



2007 Report of Activities

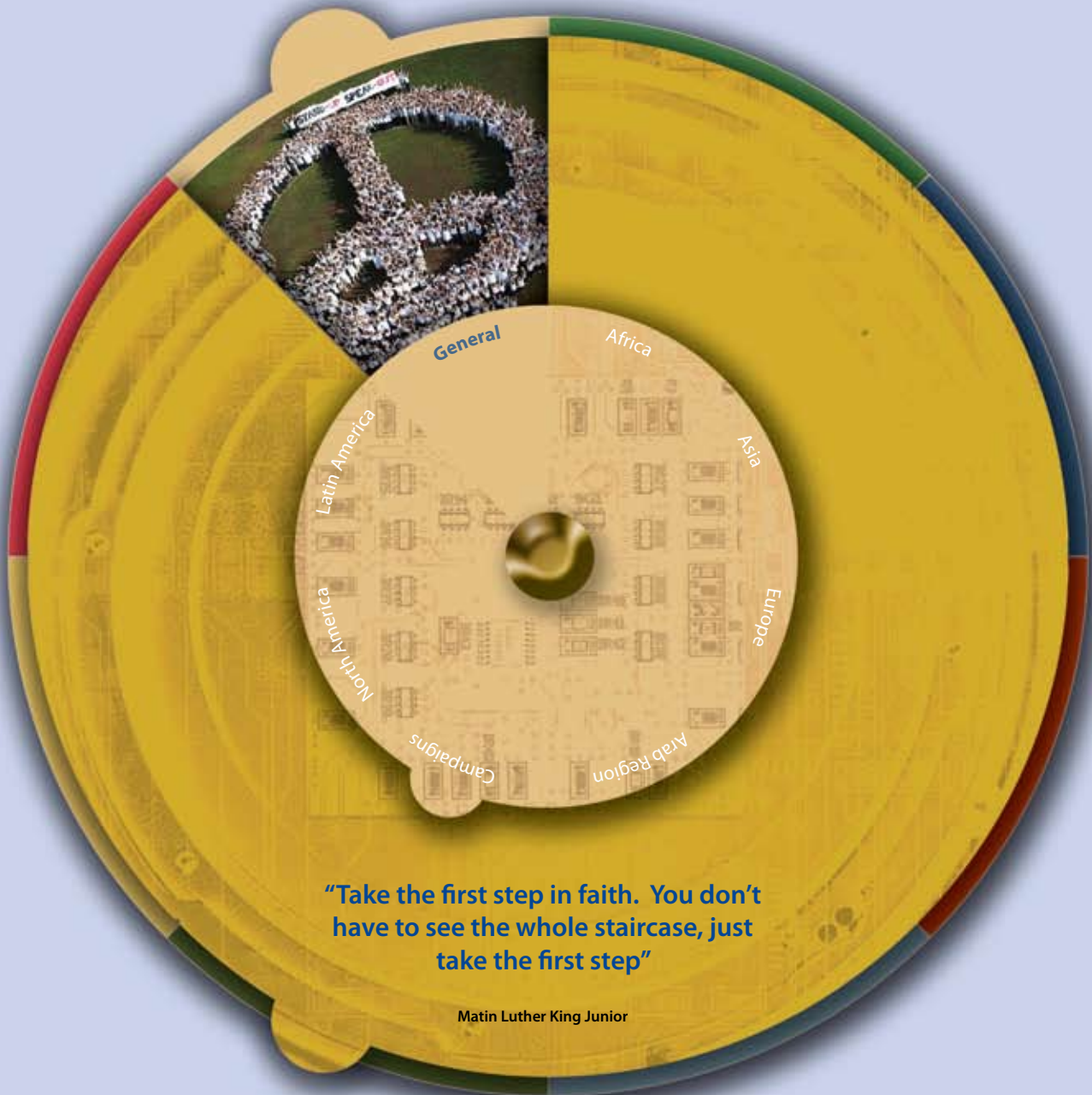
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Foreword & Introduction



**"Take the first step in faith. You don't
have to see the whole staircase, just
take the first step"**

Matin Luther King Junior

Foreword

Anyone who has experienced poverty personally or who has been in contact with women, children and men struggling daily to survive will know: poverty is intolerable. A lack of water, food, health and education, a lack of control over one's own body, life or community, it is urgent, a matter of life and often death. We know that this suffering is unnecessary; we have the means to ban poverty from our world today. The international agreements have been made time and again to ensure economic, social and cultural rights for all.

So why are world leaders reneging on their promises? Why are the international trade negotiations stuck? Why is debt release and even aid riddled with conditionalities favouring liberalisation and rich economies? Why does gender justice meet with such resistance? Why are the rights of children, women and minorities so often violated?

The answer is that most political negotiations are dehumanised.

They are about trade systems, financial systems, water and farming systems, education and health systems and ecological systems. Such system-discussions hide the underlying realities of power: who gains and who loses in whichever system. When we approach these same political negotiations from the point of view of a third of the world's population living in poverty, when we look concretely at the impact of various 'systems' on people, then the ugly face of injustice becomes visible.

Cheap national water systems fill swimming pools, whilst slum-dwellers have to pay for bottled water. Subsidised farming products from rich countries leave local maize, cotton, chicken or dairy farmers destitute. Economic liberalisation 'systems' do not allow developing countries to support their own small-scale farming and local enterprises, whilst rich countries keep their trade barriers. Subsistence farmers (mostly women) subsequently starve, their children work or are trafficked. Rich consumers and traders in any country in the world do not see the social and ecological price that others are paying for their profits.

Politicians and corporate leaders are increasingly interested in short-term gains – not in structural solutions or sustainable justice. Therefore we, the citizens of the world, have to convince them that we want inclusive democracy, gender-just and rights-based trade and aid systems. We have to convince them that we consumers want social and environmentally-sustainable products. Particularly, that we want every child in our world to have

water, food, health and particularly safe and responsible schooling! That we want security, peace and respect for everyone including women and girls, minorities, indigenous peoples, children, youth, persons with different abilities, people of different sexual orientations, workers, dalits and displaced persons, among others. We want the Millennium Development Goals PLUS achieved. PLUS stands for gender, human and environmental issues. The Goals themselves are minimalist – but even now not on track for 2015.

So many citizens are already involved in issues at local, national, and global level. The Global Call TO (not 'for') Action against Poverty helps our local and national work by showing our collective global energy and voice and determination. In 2005, 38 million actions around the world were followed in 2006 by 23.5 million people standing up against poverty, and in 2007 by 43.7 million people speaking, organising (and singing) against poverty and taking three cases to popular tribunals where the reality of urban and rural women were unveiled, calling for gender equality to end poverty. The national and thematic and global coalitions within GCAP made a crucial decision to continue to mobilise through to 2015, as the largest local-to-global citizens movement ever. As this annual report shows, government and corporate leaders are starting to notice, and to listen...but not enough yet!

In 2008 we must consolidate on our previous efforts to ensure that in moving forward political decision makers act with the urgency which is required.

GCAP Co-chairs

Ana Agostino

Sylvia Borren

Kumi Naidoo

Introduction

Welcome to the GCAP annual report for 2007.

This report outlines GCAP's efforts and growth during 2007, provides an analysis of our achievements and weaknesses, new relationships, lobbying of governments and international institutions, and above all gives us glimpses of people's actions and voices around the world. The voices are those of women, children and youth, indigenous communities, minorities, and communities from the South among many others. They talk of the changes that have occurred because of their activities, which have been translated into real policy changes, and, if continued, will make a significant impact on levels of poverty and inequality.



'Voices that Matter'

"... the challenge before us is much bigger than we think. It is not simply a question of improving or uplifting lives of poor people by providing resources ensuring social services or employment. Those are laudable activities, but they scarcely touch the fringe of the problems. Your challenge is to see clearly the fetters, the old customary practices and structures of injustice which are holding people back. Our challenge is to break these fetters and change these structures of injustice, poverty and inequality. We are free and emancipated. We must strive for the emancipation of all, to put an end to their illiteracy, disease and oppression, to make them equal partners in progress and development."

Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan, Director Orangi Pilot Project, Pakistan and Recipient of Magsasay Award.

Context

Poverty is much more than simple economic deprivation. It is a multifaceted and all-embracing phenomenon, part of a gestalt that includes lack of access to education, health facilities, water and sanitation and leads to illiteracy and poor health. It is also accompanied by gender injustice and violence, human rights violations, conflict, discrimination, inequalities and inequities in laws and policies.

What has compelled people to organise collectively is witnessing governments and international institutions continuously renege on their promises to eradicate poverty.

Human rights violations have sharply increased and the space for citizens' action was further reduced in many countries. Conflict and militarization increased, taking valuable resources away from fighting poverty to fighting wars. The feminization of poverty has further deepened. Commitments to improve governance and increase accountability to people living in poverty by Southern Governments often remain empty promises.

G8 and EU countries are backsliding on their 2005 commitments to increase aid volumes and too many countries have failed to improve the quality of aid. A large number of developing countries continue to suffer from severe debt burden and capital flight. The Doha trade negotiations are deadlocked and anti-poor trade deals are being forced through in the form of Economic Partnership Agreements and other Free Trade Agreements.

Performance on achieving the MDGs is inexcusably slow in many cases. Inequality between and within countries has worsened creating serious social tensions. Consequently, extreme poverty and the lack of access to quality basic services continue to be the daily reality for over half the world's population. In addition, the growing power and influence of corporations poses particular challenges.

On a positive note, the work of civil society to address some of these ills has helped to force some breakthroughs. In 2007, the number of children out of school fell to 72 million, down from 76 million the previous year. Also, some countries showed an economic upturn. It was also the fourth year of consistent economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa of over 5%, and inflation of less than 10%, even when oil-exporting countries are discounted. Per capita growth has lagged behind, but is still consistently above 4% a year. This is a significant turnaround compared to earlier in the decade.



Debt cancellation agreed at the 2005 Gleneagles G8 is translating into greater poverty-reduction spending across the world, paying for new teachers and health workers in Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and many other countries. Since 1999, poor countries receiving debt cancellation have more than doubled the amount they are spending on fighting poverty.

The Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, set up at the Japanese G8 in 2000, has now distributed \$8.6 billion in grants to 136 countries. It has enabled 1.1 million people to access treatment for HIV/AIDS. The Global Fund is able to do this in part due to its use of cheap generic medicines, again a victory for which campaigners should take credit.

In the UK, the government set a timetable to steadily increase its aid to 0.7% of GNI, putting it on course to be a bigger donor than the US by 2010, and in Germany the government agreed to increase aid by 3 billion euro over the next 4 years. In India, the government has increased the national health budget by 33% and Education by 23%. These decisions will have an impact on the lives of hundreds of millions of poor women and men, and these decisions are clearly at least partly a result of popular pressure.

GCAP

While the Global Call to Action against Poverty is not the only global civil society response to poverty and inequality, it is definitely unique in its form and focus. During the past three years of consistent and focused efforts, GCAP has successfully brought these issues into the mainstream agenda of global decision makers and national level development debates. The three pronged strategy of 1) mobilising poor people to raise their voices using democratic spaces and policy forums; 2) linking local with global 3) influencing global, regional and national level policy debates, is at the heart of this success.

Mobilisation played a strategic role in organising the political participation of marginalized people and created widespread support to defend and promote their entitlements and rights. On the 17th of October a historic 43.7 million women, men and children joined the Global Call, nearly twice as much as in 2006 (23.4 million). There are some inspiring examples of new mobilisation strategies and new participants in the pages ahead which we hope will encourage others as well as giving just recognition to those who devote their time and energies to such efforts.

Advocacy actions took place alongside or complementing mobilisations in more than 127 countries

and strengthened GCAP in 2007. These actions provided space for other civil society, grassroots organisations and local groups – particularly women, children and youth and marginalized groups - to play larger roles in the campaign. GCAP ensured that the voice of those living in poverty have been and should be heard in its global activities especially October 17th events.

Internally, GCAP hired a secretariat to support the International Facilitation Team (IFT) administratively, coordinate global campaigning and communications and lead on structural transition. GCAP established close linkages and communications with more than 100 national coalitions. Regular, needs-based, technical support has been provided directly to more than 50 national coalitions and the remainder have been reached through regional groups, regional secretariats, task groups and other focal groups in 7 regions (South Asia; South-East, North and Central Asia; Africa; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Arab region; Europe and North America,). Furthermore, 300 new international networks, organisations, coalitions, campaigns and forums which have national chapters that were not yet part of GCAP have been added.

We also worked with different constituency groups to ensure they maintain and develop self-sustaining activities. Efforts were made to strengthen and expand outreach efforts to trade unions, faith-based organisations, youth groups and others. The inclusion of these groups is one of the unique characteristics of GCAP as a global civil society movement.

2007 was just another step in our journey and brought new linkages, as well as some new shapes of protest, advocacy and engagements but it is definitely not the end. The journey will continue and so will the people's struggle for development, rights and justice. GCAP is committed to support such efforts.

We are thankful to national and thematic coalitions that provided space for people to speak in a collective voice. We also thank our partners for supporting and shaping our actions. Finally we thank the International Facilitation Team members who provided guidance at all steps, the regional structures who helped strengthen coalitions and the constituency groups that became our guide in our policies and demands.

We look forward to working together to add more building blocks to this unique and historic movement in 2008 on the path to 2015. Together we can end poverty and inequality.

From Irfan Mufti and the IFT Support Team.

Africa Overview & Breakdown



GCAP Africa Overview

With the support of the African Facilitation Team (AFT) and Africa secretariat, GCAP has made impressive progress in Africa in 2007. There is more clarity on the number of national coalitions involved in the campaign, the mobilisation activities they were involved in and there were three continent-wide policy events organized. Many national coalitions have been strengthened and new coalitions have come on board. As a whole, GCAP Africa gained visibility and proved a valuable vehicle in the drive to remind leaders of their promises while insisting they are accountable to their citizens.

In line with the decision in Montevideo to extend the GCAP mandate to 2015, the AFT and the Africa strategy were extended beyond December 2007. GCAP Africa national coalitions met in Montevideo and later in Accra in which 19 and 14 national coalitions respectively participated. Both meetings offered opportunities to review activities and lessons learned, reaffirm GCAP Africa engagement and agreed on the need to have a GCAP Africa-wide meeting to validate a 3-year strategy (January 2008 – December 2010) and renew the AFT.

In an effort to improve communications on the continent between coalitions, four quarterly bi-lingual newsletters both in soft and hard forms were produced and disseminated to all African national coalitions. An e-mail list serve was created for GCAP Africa national coalitions and information on GCAP sent in English and French. 7.158 million African women, men and children from all walks of life participated in the 1181 Stand Up and Speak Out events in 32 countries.



Africa Country Breakdown

Benin

From July 2-8th, Benin kicked off a week of activities themed 'What are you doing to achieve the MDGs?' targeted at policymakers and public. Children participated actively in these events with over 500 school children participating in walks, discussion forums and football matches. A media campaign was also launched to raise public awareness around the 8 MDGs. National and local media reported on the week's activities. Additionally, campaigners and children led a procession to the national parliament and State House to highlight their demands in relation to achieving the MDGs.

Botswana

The Botswana Council of NGOS, the GCAP national focal point, joined other African coalitions in July to reflect on the midway point for the MDGs and commitments made by their government. On July 6th, government and UN officials as well as Civil Society Organisation (CSO) representatives attended a breakfast seminar focusing on progress made towards meeting the goals. The following day, a public rally brought together politicians and trade unionists to give their views on the progress made so far. These activities aimed to give civil society, government and the nation at large a chance to assess Botswana's progress, re-evaluate and re-strategise on the MDGs. The mobilisation events attracted considerable media attention. Prior to these events, a news brief was published in a national newspaper to announce activities, and Radio Botswana covered the breakfast seminar extensively with phone-in radio shows linked to a GCAP seminar on MDGs.

On the 17th of October, over 4,000 people mobilised in a public march in Francis Town. Public presentations and a discussion panel were also held. Three different activities were organised with a series of public presentations, a discussion panel and a march in Francistown streets. A total of 4284 participants were mobilised for these events.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso's national GCAP coalition began its year's mobilisation activities on the Day of the African Child celebration in 2007. With child trafficking a national theme, a week of activities took place with the theme of long range of activities around "Better children rights

protection through integration and tolerance.”They called on the government and on the African communities, technical and financial partners, as well as civil society, to make efforts to ensure our children a better future.

GCAP Burkina Faso called on people to stand up and say ‘No’ to the injustice and exploitation suffered by families which impacts on children’s full and harmonious development and prevents them from exercising their rights.

At the mid-point to the MDGs (07-07-07) GCAP Burkina took stock of the country’s achievements towards the goals. A meeting in a poor district of Ouagadougou was attended by two deputies. The national coalition messaging was clear: if things go on as they are, objectives will not be achieved, inequality will deepen - notably in rural areas - and Burkina Faso could become the country still far from meeting the Goals.

On October 4th in his Policy Statement to Parliament, Burkina’s Prime Minister affirmed that despite the last decade of growth, about 41% of the population is still suffering from poverty. The slogan on the day was VIMA YA KAANGA (Life is hard). In partnership with a mobile phone company, the GCAP coalition sent SMS messages saying “Join GCAP Burkina coalition against poverty,” and promoting October 17th plans.

On October 17th, Burkina Faso held Stand Up events in Ouagadougou and around the country, with the highlight being a concert in Kaya as well as side events in Koudougou, Réo and Ouahigouya.

The call to government was for better environment policies, education, safe water and purification systems, investment in agriculture, healthcare including HIV/AIDS, better rights for women and human rights in general, and of course the eradication of poverty. Also on this day, public lectures about Economic Partnership Agreements in national languages (Moore Djoula and Gourounsi) were organised. 18,550 people took part in the Stand Up action.

Cameroon

The highlight of GCAP Cameroon’s activities was on the MDG midway point in July, when an event was held at the Palais des Congrès in Yaoundé and attended by NGO representatives, political leaders, government officials and traditional leaders as well as women and children’s groups. The day featured presentations, essays from young people and discussions on addressing the root causes of poverty while promoting equality in the country.

For October 17th, GCAP Cameroon held six different events in major cities organised by a range of civil society organisations. 26,000 participants participated in

public activities around Stand Up and Speak Out against poverty. They held events with the participation of several national artists and public officials. There was State media, civil society organisations, radio programmes as well as a press conference on the main development issues faced nationally. A documentary film was also shown depicting the nation’s battle against poverty. The National Parliament also took a minute to Stand Up against Poverty during its session.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The DRC began its 2007 campaign on International Women’s Day, March 8th, when local women marched along Bukavu’s main street.

A schools essay competition marking the Day of the African Child was launched on June 16th. Later in June, the coalition supported a broadcast media forum about poverty focusing on the issue of good governance in the fight against poverty.

For International Youth Day in August a radio talk show with young people raised awareness on youth involvement in the fight against poverty and highlighted GCAP demands.

The most significant mass mobilisation happened on October 17th when six DRC provinces took to the streets. Activities included a motorised carnival, soccer matches, a large, public and well-attended performance of the poverty requiem as well as Stand up moments in churches and schools. The coalition ended the year by presenting an Open Letter to the DRC President in November 2007 with clear policy asks.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia was in the spotlight perhaps more than any other African country throughout 2007 because two of GCAP’s leading campaigners have been imprisoned there since 2005. In December 2007, and following several unexplained delays, civil society activists Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demissie were sentenced to two years and six months in prison by the Federal High Court in Addis Ababa for provocation and preparing incitement in the aftermath of the May 2005 elections. They were, however, acquitted of the more serious charges.

At the start of the trial in May 2006, 131 opposition politicians, journalists, civil society leaders and organisations stood accused of a range of charges from genocide to treason. They were among thousands who were detained following protests accusing the government of rigging the 15 May 2005 parliamentary



elections. Many of the accused were acquitted during the course of the trial. Others were convicted but pardoned in July and August 2007 – all of whom signed a confession, admitting use of “unconstitutional means to change the constitutionally established government functions” following the 2005 elections.

Although they were asked to sign a similar statement, Daniel and Netsanet declined. They argued that their activities in 2005 were entirely legal and did not serve to undermine, but rather to protect and promote Ethiopia's constitutional order.

To keep the case in the spotlight, GCAP joined with CIVICUS to hold an International Day of Solidarity with Daniel and Netsanet on 28 June 2007. Organisations and individuals in more than 10 countries wrote letters and held events supporting the men. Later in the year, an e-campaign on Christmas generated nearly 400 messages of support from 45 countries calling for their release. The global and national media were kept informed of each step in the case and considerable coverage was generated for their story.

Both Daniel and Netsanet were, who were recognised as Amnesty International Prisoners of Conscience were finally released on March 28th, 2008 although the process in a higher court is not yet finished.

The Work goes on

Since Daniel and Netsanet's arrest in November 2005, civil society organisations in Ethiopia have come under increasing scrutiny, and many have been forced into silence on controversial issues for fear of meeting the same fate.

Despite the situation in the country, the GCAP coalition remained active for two October 17th mobilisation events at the Ethiopian National Theatre and the compound of the Women in Self Employment (WISE). The women, most of whom are engaged in the informal economy, raised their voices demanding the government provide housing



Photo- Morag Livingstone

and members of civil society organisations Stood Up and Spoke Out in support of their demands.

The musicians *Mayday Ethiopia* also performed some powerful anti-poverty music before an audience of around 1000 at the Ethiopian National Theatre. The State media attended a press conference where civil society representatives presented the main development issues of the country on October 17th.

A documentary was also shown depicting the nation's battle against poverty. The parliament also took one minute to Stand Up against Poverty during its session.

Ghana

The highlight of GCAP Ghana's mobilisation activities was on October 17th, where activities took place throughout the country, and over 100,000 people Stood Up and Spoke Out Against Poverty. GCAP Ghana was most active on the 17th of October with mobilisation coordinated with the help of the Abibiman Foundation. The Poverty Requiem was performed by several schools in the Tema municipality and proved a hugely popular way of expressing the reality of poverty. Events were held all around Ghana where activities gathered 123,205 people under the banner Stand Up and Speak Out against Poverty.

Kenya

“Blow the whistle in support of the MDGs” brought Kenyans together on 07/07/07, where GCAP campaigners and the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya asked people to fast and pray for the MDGs at a rally in the Nairobi city stadium.

For 07/07/07 GCAP campaigners and the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya jointly hosted a rally at Nairobi's city stadium. The gathering featured a “blow the whistle in support of the MDGs” action and Kenyans were asked to fast and pray for the MDGs for 24 hours.

GCAP Kenya mobilised 936,750 people for the October 17th Stand Up and Speak Out campaign.

For October 17th the GCAP coalition members hosted a Baraza with entertainment; a choir performance and public debate were held in the Marafa Township. Issues related to poverty reduction were relayed to the public by leaders as well as the District Officer. The mobilisation was hosted by the Destiny Africa and Marafa umbrella, which is a network of 156 Self-Help groups from all over the Marafa division.

Liberia

GCAP Liberia's 07/07/07 mobilisation activities centred on community involvement. Festivities, including traditional dances and cultural performances were designed to encourage informal interactions and discussions between community members and lawmakers. A statement calling for MDG-friendly policy-making was presented to the Liberian parliament. Copies of the statement were distributed to the United States Embassy in Liberia, the European Union, the African Union, the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the President of the Republic of Liberia. These events coincided with a series of talk shows on the MDGs and the launch of Liberia's shadow report outlining achievements at the mid-point.

Marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Stand Up events were held across Liberia including the second largest sport stadium, the 'Anthony Tubman Sport Stadium' on the 16th of October. This included a parade on Broad Street in the capital Monrovia with a performance of local musicians, roller skating stars and bicycle performances. GCAP Liberia was joined by Oxfam GB Liberia, ECOWAS secretariat in Liberia, principals of schools, government officials and slum dwellers.

On the 17th of October, the Poverty Requiem was performed and Liberia's efforts to meet the MDGs was highlighted with partners and officials. In the case of Liberia, conflict prevention and peace building must constitute the number one priority in ensuring the realisation of the MDGs. Other events were held at the Airfield sport pitch in Congo Town. This activity brought several Liberians from slum communities, government officials and UNDP officials.

Mali

Following the attendance of two GCAP Mali delegates in the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya in January, significant outreach efforts were made in Mali's regional capitals. 16 members of the GCAP coordination team travelled 9,910 km and reached 5,000 people.

