



Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)-Pakistan

**National Consultative Meeting
Held on 02/03-02-2009 at Islamabad**

Press Briefing

By: National Steering Committee

The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) embraces a growing number of civil society actors and people both in the South and North, and many social movements (trade unions, women's, children and youth movements, international development and human rights Networks, faith-based organizations representing the marginalized within society. Many of the social movements and civic society organizations who are part of GCAP work in practical ways against the causes of poverty and for sustainable solutions on the ground. GCAP aims to amplify the voices of those living in abject poverty.

In order to plan the three-year future strategic priorities of the Coalition, GCAP-Pakistan has organized a two days consultative meeting in Islamabad in which national and international coalition members have participated. In conclusion, National Steering Committee members of GCAP-Pakistan observed that:

According to the government statistics, nearly 45% population of Pakistan now live below the poverty line (US \$ 1/day) with rising unemployment further aggravating the effects of poverty. Based on this estimation, approx. 70% of the population does not have access to safe drinking water exacerbating health issues, such as Tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis that claim the lives of approximately 200,000 annually. The essential basic facilities like health, education, water and sanitation remain largely insufficient; moreover Pakistan is facing continued crises in the agriculture and energy sector. Inflation has reached at an all time high (25%) which is directly affecting the poor peoples' livelihood.

Pakistan has signed and endorsed the MDGs in September 2000, yet the progress has been dismal due to a lack of prioritization as identified by the 2005 midterm review of the first PRSP. Based on the information above, increased civil society intervention is required in order to voice the concerns of the poor and to hold government accountable to its commitments to the people of Pakistan.

The key focus of the Coalition as concluded by the workshop is to monitor progress of government to keeping its promises as stated in PRSP and as part of international commitments, for example the MDGs, to build a progressive civil society movement

GCAP-Pakistan: National Secretariat (interim):

2440 N/8A, D-Block, Shamasabad Colony Multan-Pakistan

Phone # +92-321-7323855; +92-3006301215; +92-61-4784606; 4577409

Email: zia@gcappak.net

Website: www.gcappak.net



that can act as a catalyst for voicing the civil and political rights of the poor to policy makers. Emphasis will be placed on intervention in the following sectors:

Education: for ensuring the education for all

- Reduction in drop out rates, improvements in physical infrastructures of schools, teachers capacity enhancement and quality of education

Health: for ensuring health for all

- Reduction in IMR and MMR
- Provision of primary health care facilities

Food Security & Agriculture

- Ensuring the provision of subsidized agricultural inputs to farmers
- Attacking the water scarcity issues for agriculture
- Ensuring better yield prices to the farmers etc.

The press briefing was addressed by Mohammad Zia-ur-Rehman, National Coordinator for GCAP-Pakistan and members of National Steering Committee: Rana Riaz Saeed, Lala Arshad Khaskheli, Rooh-ul-amin, Abdul Wadood, and Dr. Saba Shuja.

CONCLUDED

GCAP-Pakistan: National Secretariat (interim):

2440 N/8A, D-Block, Shamasabad Colony Multan-Pakistan

Phone # +92-321-7323855; +92-3006301215; +92-61-4784606; 4577409

Email: zia@gcappak.net

Website: www.gcappak.net