The campaign in Palestine is implemented each year by the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environment. The Coalition was established in 2007 by a group of Palestinian NGOs with the initiative started by Teacher Creativity Center aiming at optimizing effectiveness of all efforts exerted in the educational and development fields. The Coalition seeks to develop intervention programs in school environment to enhance education quality. The campaign for this year aimed to urge decision makers to increase educational budgets. Thus, the Coalition called for achieving all promises and points mentioned in the National Reform and Development Plan and to apply all policies and regulations that can enhance education quality in Palestine.

GCE in Palestine

The Palestinian Territories witnessed a variety of activities during the Global Action Week, organized by the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (20-26/4/2010). Representatives of the Coalition participated in a hearing session for the prime minister, Salam Fayad. The main theme was PNA general budget for 2010. The session was organized by AMAN, the Palestinian Coalition for Integrity and Transparency. The Coalition representatives focused during the hearing session on educational budgets. Lesson for All activities were implemented in the vast majority of Palestinian public schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, during 20-26 April, 2010. About one million students participated in various activities in schools, including writing and presenting essays, stories, and poems plays tackling themes of right to education, scout marches, presentations and other activities. Students’ marches, roamed the streets in some villages raising logos of the campaign calling for more support in funding to education. Some schools organized workshops attended by public figures and local community members where the students’ demands were presented. This year activities of the GCE coincided with the organization of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa. This was a chance to reach as many as possible of people, through sports. In Palestine, a number of sport activities for the Global Action Week were implemented. These activities included: a marathon in Ramallah with
participation of schools’ students, Legislative Council Members, Union of Military Athletes and Palestinian Police. All participants wore the Campaign’s t-shirts and carried its posters and logos. The event was organized under auspices of Prime Minister, Salam Fayad. It was ended by a final festival at the Legislative Council Square in Ramallah. All parliament members assured that the Council supports increasing education budgets in order to achieve quality education for all. They expressed appreciation of efforts of the organizers of the event. Another marathon was organized in Gaza on 21/4/2010. More than 200 participants joined the marathon; they represent different sport clubs and centres, universities, schools and local organizations in Gaza. All participants wore the campaign’s t-shirts with the One Goal logo. In addition Gaza streets were decorated with the campaign’s posters. In addition, UNRWA sponsored football games activities for middle schools in Rafah UNRWA Educational Area. 8 schools participated with more than 1000 students. T-shirts with the GCE logos and the Campaign posters were distributed during the event. Another sport activity is the Cycling Race in Jenin (26/4/2010). The race was organized in presence of a number of public figures. 300 people from 25 sport clubs participated in the race within two age categories (13 years old and less) and (older than 13). At the first day of the Action Week, a meeting between representatives of Parliament (members from the PLO) and representatives of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environment was held in the Legislative Council Headquarters. The meeting discussed needs of the educational sector and how they can be met in a manner that promotes enhanced quality. The parliament members affirmed their support to the Coalition’s demands regarding education budgets, and regarding the approval of Law of a National Fund for Higher Education. Representatives of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environment emphasized the urgent need to improve equality of education especially in Area C schools and Jerusalem schools. They indicated that education quality in the developing countries in general is going down because of the failure of rich countries to meet their commitments in supporting education in Dakar 2000.
The Action Week activities included also organizing **public meetings and workshops** in Palestinian cities (Jenin and Nablus - North, Ramallah – Center, and Hebron – South) with participation of more than 400 people. The discussions focused on the quality of education and the impact of low budgets on this quality. The Acton Week activities included also **extracurricular activities and open days** for students in Jerusalem (were educational situation is in a real danger because of the occupation’s measures) and in other cities. A number of art activities and cultural activities were carried out. Students distributed posters of the Camping. The final day of the Week witnessed the organization of the **Gender in Education Conference**. The conference was held under the auspices of Rabiha Diab, Palestinian Minister of Women Affaire and Member of the Legislative Council. The conference discussed the obstacles and challenges encountering education in the Palestinian Territories, especially for women. A number of papers on gender-based analysis for the Palestinian general budgets were presented.