Global Action Week 2009 Activities

Launching the Activities of the National Coalitions in Various Governorates

The Arab Network for Civic Education- ANHRE a member of the Jordanian coalition organized numerous activities in Amman, southern, central and northern governorates, focusing on the importance of education and the right to education for all. Schools in Amman and other governorates participated in the activities of the Jordanian coalition for education for all, which consists of 30 active civil society organizations concerned with the field of education. In Egypt, the activities of the campaign were launched in Cairo, Aswan, Sohaj and Giza, where schools and clubs in Cairo and upper Egyptian governorates participated in the Egyptian coalition that seeks to guarantee the right to public and free education on equal standing and without discrimination.

In Iraq the activities of the campaign were launched in Baghdad and the governorates of Erbil, Mosul, Babil, Kut, Nasiriyah and Basra by the members of the Iraqi coalition that consists of organizations that are distributed in all of the Iraqi governorates. In Palestine, the activities of the campaign were launched in all public and UNRWA schools in the educational directorates, with the participation of the Palestinian coalition members, which works towards making the right to education a humanitarian and constitutional right. The Somali coalition organized campaigns with the slogan “We Join the Readers” in the different universities and high schools in Somalia, carrying the slogans of the GAW.

Integrating Popular and Official Institutions in the Activities of the Campaign

The campaign was able to integrate various institutions and community groups in the different activities. During the celebrations of launching the campaign there was vast participation from universities, civil society organizations, Ministry of Education, charities, parent’s councils, women’s groups and sports clubs. All of these sectors participated in the activities of the campaign to highlight the right of education for all under the slogan “Adults are Reading ” and to remind governments of their commitments towards education; the coalitions ensured the integration of decision makers and representatives of official institutions in the activities of the campaign, such that the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the activities of the GAW were conducted under the auspices of decision makers or representatives of official institutions, as partners in the educational reform process. Students, teachers and parents were also integrated to activate their role as an active playmaker in the development of the educational process. The celebrations introduced the Arab Campaign for Education and its goals; speeches by decision makers and stakeholders to develop partnership means to develop education; presentation of experiences and success stories on the
individual and popular levels; honouring influential personnel; presentation of unique students’ projects; screening documentary films; organizing students’ paintings exhibitions; conducting lectures; screening plays; and conducting various cultural activities that include the implementation of model classes, painting, drama plays, contests and discussion circles on reading, its impact and its importance, in addition to awareness-raising seminars on the importance of adult education, the need to open illiteracy centers, improve school environments and reduce school fees that forms a major obstacle in children’s access to education and school enrollment.

The efforts of the coalition to integrate the largest number of popular and official institutions were successful; in Palestine along more than 900 individuals participated in the central closing ceremony in the 25th/April/2009, under the auspice of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and with the participation of the coalition organizations, Ministry of Education, UNRWA and parents councils from all over the West Bank, in addition to an overall participation of 1,200,000 Palestinians in the activities of the GAW.

In Jordan, more than 5000 individuals participated in popular and civil activities, in addition to the head of education, culture and youth committee and members of the national steering committee in the Jordanian parliament. In Iraq, the parliament and 500 governmental officials participated in launching the campaign in the Nasiriyah; and more than 6000 individuals from the different governorates participated in the media campaign and activities, additionally, more than 2200 participants and 300 schools participated in the GAW in Somalia and cooperated with the coalition to implement the activities. In Egypt, more than 3000 individuals participated in the different activities of the week.

**Workshops Emphasizing the Goals of the Campaign and Guarantee their Implementation**

Stemming from the principle of mainstreaming the right to education, the members of the coalitions in Jordan, Palestine and Sudan conducted a number of workshops that targeted university and college students to emphasize the importance of education and illiteracy in social, economical and political development and the role of universities and members of coalition in combating illiteracy.

The workshops resonated well and enjoyed unique outputs, such that in Jordan numerous groups were formed in different locations to target illiterate individuals and facilitate overcoming the problems they face in their practical life in Karak governorate, in addition to launching the adult education project during the summer vacation in Irbid governorate, where school students work on combating illiteracy with support from their teachers and the schools administrations.
In Palestine, 33 workshops were conducted with 1600 individuals, focusing on illiteracy, adult education and its impact on the awareness of farmers; the different challenges that face Palestinian women; optimal use of computers and information technology among adults; the manifestations of education in social participation among children and youth; and the impact of poverty on illiteracy. The Sudanese coalition conducted a workshop on “Compulsory and Free Education and Access of Adults to Reading” under the slogan Adults are Reading / knowledge in reading and writing among adult youth and lifelong learning.

**Media Campaigns and Press Conferences**

Realizing the importance of the media and its pivotal role in introducing the campaign, its vision and goals, the campaign invited the media to participate as an active partner in promoting the campaign among the different segments of the society. To emphasize this role, the coalitions in Palestine and Iraq organized a number of press conferences and media campaigns to introduce the campaign and increase awareness on the importance of education; these conferences were held concurrently with the activities of the GAW, in the presence of coalition members and with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Education, civil society organizations and the local community.

The Iraqi coalition conducted a vast media campaign in Baghdad, Mosul, Babil, Kut, Nasiriyah and Basra to increase the awareness of the communities on the GAW and the goals of the Iraqi coalition; the campaign was carried out via the local and Arabic newspapers including Al-Sabbah newspaper, Al-Ta’akhi newspaper, the Italian newspaper Aki and Al-Mada newspaper.

The Palestinian coalition held a press conference on the 28th/April/2009 to announce the launching of the GAW activities of the GCE in all Palestinian schools. The coalition also held a closing conference in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Education and UNRWA to announce the closure of the GCE, the most important accomplishments that resulted from the developed partnerships, interaction of the local community and the unprecedented interest of the media in highlighting the issue of illiteracy and adult education.

The members of the coalitions in Arab countries promoted the campaign in radio and television meetings as well as local and regional newspapers, in addition to distribution of stickers and posters of the GCE and GAW that carried the slogan “Adults are Reading”. 