



IYPF

International Young Professionals Foundation

Informing, inspiring, and equipping young professionals to make a positive difference in the world.



International Young Professionals Foundation STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY 2007

IYPF Helps Set World Record for Standing Up Against Poverty

On the 17 October, over 43.7 million people in 127 countries stood up against poverty. Among them were 100s of International Young Professionals Foundation (IYPF) members. The IYPF is a global community of young professionals creating a better world for current and future generations, through local and global action. The IYPF is working to achieve this by informing, inspiring and equipping young professionals to change their world for good.

Working in conjunction with the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), the IYPF held several Stand Up events around the world. Participating countries included; Peru, Ukraine, Australia, Congo, England, Nigeria, the USA, Pakistan, and Spain. Our joint campaigns represented a coordinated and urgent call for a sustained political response to the plague of global poverty.

At IYPF we pledge to stand up in support of the eradication of extreme poverty, and to hold our world leaders accountable for their promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015.

Millennium Development Goals MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

The MDG is a set of 8 agreed goals that respond to the world's main development challenges. The UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000, saw 189 nations discuss these challenges. A Millennium Declaration was agreed and signed by 147 heads of state. The agreed goals include:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other preventable diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

(Source: UN Development Program, Millennium Development Goals, accessed 04/02/2008. <http://www.undp.org/mdg/basics/html>)

See the Stand Up 2007 YouTube promo video
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myF7f_8c7ho



Our Events

CONGREGATE, EDUCATE, MOTIVATE and ADVOCATE

Several regional and local events joined IYPF members and other young professionals to discuss the role of young professionals in achieving the MDGs. Workshops, conferences, charity drives and international teleconference were held to inform young professionals about issues relating to their local and global communities. Our hope was to raise awareness, facilitate networks and to encourage a proactive movement towards global change.

Through local events & member projects, the IYPF local events team provides a space for developing important relationships, sharing and generating ideas, encouraging proactivity and providing young professionals with knowledge and tools to combat poverty.

Australia (Canberra)

Event Coordinator: Cameron Neil

Facebook Event: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=6569291498>



Pre dinner drinks were followed by a dinner with two guest speakers from Africa. Speeches were followed with a discussion of how young professionals generally, and Australian young professionals specifically, can best contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Australia (Melbourne)

Event Coordinators: Britt Jacobsen and Anna McNaughton

Melbourne IYPF members ran a week long collection drive taking donations of blankets, clothing and toiletries to aid Melbourne's homeless. A packing evening was held to pack boxes of donations which were distributed to local charity 'The Brotherhood of St Lawrence' who provide homeless accommodation services.



Interestingly, support for the collection drive has continued, with friends, family and co-workers continuing their support after the Stand Up event.

Bangladesh

Event Coordinators: Nafiz Zaman Shuva & Musleh Uddin Sadi



IYPF members joined Bangladesh Association of Young Researcher (BAYR) and Young People We Care (YPWC) in a door to door stand up event. Possibly the first of its kind, the group went door to door, house to house, shop to shop and invited people to Stand Up against poverty and Stand Up in support of the MDGs.

Bangladesh's current state of emergency prohibits all public meetings. To overcome these restrictions the young professionals had to be imaginative. The team visited about 50 houses, 25 shops, and involved 315 people including house wives, shop owners, mobile phone businessman, university students, school and college students, a rickshaw puller, a taxi driver, a barber and more. In this way the enthusiastic volunteers generated a lot of support among the community.

Cote D'Ivoire

Event Coordinator: Yocolly Desmosthenes

IYPF members and other young professionals from across the country held a minute's silence in which participants reflected on issues effecting poverty and the possible solutions.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Event Coordinator: Tonton Elton Elukessu



Members of IYPF DRC greeted and supported 483 Congolese refugees returning from 10 years in exile from Tanzania. The refugees who fled their homes during the war in 1996 and 1998 arrived at the port of Kalemie, in the province of Katanga, where they were temporarily housed before being returned to their communities. It was a joyous experience for all involved.

In support of this ongoing project, young professionals are walking to work in recognition of the UNHCR project which is working towards the return of nearly 20,000 Congolese refugees in Tanzania and Zambia.



Online (Facebook)

Event Coordinator: Cameron Neil

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=4830586444>

The IYPF ran an online Stand Up event on Facebook. IYPF members and friends were invited to log on to Facebook at some point in the 24 hours of the Stand Up events and post a statement on the events wall about their commitment to standing up against poverty and supporting the achievement of the MDGs.

In the lead up to the event, people posted items about the MDGs and poverty, including photos. Photos and even a video from Stand Up events held around the world were posted over the 24 hours as well.

