ACEA
GAW REPORT

2011
Global Action Week (GAW) 2011

Lebanon, Egypt and Morocco, focused on Global Action Week since they are newly established coalitions, to enable them to promote the idea and mobilize people. Most importantly, campaigns in each country stressed social justice, gender equality, and the actual figures and studies on the recent status of Education. Community mobilization was also a cornerstone of each coalition, as well as media campaigns.

Global Action Week composed a main component of each coalition’s work; some coalitions also contributed to other campaigns (i.e. the “Learn it Right” campaign in Egypt and “Our Rights” in Yemen). Community mobilization and media campaigns were the cornerstones of Global Action Week. Details on implementation of Global Action Week in each country follow:

EGYPT

The “ONE GOAL: Education for All” Campaign was launched during Global Action Week in Egypt. This campaign was highly successful, and initiated extensive debate in the governorates where activities were implemented. This was largely due to the active participation of male and female students, who shared their artistic works, reflecting the educational situation in Egypt. The Learn it Right campaign launched by “Egyptians without Borders for Development” in several governorates also exerted pressure for educational reform. These campaigns caught the interest of television and printed media, broadened participation, and triggered extensive Facebook discussions.

Launching of the Learn it Right Campaign in Aswan

Over 100 people attended the launching of the Learn It Right Campaign in Aswan governorate on April 24th; specifically, 47 parents, 20 students, 29 educational leaders, 5 decision makers including the General Secretary of the Ministry of Education, head of the Parliament Education Committee, and directors of educational directorates. The ceremony was held in AlAqqad Cultural Palace with the participation of Egyptians without Borders Foundation for Development, Egyptian Foundation for Refugees Rights, several youth foundations, the Eighth Channel, South of Saeed (upper Egypt) Radio, the Administration of Public Education in Aswan Governorate and the governorate’s local council education committee.

The ceremony opened with a speech delivered by the director of Egyptians without Borders Foundation for Development, shedding light on the objectives, and local and international campaign partners. Mrs. Wissam Al Sharif, Executive Director of the Foundation, pointed out that 2010 campaign activities coincided with world cup finals, highlighting the role of FIFA in enhancing opportunity to achieve one goal uniting more than one hundred countries under the slogan “Education for All”. Educational leaders subsequently delivered speeches expressing their profound desire to contribute to campaign success, by building partnerships with the coalition. This was followed by a question and answer session, to enable journalists to obtain details related to campaign activities and objectives. The Board of Egyptians without Borders Foundation for
Development, answered all of the questions, through a communiqué issued at the end of the ceremony.

Students with the top three submissions to the Learn it Right campaign, received prizes and the local media interviewed winners. Children explained their artistic works, and openly discussed their views with the judges and educational leaders. The ceremony in Aswan achieved an important outcome which is a partnership between the media and the Ministry of Education, regarding forthcoming activities.

**Launching the Learn it Right Campaign in Alexandria**

On April 22, the Learn it Right campaign was launched at the Egyptian Center for Development, by Egyptians Without Borders Foundation for Development (EWB), in cooperation with the Alexandria Youth and Sports Directorate, the Egyptian Center for Development, the Egyptian Foundation for the Rights of Refugees, members of the Egyptians for Change Movement, and with the participation of graduates of the “Egyptian Citizen” program in Alexandria. 76 people attended the event (5 decision makers including the General Secretary of the Ministry of Education and directors of educational directorates, 27 parents, 28 students, 5 educational leaders and 11 organizations. Students who participated in the Learn it Right campaign received prizes. The EWB timed the launching of the campaign to coincide with the Global Action Week. During the ceremony, representatives of Alexandria’s Youth and Sports Directorate offered to cooperate with campaign leaders through technical support, and the hosting of campaign activities by youth organizations. In Alexandria, the audience was astonished by the ability of participating students to monitor and portray access to free education, related challenges, and the social and educational gap resulting from inequitable educational systems, in their artistic works. Primary achievements stemming from this event include: monitoring of education problems in Alexandria, adoption of the campaign by several public figures, and their promise to discuss the recommendations and outcomes of this meeting with senior education decision-makers.

**Launching the Learn it Right Campaign in Delta governorates (Qaylobiyah, Gharbiyah and Sharqiyyah)**

Almost 168 people (60 parents, 21 students, 56 educational leaders, 28 school principals, and 3 General Secretaries of the Ministry of Education in 3 governorates) attended the launching of the Learn It Right campaign in Delta governorate on May 1st 2010. This ceremony was part of the Arab Program For Human Rights Activists’ Global Campaign for Education activities within its project on supporting decentralization of education. Representatives of the Board of Trustees, representing 28 schools, attended the launching of the “1 Goal: Education for All” campaign as part of this big campaign in schools.

A preliminary meeting with educational leaders, parents and school directors in Delta governorates (Qaylobiyah, Gharbiyah and Sharqiyyah) shed light on the objectives of the “1 Goal: Education for All” campaign. Campaign brochures were distributed to principals from 28 participating schools, explaining campaign objectives, upcoming activities and the role of various partners (coalition members and participating schools). In this meeting, participants discussed potential activities, potential common ground between
campaign objectives and the objectives of school Board of Trustees, and issues which needed to be resolved.

LEBANON

The launching of the Global Campaign for Education in Lebanon was a major challenge for the Arab Network for Popular Education, given the involvement of 93 member organizations in the Lebanese coalition. This type of collective educational commitment was new to these associations; prior work had been limited to preparatory meetings to raise awareness related to the Global Campaign for Education.

The leadership of the Lebanese Coalition and the secretariat of the Arab Network for Popular Education exerted great efforts to achieve the successful launching of this initiative, which was oriented toward Palestinian refugee camps as well as Lebanese society. The noticeable participation of such a significant number of associations, and the efforts they exerted to ensure success, indicate their level of engagement.

Preparatory work included visits to NGOs working in the field of education to raise their awareness of GCE goals and objectives. GCE materials were translated into Arabic and distributed to the NGOs, along with forms encouraging them to become members of the Lebanese Coalition. Coalition members held ten meetings to develop the Plan of Action, prepare for GCE week activities, and form a Committee to monitor and follow up on the week’s events. These meetings provided an opportunity for extended analysis of the current situation, and issues related to education for the Lebanese community and for Palestinians living in Lebanon.

Press Conference Launching the Campaign

A press conference launched the campaign on 19th April 2010 under the auspices of Dr. Tarek Mitri, Lebanese Minister of Information. A press release was also prepared and distributed to the media publicizing the launching of the campaign and a call was made for all organizations to attend the event. 50 people attended the press conference, including a representative of the Ministry of information, 2 representatives of Lebanese TV, representatives of 10 Lebanese newspapers, and 37 members of the Lebanese coalition.

Launching of the Global Campaign for Education in Lebanon

On April 23, the Global Campaign for Education was launched in a conference in the UNESCO Conference Center in Beirut, under the auspices of Lebanese Minister of Information, represented by his advisor Dr. Andre Kassas. 500 participants attended the event, including representatives of the Minister of information, 485 representatives of Lebanese and Palestinian civil society organizations and members of the Lebanese coalition, 10 educators, professors from various private and governmental universities, one representative of the teachers’ union, and 3 media agencies. The program was intensive, and opened transparent discussion on the status of education - reality versus needs - and related statistics which were
highlighted in the national report presented in presence of governmental and non-governmental organizations. The ceremony also included testimonies, essays, poetry readings, art, and music that conveyed the “right to education”.

