Global Action Week 2013 Activities

Integrate popular and official institutions in the activities

Stemming from the campaign’s belief in the different roles of popular and official institutions in advancing various educational issues, the campaign ensured the renewed participation of all popular and official institutions in the activities of the GAW. In this year numerous activities encouraged the coalitions to actively integrate decision makers, governmental officials, international organizations representatives, community-based organizations and members of the community.

The Jordanian coalition organized a major activity under the auspice of the Minister of Education, attended by 200 participants including the Education Director, Private Education Director, Ex-Finance Minister, 5 school principals, members of the teachers’ syndicate, school principals, teachers, coalition members, prominent figures and students. The biggest wallpaper in the Arab World, designed by one of the teachers in cooperation with a group of students, was announced.

A preparatory meeting for coalition members in Egypt was attended by 22 participants, including the Ex-Aswan Education Deputy, Chairman of Aswan Teachers’ syndicate and Dean of Education Faculty in Aswan. In this context, the coalition organized a field research activity and preparatory meetings in schools, in the presence of 86 parents, teachers and school principals, 45 of which were males and 41 were females.

In Iraq, Forat Organization conducted interviews with children to determine their educational level and the characteristics they need in teachers by writing or drawing them on paper.

In Palestine education and the teacher were the title of the Friday prayer sermon on 26th/April/2014, where the sermon was dedicated to talk about education and the importance of education. The campaign witnessed the largest social and civic participation and every Palestinian house participated in the campaign, in addition to all those who listen to the sermon via the media (radio and TV). Additionally, the Palestinian coalition organized a number of activities in schools including festivals and discussions on teachers’ rights; also tens of schools hosted public figures, Ministers, Members of Legislative Council, political leaders, trade unionists, mayors, Members of Local Council and members of the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Teachers in open discussions on the goals of the campaigns, teachers’ rights and the official and social responsibility in advancing education, acquiring teachers’ rights and improving their work conditions.
The Sudanese coalition inaugurated the GAW officially in the coordination meeting of Ministers and Directors of Education. The meeting featured the signing of the Ministers a commitment memorandum to focus on the need to train teachers, advance education and improve its quality. The participants in the GAW activities in Sudan was more than 400, including Ministers, National Council Members, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Civil Society Organizations. More than 50 children participated in the creative student activities and 40 teachers were chosen to train children and youth outside of schools.

The Yemeni coalition organized an activity in a number of organizations and schools, where employees and student silently stood for 2 minutes to honor teachers. Additionally, in an honoring activity for educational figures, 250 teachers in Khalid Ibn Al-Walid and Balqees Schools were honored, where recognition certificates and symbolic gifts were distributed in the presence of the President of the coalition, coalition representatives in the Education Office, Ministry of Social Affairs and the State Secretariat, employees and media professionals. This was accompanied by a field march to the slogans and banners were carried with a number of state leaders, educators and social figures to do a class; the parents and other societal sectors went to teachers and thanked them.

The Moroccan coalition participated in the GAW by organizing a number of activities that are represented in the preparation and distribution of campaign publications in Rabat, Jadida city and other cities.

The Lebanese coalition held a celebration ceremony in the UNESCO palace titled “Every Child Needs A Teacher”. The celebration aimed at increasing the awareness of the civil society and officials on the importance of meeting the educational needs of children in schools, particularly the lack of qualified teachers, in addition to contributing in reforming the education process in Lebanon. The celebration hosted 450 attendants including members of the teachers’ syndicate, Lebanese and Palestinian civil society organizations, international organizations and families. The celebration was covered by the media and broadcasted on Al-Manar TV and by the Social Najdeh Association.

The Mauritanian coalition inaugurated the GAW in the Mauritanian Center for Strategic Research and Studies in a ceremony titled “Every Child Needs a Qualified Teacher” in the presence of a large audience. A large number of pamphlets was distributed and hanged in public spaces, governmental offices and schools. For the conclusion of the GAW the coalition held a meeting to evaluate the activities and events of the week that were implemented in the Mauritanian Center for Strategic Research and Studies and schools, with the participation of
members of parliament, ex-Ministers, officials in the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Affairs. The Somali coalition also organized a large activity for the GAW, published a press release on the importance of the GAW and the goal of this year’s campaign titled “Every Child Needs a Qualified Teacher”, where 50 personnel from educational organizations, non-governmental organization and educational networks participated in the 26th/April activity, in addition to the media to cover the event.

