Global Action Week 2012 Activities

Integrate official and popular institutions in the activities of the campaign

The main activities in Palestine focused on the implementation of open days in Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, Jerusalem and Arura, such that the open days were conducted in cooperation with 13 kindergartens in the West Bank and Jerusalem. 888 children participated in drawings; painting on faces and balloons; athletic activities; storytelling by teachers, parents and older students; clown shows; big picture activities; plays screening; songs; and train game. The activities were attended by 1049 individuals, including decision makers, civil society organizations representatives, media, parents, community leaders, students and children.

The Jordanian coalition launched the GAW by organizing an activity under the auspice of the Minister of Education and with 108 attendants, representing decision makers, media, civil society organizations, students, children, coalition members, teachers’ unions and school principals. The activities included intensive ANHRE activities in the southern of Jordan, seeking to lobby the government to prioritize these areas and consider educational projects among the developmental plans; the activities were attended by numerous decision makers and influential personnel.

The Egyptian coalition held a national conference in Cairo that was attended by the public elite, a Ministry of Education deputy, independent educational experts and members of the Egyptian coalition, such that 187 participants attended the activity, including students and teachers, to discuss means of equal partnerships to activate the right to education.

In Iraq, the coalition held a number of field meetings and visits to promote the campaign and its demands and acquire official and popular support, such that meetings with decision makers and community-based organizations representatives were conducted in Waset and Babel governorates. Field visits to schools in various Iraqi governorates also took place, with representatives of the media, community-based organizations, students, community leaders, decision makers and members of teachers’ syndicate. Additionally, open day activities took place in the majority of the governorates. More than 3000 individuals participated in these meetings, including decision makers, media representatives, community-based organizations, teachers, children and mothers.

The coalition in Yemen launched the activities of the GAW under the auspice of the Prime Minister and General Secretary of the Minister of Education. The activity resembled the Sana’a Declaration for early childhood care and education and enjoyed wide media coverage by 7 websites.
The Sudanese coalition launched the activities of the 2012 GAW in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Education Committee in the National Council and Balan Sudan Organization, such that the coalition intensified its efforts to increase the awareness and develop unified conceptions on early childhood care and education, and reach an agreement that determines the roles of the different early childhood stakeholders.

The Lebanese coalition held a major celebration under the auspice of the Governor of Saida featuring Dabke performance, an interactive play on violence against children, reading quotations of students who dropped out of schools, an activity titled “playing fairly" and signing a petition that includes 10 recommendations to protect children’s rights. The celebration was attended by 493 individuals, 259 of which were females and 28 were decision makers. The attendants included decision makers, representatives of the media, parents, community-based organizations representatives, local community leaders, students, children, coalition members and members of the teachers’ union, in addition to prominent personnel, including the Governor of Saida and President of Civil Societies Association in Saida.

Activities in Mauritania were in line with the activities organized by other Arab coalitions, such that the opening ceremony was attended by 172 participants from civil society organizations and parents. In Bahrain, Umniya organization for childhood care conducted numerous programs in the GAW in coordination with three organizations as an initial step to build the coalition in Bahrain.

**Conduct workshops to build the capacities of civil society organizations**

The Palestinian coalition conducted three workshops for teachers, 3 workshops for kindergarten principals and 3 awareness raising sessions for parents. Additionally, action circles in early childhood resource centers in Hebron, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin were conducted. The workshops were attended by 125 participants, in addition to representatives of the media.

ANHRE in Jordan conducted numerous workshops to build the capacities of the coalition members in Ma’an and Jyoub Al-Faqr on using advocacy tools and strategies in their early childhood care and education work in Jordan, and calling for early childhood care and improvement on the local level. Additionally, three workshops on the five new tactics were conducted for three community-based organizations in Ma’an; determining the goal that makes the upper kindergarten level compulsory in the Ministry of Education law, utilizing community marketing and calls to advocate for campaigns, in addition to a workshop for 20 youth in Ma’an and two workshops for women in Ma’an.

The Iraqi coalition consolidated its efforts to hold workshops with approximately 2000 individuals in the majority of the governorates, including Baghdad, Kurdistan, Kirkuk, Nasiriyah, Babel, Al-Dewanyie. The workshops focused on
increasing the awareness, enhancing the skills and discussing the current status of early childhood care and education and available opportunities in providing good education for children. Target groups varied from school students, university students and teachers to decision makers, parents, media professionals and civil society organizations representatives.

The Sudanese coalition organized a 2-day workshop with 626 participants from the union Ministry of Education, Care and Social Security Ministry represented by the national council for childhood care, union Ministry of Health and Education and Scientific Research Committee in the National Council. The workshop included the presentation of working papers on the concept of early childhood care and education, an analysis of the current situation and the practices, policies, laws and legislations and working towards their development (taking Khartoum State as a model). The coalition also organized another training workshop on “Education Outside of Schools” in cooperation with the Education Committee, Ministry of Education, Hadaf Organization, UN organizations and the private sector, with 252 participants representing decision makers, civil society organizations, the media, parents, community leaders, coalition members and teachers’ union.