The opening address was delivered by Ms. Elsy Wakil, Coordinator of ANPE and the coalition; she underlined ANPE’s pride in initiating the launching of the GCE in Lebanon, to raise awareness of the importance of education, and the need to enforce compulsory education in Lebanon. Ms. Wakil highlighted 2015 goals and GCE objectives, including expanded & improved comprehensive early childhood education, a 50% reduction in illiteracy rates, closing the gap between male and female enrolment in elementary and secondary levels, and promotion of civil society movements for full achievement of “Education for All”.

The Minister of Information address was delivered by Dr. Andre Kassas who emphasized the importance of building efforts to increase funding, to achieve 2015 GCE goals and objectives. He noted that “Education is for All”, applies to adults as well as children, and thus, required a diversity of educational methods and approaches. He said every educated person should make a commitment to positively impact his/her immediate circle, as this would ultimately expand into global change, and a unified and harmonious vision of education.

A panel discussion was conducted on the status of education: reality versus needs, and the status of education in Lebanon. The General Secretary of EPEP facilitated discussion on educational challenges. Two professors highlighted major issues related to education in Lebanon and in Palestinian camps. Dr. El Khalidi proposed Popular Education as a method to achieve the Palestinian people’s aspiration for societal change, right of return, and a life of dignity in Lebanon. She underlined the importance of including issues related to Palestinian identity in basic educational programs, such as Palestinian history and geography. Finally she highlighted the issue of school drop outs, particularly amongst male students who enter the labour market because of laws/regulations limiting employment opportunities for Palestinian refugees inside Lebanon.

Dr. Imad Samaha, a member of the teacher’s union, emphasized that democratic education cannot occur without comprehensive political, social and economic reform, and that there can be no progress without a democratic secular state based on law and accountability. He also raised the issue of limited enrolment in public schools, and the high cost of, and limited allocations for education, educational material and equipment and professional upgrading of teachers. Drop-out rates he said, are estimated at 22% in the fourth grade and 19% by the end of the ninth grade (this statistic includes drop outs who enter the labour market, or shift to vocational training schools).

The panel was followed by a reading of 10 of the best texts written by learners who attended literacy classes. The texts covered a variety of subjects, including the following titles (selected by the learners themselves): My Right to Education; I Oppose Child Labour; My Personal Transformation; I have learned Despite all Obstacles; My New School; and other success stories written by learners. Ten
people gave testimonies on their experience as beneficiaries of popular education programs, highlighting the benefits, improvement of living conditions and enrichment gained. An artistic dance conveying “Education for Peace” was prepared and delivered by 20 Palestinian and Lebanese students. A poem about education, written by a student, was also shared with the audience. GCE T-shirts and caps were offered to children of learners, and GCE posters and flyers were distributed to participants to raise awareness and promote GCE goals.

MOROCCO

In Morocco, this year “1 GOAL: Education for All” campaign coincided with Global Action Week activities and the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, and Rabat was selected to stage the event this year. As a result, the whole country was mobilized to organize activities promoting protection of the environment and sustainable development. Hence, the Moroccan Coalition for Education for All extended the global action till May 5, 2010 instead of 25 April. Scientific institutions and a diverse range of associations were involved in these activities. Scientific institutions, colleges and universities across Morocco organized Lesson for All activities, with the participation of schools, colleges, university students, administrators, supervisors, and parents.

ACTIVITY 1: The Moroccan 1 GOAL: Lesson for All Campaign

The Moroccan coalition developed popular methods to promote Education for All, and increased allocations to education (the main theme of the campaign this year), such as the involvement of footballers. Lesson for All also called on governments to uphold their promises regarding Education for All, and to support enhanced budget allocations to education. Several brochures, booklets, stickers, and posters were distributed to participants presenting campaign goals and objectives, and introducing methods of participation and support for activities planned all around Morocco. 22,483 participants attended the 1 Goal Campaign in Morocco.

"1GOAL: Lesson for All" in Marrakesh

In Marakesh, 5,494 students from 11 schools participated in "1 GOAL: Lesson for All" activities implemented in coordination with the AlMassar Association for Citizenship Educational, on April 20, 2010. The activity included sessions in the morning queue at school, in classrooms, in work groups and meetings with students and parents councils. Students conveyed the importance of increasing budget allocations for education, and to improve quality of education, in presentations to the community, local councils, politicians and others interested in education.

"1 GOAL: Lesson for All" in Fes

On 28 April, 1 GOAL: Lesson for All was implemented in Fes, during action week. Participants included a delegation of 300 people from the Moroccan Ministry of Education, 1,700 students from various schools, 450 retired teachers, 620 participants
from Moroccan Vocational Formations Initiatives, and 300 people from the Space Association. On 29 April, 5045 students attended "1 GOAL: Lesson for All"; this event highlighted the need for greater attention to education, and for an increase in related budget allocations.

On May 6th & 11, activities in Fes concentrated on the right of all to education, and potential means to achieve this. Twenty-nine delegations of coordinators from the Education Movement Club participated in the activity, along with 12,000 students from University of Fes, 600 teachers, 20 members of the Guidance Department and 120 children from the Special Needs Center.

"1 GOAL: Lesson for All" in Meknes

On April 28, approximately 1200 students participated in Lesson for All at Ibn-Rushd School in Meknes. Students raised campaign slogans in brochures, posters, stickers and coalition banners, urging governments and officials to provide free and compulsory education for all, and to improve the effectiveness of education.

"1 GOAL: Lesson for All" in Temara & Ksar Bono

Approximately 2400 students participated in Lesson for All activities in Temara and Ksar Bono on April 20; students highlighted the importance of education, and focused on campaign objectives.

"1 GOAL: Lesson for All" in Sale

On April 28, about 1747 students attended Lesson for All; participants promoted campaign objectives and demanded increased attention toward achievement of campaign goals.

"1 GOAL: Lesson for All" in Missour

On 13 May, large numbers of students, parents, and members of the Public Recourses Defense Association gathered to express their support for the Lesson for All campaign, in Missour.

ACTIVITY 2: A Painting Workshop

A painting workshop was implemented in coordination with students from a Human Rights Club, on April 23, 2010 in Marrakesh. Each student contributed several drawings and together they painted a mural promoting campaign topics and objectives, and portraying the status of education in Morocco. Ten students painted, and 24 students from human rights clubs attended the workshop. Participants discussed concepts to be included in the paintings, and watched a presentation on 1 Goal: Education for All. The result was a fantastic mural on education, created by students.

ACTIVITY 3: May 1st Parade

The Education for All Campaign was represented in parades organized by 3 trade union branches, specifically: ODT in Rabat and Fes, and CDT in Casablanca. Coalition
banners were raised, and leaflets, posters, and stickers were distributed to participants during the parade.

**ACTIVITY 4: Training of Trainers in Kenitra-Gharb-Chrarda-Hessein region**

On May 11, 2010, a training workshop was implemented for 29 teachers from schools in Kenitra region, and for 17 teachers from Sidi Kasem, preparing them to present the “1 GOAL Lesson” to students in their schools between May 14 and 28, 2010.

