Public Mobilisation workshop

Building the Global Day of Action; from 1 million to 1 billion people!

Workshop at the Asia Pacific People’s Forum for Sustainable Development (APPFSD), Bangkok

Date: March 26, 2019, Time: 11.15 – 13.15, Venue: IBIS Styles, Khao San, Bankok
Overview:
The Global Day of Action on Sustainable Development #Act4SDGs started in 2017 as a partnership between the UN’s SDG Action Campaign, Action for Sustainable Development and GCAP as a way to connect diverse activities into a movement for transformative change. In 2018, it had grown to include more than 1 million people in over 160 countries including India, Nepal, the Philippines, Pakistan, Cambodia, Japan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Mongolia etc from the Asia and Pacific region. It has space for giving greater visibility to those who are traditionally excluded and has highlighted the importance of overcoming inequalities to Leave No One Behind.

Welcome & Introduction by moderator: Beckie Malay, GCAP Asia

Global day of action has been an important moment of mobilization across the world to generate awareness among the people on the sustainable development goals and mount pressure on the governments to deliver.

Summary of Global Day of Action 2017-2018: Pradeep Baisakh, APSD

25 September 2017 Mobilisation around the world under the banner #Act4SDGs:

- More than 1,000 actions in 116 countries
- 670 organisations
- Online reach over 84m people

25 September 2018:

- Toolkit with proposals for Action
- Registration on the Website
- 1325 cities and several rural areas in 165 countries
- 1 million people direct participation and even broader reach on social media

Type of Actions:

- Rallies, Photo Stunts, Selfies, Sports and painting competitions, hand paintings, face paintings, Candle light march, cycle march
- Memorandum to the PMs and political leaders, interface with Planning Commissions/committees
- Public Meetings, workshops and consultations in Universities and town halls
- Social media: facebook, twitter, thunderclap with #Act4SDGs and #facesofinequality
- Marginalized communities: youth, women, children, persons with disability, Indigenous communities, Dalits etc and others participated
- My World Survey
National presentations on Global Day of Action 2018 in Asia:

- Zia-Ur Rehman, PDA (Pakistan Development Alliance), Pakistan:
  
  • PDA is 104 member organisation
  • In 2018 we had rallies in 20 various cities; radio programme to sensitize citizens to report on SDGs
  • Citizen mechanism to engage with the VNR process this year
  • We are doing the spotlight report on SDGs
  • Engagement with Parliamentarians
  • Videos on mobilisation

- Beena Pallical, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), India:

  Strong engagement including 10000 people through various means, included a number of specific projects such as Photo competition and videos from different parts of the country

  • Innovative Photography Contest on SDGs
  • Essay Contest on ‘Your Idea of Inclusive India’
  • 4 Line Tales on Sustainable Development Goals
  • Video on SDGs: Kidizens of India who is 39% of India's population demand that we are included in the manifestoes of all political parties.

  Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UryGVvbG_w&t=45s

  • Video on 10 with the special focus on Sewer Death in India highlighting 'Leave No One Behind'.

  Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2_egrKt5jI

  • Awareness session on Sustainable Development Goals among the youths of the marginalized community in Delhi, India
  • Photo-op in the states of India in front of monuments
  • Creative Photo ops showcasing the plight of 'Leave No One Behind' and 'A Life of Dignity for All' in Indian Context.
  • Photo-ops with different marginalized groups with SDG placards
  • CSO consultation on Agenda 2030 10.
  • SDG Tamil Nadu Chapter releasing the report on TNSDG implementation and consultation on SDGs.

- Arjun Bhattarai & Daya Sagar, Nepal NGO Federation, Nepal:
• Nepal SDG forum (50 members) – regularly conducting meetings
• Local and provincial national level actions and meetings on the global day of action
• National level meeting/mobilisation
• Joint programme with planning committee and UN agencies
• Media mobilisation at national and provincial levels on SDGs
• Campaign against inequality launched
• Painting competition etc done
  
  o **Beckie Malay, PRRM, Philippines:**

GCAP Philippines is a broad alliance 19 networks and organisations.