In Bahrain’s first participation in the campaign Umniya organization for childhood care conducted a program for high school supervisors with 30 students, 5 members of non-governmental organization and teachers’ syndicates. The program targets one of the parents or an orphan aged 6-12 years, aiming to guide the parents socially and academically on weekly basis by the school and university students' volunteers. The program includes home schooling of the mother and child: (communicate and read program) is a non-for-profit program that encourages and promotes reading and writing at an early stage and prepares children for schools via the intervention reading program that provides books for children in healthcare and hospitals.

In Somalia, a 3-day workshop was conducted on the strength and teaching methods that included teachers from Mogadishu and Galkayo, in addition to training civil society organizations, such that the coalition coordinated a workshop for all coalition members.

Conduct cultural, educational and recreational activities on the importance of education

ANHRE organized in cooperation with 26 organizations in Ma’an, southern Jordan and Jyoub Al-Faqr an open day in Ma’an College. The day featured numerous school and community-based organizations shows and activities for people with disabilities; the event also included numerous corners, including a face painting corner; popular cuisine corner where handmade food by women in community-based organizations was exhibited; big picture corner; and the Puppet Theater and interactive games corner. The event was attended by more than 1000
children in their early childhood years and 300 prominent figures, parents, trainers and students, in addition to a number of cultural and recreational activities including an interactive theatrical show, an open day for children, story reading activity, painting workshop and the talents show.

The Egyptian coalition organized a play by children on (The Big Story- Girls’ Education), which was screened in the Ma’adi Library Theater in Cairo; the play focused on some educational problems that the children reflect in the play. The screening was attended by 187 parents, media professionals, students, Egyptian coalition members and some schools.

The Iraqi coalition members focused intensively on conducting cultural, educational and recreational activities that varied from painting circles to study circles and exhibitions. These activities took place with more than 1000 participants in Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Babel, Dewanyie, Thee Qar, Kirkuk and Basra. The activities enjoyed significant interaction by the local community and targeted children in general; decision makers, representatives of the media, parents, community-based organizations, syndicates’ members, community leaders and students participated in the activities.

The Sudanese coalition organized a carnival and a number of children’s media activities for officials, participating bodies and supporting bodies.

The Mauritania coalition organized a painting and photography activity titled “The Big Picture”. The activity was organized at the level of a number of schools in Nouakchott with 382 participants and in the presence of the Minister of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family. A number of children participated in the Big Picture activity and the question that the children were asked was the methods that helped them in their studies and how they can help their little sisters and brothers.

In Bahrain, the help of reading trainers was solicited regularly in hospitals. The books are high quality reading materials that were successfully used worldwide. Reading for children depended on the illness children suffered from, such that the reading took place on daily basis for a period of one week in cooperation with the doctors and family, while doctors and workers in the hospital help in organizing organized programs for children and patients until visited by a volunteer. This activity was conducted in Al-Salmanye hospital with 35 participating volunteers.

Media Campaigns and Press Conferences

ANHRE organized a press conference in Ma’an Municipality on 1st/April/2012, where the conference commenced in introducing the campaign, its goals, the needs and details. The attendants appreciated the effort and idea of the campaign and offered to provide support. The event closed with signing the petition of the campaign. The event was attended by 20 individuals, 8 of which were females and 4 were decision makers. The attendants included media professionals, decision
makers, coalition members and community-based organizations representatives. The attendants signed a petition calling for making the kindergarten phase compulsory by amending the law of the Ministry of Education. Media professionals working on the early childhood care and education issue expressed their interest in helping the coalition by publishing their statements in all media outlets, in addition to forming a link of 10 actors to serve as the media channel to communicate with the local community via newspapers and websites. The Jordanian coalition also succeeded in targeting official newspapers in addition to official visual and audio press and electronic newspapers.

The Iraqi coalition launched a media campaign to announce the GAW, including 8 radio spots in the People’s Radio once every 30 minutes; airing the program “Right from the Beginning” to talk about the campaign; recording the statement of the campaign and airing it twice after signing the petition; and promoting a radio program in Culture Radio on the status of early childhood care and education to highlight the status of education and main challenges. Nida’ Al-Haq newspaper dedicated a complete page for the campaign, where 1011 individuals benefited from the page; additionally, a TV interview was conducted with the coordinator of the campaign in a special episode on the campaign in the program Good Morning Iraq.

The Sudanese coalition held a media forum for media representatives in Sudan News Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, UN organizations, Balan Sudan organization and the private sector. The workshops was attended by 116 individuals, representing decision makers, the media, civil society organizations, coalition members and the teachers’ unions. A TV meeting was conducted with the president of the Sudanese coalition on the Shorouq Channel and in the presence of 22 individuals; additionally, the national channel hosted the national coordinator for education for all in the presence of 12 decision makers, media professionals and coalition members. The activities of the GAW were covered in Sudanese newspapers and 4 TV channels.

All of the GAW activities in Palestine were covered by the local media, including Al-Quds Newspaper, Ma’an News Agency, Huwwara Media Network and Tariq Al-Mahabeh Radio.

In Bahrain the coalition used the media to raise the awareness of the community on the exerted efforts via the GAW; the event was covered by four local newspapers.

The GAW activities in Egypt were covered by 11 local newspapers and 7 TV channels.