**ACTIVITY 5: One Goal: Education for All Convoy - Bike Ride in Marrakesh**

Marrakesh, was alive with the energy of more than 300 enthusiastic supporters of the "1 GOAL: Education for All" global campaign, when 100 cyclists from cycling clubs and over 100 male and female students, 21 organizations and 8 cycling clubs (including Al-Kawkab Club, Marrakesh Cycling Club, Attawieh Sports Club, Tamansurt Club for Cycling, Amal Club and others), participated in this large event. Teachers, students and parents also attended to offer support. On April 9, the Moroccan Coalition and Al Massar Association organized a presentation and a convoy of cyclists, to encourage supporters and interested parties to participate, and build political momentum for education. A special participant who attended to show his support was Mr. Choulli, Director of the Regional Academy of Education in Marrakesh, and a primary decision-maker in the Ministry of Education in Marrakesh. During the race, Said Ismael, a 15-year-old participant/student from Marrakesh said, "I'm here today because I believe every person in Morocco has the right to education."

Nasskech, a local music group, provided entertainment before and after the race. Latifah Zouhal, the main coordinator of the event, summed up the importance of the event with the following words, "Please join the coalition... Right now, more than 52 million children are denied an opportunity to go to school. For them, this campaign is an opportunity to make their dreams come true - to obtain their right to education.

**YEMEN**

The Yemeni coalition implemented action week under the slogan “Education First” instead of “Fund it Now” to lessen confrontation with the government. Six main organizations and institutions in Yemen participated in Global Action Week activities including festivals in support of education, and Lessons for All, between 19 and 29 April, 2010. This event, which involved 10,000 male and female students, teachers, social leaders, and citizens, was the first of its kind in Yemen.

The first activity was creation of **Media Workers for Education**, the first educational link established for media workers in Sana‘, to provide a vehicle to discuss media participation. Four male journalists and one female journalist were elected to the board of this link; specifically: Wadia’ Ata from Abwab Magazine, was elected General Coordinator, Altaf Khloani from Al Mara’ (woman) Magazine was elected Assistant to the General Coordinator, Mohammed Al Sayaghi from Saba Yemeni Press Agency was elected Media and Communication Coordinator, Jabr Sabr from Annas Newspaper was...
elected Project and Program Coordinator, and finally Anwar Haidar from Al Motamar was elected Training and Qualification Coordinator.

Special stickers with this year’s slogan “One goal: Education for All- Education First”, 200 T-shirts, 500 hats and 1000 posters were printed and distributed in seven key areas in Sana’, the capital.

Between 20 - 29th April 2010, school festivals were held in 4 targeted schools (Al Sabeen, Mohammad Ismaeel, Al Horsh, and Ikhwan Thabet schools) along with numerous activities to launch the action week, promote campaign concepts and highlight the campaign’s importance. These schools invited community leaders, university professors, and male and female teachers to their “Lesson for All” activities. Visitors attended presentations during morning queue along with students, and joined a lesson on the importance of education and related budget allocations in Yemen. These schools also implemented four sport activities, and a cultural competition attended by students, teachers, principals, parents and members of the Coalition. Over 10,600 people participated in the activities of the four schools. Specifically, Al Sabeen School involved 2500 female attendees in Lesson for All and 52 students and teachers attended sports activities, between 20-29 April. Mohammad Ismaeel School involved 2000 male attendees in Lesson for All on April 29th, and 500 students and teachers attended the sport activity. Al Horsh School involved 3000 male attendees in Lesson for All on April 29, 30 students and teachers attended the sport activity, and 10 students participated in the cultural competition. Ikhwan Thabet School) involved 2500 female participants in Lesson for All on April 29th, and 70 students and teachers attended the sports activity. Another achievement of this campaign is the submission of a petition with 10,000 signatories, demanding increased funding for education, to government and Ministry of Education officials.

PALESTINE

Recognizing the limited resources available to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (especially for developmental programs) and Palestinian National Authority (PNA) support for reform and development plans to improve Palestinian conditions, this year the focus of the Palestinian coalition’s advocacy campaign was to pressure the PNA to increase budget allocations for education, to implement all of the points and commitments mentioned in the National Reform and Development Plan, and to apply policies and regulations which will enhance educational quality in Palestine.

In the Palestinian Territories, one million children participated in Lessons for All activities as part of Global Action Week, through a variety of activities organized by the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (20-26/4/2010). 3000 others participated in related sport and community activities. 10 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council also joined activities.
Coalition meetings with the Legislative Council resulted in important recommendations and Council promises to increase budget allocations for education. Local studies, which provided current figures and facts on educational status in Palestine, guided, and provided a strong basis for coalition demands. Global Action Week included extensive campaigns, public and community meetings, school activities, sports and art activities, presentation of studies, conferences and workshops and extensive media activities (literally, all activities were covered by the media).

**ACTIVITY 1: Media Activities and Campaign**

**Workshop for Journalists**

This two-day workshop (April 13-14) provided an opportunity to explain campaign goals and objectives to journalists, and provide them with information on the status of Education in Palestine, and the impact of inadequate resources on the quality of education. Thirty-six representatives of media organizations from across the West Bank participated.

Mrs. Intesar Hamdan, Director of the Teacher Creativity Center "Right to Education Program" and Coordinator of the Palestinian Coalition, opened the workshop with a presentation on this year’s Global Campaign for Education, its slogan, objectives, and work plan, followed by presentations highlighting the importance of improving the educational environment. She discussed the impact of inadequate financial resources on the quality of education. This was followed by a presentation on actual budget allocations to Palestinian education" by Fadel Suliman (TCC). Then, Ali Hason from Hurryat Freedom Institute gave a brief speech on the right of children incarcerated in Israeli prisons to education, followed by a presentation by Mrs. Shereen Zidan (Hydrogen Institute) on Safe School Environments. Ms. Nehaya Hamid from the Early Childhood Center discussed the status of the early childhood sector, and Maram Al-Am, from the Right to Play Foundation, gave a presentation on the impact of budgets on children’s right to play. Finally, Afaf Mazara discussed budgets for school health and education.

The media and education sector emerged from the final session with a cooperative workplan for upcoming activities. This event also resulted in the establishment of a new media education group - *the Educational Media Forum* as a vehicle to catalyze a media focus on education issues, under the umbrella of the coalition.

**Press Conference to Launch the Campaign Activities**

Global Action Week was launched at a press conference on April 14th, 2010 in the hall of the government media center, with the involvement of a range of supporters and political leaders, including Dr. Mustafa Al-Barghouti, a Deputy in the Palestinian Legislative Council, Mrs. Elham Abdulkader, Director of the Student Activities Department at the Ministry of Higher Education, and Mr. Anis Brewish, the General Secretary of Teachers’ Union in Palestine, as well as Palestinian Coalition members and media representatives. The press conference opened with a speech announcing the launching of Global Action Week in the Palestinian territories, for the third year, under the campaign slogan “Increased Funding for Education”; the speaker explained that this
slogan was a necessary response to the educational crisis created by the World Bank decision to reduce budget allocations for education, as well as the aftershocks of the global financial crisis. The speaker outlined campaign plans to target one million four hundred thousand students in 2,430 schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to involve local and international partners. The number of children expected to attend school during the coming three years will exceed 84 thousand children. The presentation highlighted the importance of pressuring the PNA to increase funding for education, and called upon the Ministry of Finance to bring budget allocations to education in line with national plans and developmental projects. The presenter noted the challenge of increasing funding for education, and implementing educational reform while still facing ongoing attacks by the occupation authorities on the educational process, and applauded the Ministry of Education’s persistence in implementing development programs and new methodologies in the face of these challenges.