In March, for International Women's Day, 300 women from the six communes of Bamako-District took action including holding lectures and debates. In April, GCAP Mali took part in a day of consultation about education with 1,000 people and in May, 100 members took part in capacity-building workshops for coalition members at the regional level.

As part of the G8 lobby, the coalition presented the GCAP Africa declaration to the German Ambassador in Mali with 20 people taking part in the handover.

The mid-point of the MDGs began with advocacy activities relating to the International Day of the African Child (16 June 2007) when about 100 children from District Commune I, V and VI were mobilised to present demands. This was followed by a lecture about the MDGs in Mali attended by 100 people.

On Pan-African Women's Day in August, a public lecture and exhibition was organised on Danderso city women's work, with 400 people attending.

But it was October 17th which was the highlight of the year for GCAP Mali. 2 GCAP Mali representatives attended the African Civil Society Conference, prior to the African Union Heads of States General Assembly in Accra. 265 people joined the Stand Up and Speak Out action and a delegation of six people met the World Bank representative on October 17th.

Malawi

People in Malawi joined the international community in Standing Up and Speaking Out against Poverty and for the Millennium Development Goals around the 16th and 17th of October in 2007. The events culminated with the commemoration of World Poverty Day on 17 October. In Malawi, hundreds of events took place mainly in primary and secondary schools with a total of 2,043,311 people registered as participating.

The campaign focused on the alarming maternal mortality figures in Malawi, extreme poverty and the escalating gap between the rich and the poor, the dwindling quality of education in primary and secondary schools and the increased cases of gender-based violence.

October 17th highlights included: The national event in the Chinsapo Township in Lilongwe where most people struggle to earn a living. Among the dignitaries, were the Deputy Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Deputy Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Deputy UN Resident Representative and GCAP Ambassador Mrs. Dorothy Ngoma. Government Principal Secretaries, UN agencies, CSOs, traditional leaders, students, teachers and several media houses were also present.

The Malawi Education Network (initially Civil Society Coalition for Quality Basic education), Play Soccer Malawi and Forum for African Women Educationists as members of the national coalition, teamed up with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to organise pupils in primary schools to Stand Up against poverty. The three institutions managed to mobilise over 1.6 Million participants during the campaign.

In colleges, the Eye for Development, a youth movement and member of the national coalition, organised Stand



Up moments as well. Events included marches and lunch and dinner briefings in selected secondary schools and colleges.

The mobilisation also extended to churches where thousands spoke against poverty and inequality and demanded pro-poor policies and laws ensuring equality for all.

The coalition also made an effort to organise events in Senior Chief Kwataine's and Chief Mphelembe's Traditional Authority areas in Ntcheu and Rumphi districts respectively.

A member of the Coalition called Centre for Human Rights Education, Advice and Assistance (CHREAA) organised a Stand Up event at Chichiri Prison in Blantyre. The harsh conditions at the prison, delays in passing judgement on offenders and the general poverty situation in Malawi took centre stage during the event. At least 661 people participated.

Lilongwe City assembly led vendors from Chinsapo and Lilongwe markets in Standing Up and Speaking Out against poverty. Among other things, the vendors advocated for health conditions in markets in addition to eradicating poverty in the rural areas.

The Malawi Congress of Trade Unions, a member of the national coalition, mobilised around 142,289 people. The main focus was on working conditions for employees in relation to poverty eradication.

Last but not least, GCAP Malawi coalition members, the Elderly People's Association and Hope for the Elderly, mobilised at least 4,560 people, mostly the elderly in their project sites. The two institutions based their message on decent lives for the elderly.

Mozambique

Members of the national coalition met with officials from the Ministry of Finance ahead of the G7 finance ministers meeting which Mozambique was invited to attend. Discussions revolved around G8 promises to poor countries as well as GCAP's demands on debt cancellation and aid.

Namibia

GCAP Namibia and their partner Women's Action for Development (WAD) organised an awareness-raising event on violence against vulnerable women. They presented their project "The King's Daughters" which involves former sex workers who are empowered through training and self-help schemes to lift themselves out of poverty and to quit the sex trade.

Namibian campaigners issued a joint civil society press release calling on the G8 to deliver on their commitments. The release was picked-up and covered by the national press.

Niger

On 6 July GCAP Niger organised a series of peaceful marches to donor country embassies in Niamey to mark the midpoint of the MDGs. A wide variety of civil society actors were involved and marched together to the Japanese, French, German and Canadian embassies. Presentations on challenges in achieving the MDGs, particularly in Niger, were made emphasising the need for rich countries to keep their promises to increase aid.

GCAP coalition members hosted a conference to assess progress in reaching the Education for All (EFA) objectives in Niger. Participants spoke of the lack of commitment from decision makers to address education issues properly and civil society's poor involvement in such a crucial area for development.

On October 17, GCAP Niger organised a race between schools and was able to mobilise 10,000 people for the Stand Up and Speak Out events. This event was held in the capital city of Niamey with the participation of several government officials.

Nigeria

For the G8 mobilisation delegations to several G8 embassies were organised on 1 June in Abuja, Nigeria. The visits included handing over of the Voices against Poverty petition.

Later in the year, some 1.9 million Nigerians participated in the 2007 Stand Up and Speak Out campaign against poverty. On the night of 16th October there was a concert against poverty. Then, for 24 hours school children, worshippers in churches and mosques,



market women and public servants were mobilised in 36 states. Other activities carried out on the day included radio discussions, jingles produced and aired; and the distribution of IEC materials for awareness creation. Additionally, the campaign used the platform of diverse social events such as the general forum of the Institute of the Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) to mobilise Nigerians to Stand Up and Speak Out Against Poverty.

Key political demands made by the campaign are; for the Government to allocate adequate resources for the achievement of the MDGs; that effective mechanisms are institutionalised to track money appropriated and; for popular participation in decision-making processes and monitoring.

The visible impact is that the general populace has been made aware and is poised for further involvement in budgetary processes as well as monitoring resources at all levels of government including the Local, State and Federal Governments.

Rwanda

During 2007, GCAP Rwanda had meetings of the coalition to discuss shared objectives in the poverty eradication process to build the coalition. A joint activity took place on October 17, when representatives from many members of GCAP Rwanda gathered to discuss shared objectives in the poverty eradication process.

On October 17 more than 500 people took part in the Stand Up and Speak Out mobilisation.

Senegal

GCAP activities in Senegal started on March 8 with an International Women's Day celebration, including a march against Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) organised by the women of the platform.

In April, a national workshop for civil society was hosted for sharing lessons learned and building capacities in monitoring the MDGs in Thiès. This workshop enabled GCAP member organisations to analyse the MDG National Report issued by the government, share information on Senegal's participation in the World Social Forum in Nairobi, set a chart on the civil national platform practices in monitoring MDGs and democratically renew the national platform steering committee.

On October 16, World Food Day celebrations included a social mobilisation in the Dakar town hall with the women of the GCAP platform. For the International Day for Poverty Eradication there was a procession followed with a performance of the Poverty Requiem in Demba DIOP Stadium, Dakar.

Seychelles Islands

GCAP Seychelles took part in civil society and private sector consultations on the MDGs in July. This was followed up in August with awareness raising and mobilisation activities around the MDGs with youth, educators, parents, religious leaders and media as part of International Youth Day. The theme for 2007 Youth Day was *"Be seen, be heard: youth participation for development"*.

On UN Peace Day in September an open forum on peace and security and the reality of poverty in the Seychelles was held in two locations on the islands.

For 17 October, solidarity activities with white band distribution, including two special church services in the capital were held to launch the report 'Poverty Realities in Seychelles'. Six additional activities between October 19th and November 17th were put on to forward the coalition's political demands and increase the impact.

Sierra Leone

Activities in Sierra Leone were spearheaded by Micah Challenge, a member of the Sierra Leonean GCAP coalition. A civil society forum on challenges in achieving the MDGs was held in Freetown and weekly debates on each of the 8 MDGs were broadcasted on the national radio in the run up to July 7th 07/07/07 events.

Somalia

Despite the challenges of the political situation in Somalia in 2007, the coalition was very active.

On October 17, simultaneous press conferences were held in five cities to share GCAP's mission, and raise awareness of GCAP's global values and ideals, especially their determination to campaign against structural





factors causing and propagating poverty and inequality around the world. Clear demands were laid out on public accountability, just governance and the fulfilment of human rights, as well as debt cancellation, trade justice, increase in the quality and quantity of aid and financing for development.

These demands were voiced out not only through press releases, but also via cultural displays where talented artists depicted the agony caused by poverty and inequality. Horyaal Band, a popular group, staged an emotional drama at Shamo Hotel in Mogadishu, which was broadcast by a number of media houses. Similar cultural displays took place in Hargeisa, Beled-weyne and Baidoa towns. Sports events took place in Mogadishu and Beled-weyne and awareness gatherings in Baidoa.

A 150 meter-long banner, made of 50 pieces, was displayed at CONS Stadium, the oldest sports complex in Mogadishu, as a GCAP Somalia's Banner against Poverty. 5000 spectators attended the football match against poverty.

A Stand up and Speak out moment was staged at various schools, sports grounds, theatres, offices and even at Internally Displaced Peoples' (IDPs) camps.

A petition letter authored by GCAP Somalia's Facilitation Team was handed over to the Prime Minister, Professor Ali Mohammed Ghedi on 16th of October in Baidoa town - the temporary seat of the Transitional Federal Parliament.

South Africa

On July 6, South Africa launched its MDG shadow report. The report evaluated progress since 2005 and called on South African civil society to be at the forefront of efforts to meet the minimum goals of the MDGs both globally and nationally, also including South Africa's own

constitutional goals and programmes. The launch was widely covered by the national media, via TV appearances and press articles. GCAP was also involved in the Live Earth Concert in Johannesburg on July 7th when co-chair Kumi Naidoo addressed the audience highlighting the links between climate change and poverty.

Refugee testimonials took place on October 17th, bringing representatives from the department of home affairs and the police service to listen to refugees speak about their experiences of poverty and violence in South Africa. Other activities on the day included a concert of Maskandi music under the banner HipHop Against Poverty, and Stand Up activities in schools.



Tanzania

On 16 June, the Day of the African Child, hundreds of children from schools and institutions around Arusha gathered in front of the Regional Commissioner's office to take part in a parade. GCAP Tanzania partner Mkombozi organised a march for children and youth and showcased

the new “mobile school” they are using to deliver literacy, health and human rights education to youth and children on Arusha’s streets. The day also stressed that street children can be at the centre of attention because of their potential and talents and not because they are a “problem”.

For July 7th campaign 07/07/07 a procession against poverty, and a discussion forum involving UN agencies, the government, civil society and the general public were held.

On 07/07/07, a procession against poverty was held, as well as a discussion forum about poverty and the MDGs.

Togo

July 7 activities were launched the previous day in the capital city Lomé. School materials were donated to disadvantaged children as they prepared to go back to school. Other highlights include the construction of a water well in a poor village community and an awards ceremony for the best survey on poverty in Togo at Lomé University. A documentary on people living in poverty was also produced and broadcast on TV for the occasion.

Activities for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty took place after October 17 as this year that date coincided with events around the election, which had

taken place the week prior. Government officials were called upon to address the prominent issues that the Togolese population faced.

Uganda

GCAP Uganda held a public forum as its main event for the peak mobilisation on October 17 2007. The event was attended by over 500 people. This platform was to give the opportunity to citizens to Speak Out and re-examine Uganda’s poverty agenda. The discussion panel was attended by a range of experts and practitioners, Government representatives, an Academic representative, the media, MPs, women, and others who set the stage for the debate around poverty and the challenges impeding the attainment of the MDGs.

A joint event was organised with the Christian Council and, the MDG/GCAP coalition. This comprised of special lunch hour services held in different churches in Kampala and neighbouring districts. The pledge was read by church leaders who called on their Government to fight corruption and uphold human rights.

With support from the Uganda National Teacher’s Union, several assemblies were held in over 100 schools of different



districts demanding that the future of children be considered within the educational sphere. All students and teachers took part in the Stand Up and Speak Out activities.

Mobilisations also took place at the sub-national level in four different districts of Uganda. Other short events in and around Kampala were organised to create awareness about the International Poverty Day. This was an opportunity for the national coalition in Uganda to distribute materials, and programmes of other events held around the city. Stand Up events were held in the province of Mongu with the representation of children from remote areas of the western province, many of whom have lost parents to HIV/AIDS.

Zambia

With 2007 marking the midpoint for the MDGs, GCAP Zambia used the opportunity to sharpen national policy demands related to the MDGs.

The 2007 activities were launched by the International Women's Day celebrations, with an event focused on engendering all the 8 Millennium Development Goals.

To support the German G8 activities, a lobby letter was submitted to the German Embassy and a live radio programme was organised with the coalition. The Campaign was honoured to provide an induction to a group of German artists led by the band, Campino.

On June 16, the Campaign, in partnership with a youth organisation – the National Youth Constitutional Assembly – conducted school debates on the MDGs and the fight against poverty. The Campaign mobilised over 15 schools in an advocacy programme.

In July, the MDG midpoint was anchored on the 2007 policy demands. A number of innovative radio and television programmes were broadcast on the MDGs, a soccer match was organised and a march through the centre of town as well as debates in many schools were organized. The soccer match was dubbed, Mwanawasa at 2015, will Zambia score?

The 2007 Zambia Civil Society MDG progress report presented a number of key findings and made key recommendations including that the Government must re-align its national policies focusing on MDG-related interventions.

In 2007, the Zambian coalition hosted the first-ever regional GCAP media and mobilisation consultation. It brought campaigners together from East and Southern Africa to discuss interacting with media in GCAP coalition activities with key representation from the Global GCAP secretariat and the United Nations Millennium Campaign.

Not only is October 17th the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, it is also Zambia civil society day, and as a result, a wide range of civil society in Zambia came together to hold events.

The Zambia GCAP Coalition and the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction entered into joint planning and coordination for the October 17 mobilizations. The joint hosting brought together a number of civil society organizations, student movements, secondary and basic schools and a number of youth organizations. The 2007 event was held in two places, namely, the Arcades shopping Mall and the University of Zambia football grounds. The theme attracted a lot of citizens' participation and it was linked to the celebration of Independence Day on the 24th of October.

A number of poor communities were targeted by the Campaign. Most participants requested the Campaign hold more of these non-violent demonstrations to show the solidarity across the nations and to highlight the increasing poverty levels.

Finally, World AIDS Day was among the most well attended events throughout 2007. The theme of *'Taking the Lead'* was well translated as people showed through action that the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a battle to be fought by all and that everyone is a leader in this fight.

Zimbabwe

The theme of GCAP Zimbabwe's activities was the widening inequality gap between rich and poor and between men and women. There was a call to redress inequalities along gender sensitive issues, along regional lines and a stronger fight against corruption for better allocation of resources was demanded from government officials. On top of these demands, questions of more civil society participation was pronounced as this is the only way we have left to loudly voice our discontentment and for government officials to work together, to commit and work positively to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Several events were organised by GCAP Zimbabwe and other civic groups such as the Art of living and the Young Knights of Zimbabwe. With support from partners, these associations were able to mobilise over 25,000 Zimbabweans to Stand Up and Speak Out on issues such as hunger, poverty, disease and the lack of access to education. In light of these events, numerous policy demands were presented to government officials including that, *"Every Zimbabwean, particularly the poorest, must have access to free quality public health and education services"*, and *"Every Zimbabwean lives a life of dignity and free from hunger"*.

Asia Overview & Breakdown



GCAP South Asia Overview

South Asia is home to 40 percent of the world's poor living on less than \$1 a day. In 2007, GCAP South Asia tried to address specific social impediments to poverty alleviation programs and the implementation of the MDGs in this region specifically focusing on caste, gender inequalities, pervasive income disparity and maternal and infant health. The issue of climate change and its threat to the poorest communities in the region also got increasing importance to GCAP coalitions in the past twelve months.

On a positive note, more children are surviving their first years of life in South Asia. The under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births has decreased from 126 to 90 from 1990 to 2004. However, maternal mortality remains high in South Asia. The proportion of land area covered by forests in South Asia has remained the same (14%) from 1990 to 2005. Rapid deforestation continues, but the net loss of forest area is slowing down. Energy use has become more efficient in most regions, though CO2 emissions continue to rise globally.

In 2007 GCAP South Asia worked particularly hard to improve the responsiveness of regional interstate institutions/agencies towards the call to action against poverty and achieving MDGs by 2015. Minimizing and opposing the negative impact of trans-boundary issues, actions and highhanded development interventions on people's lives in South Asia was one of the major challenges.

In addition, coalitions in South Asia looked for collaborative mechanisms and pragmatic strategies to combat climate change collectively at the regional level through developing an effective advocacy strategy for mobilising public opinion with a view to pressurizing governments and the international community to addressing climate change issues seriously and effectively.

People's participation in GCAP South Asia

The South Asian People's Summit held in New Delhi in 2007 aimed to give a space for people to voice their concerns, share successful strategies of action and strengthen one another through mutual regional cooperation. Attended by South Asian civil society organisations, representatives of regional networks, human rights activists, development professionals from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives it was very fruitful. As a result of sustained advocacy, the head of SAARC

accepted two demands – the setting-up of a Food Bank for South Asia and creating a SAARC Development Fund.

On October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Stand Up and Speak Out Against Poverty was observed as in other parts of the world with massive participation of all sections of people in South Asia. There was powerful representation of the growing global awareness and support for holding world leaders to account for promises to end poverty, tackle inequality and meet the MDGs by 2015. In total, the event raised **27,612,061 voices** reminding their leaders of their promises on achieving the MDGs at the local, national and international levels.

South Asia Country Breakdown

Afghanistan

GCAP Afghanistan, currently led by the Sanayee Development Organisation, built on its achievements during 2007 by focusing activities on advocacy for the elimination and reduction of poverty and drawing the attention of policy makers to the need for more pro-poor policies.

International Youth Day was celebrated by the coalition in all provinces except Baghlan (due to security reasons) in close collaboration and with the active participation of the Government, civil society, youth organisations and NGOs. 2230 young people from different walks of life attended the march. They wore white shirts with the words Youth against Poverty and carried banners outlining their demands for the eradication of poverty nationwide. At the end of the walk a gathering was organised in each province. A resolution was handed to the national assembly and related ministries. Almost all Afghan media attended the event in Kabul and the provinces.

For October 17, mobilisations took place in three cities, Kabul, Kunduz and Takhar. The gathering in Kabul, was attended by MPs, key government officials, civil society representatives, women, NGOs, governors and provincial council members as well as representatives of the poor and homeless. Around 200,000 people Stood Up and Spoke Out against poverty and inequality in Afghanistan on that day.

A highlight of the 2007 October 17 activities was the kite-flying event held on the Maranjan hill in Kabul city attended by thousands of university and school students. 700 kites were prepared each of which carried a slogan.

The main slogans on the kites were “Together against Poverty” and “Let’s end Poverty”. A similar event was held in Takhar province. Representatives of all national and some international media attended the event.

Around **200,000 people** Stood Up and Spoke Out against poverty and inequality in Afghanistan on that day.

Bangladesh

The GCAP alliance in Bangladesh consistently pushed forward national issues related to eradication of poverty both at the local and national level during 2007.

The big advocacy success of GCAP Bangladesh in 2007 was the refusal by the Bangladeshi government to concede to pressure by the IMF to sign their Policy Support Instrument (PSI). Following a series of roundtables with civil society groups who maintained that IMF strings have consistently led Bangladesh to get into deeper debt, the Government decided not to succumb to pressure and show an example to others that there is another way to deal with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

An overview of the Civil Society Progress Report on the MDGs in 2007, was presented to the media on July 7. The report revealed that *Poverty is decreasing in Bangladesh but the rich-poor disparity has widened*. The regional imbalance in development, higher birth rates among the poor, neglect of women and newborns, poor public healthcare and education services and inefficient resource utilization continue to prevail significantly in the country and restrict the chances of attaining the MDGs by 2015.

The premiere of a new documentary, *Bhumi (Land)*, featuring the continuous struggle of poor landless people to gain access to land was held on Saturday, July 7 at Drik Gallery in Dhaka, Bangladesh. “*Bhumi*” was subsequently telecast on different private TV Channels and used as a tool for raising public awareness and pressurizing decision-makers for pro-poor land reform plans and practices.

A people’s Stand Up and Speak Out event at the Nagar Bhaban was lead by the City Mayor, setting a new record as the first time a public functionary of this level joined a campaign of this kind. The DCC mobilised at least 5000 people including DCC staff and workers.

Celebrated folk artists and popular youth bands also took part in Stand Up in solidarity with the global call at the amphitheatre near Dhanmondi Lake. An electrifying atmosphere prevailed throughout the entire program attended by an estimated 25000. The events received significant media attention and were covered by national TV channel as well as local daily newspapers.

The arrival of the World Bank President in Bangladesh during 2007 drew a mixed reaction from the different sections of the society. A press briefing was organised to accompany the visit by the People’s Forum on the MDGs (PFM). Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, President of the Bangladesh Economic Association, in his keynote speech termed the World Bank’s prediction that Bangladesh will become a middle income country (MIC) by 2020 as “unfounded”. He stated that the WB’s recommendations for Bangladesh to deepen engagement with the global economy and shift from an agriculture-based economy to urban industrial economy is also “unrealistic”.

He reiterated the need for the Bangladesh Government to frame its own economic policies out of its own concerns. He explained that the 1% of total GDP comes from foreign loans of which 50% needs to be set aside for loan repayment. On the other hand 10% of GDP comes from remittance.

India

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, the GCAP campaign in India, works to hold the Government accountable to end poverty and social exclusion in India, by representing the experiences of the most marginalised groups in the country in the Government’s policies and programs. In 2007, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan was able to bring together over 3,000 groups located in 23 states of India through the activities of the campaign. More than 1.5m people were directly involved campaign.

2007 began with a unique Children’s Delegation to the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in February. The children were petitioning the government to allocate 9% of the country’s GDP for public expenditure on Health & Education as part of the ‘*Nine Is Mine*’ campaign. Soon after this meeting, education and health were prioritized in the budget, with increases of 34% and 23% respectively.



A 'People's Report Card' on the performance of the national government was conducted with the participation of 500 civil society organisations. The results received wide media coverage and provided an opportunity to widen the debate on the performance of the government on its promises to end Poverty & Social Exclusion.

Thirteen Mid-term Review Reports, reviewing the MDGs from the perspective of different states and marginalized groups were released across India on 7/7/7. Representatives of the campaign also met the Prime Minister on July 4 and briefed him about the activities being undertaken for the mid-point review of the MDGs. On World Anti-Poverty Day, 400 women from 20 states of India came together to share their personal experiences of poverty and deprivation, and to outline the women's agenda in the policies and the programs of the government. The outcomes of the Women's Tribunal were presented to the President of India, Pratibha Patil – herself the first woman to hold this position in India, on the same date.



Nepal

The GCAP campaign in Nepal was successful in shedding light publicly on poverty-related issues faced by people, especially women and youth, and in urging the government to act on its promises to hold CA elections as scheduled. People involved in this programme carried messages about the need for elections and the inclusion of a poverty eradication campaign for their locality.

A multi-stakeholder conference with civil society leaders, women's movement leaders, political actors, the media, representatives of state institutions, government representatives, writers, lawyers and private sector also helped identify issues to be incorporated in a new constitution being drafted by the Assembly. The outcome

of the conference was a Citizens Declaration on poverty submitted to the Finance Minister of Nepal, the World Bank Group and the IMF.

The declaration was presented on October 17 at national and regional seminars and workshops along with a petition developed by the GCAP Nepal coalition. The declaration called on the Finance Minister to bring the key issues to the IFI Annual Meetings in late October 2007.

Rallies and mass demonstrations were organised in different parts of the country including Ilam, Ramechhap, Butwal and Baitadi calling for elections. Participation in the demonstration was encouraging and spontaneous. From squatters to landless people and *haliyas*, concerns were presented to the Government of Nepal. They also asked the government for an integrated development plan to eradicate poverty and attain MDGs by 2015.

Almost 20 Stand Up Speak Out events were organised on October 17 and many as 401,953 people mobilised. In Kathmandu, senior peasant leader Shanta Manavi highlighted the call for action and said that unless human beings are rescued from the chain of poverty, the world cannot claim that human rights are protected, promoted and respected.