Training workshops to emphasize the objectives of the campaign and ensure their implementation

To contribute to the creation of a qualified generation of teachers, the campaign implemented via the educational coalitions a number of programs and training workshops that contribute to the delivery of the mission of the campaign for this year in that every child needs a qualified teacher.

In this sense, the Iraqi coalition organized a number of lectures for teachers on the importance of developing teachers with the aim of developing the educational level and the teacher in Iraq. The number of conducted lectures was 4, each attended by 15 teachers.

In Jordan, within the activities of the GAW the Jordanian coalition implemented a program on training teachers with disabilities.

The Moroccan coalition conducted two training courses in coordination with the Citizenship Forum in Morocco. The first course, conducted in the 11th/May/2013, targeted teachers in Fes city, while the second course targeted reaching in Qunaitera city and was held on the 18th/May/2013.

Roundtable Activity

GCE members intensified their efforts for the sake of issues that serve education by conducting awareness-raising activities that would integrate decision makers and active sectors in favor of educational issues. In this sense, the educational coalitions in the Arab countries held a number of roundtable meetings with decision makers, community leaders and teaching staff.

The Egyptian coalition held a roundtable activity titled “Research Funding Opportunities for Education Development Programs”. The meeting targeted priority issues to develop the educational system, was attended by 62 educational leaders from civil organizations, Ministry of Education, management of funds officials in the Ministry of Education, ex-Minister of Education, chairman of the teachers’ syndicate and media professionals.
In Palestine, all political parties, civil actors and coalition members participated in a 3-hour discussion on the responsibility of political parties towards education and teachers’ rights. Several recommendations emanated from the meeting, calling for the need to take all necessary steps to reform the educational system. The Palestinian coalition held another roundtable activity organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women, with the participation of the General Secretariat of the GUPW, General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Teachers, Palestinian coalition and numerous educational organizations. The speakers emphasized the importance of the Palestinian teachers and the need to improve the work conditions of teachers.

Discussion sessions and academic meetings on the status of education

The campaign took into account all aspects that might form challenges and difficulties in relation to educational issues. In this sense, the coalitions integrated civil society organizations, academic organizations and the media in discussion sessions and academic meetings to discuss this year’s educational issue. The Egyptian coalition organized an academic meeting in the Education Faculty on (The Role of the Education Faculty in the Development of Teachers and Education). The total number of attendants reached 105 individuals, representing civil society organizations, local community members and the media.

In Jordan DVV International and Queen Zain Al-Sharaf Institute for Development hosted the representatives of ACEA to discuss the GAW and launching its activities in Jordan.

In Iraq, the Iraqi Institute for Development held a discussion session titled “Teachers: To Where” in the presence of educators from the Education Directorate in Nineveh governorate, representatives of the local government, civil activists and school principals. The discussion focused on the level of teachers in schools, methods used in the transfer of information to students and the reasons behind the deterioration in education in Iraq.

The Palestinian coalition organized a number of educational and trade union seminars related to the slogans of the campaign, with the participation of a number of universities and faculties, including Palestine University where the seminar was titled “The Story of a Successful Teacher”; the Islamic University organized a seminar titled “Teaching the Digital Story” and another seminar titled “Criteria to Choosing Successful Teachers” was organized by Al-Quds University and with the participation of the Palestinian coalition.

The Moroccan coalition held a national seminar in Rabat on the predicament of preparation and rehabilitation of teachers, in addition to a number of community
meetings to introduce the campaign including a communication meeting with trainee teachers in the Jahuri Center for Education and Creation Careers, a meeting with a group of students in a village center in Al-Jadida, where students participated by drawing the logo of the campaign and performing an educational sketch on the role of teachers.

The Sudanese coalition organized in coordination with the Educational Committee in the National Council, Ministry of Education, Balan Sudan Organization, UNESCO, UNICEF and Sudan Education Forum a workshop titled “The Role of Education Rehabilitation in Improving Education” with special focus on training of teachers. The workshop discussed 6 working papers that focused on training of teachers and developmental vision towards training.

