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"Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities"

**A snap shot of ACEA activities during the Global Action Week in the Arab World and East Europe**

**Lebanon Coalition**

In Lebanon, a massive press conference was held on the 5th of May that aimed to announcing the Launch of the Global Action Week in Lebanon. And raising awareness about inclusive education in 1094 targeted schools.

**Egypt Coalition**

The coalition has done a field study clarifies the obstacles and the problems that children with disabilities face, it also identifies suggestions and recommendations for better education reality.

**Yemen Coalition**

The coalition came out the GAW with a very strong influential impact and pledges, in which they have targeted 42 schools across the republic and 92 students with disabilities. The coalition implemented a workshop about disability and inclusive education and the republic legislations. It was attended by people suffering from various types of disabilities, representatives of institutions, CSOs and associations concerned with disabilities. Two research papers were presented by people with disabilities. It was followed by a debate and resulted in recommendations regarding adopting inclusive education system.

School morning queues activity, in which all schools at the republic of Yemen have been unified at the same time and presented the importance of equal rights and opportunities among CWD and their peers.

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**The 4A’s Lunches the Global Action Week**

The Regional Initiative for Adult Education Advocacy launched the Global Action Week for the Year 2014 under the title, “Inclusive Education – Equal Rights and Opportunities”. The launch included discussion of the role of adult education institutes and programs in creating a learning environment that empowers persons with disabilities in various aspects of life.

**Part of a massive closing ceremony**

**The members meeting with CWD during schools activities**

Most importantly, the coalition managed to agree with the MOE on starting work on schools accessibility for CWD, by building corridors, print curriculum in the Braille way for the blind students. Besides, the chamber of commerce which also pledged on building pathways in several schools and donate a schools bus for CWD. Associations concerned with Disabilities committed to train teachers on how to educate and deal with children with disabilities.

**Round table meeting in the Global Action week**

The coalition came out with the major pledges from the government and decisions makers:

1. Reducing the students numbers in the merge classes
2. Training courses for teacher on dealing with CWD
3. Hire specialists inside the IQ measuring committees to determine the disability type and degree, and the extent to which it is suitable for merge.

**The 4A’s’s network launches the Global Action Week in a press conference**

The Regional Initiative for Adult Education Advocacy is an initiative supported by the Middle East Network “MENIT” of the German Society for International Cooperation “GIZ”. The initiative is a cooperation between DVV, the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education based in Cairo, the Arab Network for Popular Education based in Lebanon, the Arab Campaign for Education for All based in Palestine and the Arab Network for Human Rights and Citizenship Education (ANHRE) based in Jordan. The initiative aims at uniting efforts and cooperating to enhance inclusive and adult education.
11 schools across SOMALIA pledged to provide free primary education for 10 children with disabilities until 2019. In SUDAN, the Ministry of Education commits to implementing the inclusive education system and integration.

**Sudan Coalition**

The activities of Sudan in the Global Action Week targeted more than 1,370 CWD in more than 155 schools. The huge activities have been implemented across Sudan with the participation of 7,000 residents, 4,000 of women, and targeted more than 238 politicians and decision makers. The coalition managed more than 12 awareness activity across Sudan, the activities included advocacy forum for women with disabilities, workshops accompanied by huge exhibitions, cultural and athletic festivals, research papers on education and disability reality, besides seminars discussions on adopting inclusive education system. The workshops also included screening of documentary films about disability, presentations about the MOE vision in accordance to the national strategic planning of people with disabilities. The workshops also included a presentations about the contributions of the NGOs concerning EFA goals, legislations towards it, as well as Sudan’s province experiences of education and disability reality. The coalition contributed successfully in opening computer centers and sports ground for people with disabilities, in addition to art exhibitions and workshops for people with disabilities attended by stake holders and minister of welfare. Moreover, the activities included earphones distribution for deaf children and matures.

**Somalia Coalition**

Six thousand residents from the teachers, the families, children, CWD, women and employees participated in the Global action week activities across Somalia. While the coalition basically targeted 35 schools and conducted several school visits.

