Plurality of actors involved
- Permanence in time

GCAP Switzerland

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

The coalition was formed for the 0,7% campaign with the objective of raising Swiss ODA to 0,7% GNI until 2015. It consists of 70 NGOs, mainly from the field aid and development, as well as environment and church groups, youth and women associations, trade unions. Alliance Sud was responsible for the secretariat and led the campaigns' coordination group.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

The coalition had set the goal of gathering 100.000 signatures for the 0,7%-petition between June 2007 and mid-May 2008. This goal was reached by the end of 2007 already, but the members continued their activities. The petition was transferred to the Government and Parliament at the end of May 2008 with more than 201.000 signatures.

Among the activities in 2008, there were:

A national action day on February 29 to remind the Government of its reiterated promises to increase Swiss ODA at several UN General Assemblies. It took place in five Swiss towns (Zurich, Geneva, Berne, Lucerne, Lausanne).

Another national action day took place on April 4. On a central place in Zurich, celebrities from showbiz, media and politics as well as the mayor of Zurich participated in a "Millennium Goal Scoring".

Together with two young artists – Kutti MC and Sophie Hunger – the Swiss campaign produced a CD and video clip on the issue of worldwide hunger. Many TV stations as well as websites played the clip.

The results of the campaign are remarkable. It succeeded in changing public opinion from the feeling "as aid is useless, there's no need to increase it" into its opposite. For the first time ever, the Parliament is discussing about increasing the ODA four-year-budget more than the Government has proposed. While the Government wants to stick to 0,4% until 2015, the Council of States (Senate) has demanded 0,5% (the National Council has yet to follow). In contrary to former years, there were no demands for cutting down the presented budget, not even from the right-wing party. And the anti-aid-campaign that some influential medias had been leading since 2005 has ebbed away last winter.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

It was the first time that so many Swiss NGOs worked together and it set a good base for further cooperation.

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

The 0,7%-campaign (and with it the Swiss coalition) has been closed with the transferring of the petition. But very important have been a good communication between the member organisation and periodic meetings of all (but not too much!)

5) **Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?**

The large coalition gave us more weight in the public. Without the large coalition it would not have been possible to collect so many signatures for our petition and to reach such a high profile in the public (nor to finance the campaign).

GCAP United Kingdom

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

In total, GCAP UK has more than 340 organisations involved in its work.

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

BOND supported more than thirty events and actions during the 50 Global Days of Action against Poverty, including lobbying at the Aid Effectiveness Conference in Accra and the Millennium Development Goals conference in New York. The public got involved through petitions, public meetings, and Blog Action Day. In addition BOND helped achieve over 300 'Stand Up and Take Action' events with more than 65,000 participants from 17 – 19 October.

BOND supported GCAP's 'Tanabata' petition and handed over a letter to 10 Downing Street, where the UK prime minister lives, which was then stored in the offices of the Department for International Development.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

BOND's advocacy team is now at full capacity which means that we are now better equipped to support the campaigning activities of our members. All events co-ordinated by BOND have had high participation rates.

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

BOND is engaging in a major new research project on Campaigning Effectiveness with sections on campaigning in the EU, beneficiary voice and creative campaigning/inspiring supporter action. The project is due to be delivered by mid-2009 and will be a powerful tool in increasing campaigning capacity in the UK.

5) Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?

GCAP UK is a major route through which the voices and actions of those in the global South is heard in the UK. Events like Stand up and Take Action create greater unity between grassroots activists.

GCAP Czech Republic

1) What is the composition/skeleton of your national coalition?

Czechia against Poverty is a wide coalition of organisations which focus on various issues such as humanitarian aid and development cooperation, environment and climate issues, gender, fair trade, economic globalization. Core of the coalition's work is aimed at raising public awareness around Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through public events, media, publications and internet. Coalition is also active in strengthening the dialog with policy and decision makers through seminars, round-table, face-to-face meetings, open letters etc.

Day to day work is carried out by the main coordinator who supported by broader body (coordination team) composed of representatives of coalition members. The coordination team is open to all coalition members and is responsible for planning, annual strategy and implementation of core activities (annual action days, seminars, production of materials).

2) What are your 2008 successes? Detailed activities, campaigning innovations, objectives and results (policy wise and awareness raising).

Main success of the campaign remains in the regions. Number of cities participating at the national action days (in 2005 there were 10 cities involved, in 2008 it is over 25). Stronger engagement in the regions help to spread out the message all over the Czech Republic and help to create feeling of national campaign carried by local people from bottom up and not from one central place. Subsequently campaigns messages reach out more and more people which we can see in increasing number of volunteers, supporters, events organized throughout the year.

On policy level campaign continue to create space where decision and policy makers can meet with the civil society. On November 12 second Parliament seminar on the state of Czech development cooperation will take place.

3) What are the major improvements you noticed this year within your national coalition?

- "Independent" regional coordinator: building capacities of the regional coordinators (joint seminar with the coordination team) provided them with information and skills for their regional events which had positive impact on the actions they organized and saving capacity on the side of the coordination team.
- Better argumentation: production of new materials that focus on concrete opportunities how people can get involved and materials that show different faces of poverty – difference between poverty in the Czech Republic and in the developing world.

4) What would you expect in the future to make even more effective actions?

- More professional messaging and visualization of the main goals that would attract attention and at the same time translate complex issues in simple messages
- More active communication with media (given mainly by capacity constrains of the coordination team).

5) *Why does the GCAP coalition in your country make the difference? What is the added value to the coalition?*

Inside: unique mixture of organization with diverse expertise and experience which opportunity to tackle development from different perspectives, show how complex it is but at the same time formulate clear and well targeted demands.

Outside: offering not only information but also concrete possibility of involvement how each of us can get involved. Showing new perspectives: that poverty is not only matter of money but is connected to our way of life, it cannot be left only to politicians, a substantial change cannot be made without change in our behaviour.