Pakistan

A nation-wide banner signature campaign with the active involvement of peoples' groups, NGOs, educational institutions and Community Based Organisations was a core action of GCAP Pakistan in 2007.

Each Millennium Development Goal was printed on a banner and was surrounded by signatures then displayed in public places with material on the MDGs in local languages. A staggering 1.5 million signatures were solicited from general public. This activity was done at national level and all the banners were joined forming a banner of 10 km due to be displayed in Islamabad in front of the National Assembly. However, the Government did not permit the action for security reasons so it was moved to Bahawalpur on October 17 2007. The banner had more than one million signatures received from all 106 districts of the country mainly signed by poor themselves. The banner was supported by Stand Up Speak Out actions mobilising 4.3 million people.

Also in 2007, a Youth Campaign involved a seminar arranged in Kala Shah Kaku in January and saw 85 students join political leader and human rights activists, who spoke on the MDGs. Later that month, as part of the WSF in Nairobi, GCAP participated in workshops and events and distributed red caps to the participants with the



slogan “*Pakistani peoples stand united against poverty and injustice*”, by Pakistan GCAP Coalition ‘*Enough is Enough*.’

GCAP also participated in The Pakistan Kissan conference in Lahore in February and on International Women’s Day 450 working women, workers, students, social and peace activists joined together in Lahore to advocate for MDG 3.

GCAP Pakistan hosted a ceremony to award certificates to people who had carried out particularly remarkable campaigning activities in 2006 to help motivate their ongoing efforts. 2,500 events organisers received certificates.

A strong media strategy supported all the actions and different TV and radio talk shows and print media added visibility to the campaign efforts.

Sri Lanka

The GCAP Sri Lanka campaign started in February around Independence Day with a Marathon and Commemoration in Karandeniya, a southern village. The event and public rally saw the Chairman of the Karandeniya Pradeshiya

Sabha (Village Council) and several key civil society leaders join GCAP coordinators to make speeches.

For **International Women’s Day in March**, a Women’s Rally organised at Uragasmanhandiya focused on Gender Equality while a meeting of war widows and children featured the laying of a foundation stone for a house named the “Millennium Development House,” built for a family displaced by ethnic conflict. In Colombo, a Women’s Day Commemoration meeting to launch a book by the GCAP Sri Lanka Deputy Coordinator was launched. The Chief Guest was the Minister of Public Administration, Deshabandu Karu Jayasuriya.

For Global Youth Services Day in April, a large number of youth groups organised activities island-wide and the White Band was introduced by the GCAP Youth Organisations involved .

The MDG mid-point meeting saw GCAP reach millions of people with a live 3-hour TV interview and a society leaders meeting featuring Dr.Deshapriya S. Wijetunge.

World Youth Day in August was marked by an event at BMICH to present youth views about peace, democracy and poverty in the form of drama, songs and speeches. Sirasa Super Star (2nd runner up) Mr. Malith Perera was appointed “ Youth Ambassador” for the year and the Banner Project was launched.

The build up to Stand Up and Speak Out was steady throughout the year and on October 11, 2007 in Colombo issues related to the MDGs and indigenous people’s rights were discussed. On the October 17 over 850,000 Stood Up and Spoke Out with one strong message, for “ A Peaceful and Non-Violent approach to achieving the MDGs in Sri Lanka”. Several hundred banners were made in this time and displayed jointly in Kurunegala in December.



GCAP SENCA Overview

Recent data by international development agencies bear out the vast improvement in poverty eradication in parts of Asia. Still, eradicating widespread extreme poverty remains a huge development challenge in Asia. The benefits of the dramatic economic improvement in the region in the last 30 years have eluded significant portions of its population. In fact, nearly one in three Asians is poor.

In 2007, GCAP SENCA (South-East, North and Central Asia) conducted a number of activities across the region. These included an ODA conference, entitled 'Building an Asian Peoples' Agenda on Aid: A conference on Official Development Assistance (ODA)', held in Quezon City Philippines. It brought 82 delegates representing 69 organizations and 15 aid recipient and donor countries in Asia to critique aid policies and assess aid effectiveness in Asia. It called on governments and donors to make aid as grants and not as loans because loans pull aid recipient Asian countries deeper into debt and, in many cases, worsen poverty and inequality. One of the outcomes of the Conference is the establishment of the ODA Asia Forum, a forum of Asian regional and national networks and organizations, which is tasked with monitoring aid flows in Asia, and working on regional and global campaigns on aid and aid effectiveness. GCAP SENCA acts as temporary secretariat of the Forum.

In Indonesia, sixty-five youth from Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Korea, China, and Australia gathered to attend the Youth against Poverty conference entitled "Be Seen Be Heard Youth Participation for Development: Synergizing Youth Initiatives in Countries across South East, North, Central Asia, and the Pacific". The conference was coordinated by Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA) together with GCAP SENCA. The youth anti poverty advocates discussed among themselves the situation of the youth in the context of the global clamour against poverty and framed a SENCA youth agenda. The conference catalysed a deeper understanding of youth and MDGs issues, and built a network of youth advocates dedicated to the eradication of poverty and inequality in the region.

On October 17, all SENCA national coalitions (from Australia, China, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, Philippines, Japan, Vietnam mobilised to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. They stood up to demand an end to the cycle of indebtedness and maternal deaths in many parts of the region. CSOs from other Asian countries such as Cambodia, Mongolia, East Timor and Thailand also participated in the Stand Up and Speak out activities

GCAP SENCA also worked with GCAP Indonesia and the IFT Support Team in planning the engagement for the UN Climate Change meeting in Bali. GCAP Indonesia hosted meetings and workshops on the issues of poverty and climate change as part of the CSO Forum throughout the Bali meetings. GCAP also participated in the December 8 day of global actions against climate change. GCAP national platforms further lobbied senior ministers and Heads of State to demand urgent action on climate change.

S.E. Asia & Pacific Country Reports

Australia

2007 was an exciting year for the Make Poverty History campaign in Australia. In the face of an election year, campaigners managed to turn poverty into a federal election issue. Policy changes were a highlight of the election year and included; increased overseas aid funding for basic education; commitment to increase overseas aid to 0.5% of GNI by 2015 (still short of the 0.7%); increased financial support for the Global fund to fight AIDS; \$300 million dedicated to improve water access and sanitation for developing countries and \$150 million committed over 3 years to help Australia's neighbours prepare and adapt to the effects of climate change. The Australian Labour Party also committed to swap \$75 million of Indonesia's debt to Australia for Indonesian health programs to fight Tuberculosis (TB) and focus the aid program on helping to achieve the MDG's.

In July, over **700 young Australians** travelled around the country spreading the Make Poverty History message in the Zero Seven Road Trip. The trip culminated in a concert at the Sydney Opera House on July 6 with some of the **26,000** faces collected during the "Face Up To Poverty Campaign" projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House in a world first event of it's kind.

Other highlights in 2007 included: **107,000** participants in 'Stand Up Speak Out' events for which 1.5km of banners with **150,000** signatures were created as part of the 'Banners Against Poverty' campaign led by Australian school student Arron Grey. The Banners were unfurled at Federation Square on Saturday 27 October, in front of a crowd of **5,000** people. Also, political debates hosted by the Make Poverty History campaign allowed members of the community to both be informed and show their concern. Over **800** supporters attended **15 MDG** forums around Australia and in September, **14,000 postcards**

asking the Australian Government to support the MDGs, were presented to the Prime Minister at Parliament House.

China

Around 07/07/07, GCAP China prepared several events, all of which were related to the first *“NGO perspective MDG report”* in China. In the first half of this year, the four groups of GCAP China, held workshops to share their experience and learning with other NGOs. Collective works like *“Orphans of AIDS parents”* were also printed. The coalition hosted a conference on 07/07/07, at which the report was launched and NGOs in China were invited to participate. By October 17 a planning meeting of NGOs decided GCAP China would continue to be a platform for pushing NGOs in China to participate and grow stronger as part of the global movement.

East Timor



Three big events were held around October 17 including a one-day seminar on the strategy to combat poverty attended by Members of Parliament civil society and academics on October 15. Key speakers in this seminar were a member of the national Parliament, the Vice Minister for Economy and Development, a member of civil society and a teacher from East Timor National University. A Food Production alignment exhibition. Of a total population of almost one million people, about 80% live in rural areas and their livelihoods depend on subsistence agriculture. A majority of rural people earn less than US\$0.50 cents per day and GCAP believes we need to develop the agriculture sector, value crop production and create a fair trade system to increase farmer's family income. For this GCAP organised the food production exhibition to promote local food and bridge the gap between producers and consumers.

The last event was a long march that took place on October 17th and involved more than 1100 people from different sectors including farmers, students and civil society. They called on the Prime Minister's office, National Parliament and the Ministers for Agriculture, Economy & Development to hear their demands. During the march participants read a statement, and carried placards reading *“Where is your promise to combat poverty”, “We don't need promises, we need concrete action”, “Value indigenous food production”, “Down with the WTO”, “Free market no, fair trade yes”, “Food sovereignty Yes”, “Loan money = kill poor people”* and *“GMOs will destroy small farmers lives”*. After the street march several members of Parliament and Government expressed positive reactions and promised to consider the demands.

Fiji Island

The first year of action by a new GCAP Fiji coalition began with a launch of GCAP and the Whiteband in Lautoka City



by the Mayor at the City's Chamber. Communities, students, youth and workers gathered at Shirley Park for the unveiling of a new monument. White bands were also distributed and the Mayor was honoured to be the first citizen to tie the band. Also launched was the *“Make Poverty History”* banner signed by everyone present.

A Race Against Poverty in September was a youth event in which over 80 young people from community groups, business houses, high schools and the security forces participated to learn more about poverty issues and service providers.

A March Against Poverty on October 6 was held with the Sugar Festival Parade that was celebrated within the heart of Lautoka City. Over 6,000 people lined the streets and marched with placards and banners with captions reading slogans such as *‘Down to poverty’* and *‘Poverty is manmade’*.

For Rural Womens Day on October 15, there was a speech from the Director for FRIEND, Sashi Kiran, was invited as guest speaker to a group of 350 women in Labasa, Vanua Levu, an island in the north of Fiji. He spoke about Income Generating Programs to assist the women's efforts to build a sustainable livelihood by using their natural resources. Sashi also spoke on the MDGs and the hope to achieve them before 2015 were also discussed.

For October 17, a plenary of Government officials from the West were invited to speak about the work their ministries do and share in an interactive session with rural communities. This was an opportunity for both parties to informally meet and discuss development issues. The communities raised issues concerning the development program that the government has implemented and how and when it is going to reach their communities and help out on their development issues. Young people with hearing impairments were also present and raised issues of concern to them and presented a petition calling for all secondary schools to have sign language trained teachers.

Indonesia

The overall policy change objective in 2007 was to urge the Indonesian Government to ask the IFIs and Donor Countries for Debt Cancellation for the implementation of MDGs in Indonesia using advocacy and mobilisation tools. In the advocacy programme, the main objectives were to explore Citizen Findings on MDGs Implementation and its Barrier/Constraints regarding Budget allocation as well as to urge government leaders to take concrete action to eliminate constraints to Debt Cancellation to help achieve the MDGs. An assessment of the state of the MDGs by the coalitions showed that on specific goals (education, health, and environment) the government had failed to meet its obligations for budget allocation. GCAP Indonesia launched its report on December 10 in Bali, in parallel with the UN climate change conference.

For the mobilisation program, GCAP Indonesia organised four events, which included national and sub-regional youth conferences on the MDGs held around the International Youth Day, Stand Up and Speak Out and CSF Parallel meeting on Climate Change (related with the UN climate change conference and Human Rights Day). For Stand Up and Speak Out, more than 600,000 people participated in more than 80 locations in 23 provinces in Indonesia.

Japan

2007 was an important year for Japan as part of the lead up to Japan taking over the Presidency of the G8 and hosting of the Tokyo International Conference for African Development in 2008. GCAP Japan/ Hottokenai, activities were twofold and focused on promoting the MDGs and preparations for the G8 Summit.

The 'Voices against Poverty' campaign attracted over 500 people to a venue on June 2. MDGs logos and T-shirts were handed out at a 07/07/07 event which was linked to the Tanabata Festival (the Star Festival). On October 17, Hottokenai organised Stand Up and Speak Out events nationwide with NGOs with the support of the UN Millennium Campaign, United Nations Information Centre and the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo). A total of 48,205 people stood up in Japan.

Preparations for the 2008 G8 Summit

Hottokenai has played a significant role in the 2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum since its start. The Forum is a civil society platform organised by a broad coalition of more than 100 Japan-based NGOs planning around the 2008 G8 Summit. Hottokenai helped the Japan NGO Centre for International Cooperation (JANIC) serve as a secretariat for the Forum and the Poverty & Development Unit (P&D Unit) within the Forum by providing financial and human resources. Hottokenai co-hosted a face-to-face meeting with representatives of the GCAP G8 Group and the P&D Unit including Asia and Africa reps in late October 2007. The time line, lobbying processes and joint actions for the 2008 G8 Summit were discussed.

New Zealand

GCAP's New Zealand Coalition is demanding More and Better Aid, Drop the Debt, Trade Justice and an End to Child Poverty.

Actions began on May 14 when New Zealand's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Winston Peters, announced an increase in aid levels as part of the Government's 2007-2008



Budget. New Zealand's expenditure on overseas aid will be progressively raised from the current 0.27 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) to 0.35 percent by 2010. After years of campaigning, Make Poverty History members welcome the increase, but urge the government to meet its promise of giving 0.7 percent of GNI by 2015.

The following day, over 120,000 actions collected by the Make Poverty History Coalition were presented to the Foreign Minister on the steps of Parliament. The petitions were collected by hand, text and web over a two-year period.

Marking the mid point for reaching the MDG targets, Make Poverty History members took part in a national lobbying of MPs on July 7 to ask for an increase in aid targets of 0.7 percent of GNI. There was also an award ceremony for MPs from all parties on July 17.

Make Poverty History members also participated in various events as part of the global day of action against poverty, October 17. Stand Up and Speak Out against poverty events took place in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, the political capital, where an event in Civic Square featuring speakers from Make Poverty History members and various political parties.

Philippines

'A Decent Life for All' was the call that sparked the 2007 GCAP Philippines campaign, as despite trumpeted economic growth the reality of worsening poverty and inequality in the country is of great concern to civil society. Filipinos took a stand against poverty and voted for change, when 7 out of the 13 senatorial candidates who signed a Social Contract to Fight Poverty and Inequality with GCAP Philippines and committed to enact policies and programs that will eradicate poverty and fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), were elected in May.

GCAP Philippines strengthened its campaigning strategies by proactively engaging media and the broader public in the Commemoration of the Poor Peoples Uprising of 2001 on May 1, the Alternative Budget Initiative, the MDG Midterm Assessment Report, and the October 17 Anti-Poverty Fair. Their aim was to show that the picture of poverty and inequality that the Arroyo regime is offering the public is far from the truth. The struggle to achieve a decent life for all Filipinos and not just a few proved to be difficult as official statistics continued to downplay and mask the true picture of poverty in the country.

A Poverty Map presented by GCAP Philippines in the latter part of the year illustrated the absence in official poverty statistics of the transient poor - Indigenous Peoples and

the Internally Displaced Persons together known as the *"Invisible Sectors"*. GCAP Philippines was supported by almost 70 organisations that took part in the 2nd Anti-Poverty Fair to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Over half of these organisations are new faces, armed with new ideas and energy. The war against poverty and inequality continues, but it is a war that the broadening ranks of GCAP Philippines will face head on, armed with the belief that it is a right of Filipinos to live free from poverty, to live a life of dignity.

Singapore

The ONE campaign in Singapore is dedicated to raising public awareness and taking concrete actions to Make Poverty History. On 07/07/07, local celebrities interviewed pedestrians on Orchard Road (in the centre of the shopping district) to gauge local attitudes on poverty and educate them about the MDGs. Interview footage was used to produce a mini-documentary called *"Beyond the Halfway Mark"*. The English, Chinese and Malay-language media also covered the event.

At events focused on the MDGs and the environment – and in collaboration with youth groups – the ONE campaign conducted Make Poverty History *"Banquets"*, an educational role-playing game highlighting the randomness and man-made nature of poverty.

The ONE campaign also invited Singaporean and Indonesian artists to contribute their work to a charity art auction. Proceeds are financing the Aceh Livelihood Project, an organic farming initiative benefiting tsunami survivors and orphans.

On October 17, more than 4000 people in Singapore participated in *"Stand Up and Speak Out Against Poverty"* – up from just 29 in 2006. ONE SINGAPORE's celebrity hosts led a public event and students at Raffles Girls School, Hwa Chong JC, Hwa Chong Secondary School,



Raffles Institution and NUS raised their voices and created Banners Against Poverty to call on world leaders do the right thing - more and better aid, debt relief, fair trade, gender equality, public transparency and accountability.

South Korea

The 2007 Whiteband Campaign in Korea started with hanging Whiteband Banners on the walls of 7 different NGOs and the Headquarters of Hyundai Motors and MOFAT (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade). One of the main events of the year was a *"Whiteband concert"* held in Yeouido Park near the National Assembly. Singers and celebrities joined and delivered messages calling for poverty eradication. The highlight of the concert was a *"White Umbrella performance"* led by 30 children on the stage, a youth network and with the participation of the whole audience. The concert was broadcast nationwide by Korean National Broadcasting Station, KBS 1TV.

In addition, 12 celebrities including actors, comedians, and announcers volunteered to be photographed by the famous Korean photographer, Cho Se-Hyun. All pictures were used to promote the Whiteband Campaign. Along with those off-line campaigns, an online campaign was also conducted from October 1-20. Three different video messages related to joining the anti-poverty movement were produced and aired and the number of people signed up to "eradicating poverty" reached 40,000.

The Korean NGO Network for anti-poverty (NGO Coalition) released a statement calling on the Korean government to increase ODA and urging Korean citizens to the campaign. The *'Joining the statement campaign'* was held inside the National Assembly building from October 17-19. Global poverty related pictures were displayed and whiteband souvenirs like T-shirts and white bands were sold at the site. 154 out of the 299 members of National Assembly signed up and 231 NGOs from various field such as the environmental, women, labour, religious organisations signed up to statement.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Overview & Breakdown



GCAP Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Overview

In the three years since GCAP launched in Brazil, the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) coalitions have been active promoters of the call to action through political incidence, street actions, politico-cultural events, political expression using communications, research and lobby activities with decision makers, among others.

Over time several GCAP coalitions in LAC region have become a reference point for the debate on poverty and inequality, called upon to inform their national governments and wider society on policy, analyses and discussions.

In 2007 the Regional Secretariat was based in El Salvador where a one-person staff sought to consolidate communications with all national coalitions through mailing lists and directories. This facilitated dialogue and information flow by electronic means and by the phone, aimed at the maintenance and the cohesion of the coalition that has formed in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2007, the regional campaign's main axes were, among others:

- Women, Poverty and Inequality
- Millennium Development Goals
- Tax Evasion and Corruption
- Foreign Debt
- Environment

The audiences to which these messages were aimed included youth, women, workers, students and artists. Each coalition pressed forth with its own rhythm and its own methodologies appropriate to the specific realities they faced, without missing the global focus.

In Peru and El Salvador, research was conducted and publicized on the MDGs as well as the problems of tax evasion and corruption. These initiatives have strengthened and increased the credibility of the coalitions and of their campaigns.

Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Colombia mobilised in different ways during the week of October 17, under the slogan "Stand Up and Speak Out" ("Levántate y haz oír tu voz") in coordination with organizations of the UN system in their respective countries.

In Brazil and Peru, photo exhibitions were organized and the book *Dreams – Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Times* was launched portraying the situation of women in Cuba, Brazil, Israel and Palestine. This action reached different audiences, such as women's organisations, college-level students, indigenous peoples, children and others.

The presentation of the book in Peru brought about a propitious moment for a face-to-face meeting by GCAP's Latin-American Facilitation Committee, which decided that the next GCAP LAC General Assembly will take place in Paraguay in May 2008.

LAC Country Breakdown

Argentina



In 2007, the GCAP Argentinean National Coalition "*Ningún Hogar Pobre en Argentina*" (*Not a single poor home in Argentina*) focused its work on the issues of wealth distribution, the consequences of poverty on women and children, and MDG progress.

Work was conducted simultaneously in several cities and all five regions in the country were covered. The contents of a communications campaign on the MDG and Universal Assignment with Chile were agreed and implemented. The campaign included a kit for mass dissemination including flyers, stickers, posters, and radio spots.

In October, a mass media campaign featuring graphic, TV and radio materials was issued to media in Buenos Aires.

The Campaign supported several actions of children and young people, in different cities in Argentina, including a public meeting for the Rights of Children, in Cordoba, a youth gathering in Chapadmalal on the "**The Rights of Youth**" attended by more than 700 young people. Also the "**The March of the Caps**" in November involved over 800



children and young people. Dissemination of information in movie theatres and TV about the Rights of Children, and radio spots broadcast in the Province of Chubut.

GCAP members also organised actions related to indigenous people and supported a march in April and different workshops and seminars.

Lobby efforts involved work with Candidates for the National Legislature to sign MDG commitments in the cities of Salta and Cordoba.

Outreach efforts were also stepped up in 2007 when the coalition's engagement with the Education Campaign continued and the National Assembly of Women was held in October in Cordoba.

Bolivia

Bolivia has a positive political climate for change with a government backed by the population that has decided to adopt and implement significant political and social changes. These changes require follow-up and active participation of civil society so the most vulnerable sectors of the country receive adequate attention in a period of national changes.

During 2007, GCAP Bolivia monitored the government's fulfilment of its promises and took as a case study the government's investment in the health sector. GCAP Bolivia carried out a survey to assess the National Health Policies in particular.

The coalition worked also to promote the notion that the Bolivian population can exercise their right to direct participation in decision-making, to supervise and evaluate the results and to impact public decisions by bringing Government policies under public scrutiny.

Among the main results of the GCAP Bolivia activities during 2007 were: involvement of 30 civil society organisations in GCAP Bolivia; proposals of civil society institutions formulated by GCAP Bolivia were transmitted to national authorities for consideration in planning, programs and public policies; events included meetings, debates and press conferences and marches.

GCAP Bolivia celebrated the International Women's Day in March with a film screening, debates supported with media work.

On March 15, the coalition supported the Consumers Day Celebration, sharing facts and data about access to pure water, sanitation, adequate nutrition, access to healthcare in Bolivia and internationally, illustrating the

gap between rich and poor countries and the respect of Human Rights.

GCAP Bolivia was also active during the G8 meeting in June and the MDG mid- point in July issuing press releases, newsletters and radio spots.

For October 17, Bolivia's youth took the lead with more than 30 organisations participating in events in different regions of Bolivia (urban, peripheral and rural areas).

Efforts with the mass media campaigns are estimated to have reached about 1.5 million people during the year - 15 radio stations were contracted to deliver radio spots four times a day, with key GCAP messages, broadcast in local languages: aiumara, quechua, spanish.

Two GCAP Bolivia seminars were attended by over 250 delegates from different organisations as well as national authorities.

Brasil

GCAP Brasil focused on four themes in 2007: women, poverty, inequality and discrimination. The most high profile event was *"Woman and the Challenges of Emancipation"* which took place in Brasilia, between the August 15–30. This event comprised a book launch named *"Dreams – normal lives in extraordinary times"*, by the famous photographer Carolina Benshemesh. The coalition also organised a photo exhibition, an international film presentation and roundtable discussions. Ministers, social movements and international agencies, among others, took part in the opening night of the event.

The same event was organised in Fortaleza, in the Northern region of Brazil, on the October 17-18 and mobilised people with great success.

The media covered both events substantially.

Chile

In Chile the GCAP coalition developed a questionnaire for distribution at the National NGO Meeting in Los Andes, Chile, on 07/07/07. NGO delegates were asked to propose their seven main ideas to combat poverty. The ideas collected served as input for a letter delivered to Chilean authorities on October 17. Information to the press was delivered about GCAP activities around the world and particularly in Latin America.

On October 17 itself, the GCAP members helped build a mobile wall with the phrase *"No more Inequality"* painted on it, symbolising the barriers between rich and poor. GCAP Chile carried it through the main streets of

downtown Santiago to the presidential palace of La Moneda and the wall was animated by a performing group who invited passers-by to adorn it with their own demands and proposals. A letter with civil society demands was hand-delivered to the Ministry of Finance, across the street from the Presidential Palace.