This was followed by a speech by Dr. Mustafa Al-Barghouti, a deputy in the Palestinian Legislative Council, who expressed his appreciation of Coalition efforts to promote education in Palestine. He discussed the need to advocate for quality education for all, and to increase funding for education, and highlighted the importance of implementing the National Funding Law for Higher Education approved by the Legislative Council in its first reading which allocates 2-3% of the financial aid received by the Palestinian Authority to support university students. Al-Barghouti said this fund would solve the problem of at least 180,000 students. He noted that, in the current situation, because the functioning of the Legislative Council has been interrupted, a presidential announcement from President Mahmoud Abbas is required to adopt the National Higher Education Fund Law, and allow students to benefit from scholarships, grants and loans which will enable them to complete their university studies. Al-Barghouti noted the importance of also providing job opportunities for graduates, adding that education is the most important mechanism Palestinians have to improve their lives, as the occupation continues to damage Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

The General Secretary of Teachers Union in Palestine, Mr. Anis Brewish, thanked all those who contributed to the promotion of the educational process in Palestine, and drew attention to the need to also highlight teachers’ rights, which are deteriorating, although they fall within educational development plans. He highlighted the great effort exerted by the union to obtain teachers’ rights, and implement programming to raise the status, efficiency and potential of teachers and administrators.

At the end of the press conference, a coalition representative explained that the purpose of the Palestinian Global Campaign for Education is to remind the Palestinian government and policymakers of the importance of education and the need to increase funding to development programs in the educational sector in order to improve the quality of education. Then, she read the coalition statement and a press release launching global campaign activities, highlighting the main theme of the campaign this year, its objectives, activities planned for global action week, and the need to raise educational standards.
Media Campaign

Campaign activities received broad media coverage (audio, visual, print and electronic) of campaign activities. The most important media coverage is listed below.

Visual Media:

- Palestinian TV channel interviewed Intisar Hamdan, Coalition Coordinator, in a morning talk show for 20 minutes, discussing the main theme of the campaign, its objectives and coalition activities.
- Coalition activities were widely announced in local newscasts and sports reports.
- Watan TV (a Ramallah television statement) interviewed Refat Sabbah (Director, TCC) and discussed the Global Campaign for Education during their main newscast, on 21/04/2010.
- Watan TV published several news reports on coalition activities during their newscasts.

Auditory Media:

- Palestine radio station aired a special program which provided an opportunity for students to discuss campaign objectives and activities. Mrs. Khetam Al-Deik, one of the media representatives, also broadcast a one hour interview with Intesar Hamdan, Coalition Coordinator, and aired a report on the quality of education in Palestine, prepared by the Palestinian coalition. The program included a phone interview with Mrs. Elham Abdulkader, Director of the Students Activities Department at the Ministry of Higher Education.
- The Coalition coordinator was interviewed and discussed the campaign on a Palestinian Sound station talkshow on 10 May, 2010.
- Fathi Barqawi allocated one session of his radio program, at Ajyal station, to discuss the educational sector and the role of the coalition and the campaign activities with a panel including Refat Sabbah the regional coordinator of the Global Campaign of Education, Mr. Nabeel Sub Labn, Director of Early Childhood Organization and a member in the Palestinian Coalition, and Mr. Tahseen Yaqeen, representative of the Ministry of Education.
- Intesar Hamdan discussed campaign objectives and activities. In a 25 minute interview on PNN network, which is linked to 8 local stations in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.
- In two 30-minute interviews, Intesar Hamdan discussed campaign activities and objectives on Radio FM (a local station in Ramallah).
- Zain Radio (a Jerusalem station), allocated 10 minutes to interview Intesar Hamdan to discuss the campaign.
- Angham Radio allocated 10 minutes to interview Intesar Hamdan and discuss the campaign.
- Bethlehem Radio implemented a 15 minute live interview, discussing campaign activities and objectives.

Printed and Electronic Media:

- Three Palestinian daily newspapers covered all campaign activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
Al-Quds newspaper published a detailed report on the Global Campaign for Education on 9/5/2010

Many websites covered Global Campaign for Education news

**ACTIVITY 2: 1 GOAL: Lesson for All**

Most public schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip organized a *Lesson for All* between 20 and 26 April, 2010. Approximately one million students participated in various school activities, including writing and presenting essays, stories, poems, plays and presentations tackling themes of right to education, scout marches, and other activities. In some villages student marched in the streets chanting campaign slogans calling for increased funding for education. Some schools organized workshops where student demands were presented to public figures and local community members.

All directorates organized similar activities. In addition, campaign issues were addressed in morning school broadcasts. Elham Abdul-Qader, Ministry of Education Director of Activities, reported that all schools were asked to organize a Lesson for All and to delineate 20 minutes in their morning school broadcast to focus on the campaign’s call for enhanced allocations to education. Schools were also asked to invite local community figures to activities.

**Qabatiya Educational Directorate**

40,000 students in 84 Qabatya public schools participated in *Lesson for All* between 20 and 26 April, 2010. Activities included speeches during morning school announcements, and public meetings with heads of municipalities, parent councils and other stakeholders. Mr. Hussein Araj, Director of the Activities Department at Qabatya Educational Directorate, said *Lesson for All* raised a variety of important educational issues including mechanisms of community support for the teaching-learning process in schools, the importance of childhood education in Palestine, and school problems such as overloaded classrooms, the need for safer school environments, improved teaching techniques and early childhood education. Participants addressed decision makers and demanded more financial support for education and safer school environments, improved learning conditions, provision of computer and science labs, and other school needs.

**Qalqilia Directorate**

Tenth grade students presented a *Lesson for All* to 600 school students In Omaria Girls School on 29 April. The lesson was attended by the Director of Education in Qalqilia, the Director of Activities in Qalqilia Directorate, representatives of local organizations and parents. At this event, the Director of Activities noted the urgent need to increase budget allocations for education, and the negative impact of inadequate budget allocations on the quality of education. He also noted that in Qalqilia, over 32,000 students in 76 schools organized *Lessons for All* demanding totally free compulsory education and greater support for higher education; the Director of Activities in Qalqilia asked civic education classes in all schools to discuss these issues in depth.
Southern Nablus Directorate

In *Lessons for All* activities, 74 Schools with participation of 37,000 students in Southern Nablus Directorate called for greater attention and increased budget allocations to education, to enhance the quality of education. These activities included storytelling, scout presentations, broadcasting and plays. Students addressed illiteracy amongst youth and adults, and low academic achievement. Raghad Dakhil, Director of Activities Department at South Nablus Directorate, noted that activities were being implemented in all schools in the directorate. Participants insisted upon formation of village educational committees to integrate efforts to develop the educational process, and to catalyse supportive teaching programs. They proposed more effective communication with Palestinian expatriates to gain their support for educational development in their villages. They also recommended activation of parent councils, to enhance their support to schools, and to enhance the relationship between parents and school representatives.

