Global Action Week 2011 Activities:

Integrate popular and official institutions in the activities

The campaign continued to conduct the GAW activities, such that members of coalitions ensured the acquisition of formal and popular support to guarantee the access of girl’s to education. Decision makers, governmental officials, representatives of international organizations, civil society organizations and numerous figures were integrated and participated vastly in the activities. The increasing active participation over the years emphasizes the success of the GAW in mobilizing support for the campaign and highlighting the various adopted issues.

The activities enjoyed vast participation and interaction by official institutions, such that the closing ceremony that was held in Jordan under the auspice of Queen Rania and in the presence of the Minister of Education Dr. Tayseer Nu‘aimi, who represented the Queen, in addition to numerous members of parliament, representatives of ministries civil society organizations, the media, radio, television and school students.

The Palestinian coalition organized a vast march in Ramallah with over 200 representatives of political parties, civil society organizations, youth and parents, where slogans raised for gender equity in education by improving conditions to work towards development of work opportunities too; these slogans are in line with the main slogan of the GAW (It’s A Right…Make It Right) and its translation in Palestine (Yes She Can).

The Egyptian coalition organized a large national meeting titled the Big Story “You Can Learn Right” in Fayum with the aim of focusing on the need to provide space for women and girl’s to receive their chance in education and participation in social, political and economic life. The Ministry of Education, UNESCO, FAO, civil society organizations, students, teachers and parents participated in the meeting.

The Iraqi coalition organized a number of activities in all Iraqi governorates; a celebration in Nasiriyah was organized, where national songs calling for peace, security and love were played. An open meeting for civil society organizations was organized with the aim of organizing cooperation and coordination mechanisms between civil society organizations, governorate councils and international organizations to cooperate in the supporting the GCE and working towards giving equal opportunities for women and girls in education and work. In addition to organizing the first national conference in southern Iraq in Nasiriyah, in the presence of representatives of civil society organizations and university
professors at Thee Qar university and the technical college. Iraqi coalition members also called upon officials in Arabic, Kurdish and English to work on combating illiteracy among women, particularly a number of ministers, members of parliament, activists, civil society organizations and media people; the petition was signed by 1874 individuals. Coalition members also participated in a march in Baghdad on the occasion of the International labor Day, where the posters of the campaign were held, demanding education for women and eradicating illiteracy among worker’s in general and working women in particular. Different local organizations and individuals participated in peaceful demonstrations in Baghdad to introduce the campaign and gather signatures of individuals that support demanding citizen’s rights and reforming the educational system.

The Sudanese coalition organized a round table activity to discuss the education for all 2010 report, including the challenges that face education. The aim of the meeting was to develop a clear approach in addressing the challenges and predicaments that face education in general and women in particular, determine a strategic vision for upcoming years in terms of education for all and achieving the Dakar convention goals and determine the most important recommendations and work mechanisms pertaining to women’s and girls’ education to be submitted to officials and decision-makers.

In Lebanon, thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians participated upon the invitation of the coalition to demonstrate outside the UN ESCWA premises in Beirut. More than 7000 demonstrators from civil society organizations, trade unions, Palestinian political parties and Lebanese political parties participated in the demonstration; one notable aspect was the large presence of women from Palestinian refugee camps and women’s organizations, and another is the presence of the Lebanese coalition members, whose presence was pivotal to link the right to work with the right to education for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The demonstrators raised the slogans of the GAW and the slogans of the Lebanese Coalition. The speakers talked about the details of the new Labor law in Lebanon, the overall legal gaps that limit the rights of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to work and the challenges and difficulties that Palestinians face with regards to right to education in UNRWA schools as well as other schools.

The Somali coalition signed Memorandums of Understanding with 17 schools in the main cities in Somalia with the help of the Ministry of Education. The aim of the MOU was to implement the activities of the GAW with the slogan girl’s education; the GAW also featured an activity where women and girl’s shared their personal stories on the impact of lack of education on their lives. Men and boys also mentioned their stories on the right to education. The number of participants in the GAW was 10,966 students in 67 schools.

**Conduct workshops that support women's and girls’ education**

Coalition members in Jordan, Iraq, Palestine and Sudan conducted awareness-raising workshops that targeted girls and women representatives of the local
community and civil society organizations, in addition to high school students and girls. The workshops focused on the importance of girls’ education, the problem of poverty that prevents the enrollment of some girls in schools and the most important obstacles that hinder girls’ access to decent education. The aim of these workshops is to raise the awareness of women on the importance of education by focusing on governorates that have low girls’ enrollment, such that members of the Jordanian coalition held awareness-raising sessions in the schools of the Hussein refugee camp, Sheikh Hussein District in the northern valleys and Ma’an in southern Jordan.

The Iraqi coalition conducted in cooperation with the Human Rights Ministry for boys and girls a workshop near Mosul titled “School Dropout Among Children”, in addition to a number of workshops in Baghdad to raise the awareness of women and encourage them to continue their studies, in addition to submitting their recommendations on education to stakeholders in Iraq. Some success stories for women who enrolled in the center and hold different jobs were presented.