On October 23, GCAP organised a seminar on *"Social Cohesion, Inequality and Democracy"* in Santiago. The keynote speaker was Ricardo French-Davis, an economist awarded with the Humanities and Social Sciences Prize in 2005 and member of the Presidential Advisory Council on Labour and Equality, together with two NGO speakers. The main subject of the discussion was *"Public Policies to confront Inequality and Build more Social Cohesion"*.

Colombia

On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, more than 25,000 people attended 21 events in schools, town halls and in street rallies in Bogotá and Medellín. They expressed their opposition to poverty and demand from the authorities and the society to take action to eradicate poverty and inequalities.

In Bogotá, 14 educational institutions took part in Stand up. More than 18,000 children and young people participated, together with teachers and principals of those institutions. The event aimed to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality and the strategies to eradicate them. It focused in particular on government obligations to change this situation, a situation that hinders democracy, violates human rights, and prevents the path towards a sustainable and equitable development.

In Medellín, a Public Hearing to judge Public Utilities Companies was organised, and it evaluated the violation of fundamental rights to water, power and communications by the companies providing these services in Medellín,



where 266,000 families have been cut off from the services because they are poor and cannot pay the high fees the companies claim for their services. A street rally with some 4,000 people suffering from lack of basic services because of their poverty took place. They expressed their disapproval of the market-oriented policies for basic services such as water, power and phone services, that exclude poor people and the priority of companies for profit in their provision of services.

In all rallies, participants demanded urgent measures to eradicate poverty, demanding also that the measures must consider poor people in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies aimed to eradicate poverty and inequality.

Dominican Republic

The newly formed GCAP coalition in the Dominican Republic focused its efforts on mobilising people and creating awareness during the month of October. A press conference on October 9 took place along with a photo exhibition showing the reality of people who live in extreme poverty situation.

By October 12, the first big mobilisation happened when hundreds gathered at the National Congress for 'Cry for the

excluded' day. The following week, over 16,000 thousand white bands and 10,000 brochures were distributed all over the country.

Also on October 17, thousands of children all over the country did a special Flag Ceremony linked to calling for an end to poverty. The Dominican Teachers' Association made a call to all the schools to join the activities and mobilised more than 150,000 students.

Politically, a student commission, along with the GCAP-RD staff, visited the National Congress where they delivered a letter to their representatives.

Law students from the Iberoamerican University (UNIBE), did a Stand Up activity and held a conference about global poverty.

A big concert with GCAP-RD's ambassador Pavel Nuñez took place at the state university (Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo).

In total, the National Coalition for the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP-RD) registered more than 25 activities and around 170,000 people mobilised for October 17.



El Salvador



The different member organisations of GCAP defined the fight against corruption and fiscal evasion as the two main axes of their mobilisation. Both facts prevent the State from getting the necessary resources to invest sufficiently in social areas.

The GCAP campaign started on July 2, with the celebration of the MDG mid-point when political, cultural and religious fairs were organised, as well as a forum with young people. There an assessment of progress made on the MDGs by the Government and the result of such an evaluation did not yield positive results.

On October 17, a rally was organised in the main streets of San Salvador, which ended in front of the Parliament. GCAP submitted a petition to the Legislators urging them to take action to control and fight corruption and fiscal evasion.

Several press conferences and talks with Legislators were organised on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The main policy demands were: control and punish corruption and fiscal evasion; a fair tax reform; achievement of the MDGs; sustained actions to eradicate hunger and poverty, to increase social investment and respect to women's equity and integrity.

Mexico

The main goal of the activities organised by the Mexican National Coalition of GCAP in 2007 was to promote the Global Call to Action against Poverty, as well as develop its political platform to encourage collective efforts for justice and social equity in the country.

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, fourteen sector tables were installed in the country, which represented citizen participation spaces for children,

women, older adults and men. Local coordination also took place in order to promote the growth, incidence and impact of the GCAP coalition in the social and political reality of the Mexican communities, neighbourhoods and villages.

Highlights of the year included thematic conferences and seminars in the cities of Guanajuato, Merida, Colima, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas and in Mexico City from January to September 2007.

The first National Mexican Assembly of GCAP Mexico was attended by 31 organisations from all over the country and held from August 23-24 in Mexico City.

The first National Forum of Children against Inequality and Poverty in Mexico was attended by 19,317 children from 18 states during October and November 2007.

A National Council of Women Against Inequality event with GCAP Mexico was attended by 380 women from 17 states and held in Mexico City on July 7.

GCAP MEXICO also engaged in outreach with the Campaign for the Reform of the IFIs and the Campaign for the Promotion of the Universal Citizen Income, ICD (*Ingreso Ciudadano Universal*).





Peru

GCAP Peru launched its 2007 activities on International Women's Day, with the support of the music group Canto a la Vida (*Singing to Life*). Members of the group work to promote women's rights and held a public protest event at the Government Palace at noon that day. They brought the demands of women's organisations to President Alan Garcia Perez who, because of a lack of political will, had failed to promote public policies that address women's issues.

The same day, several women groups gathered in Lima city centre under the slogan "*We Demand a Decent Life Without Poverty*" and handed over a petition including demands and proposals to MPs and the Ministry of Women and Development (MIMDES). The 800-strong rally ended in front of the Ministry of Justice.

Peru also led on activities around the G8 Summit when the Jubilee Network, Peru Solidarity Forum, the Episcopal Commission for Social Action (all members of GCAP Peru) organised a forum called "*How does the G8 affect our lives?*"

As well as sharing information on the G8 Summit they outlined the implication of the decisions to be taken which affect the global economy and the environment. A crowd of around 700 marched from Lima city centre to the German Ambassador's residence to deliver a letter containing GCAP's core demands. The event attracted significant media attention.

The Network LATINDADD also prepared a document addressed to the presidents of the G8 countries, which was consulted with GCAP coalitions in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to promote a joint regional statement in relation to the G8 Summit.

To mark the MDG midpoint, a press conference was convened by the Coordinator of GCAP Peru and former director of the National Institute of Statistics to comment about the figures that had been presented on July 19 by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) about poverty in Peru.

It was said that the government can reduce extreme poverty to 5.7% in 2015, given the current economic growth, at the moment of the mid point for the achievement of the MDGs.

The peak mobilisation date of October 17 was marked by another forum in coordination with the MDG Commission of Parliament, *"MDG in Peru: situation as of July 2007"*. The report was presented by Hector Bejar, GCAP Peru Coordinator and attended by 250 people. Later, a public event with music bands marched towards the Ministry of Women and Social Development (MIMDES) in order to deliver the MDGs and Peru report.

Peru was also a leader in the Women's Tribunals (see page...) by hosting the Tribunal for Economic, Social and Cultural Rural Women Rights in November. This was linked to International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women when on November 23 the slogan *"Women, the State Does Not Protect You Against Violence"* 600 women marched and called for change.

GCAP Peru also presented the national and international Social Watch 2007 Report *"Dignity and Rights"*. In coordination with Forum Peru Solidarity, a talk was organised on Poverty and the MDGs in Latin America, which was attended by members of the Facilitating Committee of LAC GCAP.

Uruguay

GCAP activities in 2007 in Uruguay started exactly at midnight on March 8 with the CNSmujeres celebration in a popular theatre with a traditional Carnival-style event attended by more than 4,000 people. Flyers with information about gender equity and its relationship with human rights were distributed.

In July, a toolkit containing didactic proposals to address discrimination, gender and poverty was disseminated to 500 people at the national meeting of public education teachers.

Later in the year a rally and a march demanding sexual and reproductive rights took place with high political and media impact.

For October 17, awareness-raising was the focus and many walls in Montevideo were painted with simple icons and images which promoted reflections on poverty.

Educational material about gender-based violence was prepared for November 25 and distributed among more than 60 grassroots groups that comprise CNSmujeres.



Europe Overview & Breakdown



GCAP Europe Overview

2007 was an active and dynamic year for GCAP Europe. It saw a revival of the European call to action after 2006, which was a transitional period for many coalitions. The solidarity among GCAP campaigners across the continent is now strengthened and GCAP Europe has clearly demonstrated that the regional alliance won't stay silent. GCAP Europe will continue to emphasize the campaigning efforts until 2015 in order to trigger the political change that GCAP Global is striving for.

Since 2005 GCAP Europe has always been on the forefront of GCAP campaigning and has contributed to some of the successes on GCAP policy demands, namely European commitments to increase ODA to 0.56% by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015; renewal of G8 pledges to double aid; agreement to cancel the debts of eighteen heavily indebted countries and Nigeria; a commitment by the G8 that they will no longer force poor countries to liberalise their economy.

GCAP Europe also marked International Women's Day on March 8 for the first time; supported the May launch of CONCORD's Aid Watch Report scrutinizing the European Union Member States promises on ODA; supported the German coalition around the G8 in June through the one million voices petition; mobilised on July 7 to mark the mid point of the MDGs and acted jointly with GCAP Africa during the EU/Africa Head of States Summit held in Lisbon in November. For the latter, GCAP Europe and GCAP Africa worked together to agree a common statement which was used by GCAP Portugal during the summit.

Media-wise the launch of the Aid Watch report offered good opportunities to engage European journalists in a core issue. GCAP Europe organised a successful media stunt in Brussels in front of the European Council on the May 15. Several other EU countries organised different activities to support the report launch. As a result there were 189 media hits, TV Broadcasts on EuroNews and RTBF (Belgium National Channel) and good political impact in many member states. Both Italian and British governments made subsequent public announcements committing to raising their levels of ODA.

October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was once again the peak mobilisation for many European coalitions. Highlights included a big concert in Armenia; a Stand Up and Speak Out action during a European qualifier football game between Georgia and Scotland; an MDG seminar in France; a chain of Poverty Requiem performances in Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Portugal, mass mobilizations in Malta and Portugal

and street actions in Russia and Hungary. Many coalitions also sent delegations to meet government officials and members of Parliaments to stress the importance of acting urgently against poverty and inequality at national, regional and global levels. Besides raising public awareness about development issues and showing solidarity with the other GCAP campaigners active in the Global South, October 17 2007 led in Europe to some tangible political impacts

GCAP Europe Secretariat supported the re-emergence and strengthening of national coalitions in several countries: Sweden, Ireland, UK, Romania, Poland, Moldova, France, Estonia. At the same time, GCAP Europe approached several NGO networks active in Europe, inviting them to re-engage in the call to action including CIDSE, World Vision, Solidar, European Youth Forum, Eurostep, Eurodad and Wide.

Europe Country breakdown

Armenia



In 2007, the GCAP coalition in Armenia marked the mid point for the MDGs on July 7 presenting demands to the President of the Republic of Armenia, the RA Government, the RA National Assembly, political parties, media, all the actors of RA civic society and to the Armenian people. The past seven years have brought a slow and hampered progress in the achievement of the MDGs. Seven years remain to make the goals a reality and from this moment on countries around the world global civil society need to engage and become involved in a more target-oriented way. In the process of making the MDGs a reality, GCAP's Armenian coalition attached great importance to raising awareness and encouraging active involvement from civil society. They made a huge effort to unite the power and demands of the public and civil society to other countries to carry out their promises.

Azerbaijan

GCAP Azerbaijan began activities with a press conference in July at which experts from the Economic Research Centre and representatives of GCAP Azerbaijan presented detailed information on the lack of satisfactory progress in the fulfilment of the MDGs globally and noted the difficulties within Azerbaijan where goals 4 and 5 specifically are unlikely to be met by 2015. A documentary film produced focusing on child and maternal mortality, was aired on ANS TV as well as five regional TV channels. Radio Liberty organised an interview with experts on the topic. The Public event was a live concert on Azeri Public TV. Representatives of GCAP Azerbaijan's member organisations and officials from different public agencies spoke about the fulfilment of MDGs 4 and 5. Famous Azerbaijani pop stars performed at the concert, with some of them making calls to the government to reduce child and mother mortality in the country.

On October 17, GCAP hosted a Rhythmic Gymnastics Show at a central hall in Baku in cooperation with the Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation which was attended by the First lady Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva as well as representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sport. The aim of the event, attended by over 1700 people, was to urge decision makers to act urgently to fulfil promises on poverty eradication and the MDGs. The gymnasts, who will go to the 2008 Olympics, demonstrated a number of shows using white bands and the slogans 'Say No To Poverty' and 'Reduce child and maternal mortalities in Azerbaijan'. Approximately 1700 people attended the performance.

The second public action was a photo-exhibition in central Baku. A total of 60 photos portraying the appalling situation of child and maternal health facilities in Azerbaijan were put on display for 5 days and visited by over 1300 people. The exhibition attracted excellent media coverage, including popular ANS TV and Azerphoto. The GCAP coalition members distributed printed journals with photos including text explaining MDGs 4 and 5 to visitors and stakeholders.

Politically, it was a very active year also as GCAP Azerbaijan participated in the Delegations to Political Leaders activity by visiting the Deputy Health Minister Sanan Mustafayev on October 18. In the talks about the government's commitments, the Deputy Minister emphasized the recent range of reforms such as job creation and the building of new secondary schools and hospitals. He stressed that all efforts will be made including the effective spending of Azerbaijan's oil money (from Baku - Tbilisi - Ceyhan pipeline) to improve the social situation.

He also expressed that he is ready to support the work of the GCAP coalition welcoming suggestions and ideas for further cooperation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

'Stand Up and Speak Out' events were organised in 10 towns in Bosnia and Herzegovina by organisations, members of the Bosnia GCAP Coalition 'Zajedno' on October 17. In Gorazde, 'ALDI' organised an event at which citizens were given materials and invited to sign a petition as well as to read documents outlining national demands on the Bosnian government for poverty alleviation. 450 signatures were collected and local radio and TV covered the event. In Doboj an info point was set up in the city park organised by ToPeeR. Over 1,500 people took part in this event including volunteers who handed out leaflets on the streets and posted leaflets in public buildings.

In Travnik 'AlterArt' hosted an event with a short performance around 'Stand Up' covered by local radio TNT, which devoted its whole programme to this action and to the International Day for Poverty Eradication. Around 2,000 people attended over the course of the day. In Prijedor 'UG DON' organised an event in the town square which was attended by more than 900 people and broadcast by local radio station 'Free radio.' In Sarajevo 'Obrazovanje gradi BiH' distributed leaflets on the main pedestrian street, Ferhadija. In Livno town square and Bosansko Grahovo KEC hosted information points and were given airtime on Radio Livno and Radio Studio N.

The local women's association in Sarajevo 'Žene za žene International' hosted a round table/workshop on 'Stand Up and Speak Out against Poverty and Inequality' to raise awareness of poverty and gender inequality. This was replicated in Bratunac by the women's association 'Priroda' and in Bihac. In Jajce, a Women's Tribunal on Poverty was organised by the women association 'Viktorija 99' from Jajce. 'ALDI' as national coordinator of the Bosnian GCAP Coalition 'Zajedno' prepared all info – materials, leaflets and petitions for all organisations.

Bulgaria

On October 17th, GCAP Bulgaria organised a meeting at Sofia's University with the support of the students who were strongly active. The event gathered around 150 people who were given a presentation on the campaign and called on governments to meet and exceed the MDGs. All the participants "Stood Up and Spoke Out" and were counted as part of the global action. A Delegation to Political Leaders was also conducted at the Bulgarian Parliament. Jivka Marinova, Chair of GCAP Bulgaria and



member of the GCAP Feminist Task Force, attended an official meeting where UN representatives were present and included GCAP messaging in the discussions of government obligations to meet and exceed the goals.

Czech Republic

Since the Česko proti chudobě campaign started in January 2005, it has grown in size, scope of activities and public outreach. Now the coalition has more than 35 members and is present in more regions throughout the country. In 2005 the campaign coordination team cooperated with 10 regional coordinators. Now there are 22, which enables the coordination team to spread the message and have a wider impact.

The main communication tool has been the campaign's website. At the moment there are more than 3000 volunteers in the campaign database. Many of them take part in seminars, culture events (e.g. music festivals), and sport activities organised by campaign member organisations and mainly during Czech Action Days – the peak days of the Czech campaign – which took place in September. During these events the Czech campaign reached out to tens of thousands of people.

Ten demands were addressed to Czech policy makers of which the most important is the call for a more effective, transparent and responsible system of Czech development cooperation and for a continuous increase in Czech ODA.

These demands were raised at many seminars organised the coalition members during 2007. The demand for more effective and transparent cooperation is to be accomplished by the beginning of 2008 when the transformation of the Czech development cooperation starts. The demand for an increase in Czech ODA still remains a policy goal, and will require more time, energy and work.

France

07/07/07 was the first of three important mobilisation moments for GCAP France during which the coalition participated in a round table organised by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, gathering French government officials, institutions representatives, local authorities as well as Northern and Southern Civil Society delegates. GCAP France put forward demands for more and better aid (the French government is currently reducing its ODA's forecast), trade regulation as embodied by the EPAs which the European Union wants ACP countries to sign, and on the fight against tax and juridical heavens.



October 17 2007, the 20th Anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, was marked especially as the founders of the date were French NGO ATD Fourth World. A debate was hosted around the link between extreme poverty and decent work. A union representative from the Philippines was invited by the French GCAP platform along with seven ATD Fourth World delegates from Southern Countries. The main demand was on the right to a decent wage.

The third moment was on December 12 - 13 when a meeting focusing on the follow up of the health MDGs took place with Southern and Northern experts, French government representatives and International Institutions officials (World Bank, WHO). The demands put forward by the French platform are available on line along with the conference summary on: www.actionmondialecontrelapauvrete.org.

Georgia

To mark the slow progress in reaching the MDGs, GCAP Georgia used the midway point as an opportunity to draw attention to the plight of approximately half of the Georgian population who still live below the poverty line and lack access to qualified healthcare. On July 7 a "Future without Poverty" bus tour carried the GCAP demand of accessible healthcare and life without poverty across Georgia. The two-day tour which started in the capital Tbilisi and ended in a remote village of Khulo, visited impoverished cities and villages, met with local people and learnt the reality of their poverty and healthcare situation. Over 400 citizens were met to discuss their right to accessible healthcare, essential services and life without poverty. Alliance members and young activists handed information booklets about the MDGs and state funded social and healthcare programs to vulnerable people, doctors and high officials, reminding them of the need for urgent measures. Four local television stations, 2 local radio stations and regional newspapers highlighted the event.

On October 17 two “Stand Up and Speak Out” events took place. One in the Georgian Natural Museum where a concert ‘ART-GENE’ attended by 2700 people was organised by the famous Georgian faces from the “Future Without Poverty” Coalition. The Georgian version of the GCAP requiem opened the concert, followed by famous singers associated with the Georgian GCAP activities – the same faces have been involved in such activities since 2005.

The other location was the National Dynamo Stadium, packed with over 40,000 people for the Euro Cup qualifier match between Georgia and Scotland. The Poverty Requiem was screened on a plasma screen after the first match. The anchor announced the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and a Stand Up and Speak Out moment took place.

Widespread media coverage helped to mobilise the public and leaflets were distributed on the streets. Three days before the event, a short advertisement on the “Future Without Poverty” coalition, the Stand-Up Speak Out event and the concert ran on many channels and Rustavi2 Georgian Broadcasting Company prepared a special report on this date that was aired on a Sunday News Summary Programme.

Germany

In 2007 all major activities of GCAP Germany built towards the G8 Summit in July. The political demands that were raised focused on the German presidency and the first task was to get development policy issues on the agenda of the summit, the second task was to achieve decisions on more aid as well as precise timetables on how to fulfil the promises of former summits.

In the months preceding the G8 Summit GCAP Germany organised dozens of small and big events all over the country in order to raise awareness and collect signatures against poverty. During the summit in Heiligendamm they organised a concert which took place only a few miles away in Rostock. More than 80,000 spectators

were present to watch a mixture of music and messages. Speakers from the south, like Mohamed Yunnus and Vandana Shiva, described the problems in their countries. Bands from the South as well as famous Germans (e.g. Herbert Grönemeyer, Toten Hosen, Fantastischen Vier) and international acts (Bono, Bob Geldof, Youssu N`Dour) pressured the Heads of States with their songs. At the end of the concert more than 1 million signatures were brought on stage and were symbolically given to the G8.

In the second half of 2007 GCAP Germany did joint lobbying efforts towards chancellor Merkel during her visits to Africa and India and mobilised for the Stand Up and Speak Out world record attempt.

Greece

The Greek coalition began 2007 actions on March 8 (International Women’s Day) when radio stations across the country broadcast the GCAP demand for gender equality to end poverty, while a letter to the Greek government asked for immediate measures to address the gender dimension of poverty.

In May, following the release of the Concord 2007 Aid Watch Report, the Greek Coalition called on the Greek government to meet its aid obligations and promises. In July, for the 07/07/07 GCAP mobilisation, Greek campaigners launched a petition to the Greek government demanding more and better aid for poverty alleviation and the achievement of the MDGs and organised a public discussion on the relationship between developed and developing countries in light of global poverty and inequality.

For the October Global Day of Action, the Greek Coalition focused on the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF. Ahead of the meetings, it sent a letter to the Greek representatives to end harmful economic policy conditionalities, to ensure the democratic reform of the governance structures of IFIs and to protect the right of developing countries to determine their own priorities and policies. On October 19-20, the Coalition organised



public screenings of IFI related films along with a discussion on the damaging role of the World Bank and the IMF in the fight against poverty. A photo exhibition of GCAP activities from around the world was also on display from October 17-28.

On 8 December Greek GCAP campaigners supported the global climate campaign's call to action and joined the demonstrations and events organised in Athens with messages on poverty and climate change.

Hungary

The Hungarian GCAP coalition (Globalance Group of 12 NGOs) together with HAND Association (umbrella of 26 NGOs) organised a complex 4-day programme around the International Day of Poverty Eradication (October 17-20) in Budapest with massive participation and impressive media coverage.

55 activists began the October 17 actions with a street theatre performance featuring giant puppets, people on stilts and drummers attracting public and media attention to the giant problem of poverty. Flyers were handed out with the message *'Poverty as Shame!'* During the march – which was an official part of the Guinness World Record attempt campaigners highlighted worldwide inequalities and criticised the impact of global capitalism, unjust mechanisms powered by international financial institutions and the passive governments of Europe. Simultaneously, an open Parliament debate was held on the MDGs during which MPs were served simply a slice of bread and tap water for lunch, making media headlines nationally.

GCAP Hungary also highlighted the findings of the Aid Watch report criticizing Hungary's poor ODA performance and especially the government's attitude towards transparency, access to information of citizens and the almost total neglect of the Least Developed Countries, such as Sub-Saharan Africa in its foreign aid policy. The report says: "It seems totally unrealistic to fulfil the goal of 0.17% of GNI by 2010 and reach 0.33% by 2015" unless there is a radical change of aid policy and a real government effort to increase quantity and quality of aid.

A cultural event in West Balkán complemented these actions with several film screenings, photo exhibitions, outdoor installations, public discussions and live concerts on current questions of globalisation, poverty, solidarity and activism. An estimated 5000 people participated during the 4-day festival. The Hungarian GCAP Coalition also demonstrated and held a media stunt linked to the G-8 summit held in Germany



Italy

The Italian GCAP campaign was vibrant in 2007. The campaign organised a number of activities around the country and had several meetings with the sherpa office in the run up to the German G8 Summit. Just before the Prime Minister, Roma Prodi, left for Heilingerdamm and the G8 Summit, the national coalition had a meeting with him and presented its own manifesto, based on the policy asks agreed within the G8 GCAP working group. Mr Prodi then announced a new commitment of \$400m a year for ten years to fight pandemics.

The sherpa process offered the opportunity to engage the Italian Government around the development agenda beyond the narrow G8 plans. In this lively CSO' context, the government felt the need to fulfil some of the most important development commitments, such as contributions to the Global Fund.

The Italian platform coordinated its action with GCAP at several levels: the G8 Group and the Europe region. They contributed to the *"Economist Letter"* action and the German platform petition for the 2007 Summit. In Sept 2007, they also hosted the GCAP Europe planning meeting, which was well attend by representatives from

across the region; the meeting laid the foundations for the region strategy for coming years.

In Oct 2007, members of the Italian platform supported the Stand Up and Speak Out mobilisation, with a total of 75,000 people participating.