In Georgia, the coalition has targeted 3,666 children with disabilities in 100 target schools and were targeted at the Global Action Week. Civic Education Teachers National Conference Exhibition was held on the 3rd of May, the conference platform was used to prepare about 350 teachers to conduct lessons at civic education classes on inclusive education and share information on UN convention with students. At least 342 civic education teachers received information and printed/branding materials to hold lessons and share information with students, parents and school administration on inclusive education and GAW; in addition to 50 guests representing CSOs, MES, media, DPOs, volunteers and education experts. The Coalition used a global marathon event “Wings for Life World Run” for people to raise awareness of GAW, to enhance visibility. In addition to a press conference presented a monitoring report on inclusive education standards in schools, the conference was held alongside with a discussion – seminar on “Inclusive Education Principles and Teaching process” were held to announce about GAW. The activities continued to the 6th in which the coalition held meetings with the representatives of the ministry of education resulted to jointly review and work on the development and improvement of minimum infrastructure standards after the coalition completes its final report with key findings and set of recommendations. At Tbilisi and Batumi in sequence, successful and active persons with different degrees of disabilities accompanied with students, parents, teachers and school administration and participated in discussion meetings of 10 public schools aimed at raising awareness on inclusive education for CWD. Furthermore, photo exhibition of 36 portraits of CWD has been conducted by 15 leading professional photographers at Tbilisi Museum of Modern Arts. The activities included lessons were held by 100 teachers on inclusive education and UN 2006 convention; with the participation of 2,000 students from 35 schools. On the 9th, 900 students from 15 schools held inclusive education activities: prepare posters on the topic, distributed inclusive related publications among community members, watch and discuss topical films, reviewed works of CWD. The coalition ended the Action week by Youth solidarity action at Rustavi city with the participation of 180 persons.

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**Part of the held Advocacy forum for women with disabilities in Sudan**

**One of the school visits activities during the Global Action week in Mogadishu, Somalia**

**A discussion – seminar on “Inclusive Education Principles and Teaching process” in Georgia**

The Inclusive education development agency of national curricula department of the Ministry of Education and Sports has agreed with Georgia coalition to cooperate to work on the improvement of the state inclusive education infrastructure standards as the coalition presents its document with findings and recommendations.

**Part of the Teachers conference**

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**Part of the Schools activities at Galkayo, Puntland and Mogadishu**

The Global Action Week ended in a massive press conference in Mogadishu with the participation of media, CSO and government representatives to present gaps and barriers that hinder the inclusion of children with disabilities. The Global Action Week ended in a massive press conference in Mogadishu with the participation of media, CSO and government representatives to present gaps and barriers that hinder the inclusion of children with disabilities.
45 schools in 9 regions were targeted during the activities of the Global Action Week in Albania. It started with launching press conference in Tirana on the 5th of April. The conference addressed the problems & obstacles raised of the right of CWD to education. Moreover, the coalition organized a meeting with the members of the municipality of Librazhd, to discuss about CWD problems & find possible solutions to infrastructure problems. The meeting resulted in announcing publically the municipality engagement in finding solutions to infrastructure problems and adopt the teaching and learning materials to the needs of children with disabilities. Three schools & children from 2 community centers have participated in “Children’s Big Picture” activity which was held on the 8th. In this activity pupils described their views of inclusive education in drawings. In collaboration with Albania National Child Help-line, the coalition organized more than 3 awareness campaigns in 9 regions were held at various schools in which the children shared their best practices in dealing with their mates suffering any form of disability. Moreover, TV show and discussions were held amongst pupils, teachers, parents on the universal right to inclusive education, children’s rights, infrastructure, teaching materials, disabled children’s needs. Most importantly, Education & Sports ministry has engaged publically on improving the infrastructure and adopt the teaching and learning materials to the pupils’ needs. Furthermore, the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth promised that the Ministry will seek implementing policies and strategies that will serve as inputs to CWD so as not to drop out the school, while the representatives of Parliament, promised that during their daily parliamentary activities will address the children’s needs, & will guarantee their rights and make possible that every child enjoys his/her rights and create better living conditions for all children across Albania!

