

Italia Wave Love Festival



From the 17th to the 22nd of July, ActionAid Italy participated to the *Italia Wave Love Festival*, the main Italian independent music summer festival, promoting our **NO poverty NO aids campaign**. Six days of concerts, meetings, workshops, DJ sets, theatre and movies attracted more than 150.000 people, with 300 artists performing on 15 stages. 24 hours no stop, the Psycho Stage empowered by ActionAid and geared up with banners, video clips and VJ sets, presented famous Italian artists and

international bands like !!! (USA), Shitdisco (US), Tunng (UK) and Mando Diao (Sweden). The Psycho Stage also hosted the performances of the emerging rock bands who won the selections of the Arezzo Wave Festival during which we've been promoting our petition asking for a certain Italian contribution to the GFATM. The colleagues at our stand, which was also hosting some pictures from the **Positive Lives** exhibition, asked the visitors to write their own prescription for the lapse of memory and pathological avarice of the

Italian government on our petition cards, reminding it of its commitments in the fight against HIV/AIDS. All the main artists who performed on the Psycho Stage had a bigger size prescription form signed and hung inside our stand. We had a very positive response both from the public and the artists of the festival, as well as a good media coverage. **Bob Geldof** (the headliner of Sunday 22nd) in particular, spent his press conference talking of the importance for Western governments to truly support the fight against poverty in the world. "Live Aid and Live 8 left an indelible memory, it was the right time. But now everything's changed. Poverty can only be tackled through political fight and economic planning, not through charity. It's time to actively do politics and not to let up on Prodis and Bushes". ActionAid staff was accompanied by a cameraman and a photographer who followed them during the festival, documenting our presence and actions to promote the campaign. During the weekend, the Campaign and Activism Unit was also joined by some of ActionAid Italy staff who expressed their will to give their support at our stand, as well as by some activists from our Florence Local Group. Thanks to this partnership with the Arezzo Wave Foundation we therefore made one of our first steps towards the implementation of the Global Youth Project. For further info, please contact Paolo Chiovino, Activism Officer (paolo.chiovino@actionaid.org) or Nina Belluomo, Campaigns Officer (nina.belluomo@actionaid.org).



From the field...



ActionAid Italy is producing a photobook with the photojournalism agency **Contrasto** (one of the Magnum's partners) on our HIV/AIDS and education projects in **Cambodia**. **Arianna Banfi**, one of our Communications Officer, accompanied the two photographers of the agency and the journalist who will write the accompanying text to the book in three of our DAs collect photos and stories from our projects on the field. The visit started on the 20th of June to the floating villages in the area of **Pursat**, where our aptner RFCD runs projects on education (providing school materials and sensitising parents against child

labour) and health (transporting sick people to the city hospitals and negotiating for free drugs). On the 25th they moved to the **Siemreap** area

where we work with HRND, a monks organisation dealing with education, health and also women's rights issues and domestic violence in particular. The rest of their journey focused on the **Battambang** and **Phnom Penh** areas, where ActionAid Italy started a project on HIV/AIDS prevention and sensitisation sponsored by **Società Autostrade** (the Italian Autoroute society). The diffusion of the disease in the area is manly related to prostitution and marital unfaithfulness. If sex workers here are quite conscious of the importance of prevention, couples aren't, so we work with the local partner DCWO to inform them on the ways in which HIV can be transmitted and to promote the use of condoms in their conjugal sexual relations, too. For people living with HIV/AIDS, access to treatment is very expensive, also due to the distance between floating villages and health centres: a round trip can cost around 30\$, while people here earns no more than 40\$ a month. Therefore, DCWO's efforts also focus on getting free transport and treatment for them. The book will be launched on the 20th of November on the occasion of the International Children's Rights Day and will be used by ActionAid Italy as a support to our communications and fundraising activities of the next three years. For further info, please contact Arianna (arianna.banfi@actionaid.org).