Luxembourg

To mark the mid-term assessment of government actions to reach the MDGs, "*Plaidons responsable*" took action on July 9. The aim was to warn the public about the urgent need to strengthen efforts to reach and exceed the MDGs and to end global poverty. Passers-by were encouraged to write a message on a piece of cloth and add it to a long band. This band symbolised the links unifying people fighting against poverty throughout the world. A press event was held with Erny Gillen and Mr. Jean-Louis Schiltz, Minister of Cooperation and Humanitarian Action.

Malta

This year's highlight for the STOPoverty! campaign in Malta was October 17. In collaboration with the National Platform of Maltese NGOs, KOPIN and Global Action Schools, Malta's first Conference on the MDGs was held. Academics, politicians, the general public, as well as students and various professionals took part in this conference.

In conjunction with this event a Stand-Up Activity also took place. STOPoverty! Malta managed to involve over 15,900 people around the Maltese Islands between October 16-17 to perform a one minute stand-up as part of the awareness to eradicate extreme poverty by 2015.

Another event on July 7 featured local bands performing a concert to raise awareness on poverty issues and raise money in aid of a project in Ethiopia.

The campaign also made its voice heard through interviews, articles and letters with local newspapers and local radio stations, as well as workshops, seminars and talks. The STOPoverty! Campaign appealed to the Maltese Government to improve transparency in reporting ODA figures, providing detailed reports of expenditure and of aid beneficiaries, issue an Official Development Policy as promised and to stop imposing conditions regarding repatriation of migrants when giving aid.

Netherlands

The EEN campaign formed a strong partnership with the RTL media group in the Netherlands, which owns four major TV channels and a leading Dutch radio station. Through this partnership, EEN develop a powerful advert using famous celebrities, which engaged many people across the country to become involved in the campaign.



A highlight for EEN was a series of performance of the Poverty Requiem which took place across the country with a chain of performances on October 17. These concerts involved hundreds of people and brought the message of EEN, for a world free from poverty and inequality, to a huge audience. EEN also worked closely with the GCAP global team to organise a spectacular performance of the Poverty Requiem in Washington during the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF.

EEN also led another ground-breaking initiative to give Dutch people the chance to create online Avatars of themselves through their web site to show solidarity with people around the world engaged in the fight against poverty. Some of these Avatars were further developed as offline characters who represented the voices of millions of active citizens at rallies around the Netherlands, and also in Washington.

Northern Ireland

On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - NGOs and civil society organised their 2nd annual Stand Up event at Queen's University, Belfast. The public, anti-poverty activists and local choirs were invited to participate in the Guinness Book of Records 'Stand Up and Sing Out' where an update on developments since G8 commitments on Aid, Trade and Debt at Gleneagles in 2005 was also presented.

200 people attended from schools, colleges, the community sector and development charities. The organisers called on the UK government to honour the commitments made on Aid, Trade and Debt at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, in 2005 when 250,000 people took to the streets of Edinburgh.

School children across Northern Ireland also participated in the record attempt at morning assembly, by reading the Stand Up pledge and Standing Up against Poverty.



Romania

On the eve of October 17, an MDG conference gathered over 100 people including representatives of FOND member organisations, Romanian civil society, UNDP Romania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Chamber, Prime Minister's Office, UK Embassy, public institutions and mass media. GCAP Romania focal point, Claudia Latan, spoke of GCAP and the worldwide initiative striving to beat a new world record to support the fight against poverty and inequality. Stand Up and Speak Out posters were put inside the conference hall and at the reception and informational material was given at the entrance to the participants.

Russia

Local level work predominated the GCAP Russia campaign in 2007 with the highlights around October 17 Stand Up and Speak Out actions. Many activities were organised to support the poorest people in Russia including visits to poor villages like Nizhniy Novgorod to distribute warm clothes to villagers and support a children's concert and free legal counselling to homeless people. Elsewhere, a regional exhibition of Civil Society and Social projects was held in Tyumen. In Tolyatti, Samara region a TV discussion panel on "Society's attitude to poor people in Russia" complemented a photo-exhibition reflecting issues faced by poor people. In St. Petersburg a street mobilisation for "Stand Up and Speak out" took place around a symbolic white tent and white bands were placed on the main street to campaign for the right to shelter for homeless people. The head of the council of deputies and music celebrities visited the white tent.

In Tosno, Leningradskaya oblast a student mobilisation was forbidden by the United Russia political party under the pretext of a volatile and sensitive political situation on the eve of elections.



Around the 07/07/07 MDG mid-point, the Community Development Charity Foundation of Tyumen launched their access to healthcare report at a round-table discussion on access to healthcare for vulnerable groups in the region.

Scotland

This year Scotland 'Stood Up & Sang Out' against poverty. The 2007 campaign used music to tell the story of poverty and inequality and the need for change. Scottish singers joined the Poverty Requiem and members of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's chorus and junior chorus performed at Peter Maissan's Poverty Requiem at St Mary's Cathedral, Great Western Road, Glasgow. Shenard Mazengera, Oxfam's Advocacy manager in Malawi, who visited Scotland at the time, introduced the night's performance. Speaking at the Poverty Requiem Shenard and Christine Walker of the RSNO supported the linking of culture and campaigning.

"As performers it is great to be taking part in a concert that is also taking place in so many countries around the globe on the same day. That the Poverty Requiem is happening globally emphasises the fact that poverty is a worldwide problem. In standing up and singing out against poverty we hope that the people who have the power to make change will do all they can to address the unfairness of global poverty."

Scotland was also very involved in the Delegations to Political Leaders when they met with UK Development Secretary Douglas Alexander.

Slovakia

A successful White Band March in the medieval town of Banska Stiavnica in central Slovakia was organised

by St. Andrew's school and eRko – a Christian Children Community Movement. GCAP Slovakia also held an 'Extraordinary life with disabilities' seminar in the context of MDGs.

As well as raising awareness of GCAP themes of poverty and inequality, it raises funds for concrete projects of development cooperation in Africa. There was also a presentation about GCAP and other active campaigns in Slovakia, including those supporting people with visual disabilities. These groups helped GCAP to write GCAP in Braille "using" participants as Braille code.

Spain

In 2007, the Spanish GCAP coalition coordinated a series of mobilisation events around 07/07/07 and the MDGs Mid Term Review. On June 27, they organised two different press conferences, in Madrid and Valencia to launch the campaign's activities on the MDG mid-way point and climate change. On July 1 they took the opportunity to mobilise at the end of the America's Cup yachting race in Valencia on the beach and invited people to write words about MDGs and the Pobreza Cero campaign in the sand so it could be read from a helicopter and broadcast. This event was coordinated with help from the UNMC and the Plataforma Valenciana Contra La Pobreza.

On the actual date of July 7, the Spanish Anti Poverty Alliance hosted a debate on the MDGs titled "8 barriers to achieving the MDGs". Moderated by a journalist from Spanish nations TV TVE, the panel included Flora Tristan from Peru, Dot Keet from the Africa Trade network, Carmen Jerez from the Confederation of Indigenous people of Ecuador and Carlos Berzosa, rector of the Complutense University in Madrid.



The Anti Poverty Alliance also organised an “Eco-friendly concert” in a Madrid city-centre square with support from the environmental movement - Ecologists in Action. Using solar panels to generate energy, the concert aims to raise awareness among the Spanish public of how the current interlinked patterns of energy use and planetary degradation are affecting lives.

Switzerland

GCAP Switzerland was founded in 2007 under the slogan “0.7%-together against poverty”. Its members come from over 70 NGOs, trade unions, environmental and youth groups, as well as human rights and women’s organisations coordinated by Alliance Sud. In 2007 GCAP Switzerland launched a campaign to urge the Swiss Government to work harder toward the MDGs and to increase Swiss ODA. Unlike other countries, the Swiss government refuses to increase official development aid to 0.7% GNI.

On July 7 they launched a petition calling on the Federal Council and Parliament to increase Switzerland’s development aid to 0.7% of gross national income by 2015. The extra funds should go toward specific priorities in pursuit of the MDGs/UN Millennium Goals. Also, a festival was held in front of Parliament in Berne under the banner “0.7% - together against poverty”. The keynote speaker was the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. More than 10,000 people attended the festival, and the media coverage was extensive.

On September 15, the Swiss Federal Day of Prayer, church organisations staged events in support of the 0.7% campaign with over 200 churches hanging the campaign’s flag on their facade. The main event took place in St. Gallen with more than 2000 participants, among them the Swiss President of 2007, Micheline Calmy-Rey.

For October 17, GCAP Switzerland organised white band events in various cities such as Bern, Basle, Lucerne, Zurich, Fribourg, Lausanne, and Geneva. At the core of the actions was the petition to increase development cooperation. Again many buildings and church towers were decorated with white flags, and white banners were unfurled in several cities.

By the end of November, 95,000 people had signed the GCAP Switzerland petition, which continues to May 2008 when the signatures will be handed over to the Swiss parliament.

United Kingdom

On June 2nd 2007 thousands of poverty campaigners descended on London to urge Tony Blair and other leaders



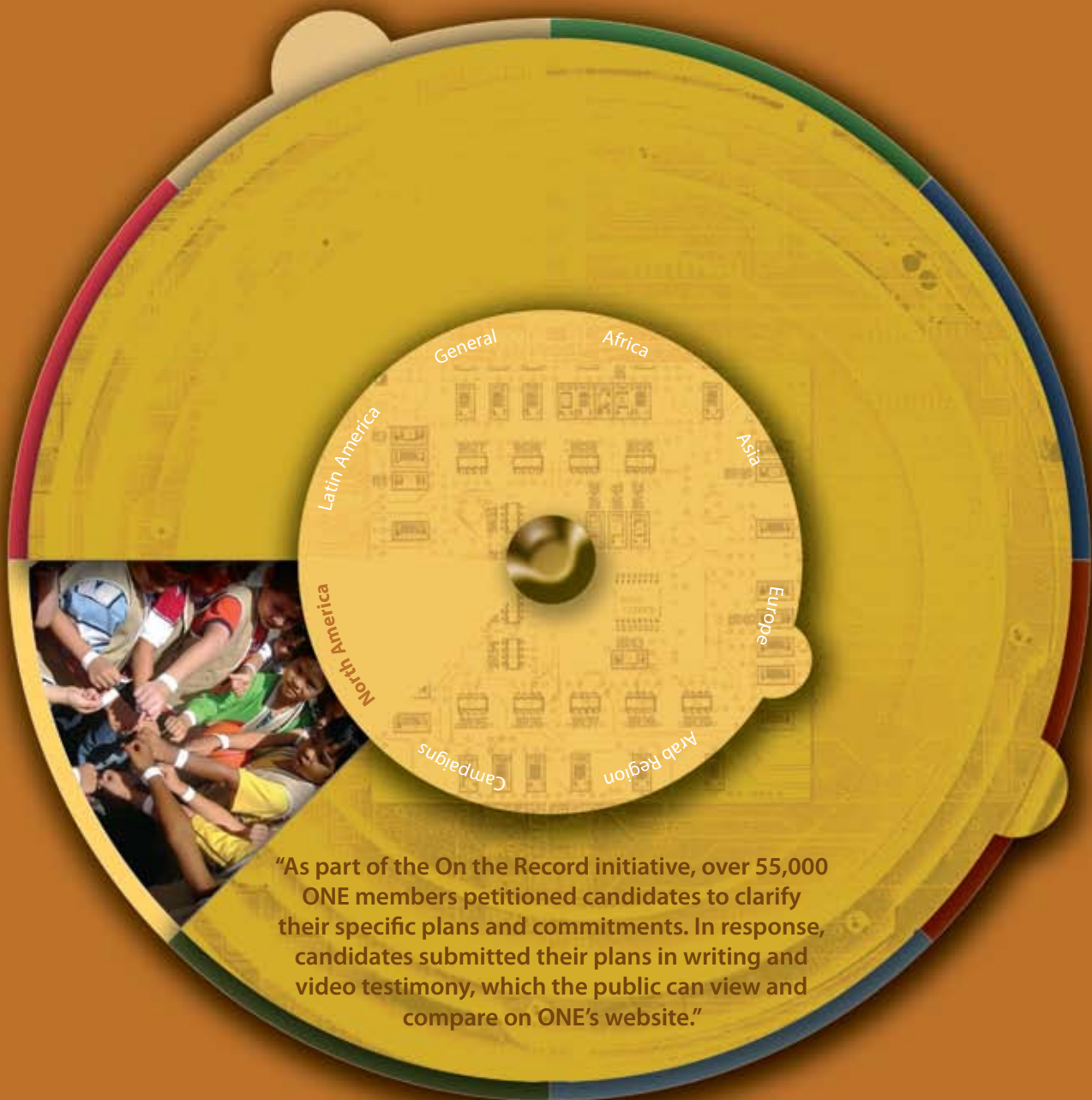
of the world’s richest countries to fulfil their anti-poverty commitments made in response to Make Poverty History at Gleneagles in 2005. ‘The World Can’t Wait’ event, staged on the banks of the River Thames opposite the British Parliament, raised UK public voices against poverty as part of the global call for justice for millions around the world. Ahead of the G8 summit in Germany, over 300,000 UK citizens wrote to Tony Blair, calling on him to turn the promises of 2005’s G8 summit into reality and ensure that further concrete action is taken.

To mark International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UK campaigners joined the global call to Stand Up and Speak Out against poverty in London on Wednesday October 17. The worldwide symbol of anti-poverty campaigning, a white band, was held up around City Hall, near Tower Bridge. Hundreds of people united to ‘Stand Up and Speak Out’ for action to end poverty and inequality as well as to meet and exceed the MDGs.

GCAP Co-Chair Kumi Naidoo called on governments and world leaders to keep their promises to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and to go much further in taking action to end extreme poverty. The UN deputy Secretary General, Dr. Asha Rose, also spoke. A broad cross-section of global civil society called for justice on international trade rules and practices, debt cancellation, more and better aid to the poorest nations, women’s rights as well as greater transparency and accountability.

The civil society representatives participating in this event at London’s City Hall came from the student network U8, the United Nations Association and UNICEF, leading UK aid and development organisations such as Oxfam, Muslim Aid, Tearfund, Jubilee Debt Campaign, One World Action, Save the Children, WaterAid and CAFOD, as well the trade union UNISON.

North America Overview & Breakdown



North America Countries

Canada

The national campaign, Make Poverty History, had six main moments of activity in 2007 and ended the year building an on the ground network of 50 local groups to complement their online community of 180,000 supporters.

The first was big moment June when the G8 Summit prompted a successful online action asking supporters to “*Raise your voice against poverty*”. Thousands of messages were sent to Prime Minister Harper and to the German Chancellor Merkel. Simultaneously, a send-off event for the Canadian PM was held in 8 Canadian cities on June 2 under the slogan “*Sound the Alarm: The World Can’t Wait*”

Make Poverty History for First Nations was the focus of June 29 action with tens of thousands of people taking part in rallies across Canada demanding action on First Nations poverty and attracted great media attention.

The Ontario Provincial Election was another significant moment in 2007 when another online campaign coupled with lobbying party leaders succeeded in generating support from all parties for a poverty reduction strategy.

A Vote Out Poverty concert and rally in Toronto on October 1 to a sell-out crowd generated media coverage for the public demand for action on poverty.

The outcome? The re-elected Ontario government sets up a Cabinet Committee to develop a poverty reduction strategy and initiates consultations with civil society.

Canada was active in the 2007 Stand Up and Speak Out to Make Poverty History mobilisation when more than 76,000 Canadians took part in over 300 events across the country.

Finally, the Better Aid Bill, legislation that would make poverty reduction the focus of Canadian aid, was passed by the House of Commons and moved to the final stage of approval by the Senate when it will become law.

MPH Canada supported this process with an online action, lobbying Members of Parliament and Senators and with media relations.

USA

As a result of continuous and targeted pressure throughout 2007 from the ONE Campaign and its partners in the fight against extreme poverty and global disease,

President Bush is currently poised to sign an omnibus spending bill that includes a historic \$2.4 billion increase for global poverty programs for FY2008. The bill was passed in the Senate on December 19 and in the House a day later.

In collaboration with numerous other non-governmental organisations, ONE mobilised its grassroots advocacy networks on several pieces of poverty-fighting legislation in 2007. As a result, the *Global Poverty Act* passed the House and was introduced in the Senate and the following bills garnered critical new cosponsors and/or await hearings in early 2008: *Jubilee Act* (debt relief), *Global Child Survival Act* (child and maternal health), *GROWTH Act* (opportunities for women), and *Education for All* (universal education).

Since its June 2007 launch and with bipartisan leadership from former Senators Tom Daschle (D) and Bill Frist (R), ONE Vote '08 has worked with presidential campaigns to put extreme poverty and global disease on their policy agendas. As part of the *On the Record* initiative, over 55,000 ONE members petitioned candidates to clarify their specific plans and commitments. In response, candidates submitted their plans in writing and video testimony, which the public can view and compare on ONE's website.

One Campus Challenge mobilised over 20,000 students on 1,400 campuses throughout the U.S. in a series of action-oriented challenges and engagement on issues of extreme poverty and global disease. ONE has worked with the global health and poverty community to galvanize students through a series of ONE Student, ONE Vote events on campuses nationwide and is bringing together the top 100 student leaders in Washington DC for the *Power of 100* summit in early January 2008.



Arab Region Overview & Breakdown

"We believe it is impossible to advocate for poverty eradication policies without taking into consideration the overall deterioration of human security and peace conditions."





GCAP in the Arab Region

Overview

GCAP coalitions in the Arab region believe that is impossible to advocate for poverty eradication policies without taking into consideration the overall deterioration of human security and peace conditions worldwide. This instability has a direct impact on the world economy and social situation, and thus on the social and economic rights of various communities.

In 2007, GCAP activities were organized in seven Arab countries, including Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, Palestine, Lebanon and Bahrain and Egypt. The Arab NGO Network for Development actively participated in the GCAP face-to-face meeting in Montevideo, where delegates released a position statement on GCAP future from the perspective of coalitions in the Arab Region.

To support GCAP's mobilization efforts around the G8 summit, the Arab region released a statement highlighting their concerns on the role of the G8 in the Arab region on the process of democratisation and reform, climate change, trade issues as well as aid and debt.

One of the highlights in 2007 was a series of TV seminars organized by ANND throughout the month of October on major regional and Lebanese TV stations. These seminars discussed the MDG report on the Arab region and development policies. Besides representatives from the GCAP coalitions in the Arab region, the seminars hosted a number of specialists on the matter. Future TV, a national Lebanese TV, with satellite coverage, prepared a documentary on poverty in Lebanon which was released on October 17.

Arab Region

Country Breakdown

(In 2007 North African countries Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia were added to the GCAP Arab region)

Algeria

The Algerian El Irched oual Islah organisation represented GCAP at three key moments in 2007. In March, a meeting on gender equality gathered around 18,000 participants including deputies, university professors, CSO's, faith groups and Imams, students, and other citizens. The meeting was covered by the national public TV channel, ENTV.

To celebrate the MDG midpoint on 07/07/07 in Algeria, GCAP organised a national meeting at the El Irched oual Islah summer camp. There, members agreed to pursue actions according to the Montevideo Declaration and push for the achievement of the MDGs. Banners with the messages "What about the government's progress towards the Millennium Goals?" "We want answers!" and "We want accountability!" were displayed. Deputies lent their support to the call and committed to include the fight against poverty in their electoral programmes.

They also created a new blog <http://algeriegcap.blogspot.com/> that contains all past and planned activities regarding mobilisation around the MDGs and the fight against poverty in Algeria.

On October 17, the coalition mobilised more than 2,000 people demanding the public authorities achieve the MDGs. Moreover, Mr. Abdurrahman Abdelli, a famous Algerian artist was nominated by GCAP as an Ambassador



and represented the call and his country in global forums on October 17.

A national policy focus throughout 2007 was the fight against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases as part of activities around the MDGs. El Irched hosted a workshop on HIV/AIDS entitled “*Youth Protection from HIV/AIDS Danger*” in August 2007. Educators received training on how to work within communities and to campaign for health and social education. The event culminated in a celebration attended by Oran city decision-makers, parliamentarians and even religious leaders who agreed to raise awareness and urge action preventing the spread of the disease.

Bahrain

In cooperation with civil society the Bahraini anti-poverty alliance organised a number of activities to boost its profile and raise the issues and demands in 2007. The Ministry of Social Development issued a number of reports that on initiatives to combat poverty, without pointing to the outcomes gained.



The Islamic Action Society (AMAL) organised a public demonstration attended by representatives of civil and political societies. Speeches on poverty in all its forms in Bahrain and worldwide were delivered during the demonstration. The General Federation of Trade Unions with the collaboration of the Bahraini Alliance also conducted a seminar on poverty.

Key dates were Labour Day, Women’s Day, Bahrain Independence Day and October 17. Core demands identified included, specifying minimum wages; persuading government to support basic materials and directing this support to poor families; demanding public and social programs that contribute to reducing the burden on needy families. GCAP also contributed to the development of MICROSTART, a programme launched by AWAL aiming to grant needy families soft loans to help them start small to medium projects.

In December, AMAL hosted a conference on poverty in Bahrain attended by a number of Economists and Social specialists.

Egypt

In October, more than a million individuals participated in the “*Sailing the Nile*” initiative that was organised by UN agencies in Cairo. An additional 17,840 persons stood up against poverty in Alexandria, Cairo, and Minia in coordination with the GCAP coalition in Egypt.

Lebanon

In October, more that 4,000 students stood up against poverty in ten schools and two major universities. These activities were organised by the UN agencies in coordination with the Art of Living foundation.

Morocco

On the 17th of October, several activities took place in Morocco with the main events held in Rabat. Two



events were reported back to the Africa secretariat which unfolded at Rue Mellouya. Overall the total number of people mobilised for the Stand Up in Morocco was of 18,072 with eight different events reported in the country.

Palestine

Nearly one million Palestinians workers and school children Stood Up and Spoke Out Against Poverty on October 17. The National Coalition for GCAP in Palestine, which represents more than 60 Palestinian civil society organisations, scheduled 30 events run by coalition partners on the day. In conjunction with the Palestinian Ministry for Education and Higher Education and UNWRA, schools across the West Bank and Gaza raised banners and shouted slogans against poverty. Rallies



took place in a number of cities, including Ramallah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Qalqilya, Jenin, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Hebron. In Gaza, a popular conference on the right to social protection for every citizen also took place and free medical services were available to all areas of Gaza and the West Bank throughout the week, while in Ramallah a central artistic performance took place, which included poverty requiem songs.