Nablus Directorate

Samar Qadah, Director of Activities at Nablus Directorate, reported that 67,860 students in Nablus participated in *Lesson for All* activities in 181 public, private and UNRWA schools. Students participated in morning school broadcasts, wrote articles about education, childhood and education budgets, wrote short stories, plays, poems and shared in musical activities conveying campaign themes - which promote free Education for All and enhanced school environments. Students also condemned the Israeli occupation’s violation of the right of education, in Palestine.

Tulkarem Directorate

Over 50,000 students in 125 schools participated in *Lesson for All* activities in Tulkarem. Adnan Qaadan, Director of the Activities Department at Tulkarem Directorate, noted that these students demanded greater efforts to improve the quality of education, because education is a basic human right and because illiteracy is the enemy of humanity. Tulkarem directorate also organized two central *Lessons for All* in Adawyia Girls School and Faroon Girls School on 20/4/2010. Activities focused on children’s right to education and the importance of increasing education budgets.

Salfit Directorate

In Salfit, 15,600 students in 52 schools participated in *Lessons for All*. Majed Mahmoud, Director of Activities in Salfit Directorate, reported that schools invited public figures, mayors, heads of local councils, and parents to their activities. Students demanded more funds for education, to enable them obtain access to quality education, which students emphasized is a basic right. Salfit directorate also organized a central public meeting in Salfit Girls School, attended by Nawaf Saof, Deputy Mayor of Salfit, Rafeeq Salama, Educational Director, Dr. Khaled Qarwani, from Al-Quds Open University, as well as directors of departments in the educational directorate, parents and local community representatives.
Southern Hebron Directorate

70,000 students in 180 schools participated in Lesson for All in Southern Hebron. Activities were also attended by parent council members and local community figures. Ezzat Makharza, representative of Southern Hebron Directorate, noted that every school in the directorate implemented Lesson for All activities: specifically, inclusion of campaign themes in morning school broadcasts in each school and 7 central Lessons for All. These activities highlighted the importance of education, its relation to economic growth, and its role as a form of struggle against occupation.

Jerusalem Suburbs Directorate

Ziad Qassem, Director of Activities at the Directorate for Jerusalem suburbs, reported that activities were organized in all 61 schools in Jerusalem directorate. Over 17,270 students participated in Lessons for All, with a focus on special conditions in Jerusalem, where the Israeli occupation creates ongoing obstacles for teachers and students.

Toubas Directorate

Amjad Sawafta, Director of Activities at Toubas Directorate, reported that 20,000 students in 39 schools implemented Lesson for All activities, including integration of key issues in morning school broadcasts.

Jenin Directorate

Over 4143 students and 2548 teachers in the 128 schools in Jenin directorate participated in Lesson for All activities between 20-26/4/2010. Students emphasized the fact that education is a basic human right and that it should receive additional funding, adding that this was certain to enhance the quality of education.

Gaza Directorate

Ahmad Abu Nada, Director of Activities at the Ministry of Education in Gaza, reported that 12 celebrations were organized in 6 directorates in southern districts as part of Lesson for All activities. Two central lessons were organized in each directorate (one in a girls school and another in a boys school). Activities included speeches raising campaign issues as part of the morning school broadcast, distribution of brochures and posters, and the participation of over 10,800 students, and over 540 teacher and administrative staff members in Lesson for All activities.

ACTIVITY 3: Sport Activities

A number of Global Action Week sports activities involved Legislative Council Members, the Union of Military Athletes and Palestinian Police.

Ramallah Marathon

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments organized a marathon in Ramallah on 21/4/2010. 500 students participated, wearing campaign t-shirts and carrying campaign posters and logos. Over 80 athletes from the Union of Military Athletes and police officers also participated, in
the presence of a number of public figures, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, leaders of non-governmental organizations, and parents. All participants wore t-shirts and hats with campaign logos, and participants raised campaign banners. The marathon was simultaneously launched from two sites: Ramallah First Group and the entrance of Rafaat Village. The marathon was organized under the auspices of Palestinian Prime Minister, Salam Fayad and ended with a festival at Legislative Council Square (Ramallah), which was decorated with campaign posters. Speakers in the festival included Deab Haddad, Director of Education in Ramallah District; Mustafa Barghouthi, Leader of Palestinian Initiative Party; Bassam Salhi, Leader of People’s Party; Khaleda Jarrar, member of the political office of Palestinian Public Front; Qays Abdul-Karim, member of the political office of the Palestinian Democratic Front, Alaa Yaghi, member of Legislative Council from Fateh and Amal Qweider, a Coalition representative. Parliament members assured participants that the Legislative Council supports an increase in education budgets, in order to achieve quality education for all, and expressed their appreciation for the efforts of marathon organizers.

A meeting between Palestinian Legislative Council members and Palestinian Coalition Representatives

At the final festival, Legislative Council representatives met with Coalition representatives, at the initiative of the Legislative Council’s secretariat, to discuss the needs of the educational sector and how educational quality can be enhanced. Parliament members affirmed their support for Coalition demands to increase budget allocations to education and to activate the National Fund for Higher Education Legislation.

The meeting was attended by several parliament members; specifically: Qays Abdul-Karim, Naieema Sheikh, Mustafa Barghouthi, Khaleda Jarrar, Rabeeha Diab, Naser Jomaa, and Ibrahim Khreisha as well as the undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Director of “Pioneers” at the Ministry of Youth, and numerous representatives of coalition member organizations.

Abdul-Karim, a parliament member, affirmed the Legislative Councils commitment to assist unions and to increase the budget allocation to the educational/higher education sector from 20 million dollars to 42 million dollars this year, noting that the real problem is with basic education.

Mustafa Barghouthi raised the issue of the National Fund for Higher Education Bill noting, that the bill for this law was put on the agenda of the very first meeting of the current Legislative Council. Unfortunately, political conflict disrupted the council’s work, and the Palestinian Legislative Council no longer functions; hence, the law was not approved.

Rabeeha Diab, Minister of Women Affairs, expressed her appreciation for Coalition efforts to promote enhanced school environments, noting that the Palestinian Coalition is a regional leader in this campaign, despite obstacles created by the occupation. Diab affirmed the importance of integrating government and civil society efforts to develop education in Palestine.
Representatives of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments noted that educational quality in developing countries is deteriorating, overall, because of the failure of rich countries to meet their Dakar 2000 commitments to support education. Coalition representatives also emphasized the urgent need to improve the quality of education, especially in schools inside Jerusalem and in Area C schools (an Israeli land classification allows Israeli access and authority in Area C).

**10 km Marathon in Gaza**

A marathon was organized in Gaza on 21/4/2010, within the framework of GCE global action week. Over 200 representatives of various sports clubs and centers, universities, schools and local organizations participated. All of the participants wore campaign’s t-shirts with the *One Goal* logo, and Gazan streets were decorated with campaign posters.

**Football League for UNRWA Middle School students in Gaza**

On 19/4/2010, UNRWA sponsored football games for middle schools in UNRWA Educational Area in Rafah, as a part of the campaign. Eight schools and over 1000 students participated in the presence of supervisors, and all of the teaching and administrative staff in these schools. T-shirts with the GCE logos and campaign posters were distributed during the event.