The Palestinian coalition conducted workshops in all West Bank and Gaza Strip schools that included introducing the 2011 goals of the GCE and the problems that face female students in education. The Sudanese coalition conducted a workshop titled “Girls’ Education in Cooperation with the National Council/Education and Scientific Research Committee, Ministry of Education, UN agencies, Balan Sudan organization and Petronus Company within the EFA Goals Framework.” The workshop focused on numerous issues including the status of primary education, funding of education, countries’ experiences in expenditure on education, laws and legislations that guarantee free and compulsory education and a national campaign for girls’ education.

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<th>Conduct lectures on the importance of women's and girls’ education</th>
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<td>Coalition members in Jordan, Iraq, Palestine and Sudan conducted lectures on the importance of girls’ education and its impact on developing active citizens in the society, the role of girls’ education in inducing change in the economic, social, cultural and political participation of women. These lectures targeted school students, teachers, parents and the local community with the participation of several civil society organizations.</td>
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The Iraqi coalition members organized lectures in several communities in Nineveh governorate; Al Hamadaneyah, Al Musel, Talkeef, Bartala, with the aim of raising the awareness of the community in rural areas on women’s right to education. The lectures were conducted in cooperation with non-governmental organizations in these areas, focusing on non-discrimination in education, in addition to lectures in Misan and Kurdistan governorates.

The Sudanese coalition organized a lecture titled “Obstacles Facing Girls’ and Women’s Education in Sudan” in cooperation with the education and scientific research committee in the national council with the Secretariat of Education in the General Union of Sudanese Women.

**Conduct discussion sessions on educational issues**

Coalition members in Jordan, Iraq and Palestine with the participation of human rights activists organized discussion sessions that focused on education issues in general and girl’s education in particular. The sessions included presenting the obstacles that girls’ face in education and the development of recommendations that should support girls’ education opportunities.

The Jordanian coalition held a discussion session with a number of human rights activists. The session included screening a short video titled “Colors of Shame” that focused on educational problems, including school drop-out, early marriage and indoctrination approach; the video was discussed and a set of recommendations were developed that should contribute to overcoming educational problems.

The Iraqi coalition held a discussion session in Basra and Karbala’ with the presence of civil society organizations representatives, teachers and representatives of the youth and sports directorate in Basra. The Palestinian coalition held a number of discussion sessions in several West Bank and Gaza Strip cities, focusing on the 2011 GCE goals, problems that face girls’ in education and the need to prepare financial and non-financial resources to improve the educational environments in school and improve the quality of education. The participants contributed to the development of recommendations to the Ministry of Education and other relevant ministries to improve the educational conditions.

**Conduct cultural, educational and artistic activities on the importance of education**

Coalition members in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Palestine implemented a set of cultural and artistic activities that sought to raise the awareness of and integrate all societal sectors in the GAW 2011 activities, which is for women and girls’ to receive their rights in education.

The activities implemented by coalition members varied, such that the Amnesty International group in Jordan, in cooperation with Fann FM Radio, recorded a song on education; also, school classes on women’s education and the obstacles and challenges it faces were conducted. The lessons sought to encourage girls’ to
participate to bring about positive change on the national level by participating in support women’s and girls’ education and guarantee a bright future with education.

The Egyptian coalition members organized an educational meeting for organizations working in the field of education, bringing together members of the Egyptian coalition and a group of educational leaders and some journalists interested in education in Al-Zamalek to discuss the goals of the 2011 GAW.

The Iraqi coalition organized the Big Story contest on the People’s Radio during the GAW. The contest encouraged women and girls to write real stories about women and girls that faced challenges in education and a prize was set for the most exciting story, in addition to a graduation ceremony for 30 women who enrolled in the illiteracy program, such that these women were trained for a period of four months and are now able to read, write and do mathematics; also, numerous press releases were published on many electronic websites.

The Palestinian coalition organized the “Big Story Lesson” activity in governmental and UNRWA schools in all West Bank directorates. The activity included presenting students’ stories on girls’ education and the challenges and obstacles that face girls’ education in Palestine. It also included screening a play in the presence of representatives of civil organizations, different organizations in the city, parents’ councils, teachers, students and parents. The “Reading Rally” competition was also organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Education; winners were honored during a ceremony that parents, the local community and decision makers in directorates were invited to.

Media campaigns and press conferences
The Sudanese coalition inaugurated the activities of the GAW in Sudan in a press conference held in the Sudanese News Agency on the 2nd/May/2011 in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, UN Agencies, Balan Sudan Organization and Petronus Company. The speakers were united in emphasizing the importance of education in community life, and particularly women’s education that is considered half of the society and educating women educates an entire nation.

The GAW in Lebanon was also launched in a press conference titled “Women’s and Girls’ Education”; the conference was held under the auspice of the Minister of Information and with 60 representatives of civil society organizations, Lebanese coalition members, journalists syndicate president, executive director of ANHRE, coordinators and teachers. The conference was considered an occasion to invite official and private media outlets to keep up with the activities conducted by the Lebanese coalition to highlight the educational problems that the Lebanese people face, in order to build the aspired educational change to achieve a better life for all.

The Egyptian coalition prepared a documentary film of women and young women leaders in the revolution, as well as choosing Mrs. Fadeela –a prominent Egyptian
that presented children’s programs for more than 50 years, children who were able to enroll in education and others who couldn’t.