

October 2006

Stand up moment – a huge success! World record smashed!

Various campaigners in the North East organised events to contribute to the Stand up Moment. One example.....The pictures below show Professor Christopher Edwards, Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University, addressing a crowd of about 100 students and staff prior to the campus Stand Up Moment on Monday 16th October. The gathering was arranged by Sarah Marriott, of the student UNICEF group.



And a report 'pinched' from GCAP.....

GCAP Update – 17.10.2006

“By the time we get all the figures in it will be the largest single coordinated movement of people in the history of Guinness World Records!”

- Craig Glenday, Guinness World Record Spokesperson



Stand Up Moment, Matapi, Harare, in Zimbabwe

23, 542, 614 Stand Up Against Poverty Guinness World Record smashed

We have not just broken the stand up record but it looks like we will have the biggest ever number of people to set any world record! In just one day a breathtaking 23 and half million people in more than 100 countries around the world have set a new Guinness World Record for the largest number of people to “STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY”.

From Ghana to Zimbabwe from Canada to the Emirates, from Indonesia to Togo campaigners have come together to Stand Up against poverty. Congratulations to all of you have taken part in or organised Stand Up Events over the last couple of days.

Cricket fans in India; school children in Gaza and the West Bank; crowds at a concert in a slum in Zimbabwe and a and in Times Square in New York all joined for the world record attempt on 15-16 October co-ordinated by the Global Call to Action against Poverty and

the UN Millennium Campaign. People stood together: at the foot of tallest hotel in the world in Dubai; in football stadiums across Spain and Mexico; in churches throughout Africa and schools all over the world including China.

The World Record number was announced today (17 October), on the international day for poverty eradication, at events held at the United Nations in New York, London, Johannesburg, Milan and Nairobi following official confirmation from Guinness World Records.

Events included:

- Organisers in Bangladesh have reported figures of over half a million young people who stood united in gigantic white human chains across across 64 districts of the country.
- In Jaipur, India 38,000 cricket fans, with support from legendary batsman, Sachin Tendulkar, 'stood up' at the start of the India vs England match.
- In the US, United Nations Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown, Queen Noor of Jordan and HH Swami Ramdev 'stood up' with thousands in Times Square, New York.
- Hundreds of thousands stood together for one minute at an anti-poverty music concert in Mbare slums in the capital, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- School children across Lebanon, Jordan, Gaza and Westbank 'stood up' together to highlight the injustice that not all children can afford to go to school.
- Malawi's President, Dr Bingu wa Mutharika joined thousands at a rally against poverty in the capital.
- In the Philippines, president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "Stood Up" and vowed to stamp out poverty.
- In Mexico, several hundred thousand people stood up at football matches lead by 9 Football Clubs

This newsletter includes a few more detailed examples and photos from the incredible events all around the world. Please do keep sending in any stories and pictures to info@whiteband.org You can see more country reports at www.whiteband.org or www.standagainstopoverty.org or www.millenniumcampaign.org

Citizens around the world have stood up to demand action against poverty, for equality and to meet and exceed the Millennium Development Goals. The people's voices are growing louder, governments can and must do more. We will not rest until poverty has ended.

Stand Up against Poverty and for Equality!

**In solidarity,
The support team at CIVICUS**

Initial National and Local Stand Up Event reports

China national platform

There were around 50 events in China with over 50,000 people taking part across more than 12 provinces and municipalities most of which are located in South West China a relatively poorer part of China. Events happened at county or grassroots levels with the participation of poor students and with strong supports from the local governments including the local women's federation, local youth league and the local education bureau.

Participants include university students, middle school and primary school students, handicapped

people, people with HIV/AIDS, poor farmers, migrant workers' children and ordinary families. The GCAP China Steering Committee distributed around 40,000 white wristbands, 50,000 bookmarks and around 3000 white t-shirts and bags. With a slogan of United Against Poverty, all the participating schools organized various pre-event activities such as photos exhibitions, movie shows, and poverty forums.

DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the mobilization happened in the local churches in the big Cities of the Katanga region: Lubumbashi, Likasi, Kolwezi, Kamina, Kalemie, Kipushi and Kasumbalesa. The members of different churches gathered in their respective local churches within their parish. The local pastor began the demonstration and read the pledge of struggle against poverty. Part of the pledge said: "We are for the Prosperity, let's fight all against poverty under all his/her/its shapes." In all churches some biblical passages relating to poverty were read.

Over 25,000 people took part across the different events. A promise was made by all participating members to contact the president of the republic, the ministers, the governors, the mayor and the burgomasters so that they can act to help eradicate poverty within their area, within Katanga and in the whole of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Liberia

The Stand Up Action event in Liberia, brought together over 1500 Campaigners from over 30 member organizations, schools, churches, mosques, soccer players, culture groups, taxi drivers, well-wishers and the media. The event began with a parade and was followed by a soccer match, the reading of GCAP-LINC pledge, a photo stunt with human chains, a cultural performance and a closing parade. Campaigners took the streets of Monrovia shouting, waving handkerchiefs, lifting posters and banners, dancing and proudly using the symbol of our campaign, the white band, as well as T-shirts. It was so great here in Monrovia to see people join together and demand action on poverty.

Northern Ireland national coalition

Several hundred people attended the GCAP NI Guinness Book of Records record attempt to create the biggest 'standing up' of people ever on Sunday 15 Oct. The Belfast event took place at Botanic Gardens.

The event was organised by the aid agencies, including Trócaire, and local poverty activists involved in last years MakePovertyHistory campaign. Co-ordinating with the United Nations 'Stand Up' campaign and the 'Global Call to Action Against Poverty' (GCAP) campaign, the aim of the event was to highlight the need to keep pressure on world politicians for an end to global poverty in the run up to World Poverty Day on Oct. 17.

Lawrence McBride of Trócaire, a spokesperson for GCAP NI, said, 'We had a great turnout at Sundays event and also a significant number of parishes and schools around Ireland decided to 'Stand Up' as well. Our Belfast event reflected the true nature of global solidarity with Irish, British, Polish, African, Asian and American citizens all coming together to support the Millennium Development Goals.'

The event included an introduction by Carmel Hanna of the SDLP who represented Belfast City Council and the crowd was addressed by guest speakers Donald Manda, Deputy Director of the development arm of the Presbyterian Church in Northern Malawi (CCAP Synod of Livingstonia) and Nafisatu Chinery, who works in the area of improving the livelihoods of marginalised poor people especially women in rural Ghana. There was also music from 'Taking Drum'.

Pakistan – local group example

In solidarity with the Global Call to Action against Poverty and the Millennium Campaign, and in order to celebrate their commitment to stand up for their rights, the indigenous peoples of The Indus river, namely the Kihals and Mors, and DAMAAN staff gathered for a day-long 'Story

Telling & Craft-Expression' at Thala Baloo Raam on riverside on 16th October 2006.

The day started with brief session on 'Drawing MDGs on Indus Waters' to understand its aims and objectives and draw its relevance to indigenous peoples' struggle for their right to land, fish and forests. In the story telling session, the elders of this fishermen communities told their youth the story of this river Indus, once called as 'the Lion River', the story of its water potential, its fish, the forests, the stories of the unique 'Blind Indus Dolphin', and the stories that how this 'lion' river is being reduced to a stream. In the end, the participants reviewed their strategies for their right to land, water, fish and forests.

In order to revitalize the importance to craft in their livelihoods, the Kihals and Mors spent the rest of the day in crafting house-hold items and trying new shapes and designs to understand and compete the market demand. The Kihals and Mor women, being major actor in craft-making, told that how their craft is loosing value in market due to the influx of plastic industry; they also expressed their need to learn about modern market trends and re-design their craft accordingly.

At the end the members displayed their craft for a photo session and departed with a commitment to meet next month on the same date, on the same place.

Philippines – national coalition

Close to 10,000 Filipinos led by Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)-Philippines stood up and marched against poverty to assert that '36 Pesos is Not Enough' for one Filipino to live on in a day, this amount set by the government is even lower than the international extreme poverty threshold of US\$1. More than 5000 Filipinos stood up against poverty and marched around the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, while Assalam Bangsamoro People's Association led 4,300 Muslim Filipinos in the morning march and stand up activity in Marawi City.