**Cycling Race in Jenin (26/4/2010)**

A race was organized in the presence of Qaddoura Musa, Governor of Jenin, Marwan Weshahi, Musa Abu Zaid, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Said Hamdan, Director of Youth and Sports Department in Jenin, Refaat Sabbah, General Director of Teacher Creativity Centre, and Abdullah Jarrar, TCC coordinator in the Northern District and representative of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments, Alaa Saady, a Fateh representative in Jenin, Somoud Nazzal, Director of Marj Ben Amer Club, Salim Kielany, representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Activities Department, Salam Senan, Sport Clubs’ Ministry officer, Majed Habbash, spokesman and public relations officer at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Adnan Abu Qattanna, representative of Sharek Youth Centre and General Director of Salah Khalaf Centre.

300 people from 25 sport clubs participated in the race which included two divisions/age categories (older and younger than 13 years old). The race, which was launched at 2:00 p.m. on 26/4/2010, took a 7 mile route through the city of Jenin, starting at Jannat Park, and ending in Sabah El-Kheir suburb. The race was accompanied by Palestinian police and ambulances from the Palestinian Medical Relief Committees. In Sabah El-Kheir Suburb, public figures were waiting for contestants to join a final celebration, including a number of speeches and distribution of prizes.
The celebration started with a speech by the Governor of Jenin, who said the race was great way for organizers to convey their message, in service of education. He stated that education is facing organized, systemized attempts by the Israeli occupation to destroy it, adding that this event is an appeal for all those who are interested in Palestinians’ welfare, and that education is a right for all.

A speech by Abdullah Jarrar, representative of the Coalition and Teacher Creativity Centre, affirmed the Coalition’s goal to integrate and unify efforts to improve the quality of education in Palestine and called for a just level of financial support for education. Jarrar reviewed the years of struggle to develop education under an occupation which deliberately intended to destroy the Palestinian education system. Jarrar demanded application of the National Reform and Development Plan, and the approval of policies and regulations which enhance the quality of education.

Said Hamdan mentioned that it was the first time the Ministry of Youth and Sports organized a cycling race in Jenin, adding that this event, which comes within the framework of the GCE, demonstrates that sports can be for everyone, and that social and human development can be achieved through sports. Hamdan promised that the Ministry will organize similar activities for all age categories, with women’s participation.

**ACTIVITY 4: Public Meetings in Jenin**

On 22 April, over 160 people joined a meeting at Jenin Secondary Girls School - including representatives of parents’ councils, NGOs, public institutions, local councils and other public figures- to discuss the impact of budget-related issues on the quality of education. Also present were Qaddoura Musa, Governor of Jenin, Mohammad Zahri, Deputy of Jenin’s Educational Directorate, Fakhri Turkman and Burhan Jarrar, former Legislative Council members, and Mohammad Said, Jenin’s Mufti. The meeting was facilitated by Ahed Abu Rubb, Director of Activity in Jenin Educational Directorate, in cooperation with TCC’s coordinator in Jenin.

There were a number of speeches, including an introductory speech by Mohammad Zahri, which highlighted the active role of the Ministry of Education in the Campaign, noting that the Ministry actively participates in the GCE each year. Zahri noted that campaign activities were organized in every school in Jenin this year, involving parents, students, teachers and educators. These activities focused on the responsibility of all stakeholders to improve the quality of education.

Jenin’s Governor emphasized the importance of collaborative work and integrated efforts to ensure the success of the GCE campaign in Palestine, adding that refugee camps outside Palestine should also be included in the campaign. The governor thanked the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments and the Teacher Creativity Centre for their efforts to improve the quality of education in Palestine. Elana Romahi, a coalition representative, said that the aim is to integrate the efforts exerted by all actors and focus them on one goal, which is quality education in Palestine, adding that education is responsibility of all. Romahi noted that this year’s campaign is organized under the slogan “Education for All”- fund it now!”
Romahi said the Coalition organized this campaign to remind decision makers of their commitment to pay more attention to education, and to urge them to increase budgets specified for educational developmental programs. Romahi said the focus of these programs should be on improving the quality of education, increasing the number of schools and classrooms, increasing support to education in far reaching villages, especially those in Area C and Jerusalem, and on improving teaching methods and techniques, in order to achieve an educational system based on analytical and creative thinking styles. Romahi also called for improvements in teachers’ living conditions, by increasing wages. Romahi noted that Palestine’s participation in this global event indicates the importance of education to the Palestinian people as a tool for liberation, struggle and state building, and that it also indicates Palestine’s interest in education for deprived children in Latin America, Africa, Asia and other areas.

Fakhri Turkman, a former Legislative Council Member, asked for greater efforts to increase the professional and academic competence of teachers, and to provide them with jobs and social security.

Burhan Jarrar, another former Legislative Council member said that it is vital that legislation upholding free compulsory primary education be implemented, and that the government develop vocational education as a key educational strategy.

Jenin’s Mufti demanded a competency-based hiring system in education, adding that is not acceptable for teaching to become the profession of those who can’t find another job. He also expressed concern that the majority of students in university education faculties are the lowest achievers in secondary education.

Students, who participated in discussions, also raised concerns regarding the difficulty of curriculum, an overload in terms of required subject materials, and an inadequate number of computer laboratories. Students also discussed problems with general and standardized ministry tests, which are not being written or scored by students’ teachers (especially mathematics).

Participants emerged with the following recommendations:

- Increase education allocations in Palestine
- Develop school curriculum and the higher education system
- Apply modern teaching methodologies and techniques in schools
- Organize a campaign to approve the National Fund for Higher Education Law
- Improve teachers’ living conditions
- Approve an incentive system, to encourage creativity among educational cadre

**Ramallah meeting**

Over 80 parent council representatives attended a public meeting in Ramallah at Baladna Cultural Centre on 25/4/2010. The meeting was attended by the General Director of the “Pioneers” Department at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and
representatives of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments, and included presentations by coalition representatives on the school environment, school health and quality education. Speakers emphasized that the aim of this event, which comes within the framework of the GCE for 2010, is to increase parents’ awareness of their vital role in the improvement of education quality. The public meeting concluded with recommendations to enhance the curriculum, increase the educational budget, and improve the educational environment.

**Hebron meeting on April 28, 2010**

On 28 April, a public meeting was held in Hebron City Hall, which was fully decorated with posters and campaign logos. 75 participants attended the event, including representatives of various parents’ councils and other civil society organizations. The meeting took place in the presence of Mohammad Hussein Abu Rayian, Director of Higher Education Council in Halhoul, Intesar Abu Assba, member of the Council’s Board of Trustees, and Feda Halahla, Public Relations Officer for Kharas Directorate. Fadel Suleiman, a Teacher Creativity Centre representative, spoke on behalf of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments and Khaled Hneihen, Deputy Mayor of Halhoul, gave a speech on the importance of supporting educational development programs in Palestine, followed by discussion addressing the possibility of increasing educational budgets, and the potential impact of increased funding. The meeting also addressed issues related to teachers’ rights and living conditions. All participants agreed that improvements in teachers’ social conditions and quality of life would enhance educational quality.