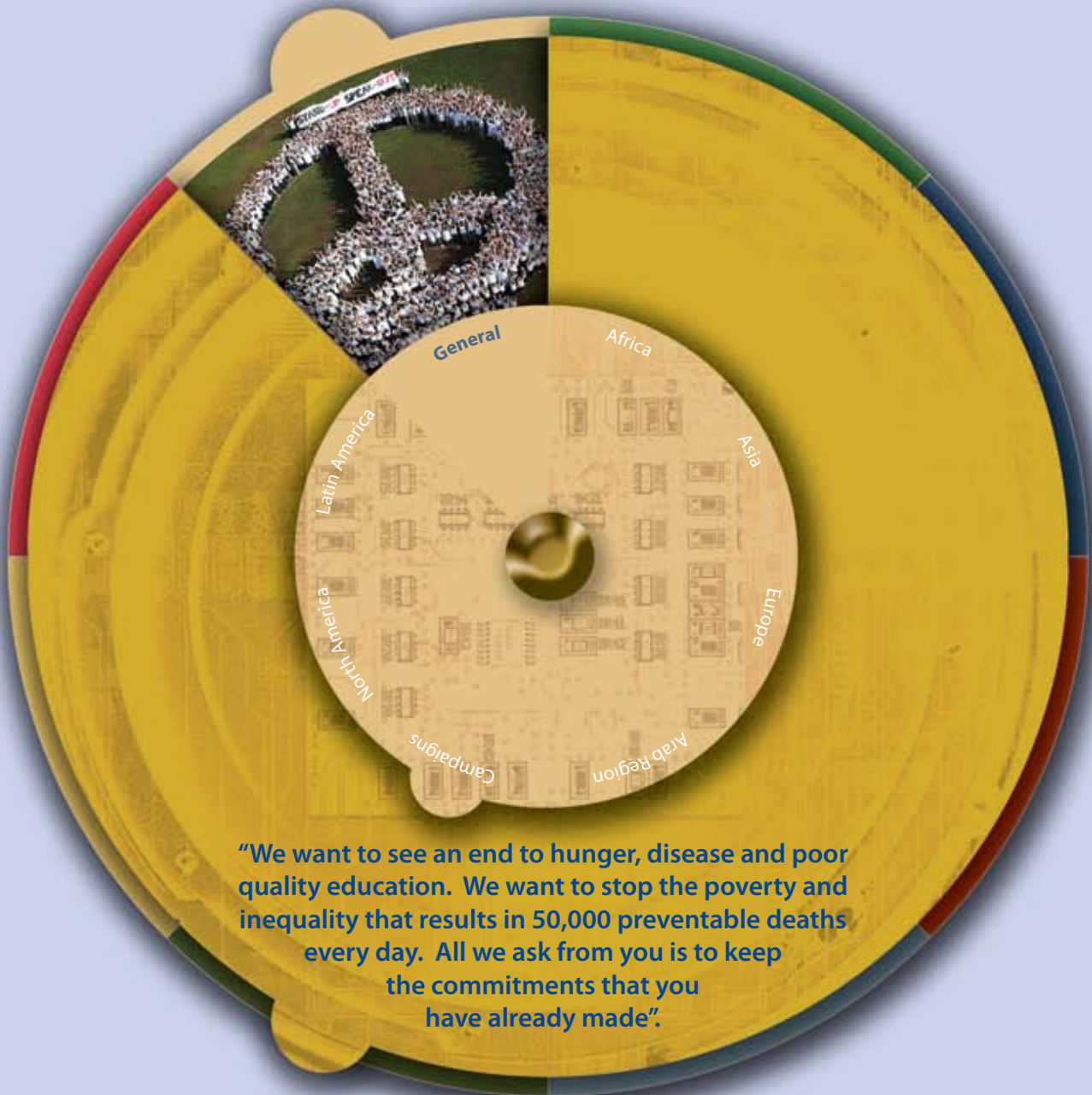
Throughout the week, delegations from the National Coalition for GCAP –Palestine conducted a series of meetings with Palestinian Authority Ministers, including the Minister of Social Affairs, Minister of Youth and Sport and representatives of the Minister of Labour. This worked to enhance cooperation between the coalition and the PNA. The meetings discussed the implementation of a national system of health care, the improvement of health services and compulsory health insurance premiums affordable for the entire population, free basic education for all and ensuring access to higher education for the poor, and the activation of a national committee to ensure the implementation of the MDGs.

In addition, the meetings agreed to work on the demands for the mid-term National plan 2008 -2010, MDGs. In addition, the Ministry of Labour is now reconsidering the implementation of the social security fund. In one of the Universities, students managed to work out a fund for poor students.

Yemen

The Yemeni coalition successfully mobilised over 3,000 persons in a public garden in the capitol Sana'a, the majority of which came from underprivileged communities. During this event, speeches were made by the coordinator of the coalition and Yemeni GCAP Ambassador, Dr. Tariq Abolohum. Dr. Abolohum is a well-known civil society activist in Yemen and has contributed a lot in the formulation and implementation of programs related to poverty eradication in Yemen. The coalition also formed several delegations from civil society representatives to meet with political leaders and transmit their concerns. Finally, the Yemeni coalition developed a newsletter "*al Nidaa*" that highlights all the activities of the coalition.

Mobilisation Overview



Mobilisation Task Force Report

The Mobilisation Task Force (MTF), working with national coalitions, was the driving force behind the 2007 successful mobilisation.

The MTF is comprised of representatives from each region, plus the Children and Youth Task Force, Feminist Task Force and International NGOs. Reporting to the International Facilitation Team, the MTF developed mobilisation guides, toolkits and resources for distribution to and adaptation by national coalitions.

The global mobilisation dates for 2007 were identified as:

March 8 – International Women's Day

June 6-8 – G8 Summit in Germany

07/07/07 – Midpoint for the Millennium Development Goals

October 17 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Other dates identified as significant were June 16 – Day of the African Child, and August 12, International Youth Day. An important and on-going debate within GCAP has been around the effectiveness and impact of mass

mobilisation in achieving policy change. The MTF worked during 2007 to try to both raise public awareness and to have targeted political moments and advocacy work. While it is not always possible to see the immediate results of mobilisation actions, the process of mobilisation, the building of momentum and the continued pressure on political leaders has been a significant and effective strategy for GCAP's mobilisation work.

OCTOBER 17

STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT AGAINST POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

On October 17 2007, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty the world saw the largest people's mobilisation in recent history under the banner of "*Stand Up and Speak Out*" (www.standagainstpoverty.org), creating a new Guinness world record. Over 43.7 million people in 127 countries, particularly the poorest people in Africa, Asia, the Arab region and Latin America, stood up to tell their leaders in no uncertain terms that the promises made to end poverty and inequality and achieve and exceed the MDGs have to be honoured. As people - rich and poor, women and men, adults and children - came



together in schools, churches, workplaces, farms, slums, community halls, relief camps, homes, clubs and even prisons - the resounding message to leaders was: *"We want to see an end to hunger, disease and poor quality education. We want to stop the poverty and inequality that results in 50,000 preventable deaths every day. All we ask from you is to keep the commitments that you have already made"*.

This mass mobilisation was organised by GCAP in partnership with the UN Millennium Campaign with a wide range of civic organisations including faith groups, trade unions, NGOs, youth organisations, women's groups and social movements. The purpose of the mobilisation was to press for governments in poor and rich countries to become more accountable to their citizens for their commitments on poverty eradication and the MDGs. National anti-poverty and MDG coalitions of citizens groups in rich countries came together to press their leaders to keep their promises of more and better aid, debt cancellation and trade justice. At the same time, citizens groups in poor countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere called on their own national and local Governments to fight corruption, become more transparent and accountable to their citizens, increase domestic resource mobilisation and allocate adequate budgets to overcome poverty and inequality and realise the MDGs.



Region	Country	Number of Participants	Number of Events
		7,158,352	1181
Africa	Botswana	4,285	15
	Burkina Faso	18,550	5
	Cameroon	26,789	10
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,099,704	7
	Djibouti	312	1
	Ethiopia	8,160	2
	Eritrea	1,250	1
	Gambia	2,000	1
	Ghana	123,205	32
	Guinea Bissau	300	1
	Kenya	936,750	378
	Liberia	10,455	6
	Madagascar	32	1
	Malawi	2,036,639	17
	Mali	1,000	1
	Mauritius	40,793	6
	Mozambique	5,186	4
	Namibia	900	4
	Niger	10,000	1
	Nigeria	1,977,083	224
	Rwanda	1,000	2
	Republic of Congo	350	1
	Senegal	8,000	1
	Seychelles	2,167	1
	Sierra Leone	10,340	3
	Somalia	21,094	40
	South Africa	207,458	315
	Tanzania	201,500	2
	Togo	30	1
	Uganda	336,730	43
	Zambia	40,634	17
	Zimbabwe	25,656	38
		2,561,838	272
Arab Region	Algeria	2,000	1
	Bahrain	16,541	27
	Egypt	1,461,691	28
	Iran	13,431	35
	Jordan	3,237	7
	Lebanon	4,460	13
	Morocco	18,072	8
	Oman	47,310	42
	Palestine	916,551	25
	Tunisia	523	2
	United Arab Emirates	80,022	85
		32,804,576	3678
	Afghanistan	200,000	1
	Bangladesh	824,521	54

Region	Country	Number of Participants	Number of Events
Asia	Bhutan	1,584	2
	Cambodia	42,873	4
	China	1,156	5
	East Timor	1,100	1
	India	18,631,265	2450
	Indonesia	618,081	16
	Hong Kong	604	3
	Japan	49,745	236
	Laos	624	2
	Malaysia	315	1
	Nepal	409,635	17
	Pakistan	3,950,255	317
	Philippines	7,170,077	109
	Singapore	4,033	10
	South Korea	16,049	5
	Sri Lanka	858,681	377
	Thailand	15,172	55
	Taiwan	4,806	9
	Vietnam	4,000	4
		215,004	551
Europe	Armenia	3,800	1
	Austria	4,826	19
	Azerbaijan	3,000	1
	Belgium	263	3
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	9,390	8
	Bulgaria	500	1
	Croatia	1,348	2
	Czech Republic	333	3
	Denmark	981	3
	Finland	967	4
	*France	285	5
	*Georgia	1,520	1
	Germany	66,115	328
	Greece	105	2
	Hungary	132	5
	Ireland	452	2
	*Italy	44	1
	Luxembourg	63	6
	Malta	13,055	5
	Montenegro	15,212	13
	*Netherlands	878	2
	Norway	131	2
	Poland	1,274	16
	Portugal	66,125	5
	Romania	2,205	8
	Russia	537	5
	Serbia	4,756	3
	Slovenia	1,279	3
	*Spain	1,137	4

Region	Country	Number of Participants	Number of Events
	Sweden	30	3
	Switzerland	283	10
	Turkey	78	2
	UK	8,834	73
	Ukraine	4,926	1
	Uzbekistan	140	1
		748,006	184
Latin America & the Caribbean	Argentina	4,858	14
	Bahamas	80	1
	Bermuda	347	1
	Bolivia	6	1
	*Brazil	6,618	10
	Chile	1,880	4
	Colombia	19,225	17
	Costa Rica	543	1
	Dominican Republic	160,952	24
	Ecuador	1	1
	Grenada	250	1
	Guadeloupe	250	1
	Guatemala	32	1
	Guyana	14	1
	Haiti	10,000	1
	Mexico	66,758	48
	Nicaragua	20	1
	Panama	471,895	34
	Peru	1,728	8
	Puerto Rico	1,068	3
	Trinidad and Tobago	1,407	9
	Uruguay	55	1
	Venezuela	19	1
		111,637	450
North America	Canada	76,182	268
	United States	35,455	182
		117,027	224
Oceania	Australia	102,064	204
	Fiji	14,963	9
	New Zealand	694	11
		43,716,440	6540
		Participating countries	127

* These countries held significant "Stand Up and Speak Out" mobilisation actions but are not entirely reflected in the Guinness World Record number as the actions took place outside of the specified 24 hour time frame or their complete details were not received in time for Guinness deadline. For example. Italy (756,134), Spain (70,000), Netherlands (70,000), Georgia (40,000), France (20,000), as well as Mongolia, Brazil, Benin, St Lucia, Albania and more.



Banners against Poverty

The “*Banners against Poverty*” idea was initiated by school students in Australia who wanted to create the world’s largest banner. Simultaneously, the idea was being developed in Pakistan aiming to create a visual display of signatures and a colourful way of presenting political demands to world leaders.

In total, more than 30 countries from every region in the world participated. The banners were large (10 kilometres in Pakistan) colourful (multi-coloured in Afghanistan) and representative of the population (Canada had chapters from across the country create banners). In the Fiji Islands students carried their banners in the streets and in Accra, Ghana, campaigners surrounded the Independence Square with banners. In South Korea banners adorned the sides of buildings and in Switzerland campaigners highlighted the promised 0.7% of GNI for foreign aid on banners. In Somalia, banners filled a football stadium and attracted media attention for their demands.

Around the world banners displayed people’s opposition to poverty and inequality and were a creative visual component of the Stand Up and Speak Out action.

Sections of the banners from around the world can be used on one global banner in future at key mobilisation moments.

Poverty Requiem

On October 17 2007, the Poverty Requiem resonated around the globe as part of the Stand Up and Speak Out campaign of GCAP. In a worldwide marathon of music, people from all walks of life in many time zones, sang the same inspirational songs about human suffering and hope

for a better life, free of poverty. The Poverty Requiem is a vocal piece, composed in the language of world music. The work is made up of five movements elaborating on the different ways in which poverty impacts on people: the suffering, the anger, the mourning, the humour and the hope.

Composer and conductor Peter Maissan wrote the music for the Poverty Requiem. Oxfam Novib’s former general director Sylvia Borren wrote the lyrics.

A total of 53 performances of the requiem were staged in 23 countries including Cameroon, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Kenya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Portugal, Scotland, Senegal, Suriname and the USA, and. An estimated 10,000 singers participated, not counting the audience and in some countries national TV coverage.

For more information and photo and video reports on the Poverty Requiem visit www.povertyrequiem.org



GCAP political delegations

In response to a call from the International Facilitation Team of GCAP, national coalitions around the world organised an unprecedented coordinated lobby of senior politicians in the weeks leading up to October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

More than 30 national platforms in the North and South sent delegations to meet Heads of State and senior ministers. They called on their governments to do more to urgently tackle the global crisis of poverty and inequality. Each platform lobbied their government with relevant demands, as well as joining the global call for action at the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund taking place just days later in Washington DC.

The diversity of events was striking. Ranging from civil society delegations lobbying individual political representatives to massive civil society events to which politicians were invited, the vast majority of activities took place at the national level, but there was also a lobby of the European Parliament organised by GCAP Europe.

In more than 10 countries, national coalitions also delivered GCAP's demands to their national IMF and World Bank representatives ahead of their departures to attend the annual meetings in Washington.

Delegations included:

- Engagement with the President of India at the Women's Tribunal in Delhi, India
- A meeting with the President of Somalia
- A meeting with the UK International Development Secretary
- Meetings with several key ministers in Palestine
- A meeting with the finance and deputy finance ministers in Liberia
- A meeting with the deputy finance minister in Argentina

Ongoing assessment of the impact of these events is continually being carried out, but immediate impacts include:

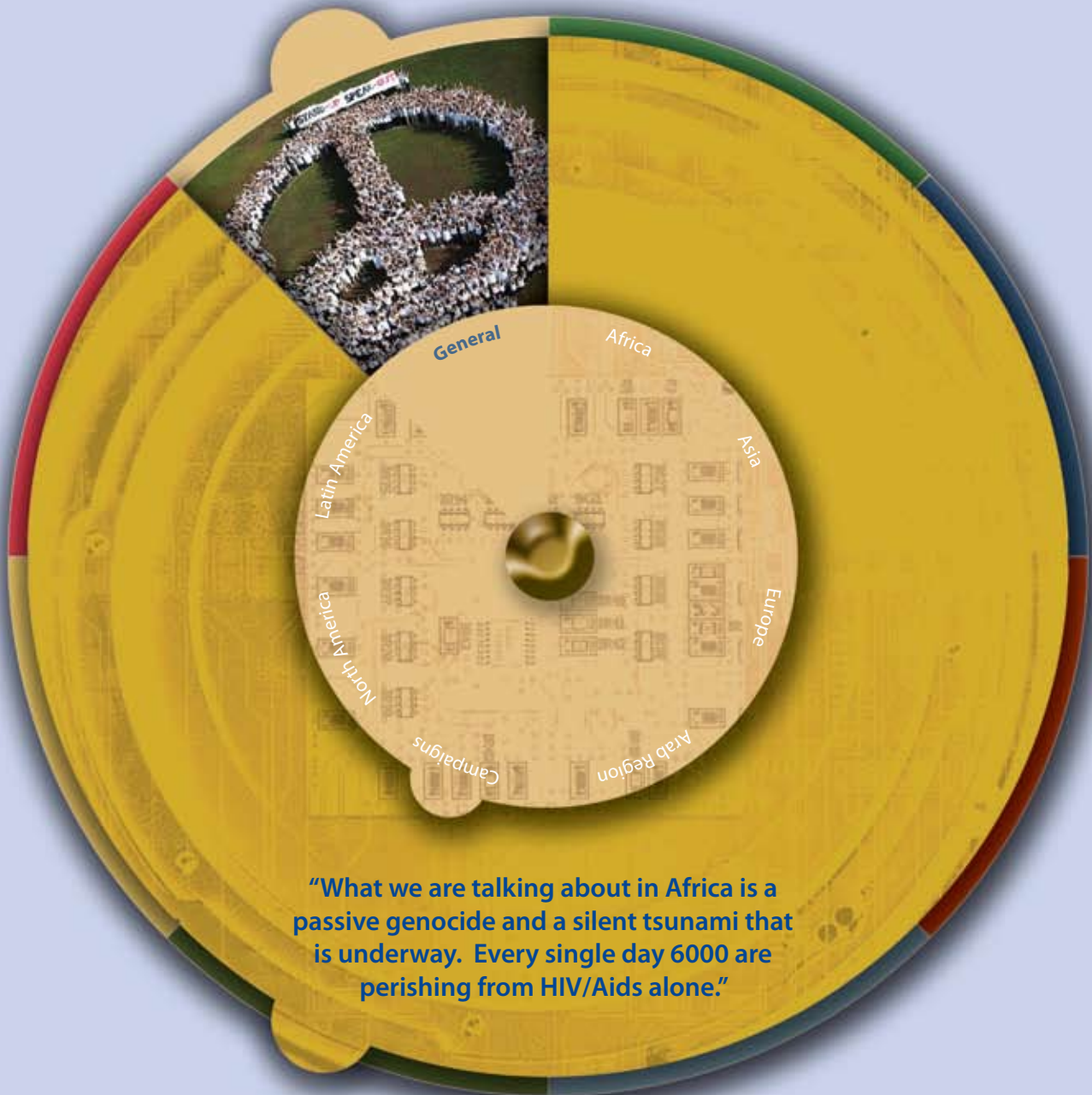
In Wales, following high-profile Stand Up events and strategic lobbying, the leader of the Welsh Assembly agreed to do all she could to facilitate debates in the Welsh Assembly on the issues raised by GCAP campaigners there.

In India, the 400 women attending the Women's Tribunal met the Indian President and presented their demands. The President stated her appreciation of the efforts of the women involved, and asked them to keep her informed of their ongoing work.

Photographs of several delegations were displayed inside the World Bank during the annual meetings in October.



Constituency Overview



"What we are talking about in Africa is a passive genocide and a silent tsunami that is underway. Every single day 6000 are perishing from HIV/Aids alone."

Constituency Group Reports

GCAP G8 Working Group

The G8 Working Group had an excellent year in 2007. Coordinated lobbying work helped put poverty on the G8 agenda and hold the G8 leaders to account. Activities during Germany's year as leaders of this group of the eight richest nations on earth included;

- GCAP Africa coalitions sending personal faxes to Chancellor Merkel urging her to include poverty;
- Lobbying around the G7 Finance Minister's meeting in February, including a media stunt calling on the G7 to deliver their ODA promises;
- Participation in the German Civil G8 meeting in April - a moment for civil society and the G8 Sherpas (the government appointee to help agree the G8 outcomes) to discuss policy;
- Liaison with the German campaign Demme Stimme gegen Armut over the collection of signatures and presentation of the 1 Million Voices petition to Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister on the eve of the G8 meeting;
- Lobbying and media relations at the G8 meeting itself - the G8 Working Group coordinated the a press conference of African Voices in the Press Room, the only NGO press conference during the G8 and statements responding to the outcomes.

The most significant announcement by the G8 regarding poverty during the meeting was of a \$60-billion pledge to fight killer diseases (Aids, tuberculosis and malaria). The G8 Group was in a position to respond immediately on the real significance of this figure and how it was an attempt to give a global figure, not focused entirely on Africa, without a clear timeline nor any concrete pledge of

funds. Groups at the meeting analysed that \$2.4-billion in additional aid would go to Africa by 2010 – and \$3-billion globally.

The main outcomes were:

- that the Germans increased their ODA budget by an additional 750million euros approx.
- the G8 reconfirmed the Gleneagles pledges and the Universal Access
- they agreed an additional \$1.8billion for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS
- they agreed \$60 billion in funding which many assessed worked out at only \$3 billion in new money
- they agreed to the Heiligendamm Process which will follow some of the Gleneagles agreements
- they agreed to keep climate change negotiations within the UN framework

Kumi Naidoo, chair of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, contrasted the 16 000 police officers deployed to guard the summit with the 7000 African Union peacekeepers sent to protect civilians in war-torn Darfur.

The urgency of the fight against Aids had only increased in recent years, he said.

"What we are talking about in Africa is a passive genocide and a silent tsunami that is underway," he told reporters. "Every single day 6000 are perishing from HIV/Aids alone."

The G8 Working Group is made up of representatives from all the G8 countries and members of GCAP regions. There are currently over 120 people on the email list and some 15 people attend regular conference calls. The Group meets face-to-face each year in the host country – in 2007 it was Tokyo – to plan its actions and events for the forthcoming year. In addition, the Group looks to agree Common Lobbying Positions on the key issues addressed by the G8 each year to help coordinate the lobbying process. The



main actions of the Group are to; share intelligence on the G8 - regarding the agenda, possible political scenarios and outcomes of the G8; to undertake media events around the key G8 moments including the meetings of the G7 Finance Ministers, the G8 Development Ministers etc; and continue to ensure the G8 delivers on its commitments by the deadline of 2010.

The G8 Working Group continues to work as a GCAP affiliated group helping to ensure the rich countries deliver and exceed their pledges and contribute to GCAP's goal of ending poverty.

GCAP Children and Youth Task Force Report

The Children and Youth Task Force (CYTF) is initiated by children and youth organisations to mainstream their participation and issues in GCAP. The CYTF reports to, and is accountable to, the GCAP Children and Youth Forum (CYF) and the IFT. In 2007, one of the CYTF event highlights was on the Day of the African Child celebrated on the June 14. The theme for the Day was "*Combat Child Trafficking*". Trafficking of children is widespread around the world today, and especially in Africa, because of growing poverty.

Dozens of African countries celebrated the International Day of the African Child calling on African governments to honour their commitments to eliminate poverty, improve health, education, equality and the protection of all children, in recognition that children are Africa's greatest resource. These major policy targets and demands had been agreed upon at the CYTF face-to-face meeting in Kenya in 2006. GCAP Africa specifically called upon the continent's governments to fulfil their obligations by ensuring that mechanisms are put in place immediately to implement international and regional agreements that guarantee children's rights. Through GCAP Africa the CYTF urged African leaders to take concrete measures now to lift millions of children and young people out of poverty. From the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Niger, Zambia, Nigeria through to Kenya and Burkina Faso, young people including GCAP Africa's national coalitions organised a series of commemorative events. These included youth processions, radio and TV programmes and public debates as well as essay competitions, awareness campaigns on child trafficking and advocacy walks.

One of the major challenges in 2007 for the CYTF was to get young people from North America, Latin-America and Europe fully involved in it's work. A major part of 2007 was used in reviewing the structure of the CYTF while

also developing and reviewing youth friendly documents developed by GCAP partners and also making inputs into the work of GCAP both at the mobilisation and IFT level.

Young people are the heart of the campaign and have contributed immensely to the successes achieved in GCAP's mobilisation work. They have put their creative energies into play through school mobilisations, concerts and football matches including online activities like blogging and documenting actions through video and photography.

GCAP Feminist Taskforce blazes a path for gender justice

The Feminist Task Force (FTF) has systematically worked to ensure that gender equality is a central demand of GCAP. In 2007, the first major mobilisation led by the FTF took place on International Women's Day, March 8, under one key message: "*Gender Equality to End Poverty*." The campaign was global in scope with national and regional specific demands aimed to apply pressure on governments and send the message that without the inclusion of gender equality, development policies are unacceptable. The FTF prepared a mobilisation toolkit including e-cards and messages, encouraging members and national coalitions worldwide to organise mobilisations on the ground. Reports of over 20 mobilisations were received.

The second major mobilisation of the year was around the G8 meeting in Germany. The FTF contributed a gender perspective to the GCAP Press Statement released in Germany, sent information to be uploaded in the website and supported the *Women Won't Wait* call to the G8 (Women's Coalition Demands G8 Action on Violence Against Women). There were also mobilisations organised by FTF members in Peru and Argentina at this time.

The central activity was around October 17 for the International Day for Eradication of Poverty. The FTF organised a series of International Women's Tribunals Against Poverty to highlight the feminisation of poverty. With 70% of the world's poor being women, the Tribunals served to inform and present the testimonies of women on the conditions they face and to put pressure on governments to take action. Two tribunals took place in October, in India and in Peru. In the case of India, the results were presented to the Indian President at a meeting on October 17.

The FTF also participated in '*Stand Up and Speak Out*' joining the Stand Up action at the UN Headquarters in New York led by the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon. This was followed by an activity



commemorating the 20th anniversary of the date that led to the establishment of a UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty. It was organised by the International Movement ATD Fourth World. Ana Agostino, FTF facilitator and GCAP co-chair was one of the speakers. Other FTF members also made presentations at Stand Up and Speak Out events and other October 17 mobilisations, including Canada, Peru, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Pakistan.