"Ordinary Filipinos came out today to show policymakers and the world that ordinary citizens are active players in the battle against poverty," said Marivic Raquiza, National Coordinator of GCAP-Philippines. "We are here to dramatize our protest and dismay over the worsening poverty and inequality that plagues our country today. The claim that P36 is enough to provide for the daily basic food and non-food needs of every Filipino betrays the government's utter lack of understanding of our peoples needs."

Senegal – national coalition

An inspiring ceremony was held in the national Daniel Sorano Theatre. 1200 youths gathered with CONGAD members and artists. This ceremony marked a culmination of months of a public awareness raising campaign in Senegal. The scouts led national songs and artists such as Maxime Dreads had all the children and teenagers on their feet dancing and singing.

Messages of "Stand Up Against Poverty, Together for social justice, - spend debt cancellation on education and health" were displayed around the theatre. The GCAP coordinator for Senegal Momare Talla Kane gave an excellent speech reminding the Senegalese government of their commitments to make sure the millennium development goals are achieved particularly as time is running out. He also reminded rich country governments of their financing commitments.

Stand Up action everyone in their theatre stood up to hear Founkarou Tamba, a young woman member of GCAP Senegal read a moving Stand Up declaration for Senegal and the world.

Awa Fall Minister of Institutional Relations had the gauntlet thrown down and responded with a reaffirmation of her governments' commitment to not just poverty reduction, but poverty eradication in Senegal.

Later on CONGAD shared a Stand Up Ceremony in a stadium with 4000 members of the Diwane Islamic movement. Leaders spoke of the significance of this event and the willingness to be

engaged in keeping up the pressure to achieve the millennium development goals. Schools took part in actions the following morning.

Slovakia

The "World without Poverty" Day, convened by the Slovak and the Austrian NGDO Platforms started with the press conference. The ship from Vienna taped up with white band brings the representative of the Austrian Platform to Bratislava (the capital of Slovakia). The ship wore white band during the whole White Band Day.

The event for public in Bratislava started with a march against poverty on 17 at 17 - people march from the place of event - Hviezdoslavovo Square - through the city center - wrapping the monuments on the way into white band accompanied by the sounds of Bracatuda Samba Orchestra. The march was followed by event presenting the idea of G-CAP and MDGs to the wide public. Dance performance of Dvorana, the dance theatre showing their famous peace "The Red", the performance of capoeira and 3 live concerts of La3no Cubano, Homo Genialis, and Lux Band strengthen the campaign idea and make the perfect divide between the inputs of various speakers, having the click film and other G-CAP clips in their back.

Inputs:

The Slovak NGDO Platform Chairman, Maroš Čaučík and Janka Hospodárová, well-known TV moderator opens the event providing information on what the campaign is about and giving the picture on current status in achieving the MDGs. The chairman of the Platform read out the statement of the president of the SR, Mr. Ivan Gašparovič, on how important it is to take action against poverty. A volunteer Róbert Imrišek spoke on his still fresh experience from Kenya, Africa, supported by photos taken during his stay.

A well known development photographer and journalists Andrej Bán does a very similar job while showing pictures from Pakistan.

The British Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mrs. Judith MacGregor spoke on the responsibility of the developed countries for fulfilling MDGs and eradication of extreme poverty in the world. As a follow-up to the beneficial event of Life Water for Malawi, a cameraman Ondrej Šebesta stood to speak on the project showing to audience the documentary he shot as well as providing info on the goals of the project - movies to be seen at www.zivavodapremalawi.sk

Accompanying activities:

- Info stand - providing the info materials on campaign, the Slovak coalition and white bands for free.
- Fairtrade stand - selling fair-trade coffee and tea.
- Open letter to the Minister of MFA SR, Ján Kubiš - petition action signed by attendees of the event delivering the national coalition demands - letter of A0 size available for signatures.
- Painting workshop by Euforion, young and perspective artists grouping.

Whole event is documented by the Slovak Channel TV2 - the shortened version of the event appears on 18th of October 2006 STV2 in 45 min. TV broadcast.