**ACTIVITY 5: Workshops**

**A Workshop Organised by Mothers School Society**

A workshop was organized by Mothers School Society (a member of the Palestinian Coalition) at the Headquarters of the Union of Palestinian Workers in Nablus, on 26/4/2010. Participants included the Mothers School Society’s administrative and executive staff, educational supervisors from Nablus Educational Directorate, representatives of the UNRWA Education Office, principals of private schools, a number of public school teachers and principals, and representatives of local and civil society organizations, parents, students and specialists. The workshop focused on the causes of low academic achievement among students. Sanaa Shbeit, Head of the administrative staff in the Mothers School Society, noted that the Mother’s school has participated in the GCE for three years, indicating the Society’s belief in the importance of collaborative work and coordination (among civil society organizations, government and UNRWA) to enhance education. Shbeit expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Ministry’s Educational Directorate and UNRWA Education Office to enhance the quality of education in Palestine.
Nadia Shehada noted that improved education is a top priority in Palestine, and hence, low academic achievement was the focus of the workshop. Parents, specialists, students and others, raised many questions. Alyaa Jeaan, Education Coordinator and representative of the Coalition, said that Palestine’s participation in the GCE indicates community concern that every child obtain their right to education. Participants in the workshop discussed various issues, highlighted the role of teachers, and noted the importance of parents promoting positive student attitudes towards their teachers. Participants also highlighted the need for modern styles of homework assignments, especially in English language classes.

Workshop participants recommended improved standardized testing in Arabic Language and mathematics for primary grades, and integration of efforts to enhance academic achievement through true partnership amongst all community stakeholders.

**Kufer Aqab Public Centre Activities**

Kufer Aqab Public Centre, is a registered organization implementing extracurricular activities for students in Jerusalem, implemented a number of art and cultural activities attended by students from various schools within the framework of the GCE on 24 April. The Centre’s coordinator highlighted campaign goals and the importance of increasing education budgets in Palestine, especially in Jerusalem, and students distributed campaign posters.

**Activities of the Early Childhood Resource Centre (ECRC)**

The ECRC, a member of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments, organized a program with a number of activities promoting One Goal: Education for All, and increased government allocations to the early childhood sector. This includes:

- A workshop for mothers, principals, and teachers at Dalal kindergarten in Shufaat (20/4/2010)
- A workshop in Jerusalem for kindergarten principals in the meeting room of the Childhood Resources Center in Jerusalem (20/4/2010).
- A workshop in Hebron for kindergarten teachers and principals in the meeting room of the Childhood Resources Center in Hebron (22/4/2010).
- A workshop in Ramallah for kindergarten teachers and principals in the meeting room of the Childhood Resources Center in Ramallah (24/4/2010).
- An open day for mothers, children, and kindergarten teachers in Saffa and Beitour in Ramallah (27/4/2010)

Campaign logos and Childhood Resource Center publications, addressing budget issues for early childhood education, were distributed during all of the activities. Participants
recommended that the Ministry of Education take responsibility for kindergartens and preschool education.

**ACTIVITY 6: A Question/Answer session with the Palestinian Prime Minister**

A question/answer session with Dr. Salam Fiad, the Palestinian Prime Minister, was implemented to hold the Prime Minister accountable for the general budget of the Palestinian National Authority of 2010. The session was organized by AMAN, the Palestinian Coalition for Integrity and Transparency.

Intesar Hamdan, Coordinator of the Palestinian Coalition, commented on budget allocations to the education sector, stating "Between 2003 and 2009, the increase in allocations from the general budget, for education has not exceeded 1.5%; in 2010 the rate increased to 2%, however, this increase was accompanied by a 3.8% increase in the student population, which approximates the population growth rate in the Palestinian territories. Hence, the increased budget allocation was required to respond to the increased number of students, including the need for new schools and related needs". In the same period, the budget allocation for development projects did not exceed 14% of the education budget. To compound matters, Palestinian government plans and their 2010 budget, promote a strategy of decreased PNA reliance on donors. Hamdan asked, How can this strategy be applied toward development projects, when government funds cannot even cover the previously approved Ministry of Education and Higher Education plan, entitled “Quality of Education” Hamdan noted that the failure of most donor policies to meet the educational sector needs further exacerbates matters. Hamdan reminded participants that according to Palestinian Child Law, and Palestinian Basic Law, primary education should be free and compulsory, so school fees and other hidden expenses such as stationeries, uniforms, and books should be eliminated, to facilitate attendance of children from poor families.

**ACTIVITY 7: Conference**

**Women in Education Conference on 29th April 2010**

On 29 April, the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments organized a conference with three sessions on gender in education, within the framework of the Global Action Week, under the auspices of Rabiha Diab, Palestinian Minister of Women Affairs and member of the Legislative Council.

In the opening session: Rabiha Diab emphasized that it is a national duty to qualify human resources, especially women, as a vital component of the process of national liberation and state building. She added that education has always been a distinguishing feature of the Palestinian people, whether female or male, and that education for Palestinians is a form of resistance against occupation. The Women Affairs Minister called for the emergence of sectoral councils, with the participation of pertinent ministries, to enhance women’s situation in education. She also called for greater involvement and a more active media role in addressing issues related to women in education. The Minister noted that educational empowerment must target both women and men if Palestine is to reach the highest levels of development. Diab’s speech encouraged participants to consider education as a tool and an investment
project, in an environment of scarce economic resources. Diab noted that Palestinian interest in education, especially for girls, has been reflected by a number of jumps in enrolment rates, especially after the PNA took power, when enrolment in basic education reached 99.6% (2007/2008; 50% females and 49.6% males).

Diab noted that women’s education is reflected in their level of engagement in labour market, which has been negatively affected by early marriage. She expressed concern for schools in Jerusalem, which are amongst the most marginalized in terms of education, due to the occupier’s control over education in this area, noting that this is compounded by high dropout rates, especially in secondary schools, as a result of the need for family income.

Diab noted that of all the obstacles and challenges to education in the Palestinian territories, measures taken by the Israeli occupation—such as school and university closures, and mobility constraints which limit access to education such as checkpoints and the Separation wall—were the most damaging, especially in Jerusalem. She said school dropout rates represent another major educational problem, noting that male primary school dropout rates are higher than females (2.23% males, 2.01% females), indicating some degree of gender insensitivity because the educational system does not take the experiences of both sexes into consideration. Diab also discussed other limitations such as the curriculum’s lack of opportunity for creativity for both girls and boys, the failure of the primary curriculum to systematically, explicitly and fairly represent the role of women, and the repeated portrayal of women in stereotypic professions.

Diab stated that the government’s decision to adopt a gender-responsive general budget, which constitutes a qualitative leap toward social justice and equity on the part of the Palestinian government—is in line with the government’s social development plan, adding that this is the culmination of Ministry of Women Affairs efforts to impact formal public policies. Diab said budgets are the best starting point for any initiative that targets the enhancement of gender sensitivity in society and public life, especially in terms of developmental plans to decrease the current gender gap—but care must be taken to understand and assess gender needs, to achieve a just allocation of resources.