Besides these mobilisations, the GCAP FTF organised and participated at several other activities in relation to gender and poverty eradication including:

World Social Forum (WSF), January 2007, Nairobi, Kenya

The FTF, in coordination with the Gender and Education Office (GEO) of ICAE, organised a workshop on "Gender, Poverty and Education".

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW), Ottawa, May 2007

The FTF made a presentation at the plenary session of a National forum on "*Women Resisting Poverty and Exclusion: Alternative Visions and Practices*" on the subject of "*Feminist Anti-Poverty Strategies*". Pam Rajput, from India and member of the FTF facilitation team made a presentation on global and local feminist strategies.

Women in Development Europe (WIDE) Annual Conference

"*New Aid, Expanding Trade: What do women have to say?*" June 14-16, 2007, Madrid, Spain Josephine Kamel, member of the facilitation team on behalf of the Arab Region, made a presentation on the situation in Egypt.

Meeting on Aid effectiveness, June 17-18, 2007 in Madrid, Spain

Women in Development Europe (WIDE), Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID) and Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era (DAWN), all FTF partners, organized a strategy meeting focusing on the Aid Effectiveness agenda to share information and a broader critical analysis with which to frame the aid effectiveness agenda in relation to gender and development concerns.

Financing for Development High Level Dialogue New York, October 2007

Rosa Lizarde from the FTF played a major role in the dialogues facilitating debates and coordinating the participation of Civil society representatives.

Women's Tribunals on Poverty

In October, as part of the mobilisation around the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, GCAP's Feminist Taskforce organised several Women's Tribunals Against Poverty to inform and present testimony on the conditions women endure as well as put pressure on governments. The tribunals took place in Peru and in India, and a third is planned for Egypt in March 2008. The process and results of the tribunals was presented at a parallel event at the UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) in February 2008 in New York.

Peru

National Court for the DESC of Rural Women

The tribunals in Peru were organised in the framework October 17, and also as part of the commemoration of 15th October, International Day of rural women. They aimed to highlight the situation endured by women living in rural areas who are more vulnerable to poverty and prevented from exercising their rights and citizenship on a daily basis. The cases presented were:

- A case of non-documentation
- A case of rape in internal armed conflict
- A case of rape of indigenous girls
- A case of forced sterilization

Bringing these cases to a tribunal made explicit how the realities faced by these women result in increased poverty and how in turn this poverty inflicts on their human



rights. Clear demands were presented to the Peruvian government:

Summary of demands made to Peruvian government

- To set policies which provide women living in rural areas with official documents, to launch campaigns for the provision of documents and the restitution of identity with a gender perspective and to respect each person's language at a national level.
- To add gender education campaigns into school curricula in a cross-cutting way, contents addressed to change the traditional patterns of women's subordination.
- To guarantee that rural women have access to contraception.
- To guarantee that women sterilized against their will have access to a Redress Program.
- To investigate with due diligence and to bring charges for rapes that happened during the armed conflict.
- To review the legislation that penalizes abortion due to rape with a view to guarantee that any woman victim of sexual violence will never again have to live an imposed motherhood.
- To implement protocols and physical and mental health care services specialized in sexual violence victims' care within the framework of interculturality.

India

Over 400 women from 20 states presented their experiences before a Jury of eight persons comprising of academics, political thinkers and social activists. The voices were of women who are on the margins of society, in particular from Dalit, Adivasis, Muslim women, Women with Disabilities and from Nomadic Tribes, who are excluded and discriminated both by society as well as within their own communities thus bearing double-treble burdens.

While India is growing at phenomenal rates, the lives of the most marginalised women are further impoverished. Poverty is no longer secular. The process of exclusion and discrimination as well as the stereotypes faced by Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim women based on their community and gender identity determines their right to life, security, dignity, livelihood and development. In the past two decades poverty rates amongst these groups has increased.

Summary of demands made to Indian government

- **ACCOUNTABILITY** - programmes aimed at enhancing both livelihoods and social services need to be implemented and strictly monitored with transparency and accountability to the poor, especially women from Dalit, Tribal and Muslim communities.
- **LAND** - land is critical to addressing poverty and the right to cultivable land for women from these marginalised communities is a must.
- **IDENTITY** - the government must recognise and institute the independent identity of women as independent citizens, not just linked to their families.
- **PARTICIPATION LAWS** - customary laws that marginalise and exploit women need to be amended in keeping with progressive human rights, legislations and provisions, and new laws to ensure their equal cultural, economic and political participation must be enacted.
- **VIOLENCE** - every effort must be made to address the causes of violence against women and to bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against women

Further information on the Womens Tribunal Against Poverty in India can be found on www.wadanatodo.net/events



UN Millennium Campaign Midpoint Highlights

Halfway to 2015 we have made some vital progress:

- 3 million more children survive every year
- 2 million people now receive AIDs treatment
- There are 41 million more children in school
- 2 million lives are saved every year by immunization
- Polio, leprosy and neonatal tetanus are on the verge of elimination
- African economies have been growing at 6% for the past three years, and are set to grow faster in the years ahead

We still face an enormous challenge – a development emergency:

- 72 million children are still not in school and many who are receive a very poor quality education.
- Half of the developing world lack basic sanitation. If current trends continue, the world is likely to miss the MDG sanitation target by almost 600 million people.
- Over half a million women still die each year from treatable and preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth.
- Every day HIV, Malaria and TB kill 5 million people. Over 33 million people are living with HIV, and more than 1 million people die of malaria every year, including one child every 30 seconds.
- 980 million people still live on less than US\$ 1 a day.

In 2007, to mark the MDG midpoint, anti-poverty campaigners across Africa organised a series of activities aimed at putting their governments on notice that the deadline was fast approaching for the achievement of the Goals. Campaigners repeatedly called on their governments to put in place radical measures to fulfil the promises made in 2000. Events organised included public fora, rallies, concerts, media campaigns among others and participants included MDG ambassadors, children, politicians and policy makers, campaigners and the local community.

In Asia, the half-way point of the Millennium Development Goals was a crucial time to re-evaluate development policies and strategies necessary to fulfil the MDGs. Throughout 2007, the Millennium Campaign

in Asia focused on the vulnerable populations that were most likely to be at risk of living in poverty and social exclusion.

The Millennium Campaign in Asia shifted its focus from general campaign activities and events, and expanded its campaign outreach in 2006 to include concrete policy objectives and advocacy initiatives through various MDG midpoint reports from the civil society perspective in 2007. The Campaign's work underlined issues related to governance accountability, social exclusion and growing inequality among various sub-segments of the population, especially women and girls of the marginalised groups. In this regard, the Millennium Campaign in Asia emphasised the need to go beyond the aggregated data and successfully highlight critical issues of the lowest castes, ethnic and religious minorities. The Asia team highlighted the midpoint review of the Goals as a major advocacy movement in building momentum towards the Stand Up and Speak Out Campaign on October 17 2007. The Campaign in Asia combined the strong policy messages into the *People's Voices on Millennium Development Goals*.

Working with local authorities, a key constituency for sustained MDG outreach, the Millennium Campaign co-branded with United Cities Local Governments (UCLG)



to coordinate the global conference entitled, “*Running out of time-The Local Government’s International Mid-Term Evaluation Conference on the Millennium Development Goals*.” This high profile event took place in the City of Rome in June 2007 and was aimed at highlighting the importance of the mid-point mark toward the realization of the MDGs. Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, Eveline Herfkens, and the Mayor of the City of Rome, Walter Veltroni, addressed the conference during the opening session. The conference discussed and approved a global road map for local authorities to follow in support of the achievement of the MDGs and created renewed momentum around the fight against poverty.

As the midpoint year to the 2015 deadline for the achievement of the MDGs, 2007 presented an important year for increased communications outreach, placing the need for urgent action toward the achievement of the MDGs at the heart of our messaging and communications. This decision was supported by a recent Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/ Development Assistance Cooperation (DAC) survey on the impact of public campaigns on the MDGs, which showed that audiences respond well to the set 2015 deadline for the goals. Last year also saw a redoubling of efforts to support our national Campaigns in placing specific, nationally relevant policy messaging at the centre of their communications.

GCAP online advocacy

In 2007, the GCAP global secretariat re-launched **whiteband.org** and strived to strengthen the GCAP online network, comprising 75 global, regional and national sites and page. The main objectives of the web portal are to provide a platform for collaboration and e-campaigning within the GCAP alliance and to increase awareness of and involvement in GCAP and its core issues.

Whiteband.org is built on Zope/Plone, an open source platform, to which GCAP already contributed by the development of an e-campaigning tool. Key assets of Zope/Plone are its multi-lingual compatibility and an easy delegation of editorial access to campaigners. The website is managed and developed in 5 languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic), with invaluable support from volunteers, and access is being delegated to all regional and national focal points.

Figure 1 shows a social network analysis visualization of the website inter-links from June 2007 where **Whiteband.org** was positioned in a central location through Multi Dimensional Scaling.

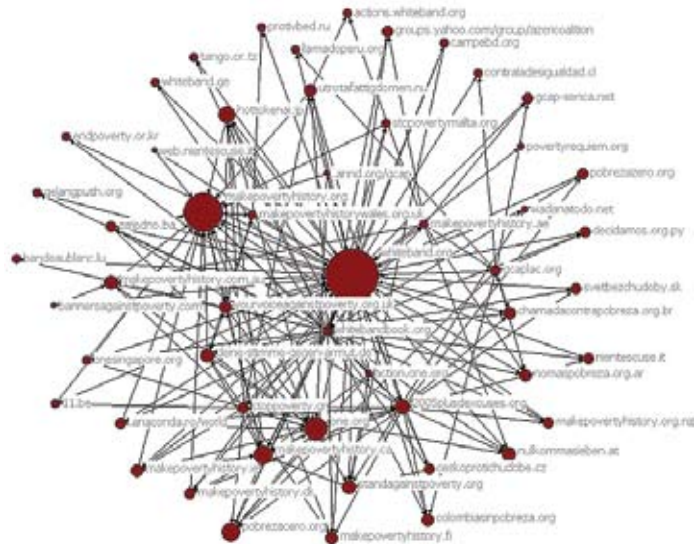


Figure 1 GCAP Website Network

The huge traffic to the campaign websites is a result of offline activities, including high-profile media events and campaigns. GCAP actors understand that e-advocacy and e-campaigning are essential tools for any campaign, and therefore powerful websites and e-actions were implemented in 2007. Several websites such as **standagainstopoverty.org**, **bannersagainstopoverty.com**, **povertyrequiem.org**, were put in place for the Stand Up and Speak Out against poverty mobilisation October 17.

Across all the GCAP websites in 2007, there was also a wide range of interactive online applications. The e-actions included signing online petitions, contacting local officials, sending emails to friends, placing campaign banners on websites, and the innovative GCAPSMS.org website that allowed constituents to place messages on the website by sending an SMS. One of the most common user actions was the online petition: 67% of focal points offered this option. And it was popular with users too: 56% of them said they signed online petitions as a result of using the websites. The other online actions offered were: purchase of white bands (44%), online discussions (11%) and blogs (11%).

The e-communications task force commissioned an external review of **whiteband.org** in July. The following actions indicated by the consultant, Fair Say, were subsequently taken.

- Migration of site to a clean, standard 2.5 Plone platform,

- Improvement of front page and the overall navigation
- Installation of e-campaigning tool and creation of *"electronic whiteband action"*
- Installation of Blog
- Development of RSS and content sharing between the 75 GCAP sites
- Update of content in all languages and addition of Portuguese
- Access to the regional and national GCAP e-communications officers to edit content
- Update list of GCAP e-communications officers.

The GCAP e-Communications task force also benefited in 2007 from a partnership with the University of Wolverhampton, which undertook a GCAP-wide survey of e-activism on the credibility of, and participation in, GCAP websites.

A GCAP 2008/10 web plan aims to see the development of the galaxy of GCAP sites, grow the GCAP online community, build capacity, focus on public e-campaigning, issue web-based Newsletters + track user patterns.



GCAP demands World Bank and IMF 'Hear Us' at annual meetings

In 2006, dozens of peaceful activists were denied entrance to Singapore for the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF. GCAP, along with many other civil society organisations, campaigned against the fact that citizens had 'No Voice' at the meetings and demanded we be heard.

In 2007, the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF took place in Washington from October 18-21. Under the slogan of 'Hear Us', the voices of 43.7 million people combined with messages from civil society delegations in more than 30 countries delivered a powerful list of global demands to these institutions. GCAP campaigners from Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America and Europe convened in Washington along with thousands of other civil society campaigners to highlight the harmful impact IMF and World Bank policies continue to have on poor countries.

GCAP campaigners demanded the World Bank and IMF listen to the voices of civil society when designing and carrying out activities in countries around the world. The campaigners were strengthened by a recent triumph in Bangladesh where civil society activists had convinced the caretaker government not to agree to controversial proposals from the IMF for the country to hand over fiscal control to the international institution.

Activities at the World Bank and IMF meetings in 2007 included strategic lobbying of senior Bank officials, protests, media stunts, a press conference and a photography exhibition. Andrew Kumbatira (Executive Director, Malawi Economic Justice Network), Dian Katika Sari (Deputy Director, INFID, Indonesia), Ben Margolis (GCAP IFT Support team), Christophe Zoungrana (GCAP Africa secretariat) and others presented the voices and demands of GCAP activists in more than 100 countries to World Bank Executive Board member, Herman Wjiffels; Dutch Development Minister, Bert Koenders, and Vice President for External Affairs, Marwan Muasher, Global demands, as well as specific demands from the Arab region were handed over in these meetings.

GCAP also took part in a large civil society protest march on October 20 when over 2000 activists protested against the policies of the Bank and Fund. GCAP was highly visible with a large banner and T-shirts carrying the 'Hear Us' demand and the GCAP logo. GCAP also used

the opportunity to highlight the plight of our colleagues Daniel and Netsanet who were being held unfairly in an Ethiopian prison for peaceful activities to monitor the 2005 elections in that country. The march converged outside the World Bank with a People's Jury featuring witnesses from every continent articulating the negative impact Bank policies can have on people in their country and region.

As part of the global chain of Poverty Requiem performances, over 200 students from Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts in Pennsylvania, performed a piece outside the World Bank on October 21. The composer of the Requiem – Peter Maissan - led the students in a powerful performance witnessed by senior Bank staff, members of official delegations and the press.

The performance was also 'witnessed' by more than 120 life-size human cut-outs created by the Dutch EEN campaign, each one representing GCAP national platforms whose voices we demand to be heard by these international institutions.

Inside the World Bank itself, GCAP displayed a powerful photography exhibition using both printed and digital images to show some of the events taking place around the world on October 17 and to showcase the demands from civil society. The exhibition was held at the civil society space in the Bank which was used by thousands of people each day. Flyers and other information were also handed out.

For GCAP's declaration to the Governors of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund go to: <http://www.whiteband.org/GcapSpecials/ifis-action-2007/the-people2019s-declaration-to-the-governors-of-the-world-bank-and-international-monetary-fund>

Media

2007 saw GCAP increase in profile and recognition through media coverage of the call to action itself and of its constituency's activities. Global broadcast outlets like BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera and all-important news agencies Reuters, AP and AFP were among those seeking out GCAP for comment on unfolding news events and covering mobilisations in 2007. Similarly, on a national level several campaigns noted a consolidation of their identity and recognition by local media. The traditional issue focus on aid, trade and debt remained the main subject of the media coverage this year but was joined by climate change taking up many column inches and creating a new space for the debate linking environmental degradation to poverty.

The GCAP Media team was revived in May and carried through to the October mobilisation with members from every continent communicating via telephone conference and e-mail to draft and approve press releases, share strategies, edit the media toolkit and collate coverage.

Media relations in 2007 began with the World Social Forum in Nairobi where GCAP presented a unifying face to the pan-African and international media as well as significant coverage from radio stations globally. The launch of the Poverty Requiem there marked the beginning of a year-long project to raise awareness of poverty and inequality through music and would become the subject of considerable media coverage as the months went by.

International Women's Day followed in March with a series of dynamic events including one organised by the GCAP coalition in Algeria, which was covered by the national TV and all key Algerian print media. Globally, Aljazeera TV, BBC, Bloomberg, CNN, Guardian Newspapers and Reuters gave prominence to this day of action.

One of the peak media moments was around the **G8 Summit in Germany** in June.

Ahead of the Summit, send-off events in G8 countries and in Africa offered interview opportunities such as



the **GCAP Zambia** press briefing which was widely reported and supported by national media and radio. A high profile advert comprising a letter signed by leading global economists was published in the Financial Times newspaper in Germany and internationally on May 16 to coincide with the meeting of Finance Ministers. The advert came out on the first day of the meeting and ensured that Africa, aid and poverty were discussed around the meeting, if not in the actual Financial Ministers meeting itself.

Some GCAP member agencies present at the meetings organised a press conference with the Ghanaian Finance Minister Kwado Baah Wiredu to discuss aid and Africa. In a well attended press conference, Baah Wiredu, called on the G8 to be consistent in its budget support saying the donor countries were breaking their promises and not supporting national plans on education and health.

June 2 was the second media push when send off events around the world were highlighted. From the rally on banks of the Thames in London, to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Mali, and the Kremlin in Moscow to Rostock, Germany The public message was that GCAP reminds leaders of their responsibility to use their money now to improve conditions for the world's poorest people.

Once the Summit got underway, GCAP spokespersons from the German Campaign 'Deine Stimme Gegen Armut' and Co-chair Kumi Naidoo gave interviews to over 50 outlets from South African Bush radio to Al Jazeera and MTV. The handover of the 'Voices petition' to Angela Merkel and Tony Blair in Berlin on the eve of the Summit also secured substantial coverage. GCAP hosted a packed press conference in the media centre with a panel of five African NGO representatives commenting on the disappointing progress being shown by the G8 leaders and relating it to the reality on the ground in Africa. An opinion editorial was also circulated for placement in media outlets worldwide and was reproduced in several newspapers.

07/07/07

A softer media strategy accompanied the mid-point for the MDGs on July 7 offering best opportunities at a local level around report launches and conferences. Coverage ranged from local media issues like the plight of urban poor in the Philippines seeking adequate housing, to the MDG mid-term reports, to climate change and its impact on the poor and to the broader discussion on the MDGs.

The Live Earth global concerts on the same day provided a hook for GCAP at the last minute to integrate messaging on poverty & climate change. Kumi Naidoo took to the stage to speak at the Johannesburg Live Earth

**"We have a message to George Bush:
'If you can be able to fund a war
in Iraq, you can do more to help in
the fight against climate change.
Answer the call," he added. Naidoo
said people should play a more
important role in raising awareness
against climate change, urging them
to use the spirit South Africans used
in fighting apartheid by putting
forward people's power as the
answer. "Amandla, awethu (Zulu for,
power to the people)," he added to
the roaring response of a crowd of
over 10,000.**

From AFP News Agency



concert and was quoted widely in South African and international Media.

October 17

The most significant peak media moment of 2007 was again around International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This year there was a political focus in the form of delegations to political representatives, which allowed journalists to cover the demands in more depth.

GCAP coalition's participation in the Stand Up and Speak Out mobilisation was visible in thousands of clippings, video and radio footage. As well as coverage generated by press conferences promoting local activities, there were personal profiles of individuals who took part and one to one interviews with spokespersons in a wide range of respected media. The outcome, in terms of the Guinness World record figure of 43.7 million people mobilised, was less of a story than the actions themselves.

The Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF coming swiftly on the heels of Stand up was also a good solid advocacy moment for GCAP in 2007 and secured important coverage for our demands. A strong joint message calling for reform of these institutions built on the GCAP Delegations to Politicians a few days previously and carried the weight of the 43 million figure, partly through the presence of Avatars representing that number from all over the world, and the performances of the Poverty Requiem.

2007 drew to a close with some important media communications moments. The first was the Bali Conference on Climate Change which dominated many news agenda for weeks and gave GCAP some opportunities with great on the ground support from GCAP SENCA and GCAP Bangladesh.

The second was the historic EU AFRICA summit in Lisbon which was communicated from a GCAP perspective highlighting demands for the trade outcomes which favour the poorest people in Africa.

Action urged on climate change - An alliance of anti-poverty advocates urged the Philippine government to come up with strong measures to address the impact of climate change on worsening poverty, citing a report showing provinces that are most susceptible to sea level rise, extreme weather events, and landslides are among those with the highest poverty incidence.

From Manila Bulletin - 09/12/2007

Other non-mobilisation stories GCAP in 2007 included the ongoing trial and eventual verdict in the case of imprisoned Ethiopian activists Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demissie

who were jailed in 2005, on allegations of conspiracy to overthrow the government, specifically, *"outrage against the constitution and constitutional order."* GCAP joined with CIVICUS to keep their case in the media spotlight, issuing communiqués and offering up interviews throughout 2007. Their trial finally came to court over Christmas 2007 and resulted in the sentencing of the men to 2 years in prison. Daniel and Netsanet were eventually released in March 2008.

The story of the death of the poor girl Mariannet Amper in the Philippines who committed suicide having lost all hope because of poverty prompted outrage in the media and a space for GCAP to call for action from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. *"One death is too much,"* said the GCAP Philippines. *"We were shocked and saddened by the news of the suicide of the 12-year-old girl, and for a few hours our world stopped. To hear the government reducing her death to an isolated case is outrageous,"* they said in interviews published as far afield as the Independent of London.

Other communications in 2007 included acknowledging the cancellation of Liberia's debt, call for support for Bangladesh's floods and the condemnation of a Manila bombing which killed GCAP activist Niki Hayudini in November.

The role of the InterPress Service (IPS) in showcasing GCAP at many of the above events continues to be important and favourable and much appreciated.

Whiteband.org came into its own during the G8 and Stand up Speak Out dates for media as we able to post releases, contacts, biographies, photographs and direct journalists straight to the valuable information via our site and coalition sites.

Fighting climate change to end poverty and inequality

At the 2007 global assembly in Uruguay, in recognition of its impact and injustice on the world's poorest people, GCAP explicitly added climate change to its political declaration for the first time. There is now no doubt that climate change is having a significant effect on the lives of poor people, and widening inequalities. It is also obvious that the poorest people and nations are least responsible for the activities that have led to our changing climate, and that rich nations have a moral and political responsibility to act urgently.

In order to better understand the role that GCAP can play on this pressing issue, a small delegation attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference in Bali, Indonesia from



December 3-15. GCAP Indonesia was part of a major Indonesian civil society forum that hosted a parallel conference to the UNFCCC which took place in specially built Balinese buildings and were a far cry from the grandeur of the main conference hall.

GCAP also held a stunt outside the main conference centre highlighting the impact that climate change will have on efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Campaigners from 3 continents held banners proclaiming 'Missed Targets: Destroy Lives.'

At the civil society conference, activists from around the world shared ideas and experiences, and many delegates from several of the islands that make up the Indonesian archipelago eloquently and passionately related the impact climate change was having on their lives and livelihoods.

One delegate, Salkin Kertorejo from Lampang, called for *'the creation of a global movement of people if we are going to maintain ecological sustainability.'* Over the next two years, in the lead up to the 15th Conference of Parties in Copenhagen, Denmark, crucial discussions will take place which will determine the future of international action on climate change, and therefore the lives of millions of people. GCAP is determined to be at the forefront of the movement demanding urgent action and is currently communicating with several organisations

and movements to discuss the most impactful ways to work together.

Already, the South Asia region has been highly proactive in building up its work on climate change and in January 2008, held a consultation meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where GCAP delegates drafted a joint communiqué which can be found at www.whiteband.org

Montevideo Meeting

At the International Facilitation Team (IFT) of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) held on November 30/December 1 2006, a decision was taken to hold the next GCAP Global Meeting in Latin America, and the city agreed upon was Montevideo in Uruguay. The International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), organisation that has been a member of GCAP since its launch and also facilitates the Feminist Task Force (FTF) was entrusted with the responsibility of acting as local host and undertaking all the tasks necessary in the host city to ensure the success of the meeting. ICAE worked very closely during the preparatory process, at the meeting and in the period afterwards with the IFT Support team, based at the CIVICUS offices in Johannesburg, South Africa. There were several preparatory meetings and consultations where important agreements were reached with respect to a division of tasks and on responsibilities to be shared.

Pre-meeting work: This period required intense preparations in terms of local logistics, registration of participants, purchasing of air tickets, and regular communication with delegates for consultations on content and documentation of the meeting as well as for provision of information on logistics. These tasks were shared between the ICAE team and the IFT support team.

