



Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

A coalition of civil society organizations, networks, peace movements, human rights activists, peasants, Labourers, workers, teachers and students alliances etc.

GCAP coalition in Pakistan focuses upon issues related to Education and Health sectors to address poverty & inequality

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Date: Tuesday, 18 June 2009

All members of National / Provincial Assemblies and Senate of Pakistan

Subject: Peoples' Demand for the Allocation of More Resources in Budget (2009-10) to Address Poverty and Inequality based on the Recommendations of Pre-Budget Seminars Organized by GCAP Coalition in Pakistan

The Honorable Elected Representative of People of Pakistan,

We, on behalf of GCAP-Pakistan, appreciate your pro people endeavors in the Parliament / provincial assembly. We hope that you will continue playing proactive role for the betterment and empowerment of common masses in particular the poor of the country.

As you know that federal and provincial **Finance Bills** (budgets for FY July 09 to June 10) have been presented in the respective assemblies and are the most important political instruments of the state. In a democratic country and setup, these Bills are prepared on the basis of democratic principles, equality, and vis-à-vis for financial accountability bestowed in the Constitution of Pakistan. Therefore, being the representatives of the people, your role is momentous to support and address the demands of the poor and marginalized people.

GCAP-Pakistan is an active coalition comprising of civil society organizations, NGOs, CBOs, networks, teachers & students associations, trade unions, clerk and labor federations, journalists and lawyers councils, etc. working across the country. The GCAP-Pakistan has organized several pre-budget seminars in all the provinces in order to create awareness among masses regarding this political tool and to ensure their greater participation and involvement in the process. During these seminars, the learned participants have given following recommendations to their representatives like yourself to peruse and follow up rigorously in the Assemblies/Parliament before these are get approved. However, GCAP-Pakistan will keep on reminding you and governments at federal, provincial and districts level for these demands through *Voice for the Peoples' Rights Campaign 2009*.

1. More financial autonomy to the provinces by the federal government and province share in the **National Finance Commission** (NFC) should be based upon their contribution in the GDP as well as their population verses poverty ratios.
2. More than 10% of the GDP should be allocated for **Public Sector Development Program (PSDP)** and Government should ensure optimum utilization of these financial allocations under the head without any midway cuts in PSDP (38% cuts in PSDP in FY 08-09) if poverty reduction is the goal.
3. Under spending in PSDP should be discouraged and allocated resources must not be considered lapsed towards the end of financial year and must accumulate in the PSDP head for future utilization.

National Secretariat (Interim) at:

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P.O Box No. 141, GPO 60000- Multan – Pakistan



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4. The capacity of Planning Commission, P&D Departments, ministries and other related departments from federal to districts level must be enhanced so as they can make sure the effective and efficient utilization of resources allocated under PSDP without any corruption.
5. **Allocate 4% of the GDP for education, health, safe drinking water and agriculture sectors each**, in order to address the growing poverty in the country which is already affecting 74% poor people living under/just above the poverty line (US\$ 1 to US\$ 2 /per person/day). It is however, worth mentioning that the current accumulative allocations for these sectors are only 3.2% of the GDP. This is 2.1% for education, 0.8% for health, 0.2% for provision of safe drinking water & sanitation and 0.6% for agriculture as stated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper –II issued by Planning Commission.
6. Government should immediately address the power crisis issue in the country as it has been further quadrupling unemployment and causing social unrest, crimes, depression and psychological problems.
7. Government should immediately reduce the fuel charges at least by 10% to give benefit to common masses and in order to generate economic opportunities in the country, which will help in reduction of poverty significantly.
8. Government should immediately prohibit the practice of writing-off loans of influential through an act of Parliament and the law must discourage any such future attempt.
9. Introduce performance-based salaries enhancement system for public servants; however raise in pay need to be given on average inflation rate.

We hope that you will consider these recommendations at your best and raise voice for the rights of poor people of Pakistan in the assembly.

Looking forward for your positive response and thanking you in advance for your attention and cooperation.

With immense regards

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