Visits

From the 2nd to the 5th of July, **Samantha Hargreaves** - International Shared Learning Coordinator - visited our offices in Milan. During her stay, Samantha met representatives from all our departments, basically to explore North - South connections in our work. One of the main issues raised was the need for continuous and regular exchanges to strengthen our legitimacy and secure real and effective linkages across the organisation. In this respect, a good opportunity to take would be that offered by the HungerFREE campaign, opening up spaces for synergies all over ActionAid. Another area of reflection together with Samantha was that on the modalities we use to create and promote an open environment for learning, critical reflection and sharing, starting from internal communication tools to informal exchanges among colleagues.

From the 30th of July to the 10th of August, the Milan Office is hosting **Richard Chimwendo** from the Partnership Development and Funding Unit of ActionAid Malawi. Richard is working with our Supporters Services Unit to get a deeper understanding of our supporters and their expectations, in order to improve the communications we send them and recruit new ones. Richard also met Italy staff to present ActionAid work in Malawi, focusing in particular on how our approach changed in time and how we managed to get communities understand it. An area of particular interest for us was that of Salima, which ActionAid Italy has been supporting for ten years now.

Global Monitoring Framework roll out

On the 26th of July the IASL function proposed to present the GMF to the staff through an interactive role play and workshop in the park nearby the Milan offices. Four of our colleagues impersonated four people suffering from hunger or living with HIV/AIDS in the South telling their story to four mixed working groups. Each group was asked to identify all the actors having an influence on those people, to reflect on their person's different forms of power and to think of possible actions leading to change in their condition and power to act. The use of a participative methodology proved really effective in making the staff understand the logic beneath the GMF, that is that every action we do must keep people at the centre and lead to changes that bring shifts in power. For those interested, a ppt with the pictures describing this creative afternoon is available writing to me (micol.doppio@actionaid.org).

Valore Sociale

On the 9th of July, ActionAid - together with other seven Italian organisations - officially presented the **Valore Sociale (Social Value) standard**, aimed at a participated definition of responsible corporation under a human rights perspective. Starting from next September, the Italian companies and organisations will be able to refer to an innovative tool to effectively and ethically manage the social impact of their activities on their structure and on the communities they work with. This standard aims at proving that the recommendations made by the UN Under Commission for Human Rights in 2003 can actually be translated into practice. The Valore Sociale standard is quite innovative for at least two reasons. On one hand, it isn't limited to social and operative aspects of the corporate activities, but also to their environmental sustainability, in its broader meaning. On the other hand, it was jointly designed with the contributions of universities, institutions, trade unions and corporate associations and supported by some of the most important Italian civil society organisations. All those who will follow the indicated requirements will be offered the possibility to obtain the Valore Sociale brand licence, which will allow Italian customers to purchase certificated products and services. For further info, please contact Roberta Capella, President of the Valore Sociale Association (roberta.capella@actionaid.org).

NEWS FROM ITALY

AFGHANISTAN

Building on the Afghan National Development, the Italian and the Afghan governments with the co-presidency of the UN organised an international conference in Rome on the "**Rule of Law in Afghanistan**". The conference aimed at designing a detailed strategy for the future, supported by the Afghan government and the international partners, also through new forms of funding for the justice sector, which is core to grant security and promote development.

DEBT

The Viceminister for Cooperation, Patrizia Sentinelli, signed a bilateral agreement with **Haiti** for a partial cancellation (12 million euros) of its debt. This is the 44th bilateral agreement signed by our country under the HIPC initiative with 26 developing countries (for a total amount of 3,15 billion euros since 2001). During his visit to the **Democratic Republic of Congo** the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Massimo D'Alema, confirmed to President Kabila the Italian will to cancel the whole debt of the country (1,3 billion dollars) by 2008.

WHITE BOOK ON ITALIAN COOPERATION

The Italian campaign **Sbilanciamoci** (launched in 1999 and gathering 46 CSOs promoting a new development model based on human rights) presented the II edition of the White Book on Italian Cooperation. The White Book denounces the proliferation of institutional actors dealing with cooperation and practices reducing its effectiveness, and the difficulty to analyse Italian ODA due to scarcity of data.