Several task teams were formed in preparation for the meeting, coordinated by the IFT support team.

ICAE support staff met all these teams previous to the global meeting in order to provide them support as necessary throughout the days of the event.

The Meeting

A total of 126 participants attended the meeting representing all regions where GCAP is active. There were representatives also from all task forces, INGOs active in GCAP as well as funders. Attached is the final list of participants.

The most important outcome of the meeting is the Montevideo Communiqué also attached to this report. Other aspects to highlight are the agreements taken at the meeting with respect to the continuation of GCAP until 2015 and to put in practice a new structure that will improve the work of the Call in the years to come.

The meeting also evolved a joint global mobilisation agenda along with some key strategies for outreach and regional/sub-regional actions.

Based on the discussion on the future of GCAP the meeting constituted a Future Structure Task Group with a mandate to develop proposals for improved organisational structures and systems for GCAP. The group comprised of representatives of all the 6 regions and constituency groups along with IFT support team. The Task Group was asked to seek professional support so that the proposed options have gone through a 'reality check.'

Montevideo Declaration

5th May 2007

Two and half years after Porto Alegre (Brazil) when the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) was launched at the World Social Forum, we, civil society activists from across the world representing over 70 national coalitions and major global trade unions, faith based organizations, national and international NGOs, human rights organizations, youth groups and women's organizations gathered here in Montevideo (Uruguay),

to rededicate ourselves to the global call against poverty and inequality.

Since we met in Beirut in March 2006, GCAP has deepened and expanded its presence globally to become a significant voice against poverty and inequality in both the North and the South. Thanks to many more organisations and countries joining GCAP last year, we managed to mobilise over 24 million people in 2006

However, , governments and international institutions have continued to renege on their promise to eradicate poverty. Human rights violations have sharply increased and space for citizens' action has further reduced. Conflict and militarization has increased insecurity at all levels and taken valuable resources away from fighting poverty to fighting wars. The feminization of poverty has deepened. Commitments made on improving governance and increasing accountability to people living in poverty by Southern Governments often remain empty promises. G8 and EU countries are backsliding on their 2005 commitments to increase aid volumes and too many countries have failed to improve the quality of aid. A large number of developing countries continue to suffer from severe debt burden and capital flight. The Doha trade negotiations are deadlocked and anti-poor trade deals are being forced through in the form of Economic Partnership Agreements and other Free Trade Agreements. Performance on achieving the MDGs is inexcusably slow. Inequality between and within countries has worsened creating serious social tensions. Consequently, extreme poverty and the lack of access to quality basic services continue to be the daily reality for





over half the world's population. In addition, the growing power and influence of corporations poses particular challenges and governments must create the appropriate regulatory frameworks that ensure companies become accountable to the people.

In light of the above, we today solemnly resolve that GCAP will continue to grow as a global force against poverty and inequality until 2015. We will not rest until we defeat the underlying and structural causes that impoverish and exclude large sections of the population, including women, indigenous peoples, minorities, children, youth, persons with different abilities, people of different sexual orientations, workers, dalits and displaced persons, amongst others. We will not stop until we put an end to the gross abuse of human rights and undemocratic practises of governments and global governance structures.

Purpose

GCAP fights the structural determinants and causes of poverty and challenges the institutions and processes that perpetuate poverty and inequality across the world. We work for the defense and promotion of human rights, gender equality and social justice.

We are committed to democratizing the values, mechanisms and processes of negotiation and decision making in the interest of the poorest and marginalized people, and to ensuring that equity, human security and inclusion are the core principles around which global, regional and local governance is organized.

Actions

We affirm that our actions are organized around the rights of people who face poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion, including women, indigenous peoples, minorities, children, youth, persons with different abilities, people of different sexual orientations, workers, dalits and displaced persons, people affected by conflict, occupation and disaster, and people living with HIV and AIDS, amongst others.

We recognize mobilization as a strategic process of organizing the political participation of the marginalized and creating widespread support to defend and promote their entitlements. Mass mobilization, advocacy and global solidarity are our key strategies.

In our collective struggle for social and economic justice, we will be guided by this updated Beirut Platform for The Global Call to Action Against Poverty:

Preamble:

1. At the start of the 21st century just under a billion people are trapped in a situation of abject poverty and gross inequality, 70% of them are women. We face an AIDS and Malaria emergency, with 40 million people infected by the disease. 77 million children are denied access to school, and 860 million adults (70% of them women) cannot read or write. Millions of people are unemployed, working in precarious jobs with deteriorating conditions of labour without a secure income to sustain their families. Children and young people make up half of the world's population and suffer from the lack of inclusion and provision of

basic services and youth employment. Hunger is a daily reality for many. In parts of the world, the death of mothers in childbirth and children in infancy are still routine - deaths that could be prevented by the availability of simple healthcare. 1.4 billion people don't have access to safe water. We draw inspiration from their persistent daily struggles to realise their rights to livelihoods, resources, assets and basic services. Today the world has enough resources, knowledge and technologies to eradicate poverty.

2. This poverty is a violation of human rights on a massive scale. Poverty continues to intensify due to the exclusion of groups of people on the basis of class, caste, gender, disability, age, race and religion or other status, increasing militarism, environmental degradation and the lack of democratic governance and processes.
3. Armed conflicts, wars, occupation and their consequences destroy livelihoods, undermine democratic process, human rights including the right to self determination – and divert resources that should be directed to development and social equity. Investing in human security best prevents conflict and builds peace. The protection of people is a universal obligation of all states and the international democratic institutions. Growing militarism and rearmament reduces political space and public accountability of states, diverts development financing and ultimately, renders lasting peace elusive and unrealisable. War and conflict disproportionately affects the security, dignity, and future of women and children.
4. Overcoming poverty will not be possible without challenging patriarchy, capitalism and the current model of development, which puts profits before public goods, human security and welfare. A more equitable distribution of land, and other resources is also necessary to overcome poverty, especially rural poverty.
5. The lives and livelihoods of millions are being steadily destroyed by denying them rights over land, water, forest, natural resources and energy. Climate Change is exacerbating this. Floods, droughts, famine and conflicts resulting from climate change also threaten the development goals for billions of the world's poorest people. Action by the international community and national governments is required to address climate change and its impacts in particular on people living in poverty.
6. States are obliged to protect, respect and fulfil all human rights including economic, social, cultural, civil, environmental, sexual and reproductive rights.

International Human Rights instruments protect the rights of all people to an adequate standard of living and well-being, including the right to food and food sovereignty, clothing, housing, clean water and health care. Unjust governance, debt and aid conditionality and trade rules and practices are undermining these rights.

7. To date the pledges to meet the Millennium Declaration efforts to tackle poverty, inequality, injustice and deliver sustainable development have been grossly inadequate. Governments too often fail to address the needs of the people within their territory, aid from rich countries is inadequate in both quality and quantity, and debt cancellation has not been granted to all countries that need it. Rich countries have yet to act on their repeated pledges to tackle unfair trade rules and practices. We have the means to turn this situation around. It is high time governments took action.
8. Galvanised by this imperative, a group of civil society actors including NGOs, international networks, social movements, trade unions, women's organisations, faith based groups and other civil society actors met in Johannesburg in September 2004. They launched the Global Call to Action Against Poverty in 2005 as the year when governments could take decisive action to deliver on their promises of the Millennium and make poverty history.
9. Over 2005, we contributed to some of the successes against our policy demands namely:
 - European commitments to increase ODA to 0.56% by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015;
 - Renewal of G8 pledges to double aid;
 - Agreement to cancel the debts of 18 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and Nigeria;
 - A commitment by the G8 that they will no longer force Poor Countries to liberalise their economies
10. We recognise that this political will has been generated by tremendous global mass action and public opinion change on poverty. We therefore renew our call to action.
11. The Global Call to Action against Poverty and Inequality embraces a growing number of civil society actors and people in both the South and North. Any civil society organization willing to support the values, core message and joint action is invited to participate. This is not based on membership.
12. The last few years have seen great global fragmentation and division. People all over the world feel less secure and less safe than ever. We



believe that the world can unite again in solidarity against poverty. We have agreed to undertake joint action and mobilization at key times in 2006 and 2007. We plan to link our actions symbolically by the wearing of a white band.

13. We call on governments to act against poverty immediately and decisively. We reject the minimalist poverty line defined in terms of subsistence on \$1 per day and work towards a new poverty line essential for life with dignity. We call on civil society to pressurise governments and mobilize the political will needed to achieve our goals. We call on people to wear a white band to express their support for the global call. We invite organisations to actively participate, co-operate with each other and coordinate their activities, particularly at national level to promote participation, mobilisation and people centred advocacy. National activities will be home grown.
14. GCAP is a very wide diverse inclusive coalition working against poverty and inequality. Various members of GCAP will connect to particular issues with their own constituencies. Members of GCAP respect each other's choices in this.

Public Policy Change Objectives

15. There is great diversity among our group, but we know that we will be more effective when we work together. We do not endeavour to reach absolute agreement on detailed policy, but we want to pressure governments to eradicate poverty, dramatically lessen inequality, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We demand:

- Public accountability, just governance and the fulfilment of human rights
 - Trade justice
 - A major increase in the quantity and quality of aid and financing for development
 - Debt cancellation
16. We demand that gender equality and women's rights be recognized as a central issue for poverty eradication.
 17. We demand that upholding the human rights of all minorities be recognised as fundamental to the achievement of these goals.
 18. We demand that all governments ensure the right of people living in poverty, including indigenous peoples, to natural resources and energy. We also demand that rich countries dramatically cut their greenhouse emissions and provide additional finance (beyond their 0.7 per cent aid commitments) to support developing countries in adapting to the effects of climate change. International commitment is needed to ensure that genuine action on climate change happens. This commitment should abide by the following principles: that the polluters pay for their abuse of climate and environment; that food sovereignty and the right to food is realised; that the production of bio-fuels does not displace the production of food on arable land or lead to the destruction of forests; that there is funding, and free and open access to technologies that mitigate green house emissions; and that people come before profits.





19. We further demand an end to conflict, occupation, war and the accompanying systematic violation of human rights, and that governments work towards de-militarization to ensure peace and human security. Governments causing war and producers of military equipment must be held responsible for the post conflict consequences of war, and must compensate victims of war for the injuries, ensuing health problems and loss of property.
20. While specific objectives will be determined by national priorities and contexts, the following text reflects the updated Beirut platform policy discussion.

Public Accountability, Just Governance And The Fulfilment Of Human Rights

21. All governments must fulfil their commitments. They must be fully accountable to their peoples and transparent in the use of public resources. Governments, institutions, and civil society groups must ensure the causes of corruption are aggressively fought, including in the private sector.
22. Governments are obligated under international law to enforce human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. They must meet this responsibility by delivering economies that are equitable and work for the poorest people, delivering quality universal public services and ensuring decent work for all.
23. In the formulation of bilateral or multilateral agreements related to aid, debt or trade and investment, governments should neither impose nor accept externally driven conditions making the implementation of the rights above impossible.

24. Governments should:

- Ensure gender equality, social justice and stop all forms of violence against women and uphold women's rights including their political participation and access to resources.
 - Deliver comprehensive legal, physical, social and economic protection of children's rights, including children affected by conflict and/or disasters who must have full access to quality public services.
 - Promote redistributive mechanisms that ensure equity such as land reform, progressive taxation and poverty reduction strategies.
 - Implement policies that ensure full and productive employment with special attention to youth employment.
 - Actively involve civil society, including people living in poverty, women, indigenous peoples, minorities, children, youth, persons with different abilities, workers, dalits and displaced persons, people affected by conflict, occupation and disaster, and people living with HIV and AIDS, amongst others, in the formulation, decision-making and implementation of international and national development priorities, policies and plans.
 - Enforce the right to information and support freedom of expression including media freedom and freedom of association.
 - Develop pro-active national anti-corruption strategies consistent with international conventions on anti-corruption.
 - Ensure civil society participation on the budgetary process.
 - Ensure quality, universal public services for all (health, education, including adult education, water and utilities) and stop privatisation where it causes deprivation and poverty.
 - Emphasize, in their health policies, preventive health, reproductive health and actively combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and diseases associated with poverty.
 - Ensure adequate housing.
 - Ensure young people are partners, not only targets, in development and decision-making.
 - Fully support effective peace-building and conflict prevention strategies and ensure that post conflict reconstruction programmes enshrine social and economic justice, poverty eradication and public accountability.
25. Governments must commit themselves to achieving and surpassing the MDGs and immediately develop National MDG-Based Plans.

Trade Justice

26. Developing countries must have the right to determine their own trade and investment policies, putting their peoples' interests first. International trade rules and national trade policies should support sustainable livelihoods, promote the rights of women, children and indigenous people, and lead to poverty eradication. However trade rules and policies and the imposition of harmful economic policy conditionalities have become the vehicle for the indiscriminate liberalization of developing country economies undermining sustainable development, increasing poverty and inequality.
27. Therefore, we remind national governments of their international human rights obligations, and call upon them to use their influence at the World Trade Organization, the International Financial Institutions and in regional and bilateral trade agreements to:
 - Ensure developing countries are not forced to open their markets and have the flexibility to use tariffs for sustainable economic development.
 - Protect public services from enforced liberalization and privatisation.
 - Ensure a fair price for commodities, particularly for poor producers.
 - Support the right to food and equitable access to land and natural resources.
 - Secure affordable access to essential drugs.
 - Reject harmful regional and bilateral free trade agreements.
 - Immediately end subsidies that lead to the dumping of cheap produce on international markets.
 - Increase transparency and accountability to grassroots constituencies in the formulation of international trade rules and national trade policies, while ensuring consistency with respect for workers' rights and human rights more broadly.
 - Ensure developing countries have the flexibility to regulate foreign investment in the interests of their own development priorities.
 - Regulate corporations to make them accountable to people and governments for their social, environmental and development impacts.

Debt Cancellation & A Major Increase In The Quantity And Quality Of Aid And Financing For Development

28. Donor governments and international institutions must urgently provide the major increase in the quality and quantity of resources necessary for the

eradication of poverty and promote social justice, the achievement of the MDGs, gender equality and guarantee the rights of children and youth. These resources must also support sustainable development, workers rights, migrants rights and interests of marginalized groups including indigenous peoples. Resources must work to rebuild, not undermine governments and the public sector, enabling them to deliver on the rights of their citizens.

29. We call on donor governments and Institutions to:
 - Meet and exceed the 0.7% aid target directed to achieving community and country defined poverty eradication and sustainable development priorities that contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable development.
 - Implement innovative international taxes and mechanisms for raising finance for development which is additional to 0.7% ODA-obligations.
 - Implement and improve the Paris Declaration to deliver long-term, predictable, harmonised and effective aid. Aid should not be tied to contracts with companies of donor countries or linked to economic conditionalities that harm people, communities and the environment.
 - Ensure gender sensitive progress assessments, performance monitoring and indicators for aid effectiveness.
 - Meet international pledges on Education for All (including adult education), Polio, Malaria, TB and the universal access to HIV/ AIDS, prevention, treatment and care, including through funding of the multi-lateral Fast Track Initiative and Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria.
 - Immediately and without externally imposed conditionalities cancel the odious, illegitimate and un-payable debt of poor and middle income countries through a fair, democratic and transparent process to free up resources for human development. Where debt cancellation measures are inadequate or failing to enable poor countries to reach the MDGs and provide basic social services, we support collective developing countries strategies for the repudiation of all odious and illegitimate debts.
 - Debt cancellation and grants to refugees and foreign students in donor countries should not be counted as aid. Debt cancellation should not affect a country's credit ratings adversely.

- Reverse the flight of capital from poor countries and identify and repatriate stolen assets by taking action against tax havens, financial institutions, multinationals and others facilitating this resource leakage.
- Establish a fair and just world order in which International Financial Institutions (especially WB, IMF and WTO) operate within the broad principles enshrined under UN commitments and human rights obligations to better regulate the world economy.

Future Structure & Co-ordination and Communications:

National Coalitions

30. National coalitions are the base for our action and cooperation and should play a key role in developing policy messages that reflect local contexts. National coalitions ensure that our activities are designed around the priorities and demands that are closest to the people. We recognize that advocacy and campaigning under local and national ownership will strengthen GCAP. National coalitions will encourage and provide space for other civil society sectors, grassroots organizations and local groups – particularly women, children and youth and marginalized groups - to play larger roles in the campaign.
31. GCAP promotes the exchange of information, insights, experiences and expertise across national coalitions, thereby facilitating the regional and global linkages for mobilization and advocacy that will enable us to maximize the value of our diversity and multiply the collective impact of our actions.
32. GCAP campaigners are encouraged to support each other and national coalitions by sharing experiences, best practices, knowledge, analysis, materials and tools in a way that we mutually benefit from the complementarity of our diversity.

They will include:

- Planning packs, educational materials, translation of documents into local languages and the production of materials, including flyers, brochures and posters, among others;
- Media relations, information and communications technologies such as an online library and forum where national coalitions and international partners can deposit and retrieve resources – such as policy briefs and awareness-raising materials – and discuss opportunities for collaboration;
- Monitoring the progress of nations towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals;

- Best practices and tools for holding national coalition meetings, lobbying, mobilisation, advocacy, and campaigning and monitoring and evaluating the impact of our campaigns.

Regional Mechanisms

33. National coalitions may define and develop regional objectives and mechanisms to promote joint action and strategies that will complement and support the global and national policy objectives of the campaign.
34. Regions must be left to decide the most appropriate ways of inspiring and supporting national coalitions, translating global policy platforms to regional contexts and co-ordinating any other regional functions. In deciding the above regions must be inclusive, transparent and accountable to national coalitions. Regional structures can support capacity building efforts of national coalitions. We need to encourage the participation of women's organisations and associations at the regional level.

Global Co-ordination

35. Based on the consultation and discussion prior to and during the Montevideo meeting, we have formed a Future Structure Task Group, which will analyze the pros and cons of different structural options for GCAP post January 2008 and make a proposal to the IFT and the global assembly. The Group will:
 - make sure that its membership has the balanced representation by region, constituencies and gender;
 - ensure that the Guiding Principles as decided at the Montevideo meeting are respected and upheld;
 - respect the results of the straw poll taken during the Montevideo meeting;
 - follow the procedure as confirmed during the Montevideo meeting;
 - seek support and guidance of the professional expertise from outside of the GCAP;
 - seek advice of the funder's group, when necessary.
36. The group's Guiding Principles are: (Overall)
 - Within the agreed declarations of GCAP, the national coalitions are the base for our action and co-operation
 - National coalitions must have a genuine, broad-based constituency
 - Regional secretariats are important but their role must be clarified
 - We need a clear global structure



(The following applies at the global, regional and national levels)

- We need more transparency at all levels
- We must have good communications between levels and at each level
- We need more clarity about decision making
- Gender equity and regional representation in all our structures must be paramount
- There must be accountability at each level and between each level and to constituencies (financial and political, and in terms of process)
- There must be more clarity in terms of roles, responsibilities & mandates
- We must have translation into English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic – in a timely fashion
- We must be flexible, light and able to act and react quickly

International Facilitation Team

37. During 2007, the work of the International Facilitation Team (IFT) will continue. It is to inspire and to promote co-operation and mutual support between the participating regional/national coalitions and networks. The group has this mandate until the end of the year 2007. The tasks at a global level are to:
 - Facilitate outreach to encourage a wide range of organizations to become involved in GCAP in order to help widen and deepen the call.
 - Facilitate the promotion of GCAP's policy demands through sharing information on lobbying opportunities.
 - Facilitate work relating to the Call to Action including preparation of materials, media work, website and other communications
 - Facilitate the international planning of the global month of action.
 - Identify spokespeople for the global call when required, with gender, youth, and regional balance.
 - Facilitate smooth and transparent flow of information across the global call including by providing regular updates to the Global Action Forum and facilitating the organisation of face to face meetings.
 - The IFT will not play a grant making role.
38. The IFT support team will report to the International Facilitation Team and will work with a particular focus on outreach, communications and mobilisation, and in general servicing the IFT.
39. The IFT will have appropriate proportionate representation on the basis of the number of active

national coalitions in each region and population size, diversity and with a clear consideration of gender parity and a small quota for International networks and organisations playing an enabling role.

40. The IFT must be Southern/Developing Country Led and the following proportions will apply
 - Africa - 4
 - Asia and Pacific - 4
 - Latin America and Caribbean - 3
 - Europe - 3 (1 from outside EU i.e. Eastern Europe)
 - North America - 2
 - Middle East - 1
 - International - 6
 - Women's Movement/Feminist Task Force 1
 - Children and Youth – 1
 - Workers' Movement – 1
 - United Nations Millennium Campaign - 1 (Observer)
41. Each proportion needs to include the following minimum number of women – Africa 2, Asia and Pacific 2, Latin America and Caribbean 1, Europe 1, North America 1, International 3. Regional representation of children and youth in the IFT is encouraged
42. Any person on the IFT should be nominated by and fully accountable to those in their category who support the Call to Action.
43. The Global Call to Action against Poverty will work in strategic partnership with a number of other actors and these strategic partners can be invited as observers to the IFT.



Joint Mobilisation

44. We recognise that mobilisation is a process by which we continually build momentum to achieve our aims. Mobilizing towards the political participation and empowerment of women, children, youth and other marginalized groups.
45. We agree that in 2007 the key mobilisation date is Global White Band Day on October 17th, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The GCAP will ensure that the voice of those living in poverty is heard in its October 17th activities.
46. GCAP recognises other key dates in 2007 including 8th March for International Women's Day, 2nd June for the G8 summit and 7th July for the midway point of the MDGs. We further encourage mobilisation on the 16th June for the Day of the African Child and the 12th August for International Youth Day. We also encourage national coalitions to mobilise around key dates in their respective regions and countries.
47. The Global White Band Day will focus on the structural causes of poverty and inequality. GCAP will demonstrate mass visible public support for the eradication of poverty and inequality by holding local, national and regional decision-making bodies as well as the International Financial Institutions, the WTO and other global institutions to account. These actions will be co-ordinated globally and will highlight the failure to deliver on trade justice, debt cancellation, more and better aid, good governance and accountability and climate change. And also to demand gender equality and meeting and exceeding the MDGs.
48. The common slogan that has been agreed for GCAP actions in 2007 is Stand Up and Speak Out followed by a political demand appropriate to national, regional and global contexts. This builds on the Stand Up action of 2006 while ensuring that we also Speak Out with strong policy demands to deepen our political impact.
49. The white band will remain our symbol and expression of solidarity against poverty. We actively encourage as many people as possible to wear and use the white band and during 2007. We further encourage the use of this symbol in innovative ways on web sites and building and during rallies and other actions.
50. **The key actions for October 17th, 2007 include:**
 - Striving to mobilise the maximum number of people to Stand Up and Speak Out.

- Sending a strong political message through the GCAP ambassadors.
- National GCAP coalitions and constituency groups sending delegations to target their key political decision makers.

51. Further actions for October 17th, 2007 include amongst others:

- Banners Against Poverty
- Poverty Requiem
- Blowing the half-time whistle
- Rallies and other actions.

New structure – process and way forward

As a young movement, each year of GCAP's existence has been a time of tremendous learning and growth. 2007 was no exception. The range of actions by GCAP supporters was unparalleled. However, the mass mobilisation this year highlighted the need for GCAP to be able to evolve with the changing political context. In Montevideo, the Future Structure Task Force was mandated to determine what institutional structure would best allow GCAP to achieve its goals of affecting political change while at the same time acting accountably, remaining organisationally nimble, and ensuring GCAP stays politically relevant in a changing context.

In December 2007, the International Facilitation Team approved the proposal of the Task Force, which put forward a structure of mutual accountability within GCAP, thus ending the mandate of the group. This has started a period of transition within GCAP, and a Transition Committee was formed to guide the process. Global Council elections will take place in the first half of 2008 that will make GCAP governing structures more representative, therefore more effective and accountable. The newly elected Global Council will hold its first meeting in June, 2008, where a cutting-edge system of horizontal accountability will be established between all GCAP constituents. National coalitions and constituency groups, who will form the General Assembly, will sign MoUs, and establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Group to share best practices and encourage mutual learning.

2008 will be a year of transition in GCAP. While this time of transition will be challenging, the GCAP that emerges will certainly better espouse the principles of accountability, democracy, and justice that we demand of our own leader.