Popular discussion sessions of educational issues and the need to support teachers
The campaign was engaged in integrating local community members in open discussion sessions to determine their opinion on the importance of rehabilitating teachers from the right of students to access good quality education perspective.

The Jordanian coalition held discussion sessions in the university schools, with the participation of counselors, educators, teachers and a large number of students. As a result of these meetings, the Jordanian coalition submitted a letter to the government, official institutions and officials on the importance of education and the need to support teachers to guarantee good education and therefore reform education.

The Sudanese coalition held a workshop on educational rehabilitation, focusing on rehabilitation and training of teachers, increasing the employment of teachers and professionalization of the teaching career by creating teachers’ councils via official and popular participation.

Media campaigns and press conferences
Stemming from our belief in the role of the media in disseminating awareness on educational issues, the campaign engaged in incorporating the media in the GAW via media campaigns and press conferences. The coalitions also ensured that the media covers all activities with the aim of disseminating awareness on educational issues.

The Palestinian coalition held a press conference in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Arab Campaign and the Education Program at the UNRWA, with the participation of the Minister of Education, Education Program Director at the UNRWA, the coordinator of ACEA and the coordinator of the Palestinian
coalition. The press conference highlighted the aspects of the campaign, principles that underpin this year’s campaign, particularly those pertaining to teachers’ rights. Another press conference was held in the Gaza Strip in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNRWA and civil organizations titled “Every Student Deserves a Qualified Teacher…The Teacher Deserves”. The Yemeni coalition inaugurated the activities of the GAW on the 20th/April/2013 in the press conference in “Balqees Club” in Sana’a under the auspice of the Capital Secretariat. The press conference was attended by a number of leaders in the local authority, including General Secretary of the Local Council in the Capital Secretariat, General Secretary Deputy, Educational leaders, civil organizations, journalists and stakeholders. In Iraq, Media Organization published journalistic articles in 3 Iraqi newspapers to introduce the campaign, its goals and the GAW in addition to addressing officials in terms of improving the level of education by focusing on developing the capacities of teachers. The organization published 10 thousand copies of the newspaper in the Nineveh, Anbar and Diali governorates. The Mauritanian coalition launched the activities of the GAW in a press conference attended by a large number of state officials, civil society representatives, interested politicians and the media to cover the event. Also in the attendants were a number of teachers, officials in the Ministry of Education and the consultant Sidi Bin Biyadeh from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Family and Child. The Jordanian coalition held a number of meetings before starting the implementation of the activities of the GAW. The first activity was announcing the GAW in the media in a morning program in the official Jordanian TV. The Moroccan coalition implemented a media campaign on audio, visual and print media and social media, in addition to daily radio shows that focused on the activities of the campaign that took place during the GAW from 27th/April-3rd/May. The Somali coalition published a press release calling for the need to consolidate efforts among the Somali people to advance the status of education. Within the same framework, the coalition conducted numerous school visits that included speeches with the aim of raising the awareness of school principals, teachers and students. Various media outlets were incorporated including Dalsan Radio and Bar Kolan Radio. The media played a pivotal role in presenting the importance and goals of this year’s activities.
Launch the activities of the national coalitions in all governorates

In harmony with social interaction, a number of festivals and marches were organized within the framework of the campaign’s activities. In Tulkarem, a big march took place with the participation of officials, educators, members of the Legislative Council and members of the Palestinian coalition, where slogans emphasizing the rights of teacher’s were raised. A mass festival in Qabatya enjoyed the participation of officials in the educational directorate and the governorate. In Ramallah, the closing march included students, teachers, the General Union of Palestinian Teachers and the Palestinian coalition. The march started near Ramallah Secondary School and went to the Presidential Headquarters, where the demands of the teachers were submitted to the office of the President of the Palestinian Authority. A closing festival was organized in the University College building in Gaza. The campaign in Palestine organized 6 marathons in Palestinian towns and villages (Ramallah, Qalqiliya, Burqin/Jenin, Northern Aseera/ Nablus, Hebron and Far’a Refugee Camp/Tubas), with mass participation from students and parents, thereby achieving civil and social interaction. The marathons were also attended by officials and Governors, members of the Legislative Council and educators. All of them emphasized in their speeches on the goals of the campaign, their importance, teachers’ rights and achieving the slogan of this year’s campaign.