

GLOBAL HEALTH



Health keeps score! is the information campaign we launched with three other Italian NGOs within the MoFA's project "Global Health: fight against pandemics in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America". The campaign aims at sensitising youth on the health MDGs issues through radio programmes, articles, newsletters, briefings and a website (www.lasalutefagoal.it). The whole campaign is built around the soccer metaphor and is denouncing the governments and institutions' *faults* in missing their international commitments for the achievement of the MDGs. The campaign is also counting on the *assists* offered by the stories of those who nevertheless are still engaged in this battle, filling the *ranking tables* with positive results. Three are the *goals* that our team wants to scores:

1. stop and progressively reduce HIV/AIDS diffusion;
2. stop and progressively reduce malaria diffusion,
3. stop and progressively reduce tuberculosis and contagious diseases.

For further information, please contact Chiara Palombella, Press Officer (chiara.palombella@actionaid.org).

CIVIL G8

As part of the national thematic network within the Italian GCAP coalition, advocacy work on the issue of Universal Access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment and support by 2010 has continued, through meetings with the expert on G8 health issues appointed to represent Italy at the H8 meeting in April in Tokyo and through email contacts with the technical sherpa office staff, providing information on HIV and health. Continued advocacy links with the international World AIDS Campaign facilitated network (grouping CSOs in G8 countries as well as in the South on the G8 issue) brought to the appointment of *Paola Giuliani* – Head of our Campaigns & Activism Unit - as **Representative of the Global North on HIV** at the official Civil G8 Dialogue held in Kyoto on April 23-24. *Luca De Fraia* – Head of Policy – was invited by the Japanese GCAP platform (Hottokenai) to give a speech on **Financing for Development and the G8** within the second plenary session. During the face to face discussion with the Sherpas, the Italian GCAP chapter underlined the need of an inclusive and participatory consultation process with the global civil society in preparation for the 2009 summit to be held in Italy. General impressions is that no concrete answers or steps ahead came from the Sherpas and in spite of long and fruitful coordination processes amongst organisations, the voice of the civil society still appeared too fragmented and thus weakened. For further info, please contact Paola Giuliani (paola.giuliani@actionaid.org).

WHITHER EC AID?

On the 15th of April, ActionAid and the European Research Centre ECDPM organised a workshop on the "Strengthening the effectiveness of the communitarian aid". The workshop is part of the "Whither EC aid?" consultation process taking place in the EU member and partner states on the role and effectiveness of the EC aid, considered that in the next five years the global aid architecture will definitely change, with Europe giving ¾ of the whole aid as per 2005 pledges. However it is still not clear whether these resources will be allocated bilaterally or through the European Commission, whose role was the main issue of the debate. During the workshop – attended by development practitioners and representatives of the Italian MoFA, UN campaigns and EC – concerns were raised on the coherence of the EU policies and practices, as well as on the communication of development aid strategies and impact. As a first step of the research project, together with ECDPM we developed a discussion paper, including the present literature positions and some thirty interviews made with experts on EU aid. For further info, please visit <http://wecaecaid.eu/>.

ITALY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY



On the 28th of May, we launched in Rome the third edition of our report "Italy and the fight against poverty" on the Italian cooperation to development. Contrarily to the previous editions, this year a significant improvement has to be recorded, at least for quantity of funds disbursed (+40%, mainly due to the payment of multilateral debts). However, we're still far behind the European standards, with only 0.20% of ODA/GNP. It is in fact estimated that since 2003 the delays of our country have been depriving the international community of 5.2 billion USD. Nevertheless the increase in funds availability was not accompanied by the restructuring of the cooperation agency, which is still inadequate to effectively manage the Italian aid. Another problem is that of aid fragmentation, which is what makes Italy an irrelevant donor among the OCSE countries. Italy is also the European country with the highest percentage of tied aid and the worse trend in volatility of aid after Portugal. We therefore recommend that the reinvigoration of our aid system that has recently taken place won't stop with the new legislature, especially in sight of the 2009 G8 presidency, by when we have to regain our credibility in the international arena. What we ask for is consistence in our external policies, coordination of cooperation initiatives under a dedicated government official, the creation of a joint fund for the Italian ODA, clear targets for 2015 (0.7%ODA/GNP) and direct access to the Italian funds for Southern CSOs. For further info, please contact our Policy researcher Iacopo Viciani (iacopo.viciani@actionaid.org).