Refaat Sabbah, General Director of the Teacher Creativity Center and the Regional Coordinator of GCE, launched conference activities with a speech stating “We always highlight about the role of education in achieving change, increasing awareness of rights, and promotion of these rights. We demand rights not only for women but for everyone: children, people with special needs, prisoners...” Sabbah noted that education alone can not ensure this kind of change, although it is a powerful and vital tool of change. He also emphasized that education is not only a need, but a basic human right, and an essential component of human life and dignity. He continued: for woman, education is a weapon which enables her to successfully confront all of the challenges and obstacles stifling her role, and education is a source of power, which can help women obtain the resources they need to live, providing a sense of protection and security. Sabbah emphasized women’s need for education, and supportive laws and policies which empower women, enhance education and make education more effective.
at enabling change in their lives. He noted that this conference is part of a campaign to
pressure governments, and advocate for support from politicians, educators, journalists,
parliament representatives, national figures and supporters in other sectors, in order to
realize these laws and policies.

Afaf Mazaraa, representative of the Palestinian Coalition for Safe School Environments,
reviewed the active role Palestinian women have played in the historical struggle
against occupation, in public life and in sustainable development, noting that Palestinian
women still have a long road ahead before equity will be achieved. She emphasized
the urgent need to overcome the numerous obstacles and challenges to approval of
new legislation which promote equity, because current legislation does not lead to legal
and social equity.

Session 1: Policies and Budgeting: Salah Soubani presented a paper entitled “The Role
of the PNA Budget in Achievement of EFA Goals and the Right to Education”. This paper
discussed a consistent increase in the portion of the general budget allocated to
education, noting that these gains were insufficient. Soubani’s paper criticized the way
the Ministry of Education’s budget was prepared, especially the lack of coordination
between the Ministry’s 17 departments. The paper also noted that the Ministry’s
budgeting process is not linked to, and does not contribute to the goals of the 5-year
strategic plan and the National Plan for Development and Reform.

Tahseen Yaqin made a presentation critiquing the MoE strategic plan, their
development programs and treatment of gender issues, noting that approved budgets
are not adequately sensitive to gender issues and needs.

Session 2: Gender and Development: The second session was facilitated by Hanan Abu
Ghoush, a Representative of the Women Center for Social and Legal Counselling, and
included presentation of three papers.

Nadia Harb’s presentation on “Rural Women’s Contribution” presented the actual role of
women and their contribution to the learning-teaching process and to the social
movements, through a discussion of the historical evolution of gender and education
issues in Palestine. The paper showed that since the 1920’s, records indicate that
Palestine has the highest enrolment rates for both females and males amongst
neighbouring countries. Unfortunately, the paper concludes, that this has not been
adequately reflected in Palestinian women’s engagement in the labour market.

Suraida Hussein presented a documented analysis of challenges which have affected
women’s contribution to the development process, noting that high unemployment
rates, illiteracy, social, economic and legal factors, have limited women’s actual
contribution to development, all of which has been sorely compounded by Israeli
occupation.

Helmi Araj, Director of Hurriyat “ Freedoms” Center, made a presentation on female
prisoners in Israeli prisons, and their access to education. He noted over 15,000 female
prisoners have been incarcerated since 1967, with 34 still in prison, demonstrating the
active involvement of Palestinian women in the struggle for liberation and
independence, and their participation in the state building process.
Session 3: Women, Education and the Labour Market: In this session, activist and former prisoner, Amnee Rimawi, presented two papers. The first was entitled “Needs, Strategies, and Developmental Frontiers for Women’s Education and Participation in the Labour Market”, and the second was entitled “Integration of Gender Issues in School Education”. Intesar Hamdan facilitated the final session and a participatory discussion, which concluded with discussion and recommendations elicted from participating academic figures, leaders of feminist movements, parent council members, students and representatives of organizations working in the field of gender and education. Their recommendations include: urging the Ministry of Education to reassess the curriculum, develop vocational education, apply the free compulsory law, cancel the “parallel higher education system”, commit to principles of integrity in employment, approve gender-sensitive budgets and increase budgets for educational development programs.

Community Mobilization and Meetings

Community mobilization was a cornerstone of activity for each coalition. In addition to Global Action Week, coalitions implemented numerous activities to expand community mobilization, move the campaign forward, and develop a community movement. National coalitions in the five countries supported through this project successfully mobilized key stakeholders and the complete spectrum of community members in the campaign.

EGYPT

1. Meeting of students and teachers of School of Languages in Aswan

70 students and 4 teachers attended a meeting of students and teachers of School of Languages in Aswan on May 11, 2010 as part of the Learn it Right campaign. This meeting raised participants’ awareness of the educational status and related obstacles in Egypt, and encouraged participants to support the objectives of the Education for All campaign, participate in related activities and join the Egyptian coalition. The session focused on the need to improve the quality of education. During this meeting the facilitator announced an upcoming camp session for school students, as a component of the Learn it Right Campaign.

2. A Camp for Students

A camp for school students was implemented as part of the Learn it Right campaign launched in schools. In this 3-day camp session, 20 male and female students under age 17 met with 7 educational supervisors between 5-7th August 2010 in Crocodile Island, Aswan. Participants received training in leadership skills, cooperation, and tolerance and developed their concept of Education for All. Sessions utilized creative methods, and a participatory approach, games and exercises which caught student interest and maintained their motivation.
The purpose of the camp was:

1- To obtain the perspective of students (the target group of the educational process) on educational issues and problems, through discussion groups
2- To provide students with a set of skills and knowledge which qualify them to lead student activities during the project period, and throughout the campaign
3- To acquaint students, educators, parents, media and leaders in education with additional information on the international campaign for education and the role of the Egyptian coalition in addressing educational issues in the coming period

The preparation phase included meetings with 7 educational supervisors and parents, and two meetings (17 and 20 July, 2010) with the 20 participating students and their parents.

3. The First meeting of the School of Light and Hope for Sudanese Refugees

On 22 September, the first of eight meetings scheduled for the school for Sudanese Refugees was implemented, with 55 students, 18 parents, and 6 teachers in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain students’ perspective on educational issues and problems. Two coordinating committee members subsequently visited Light and Hope School for Sudanese Refugees to learn more about these issues, and to announce the winners of the Learn it Right literary and arts competition - for the best literary and artistic submissions (essays, poetry and other art forms) reflecting educational issues/problems from the student’s points of view. Five secondary students and 20 elementary school students were publicly honored (to enhance motivation).

MOROCCO

1. Meetings with other supporters (footballers, coaches, actors, film makers, singers, musicians)

The Moroccan coalition implemented a series of outreach meetings (3 & 15 May, 4, 6, 12 and 23 June) to gain supporters with the capacity to link campaign objectives with music, art and sports. Numerous actors, film makers, singers and musicians expressed their interest in the campaign and signed the petition for Education for All. Later, on 9 July, Said Errhouni, Advisor to the Ministry of Education, 5 coalition member organizations and the media met with 14 national and international footballers and coaches in Rabat to further broaden support for the campaign and enhance the involvement of popular public figures. In this meeting, campaign objectives and the work of the coalition were presented. Participants showed interest and promised to support the campaign. This event caught the media’s attention and widened the campaign constituency.
YEMEN

In Yemen, the Education for All campaign also included two ongoing campaigns: the *Education First* campaign advocating for increased budget allocations to education, and a campaign integrating a rights-based approach into the campaign.