NATIONAL MOBILISATION TOWARDS PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION 2021

NARRATIVE REPORT

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As part of the Global Week of Action that took place from the 17th to 28th September 2021 GCAP Zambia coalition participated in the events that took place before, during and after the Global week of action in collaboration with GCAP Africa, GCAP Global and ACT4SDGs. A number of key CSO partners took part in the events here in Zambia virtually supporting national mobilization for a healthy, green and just recovery- building key steps towards free and universal Vaccination (People’s Vaccine) & social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic, linking to Agenda 2030 with key demands to send to heads of state & decision makers and media.

- The main objective of the project was to organize virtual peoples Assemblies for Health, Social Protection and climate justice via national and constituency assemblies.
Project activities undertaken

1. **Preparatory meetings for the Global week of Action**
   GCAP Zambia together with its coalition members organized preparatory meetings to plan and mobilize for the 2021 Global week of action in Zambia. The meetings took place between 30\textsuperscript{th} August and 5\textsuperscript{th} September, 2021. The participants in these meetings included Women, youth, representatives of people with disabilities, faith based groups and CSOs.

2. **Send letter to the government of Zambia calling for a Healthy, Green, Just Recovery and addressing the public Debt issues in Zambia**
   GCAP Zambia coalition adopted the great recovery letter and sent an open letter to the president of Zambia addressing key issues bordering on health, Green, just recovery and the debt issues affecting Zambia. In the letter the coalition urged the Republican president to address these issues during his first appearance at the UN general assembly. The letter was shared with various media houses in Zambia and the following media houses published and aired our just recovery letter story. GCAP Zambia national coordinator was interviewed on these media platforms.
   - Daily nation news paper
   - Millennium Radio station
   - Crown TV

3. **Host a people’s Assembly to connect grassroots key issues and present them to the Government of Zambia.**
   On September 21\textsuperscript{ST} 2021, GCAP Zambia hosted its people’s assembly virtually under the theme “A health, Green, just recovery and public debt in Zambia”. The assembly attracted about 70 people from all over the country who participated virtually. During the assembly the following presentations were made;
   - Climate and environmental justice- Zambia youth environment network
   - Peoples vaccine- GCAP Zambia secretariat
Women’s rights organization were invited to participate but were unfortunately unable to attend at this time. We had invited the Zambia Women’s lobby network and the Zambia Women Bloggers network for the people’s assembly to make presentations on “Women’s participation in politics and Governance” (Reflecting on the just ended general elections in Zambia).

Furthermore we have decided to engage the Women’s rights organizations to participate during the workshop we are hosting in collaboration with Africa faith and Justice network focussing on human trafficking and Women. The workshop will take place in Lusaka from the 13th to the 16th November, 2021. In attendance will be Catholic nuns from all over the Country and representatives of the Women’s rights organizations, Zambia Women’s lobby network, Zambia Women's Bloggers network and Caritas Zambia.

On the 16th November, the women will engage in practical advocacy with parliamentarians and the media at the parliament of Zambia. The purpose of this engagement will be to make their demands known to the law makers and share the outcomes of their workshop.

4. Media work

Media was fully engaged during the Global week of action both online and the traditional main line media (TV/Radio and print media). The following activities below were undertaken via various media platforms. All our works were shared on twitter, face book and other forms of mainstream media platforms. We shared press briefings, news clip interviews and participated in talk shows to highlight the importance of the global week of action and the UN general conference to the general public and policy makers.

- Capture and share frontline activists stories via videos on sustainable development in Zambia
- Share the outcomes of the people’s assembly with the media
- Publish the just recovery letter in the media
- Shared the Demand Charter with the media
5. **Share the outcomes of the people’s declaration with the government of Zambia.**

After the hosting of the people’s assembly the peoples declaration was developed which focussed its key demands on two key areas;

- The peoples vaccine in Zambia
- The public debt challenges Zambia is facing amounting to about USD 14.48 billion of external debt.

The declaration was shared with the Government of Zambia via the Ministry of Finance and National planning.

6. **Social media postings(Twitter, facebook, Instagram etc)**

The social media platforms were extensively shared for the coalition members to engage on and share their messages for the GWA and the UNGA. Although we shared extensively we realized that the majority of our members and the general public don’t use or take advantage of social media to engage on important issues. There is need to orient the general public on the power of social media in Zambia.

7. **Virtual Debt exhibition**

A short survey was conducted to establish how the debt funds were used in Zambia. The findings discovered that most of it if not all of it went into infrastructure development such as building hospitals, schools, houses mostly for police officers and military personnel, bridges, stadia, roads, airports etc. for illustration purposes we managed to get photos of the above infrastructure projects and we are using them to show the public were most of the debt money went. The exhibition was done virtually.

8. **Activity Report**

Our last activity was putting together our progress activity report. This detailed all our activities with their outcomes. This report was prepared by GCAP Zambia.

9. **Conclusion**

In conclusion we would like to emphasize the challenge of civil society and the general public in Zambia to embrace fully the new normal of getting used to using new technology as a way of working and reaching out. Despite inviting people including civil society
to participate on the virtual platforms we continue receiving very low turnout when it comes to attending virtual meetings. On the other hand we are happy that through various platforms we were able to reach out still to the general public through media both print and electronic.

10. CONTACT DETAILS

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GWA IN PICTURES

Young people raising awareness on climate change and environment justice during the Global week of action in Zambia. They took to cleaning the surrounding areas to reduce environmental degradation.
Following the deliberations during the people's assembly
These infrastructure projects are the ones that contributed to Zambia’s huge debt. We used these pictures of these projects to make people understand why today the country has this huge external debt.