Global Action Week 2017
"Accountability for SDG4 and Citizen Participation"

Global Action Week for Education 2017 this year focused on holding governments and the international community to account for delivering on the full SDG4 agenda, ensuring citizen participation – asking government to “keep your promises”.

The Jordanian Coalition conducted launching event of GAWE 2017 in Amman, Jordan. The event was attended by representatives of major international education organizations. The event highlighted the current opportunities for civil society to engage and influence financing decisions.

A panel of experts presented thematic papers for discussion including papers on education in emergency, financing education, and role of citizens and civil society in promotion of continuous learning.

Representatives of Ministry of Planning discussed the 2017 Voluntary National Review of Jordan on the SDGs.

The event was attended by Ms. Hanan Al Hruoh, the winner of International Teacher Prize for the year 2016. She gave a motivating speech on the importance of engaging all citizens in promoting SDG.

Different stakeholders wrote direct messages on accountability to SDG4 and messages were posted and shared with the media.

ACEA secretariat developed a Position Paper on Financing Education; presenting:
- Education budget allocated from both general government budgets and GDP
- Education in emergency and education budgets within humanitarian response plans
- Challenges facing civil society when working with education financing
- Key messages for advocacy
The Palestinian Coalition conducted the launching event of GAWE 2017 in Ramallah, Palestine.

Meetings with education sector decision makers and education donors were held in Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jenin. In the meetings:

- Education budgets were discussed
- Analysis briefs were presented to different stakeholders on the current domestic financing of education sector and the financing gaps

Capacity building workshop was conducted for 31 media persons on accountability to SDG4. The workshop focused on:

- The issue of domestic financing
- Innovative means to address the low education budget

ACEA disseminated a Policy Brief on Education in Emergencies in the Arab World addressing:

- Main challenges to financing education in the humanitarian context.
- The right to education for refugees, IDPs and persons with disability.
- The status of education gender equality in the education sector.

A live chat session was held by the secretariat of ACEA on Facebook, where a panel of speakers addressed issues of education financing. The session received active interaction from both attendees and online participants.

#Education2030 #GAWE2017_ACEA

The national coalition launched research results on inclusive education.

The coalition discussed with representatives of the government education financing issues that influence inclusive education.
Despite a very challenging context, education coalitions in the region continue to advocate for more resources to education.

Check out this blog developed by ACEA for GPE Blogs on:
“Civil Society in the Middle East stands up for Education”

CSOs participated in the march and delivered to the politicians and most important public institutions a document of CSOs demands for children’s rights.

Iraqi Coalition

- Held two workshops one with regional heads of education offices and another with Education Stakeholder to discuss the share of education from government budget. During the workshops The Iraqi coalition presented data on the current education challenges in Anbar region due to ISIS occupation and highlighted the increasing dropout rates of students.

- The Iraqi coalition also presented a demand paper to the Iraqi parliament in which they outlined the major challenges mainly in areas controlled by ISIS and the challenges facing children in IDP camps. The main demand in the document was to raise the share of education budget to 20% which was a share granted before 2008.

- Coalition members visited several IDP camps in cooperation with Serooh Organization for Development and Humanitarian action. In these visits data were collected on main reasons behind drop out of school children and challenges facing local education sector in IDP camps.

Albanian Coalition

- The Coalition organized a meeting in the Prime Minister Office premises, to discuss challenges in education sector in light of SDG4. In the meeting the coalition, presented its 15 year of Global Action Week in Albania, and launched the video “I Participate”. The meeting highlighted the need for increase investments in Education, and why quality education and qualified teachers matter in children’s lives and future.

- Issuing Education manifesto; a document that contains the problems and solutions proposed by youth which was presented political parties, the Government and the next Parliament of Albania to work for.

- A march on children’s Right. Under the motto “Educated, Protected and Healthy Children, Time to Deliver” more than 20 CSOs participated in the march and delivered to the politicians and most important public institutions a document of CSOs demands for children’s rights.
The Georgian Coalition for education in partnership with Georgian Institute of Debate and Education (GIDE) conducted a series of debates on different various education related topics.

The Georgian coalition member: international School of Economics (new member organized a workshop with UNICEF and World Bank was held on May 10th. The main recommendations developed within the forum will be included in the National Strategy on Education and Science.

In Egypt, the national coalition held a meeting with head of education regional office of Aswan and deputy minister of education and they submitted list of demands from civil society.

The coalition also held a roundtable discussion with national civil society organization formulating recommendations for more effective monitoring of SDG4.

The Lebaneese coalition implemented its annual GAWE launching event in Sayda governorate was attended by representatives of the local education office and Ministry of Education. The event highlighted the issues of education financing including the need of civil society to have access to transparent and reliable data on education budget.

Multiple visits of national coalition members were conducted to universities and schools, multiple awareness activities in multiple cities targeting university and school students. The activities focused on the role of citizens in the achievement of SDG4.

Read our Blog for West Asia- North Africa (WANA) publication on "Sustaining peace in the face of armed conflict in West Asia and North Africa"

Our contributed article about "Communities save schools in Yemen: Building resilience through locally-led education initiatives"
The coalition presented a petition for signature for general public addressed to government and international aid actors in Yemen. The main demand in the petition was to increase the share of education in international aid and to address the education crisis in most Yemeni governorates. The petition was signed by at least 22,000 persons in more than 3 governorates including school and university students, NGO representatives, media personnel and general public.

Several visits were conducted by national coalition members to local schools and activities were held with students, teachers and parent council members highlighting the role of citizens in SDG4 achievement. In the province of White Nile, a session of Child Parliament was dedicated to address SDG4 and the current education challenges.

All National Coalitions Presented Pledges to their National Governments, to Donors Countries and UN Organizations and to Private Sector

Education Can't Wait Fund is a Fund for Education in Emergencies supports learning opportunities for children and youth in crisis-affected countries. Children caught in crises in countries such as Syria, Somalia and Yemen from ACEA region will benefit from improved access to quality learning, teacher training, psycho-social support and new school facilities.

Launched less than 12 months ago at the World Humanitarian Summit, ECW is already delivering a step-change in the coordination of humanitarian and development funding and planning. With an initial investment of US$55 million, ECW funds quality education for an estimated 2 million vulnerable children in Chad, Ethiopia, Syria and Yemen, over half of whom are girls. The US$20 million investment marks the launch of ‘First Response Window’ – a unique mechanism to fund immediate education needs, either at the onset or escalation of a crisis. This mechanism funds a range of partners and activities on the ground for 12 months and serves as a catalyst for improved coordination and education response plans.

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