TRANSPARENCY BOARDS

In compliance with the Open Information Policy requirements, the Italy offices were equipped with a series of transparency boards showing information on the organisation and our activities. The permanent boards illustrate our mission, vision, values, themes and goals, as well as our legal status. The mobile ones (to be updated in time, according to the occurring changes) show our membership, auditors, bankers, departmental structure and staff numbers, donors, 2007 income and expenditure. The boards are accompanied by a map illustrating our presence in the world and another one showing our territorial network of activists in Italy. For further info, please contact me.

NEW MAGAZINE

After a broad process of review and consultations (including a focus group with supporters, activists and external people), our quarterly supporter magazine underwent a restyling both in format and structure, in line with our rebranding. The new **ActionAid Magazine** substitutes the old *Legàmi* trying to meet the needs and wishes expressed by our supporters along time. The aim is that of providing our donors with a broader overview of our work, but always keeping strong linkages with the field and the projects they support. For further info, please contact our Publication Officer, Alice Grecchi (alice.grecchi@actionaid.org).

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

On the 16th of May the Italy Board met to approve the 2007 statutory accounts, to be submitted to our General Assembly for final approval on the 7th of June. It was also agreed to proceed with the enlargement of our membership, starting interviewing seven of the people indicated by the our Board Committee for Governance Development, 5 of whom are women. It was also agreed to circulate to members and trustees the final version of the international governance development proposal. For further info, please contact Annalisa Napoleoni, Governance Officer (annalisa.napoleoni@actionaid.org).

CHILD SPONSORSHIP WEEK

This year in Italy, the last week of May was dedicated to the promotion of child sponsorship across the country. The initiative was launched by the Coordination of Local Agencies for Child Sponsorship (ELSAD) and involved associations and NGOs that raise funds in this way. The Milan province in particular organised the Child Sponsorship Days on the 31st of May and the 1st of June in one of the main parks of Milan, with stands, concerts and kids entertainment. ActionAid was present with our Local Group of activists promoting the organisation's initiatives. For further info, please contact Chiara Sempio, Activism Officer (chiara.sempio@actionaid.org).

Welcome to...

Wilma Tosi – IT Officer

Gianfranco Daneluzzo – Face to Face Fundraising Officer

Laura Masala – Face to Face Fundraising Officer

Goodbye to...

Luisa Livrieri – Customer Care Assistant

Irene Cozzi – Face to Face Fundraising Officer

Alessandra Katzemberger – Admin Officer

NEWS FROM ITALY

BOCELLI FOR ACTIONAID

Following the Radiohead example, Andrea Bocelli made the "Dare to live" video downloadable on the web at the price decided by his fans. The whole income will be donated to ActionAid.

ITALIANS and FOOD

According to a research of the Italian Farmers Confederation, the Italians waste 1/3 of their food, equal to 25 million tons a year, that is half the African food imports, whereas 7 million of Italians live under the poverty level.

NON PROFIT WAGES

Some of the major non profit managers (Marco included) opened their individual incomes to the weekly non profit magazine Vita: despite the size of the structures they manage, their income is in most cases just above the average.

MYANMAR

According to the figures of one of the major Italian trade unions (CISL), Italy boasts excellent trading relations with the military junta, with 300 Italian companies involved in a 120 million € turnover and some protesting against the EU embargo.

NEW LEGISLATURE

The decision of the new government not to appoint a dedicated vice ministry to development cooperation raise concerns on the Italian will to respect the MDGs commitments.

GROWING CSR

According to the third edition of the Report on Corporate Social Commitment by SWG and Errepi Comunicazione, the Italian corporations are donating about 1 billion € a year to the social, cultural and environmental sectors.