His Royal Highness Prince Raa’d Bin Zeid participated in the Honorary ceremony for women with disabilities which was organized by the coalition due to the start of GAW activities. The celebration included a discussion regarding the reality of disability in Jordan, it basically focused on identifying the obstacles and the needs of women with disabilities. Besides, two meetings were organized between the coalition and the centers concerned with disabilities issues such as “Musa Saket Cultural Center,& alqwarh Youth Center.” Furthermore, the coalition set up a bazaar in Al Ahliyya Amman University in collaboration with associations concerned with disabilities such as “I’m a human association” for supporting children with disabilities. Moreover, A 3-day training program on human Rights and the International Convention for people with Disabilities was conducted in Irbid city with the participation of 44 young men and women with hearing disabilities. The coalition ended GAW activities in a massive closing ceremony attended by a variety of CSOs representatives. This event resulted in setting recommendations to the Jordanian government concerning the reality of CWD education, the most important point the coalition focuses on is to start implementing education legislations related to CWD which the government already pledged to it. Moreover, the coalition chair person participated in TV shows and radio interviews about the GAW theme for this year and adopting inclusive education system.

In Albania, more than 3678 children with disabilities have been targeted in 40 schools across Albania while 200 politicians and governmental decision makers have been targeted. 20 institutions of civil society members of the coalition operated and implemented the Global Action Week for this year.

Morocco Education coalition succeeded in reactivating the Ministerial Memorandum related to the enrollment of children with disabilities in schools as well as setting a plan for increasing the class rooms to be devoted to receiving children with disabilities. Besides, supervising and monitoring applying the programs of inclusive education at schools. On the other hand, the ministry of education issued a decision regarding training the teachers for teaching the students with disabilities.
For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, the initiative of Moldova coalition organizes the Global Action Week with the participation of over 6300 children with disabilities from more than 27 schools. 200 children from at least 8 schools participated in awareness raising public event organized by the coalition.

This activity aimed at consulting with CWD on, school readiness and their attitudes, to promote Inclusive education messages and raise awareness of general public. Moreover, 163 participants joined the activity of school visits, in which 15 schools which have CWD and less experience in inclusive education visited 19 resource schools to share experience, about the processes and practices in Inclusive education in resource source schools, based on their 10 years experience, and discuss cases based on their experience, as well as networking. Furthermore, the coalition members participated in a held training for PPASs in Chisinau in which they provided information on GAW and presented sets of materials on IE – Inclusive Education, the Equal Rights-equal opportunities reports and others, as well as, a presentation on Awareness raising on Inclusive Education issues.

The Ministry of Education in Moldova declared its commitment to following up the Inclusive Education process in the schools. The ministry presented the major obstacles as follows: the limited human resources; discrimination; and not enough services.

More than 1000 schools participated in the Global action week all over Palestine governorates and villages in Ramallah city, Jenin, Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus & Gaza. The GAW activities were launched all over the governorate Headquarters demanding equal rights and equal opportunities for persons with disability. The campaign contributed to raising awareness and support of different audiences to the rights of persons with disability and changing public negative attitudes towards them. The participants handed a letter of demands to the Governors of each district which received supports to reformulate government’s policies and decisions to ensure full adherence to the legislations of rights of persons with disability, especially the right to inclusive education. Moreover, the coalition organized a meeting with Legislative Council which resulted in ensuring the approval of budgets that are responsive to peoples’ needs. PLC members also ensured that they will be in direct contact with the Employment Bureau to ensure implementation of the minimum 5% quota of employment for persons with disabilities. National conference on inclusive educational environments has been organized by the coalition. The papers presented in the conference included the following themes: challenges facing children with disability in public schools; policies and laws and the role of civil society in promoting rights of children with disability; inclusive education vs. Isolation; educational infrastructures and the needs to achieve inclusion; curriculum and learning tools that enhance inclusion and the example of UNRWA Education Program in implementing inclusive policies in education. In addition, Self-organized activities were implemented by the member organizations to reach out for specific audiences. The main results of GAW included: more active participation of civil society disability sector organizations, a large number of activities, targeting different audiences and coverage of all districts through self-organized activities. This has enhanced media and public interest in the campaign and its messages through activating the participation of different media agencies which increased focus on the issues of disability in the media; participation of 10 Palestinian Legislative Council members in the GAW activities; recommendations and promises resulting from the meeting between PLC and PEC members; letters of demands were submitted to a number of decision makers including: prime minister, PLC, education directors governors. All these gave promises of serious follow up for the demands.