• Several forums underway on SDGs
• Agenda for youth linked to the education sector
• Coastal clean up
• Actions for urban poor – housing rights
• National economic development authority is responsible for preparing VNR report in Philippines. We held a meeting with them. But as Social Watch many members are doing consultations on various goals and we will do an alternative CSO report on SDGs this time

  o **Abdul Awal, GCAP Bangladesh:**

• Process of rebuilding national coalition. Now we are 14 members
• Women’s groups and climate actions groups particularly active
• 4 successful regional mobilisations – climate, farmers groups etc we involved
• National level- policy advocacy groups
  
  Localization of SDGs – facilitating citizens groups to seek accountability and engage with the local governments
• Plan to do broader mobilisation at grassroots

**Introduction to initial plans for 2019, based on CSO consultation: Oli Henman, Action4SD**

• Broad discussions ongoing, kicked off at UNGA and Climate Week in New York, Sep 2018
• Dec 2018- Johannesburg & COP24, Poland
• Online engagement & 3 webinars
• Considering the learning of previous mobilisations, including Action/2015
• Sep 2018- the Global Day of Action (led by A4SD & UN SDG Action Campaign), as well as Rise (led by 350.org and others)

**Key themes:**
• Restrictions to Civic Space (Voice)
• Inequalities & Leave No One Behind
• Climate Action & Environmental justice

Reflections and suggestions: Paul Divakar, ADRF and Convener Social Justice Task Force, GCAP

• Invisibilising the Dalits, DWD – it’s time for change
• 260 million globally
• Working together on advocacy and reaching out to Parliamentarians
• Engagement at the HLPF
• Intra-solidarity needed among different constituency groups

Workshop (2 groups) on shared plans for 2019, three questions:

○ Do the themes resonate of: a) Inequalities; b) Civic space; c) Climate change
○ What public actions would work in each country in Sep 2019?
○ Key milestones to be considered

The public mobilisation workshop at the Asia Pacific People’s Forum enabled a practical and highly engaging dialogue with key partners from across the region on joint planning for mobilisation in September 2019.

Workshop feedback:

GROUP 1:

• Peace should be added another theme
• Interest in working over a week in September in stead of just a day
• Support for common campaign material cross cutting goals – inequality, peace, climate change, civic space
• National partners can produce their own material
• Link with social development report
• Aim to share short videos
• Importance of media mobilisation
• Make use of existing material, eg. IEC material on localization of SDGs
• Event with Parliamentarians
• E mail groups & Petition campaign, eg. a petition day – all the 5 themes
• Post card campaign
• Importance of Global-local (Glocal) action – global and local day of action
• Suggestion: Stop one hour of working
• **Year long calendar** – just not on September but yearlong actions and mobilisations or in other words, everyday SDGs. Say April for education – campaign by ASPBAE. So express solidarity and own it; June – elimination of caste based discrimination; link no pesticide campaign – Laos so on and so forth
• Clustering actions on each theme with 1 min videos
• Giving ’Voice of the voiceless’ in videos – young volunteers can reach out
• Mobilise the poets, artists – for youth and children
• ’Walk for Peace’
• UN – live link up through skype

**GROUP 2:**

- Positive response on key themes- recognise the need to keep these flexible so that they can be adapted in each country
- Importance to ensure the strong push for social justice is at the heart of the themes
- Strong endorsement of the need to push back against restrictions to civic space
- Opportunity to widen the Day of Action to a Week of Action from 20-25 Sep
- Suggestion to widen the theme to include Peace as an additional focus
- Demand to ensure wider tools for engagement in different countries, including sub-national, e.g. rural groups
- Importance to provide information in multiple languages to ensure inclusivity
- Interest to identify funding for national level engagement
- Importance to support existing coalitions and broaden these out to include key constituencies such as women, farmers, rural groups etc.
- Opportunity to dovetail with existing initiatives such as schools strike for climate, education projects and My World