Comments posted on the day came from all over the globe and included:

(From Nigeria) Poverty is a reality here and looking at the way things are, I fear we might not make the target of 2015. To me, the event is not just about breaking the world record, but a commitment towards change that'll bring about a secured future for all.

(From Kenya) Like Nelson Mandela said:as long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest. We have the power and an obligation. Make Poverty History!

(From Trinidad & Tobago) As I reflect on the immense scope of poverty across the world, I am brought back to what's happening in my own country where about 20% of my people live in poverty - many of them women and children. Right now, the country is in general election mode yet no politician has even made mention of the word 'poverty' on the hustings.

(From Singapore) "Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as I live it is my privilege - my *privilege* to do for it whatever I can." George Bernard Shaw

Nigeria

Event Coordinator: Ester Eshiet

Facebook Event: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=6848702740>



Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), Creating Local Connections-West Africa (CLCWA), and the Youth Empowerment and Child Labour Elimination Project (YCEP) to take action against poverty through the first ever "Calabar city walk against poverty".

Participants from various NGOs, secondary schools and government parastatals walked through major streets distributing promotional materials to the public. Speakers presented at strategic sections of the walk, with the event culminating at the millennium park, where the national anthem was sung and a minutes silence was held for people who have died of hunger.



Next participants read action and solidarity messages which were received from various organizations the most prominent being the Cross River state tourism bureau and the CLCWA office.

The activity came to an end after participants were treated to light refreshments and group photographs.

Pakistan

Events Coordinator: Ms. Abida Kakar & Mr. Azam Bashir

The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for young generation to understand the cause of poverty and to empower them to reduce it as the leaders of tomorrow.

The group aimed to create awareness in youth to stand up against poverty and support the poor so they can live their life liberally and to make their leaders take strapping actions against Poverty.



Starting with the recitation from Holy Quran a group of 40 participants were divided into two groups to discuss what they believed to be the root cause of poverty. The 1st group presented their views on the causes and solutions of poverty. The 2nd group debated these views and presented their own opinions on the same topics.

It was a productive discussion with varying views based on personal experience. At the end of the day's activities, selected solutions were provided to Government in the hope of influencing policy changes.

The group concluded the event with participants discussing their expectations for the future and promising to work for the betterment of the poor.



Peru

Event Coordinator: Ursula Carrascal

Facebook Event: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=5257283846>

The event was held in a restaurant run by young social entrepreneur. Photos of the recent earthquake disaster in Peru were shown, as well as photos of members of the VIDA organisation working to put up solar powered cookers in the local area. Guests also watched a video and received a flyer on "Young social entrepreneurs and the MDGs" written by members of IYPF.



Ukraine

Event Coordinator: Eddy Orinda

An informative forum on the Millennium Development Goals, for the law students of the Odessa National Academy of Law was held at the Faculty of International Legal Relations and Legal Journalism. Approximately 100 students, specialists and lecturers of law attended. There was also a weblink to the IYPF England Stand Up event.

United Kingdom

Event Coordinator: Sarah-Jo Dawson

Facebook Event:

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=5375859972>

The IYPF UK Stand Up event started with a virtual meeting with IYPF Ukraine where they shared their thoughts on the IYPF global gathering. The formal Stand Up event was held in a restaurant in London. The dinner included speakers and a discussion on global issues effecting poverty ; issues such as barriers to technology transfer from richer to poorer nations, and the generation of ideas on how young professionals can help to achieve the MDG.

Attendees also brought and displayed photographs of young professionals helping to fight poverty in the UK. The event also included a fundraising raffle to raise money for the Royal Youth Organisation, an IYPF associated group working to prevent the spread of HIV / AIDS in Zimbabwe.





USA & Spain

Event Coordinator: Pilar Dafonte

A teleconference was held between IYPF members in the USA and Spain. The participants, a diverse group of students, teachers, lawyers, humanitarian workers and economists began with a discussion of the MDGs and the global strategy to fight poverty. The group established that young people have to be more involved in this initiative because “we are the future...” It was a lively discussion with concerns raised about the tight timeline, and the lack of consultation with the younger generations in the creation of the MDGs.

The group agreed that education and new technologies are the tools required to eradicate poverty. And that the sharing of experience is essential to gain a global perspective of young professionals and their contributions to improve our world. All participants agreed to inform co-workers, friends and family about the MDGs. The success of the teleconference prompted some to propose another teleconference with more countries involved.

Zambia

Event Coordinator: Justin Somi

A young professional delivered a presentation “Stand up & speak out against poverty” at the National Youth Symposium in the central province, with all nine provinces represented.

Stand Up Against Poverty

Our action is critical in reminding world leaders to keep their promise to end extreme poverty by 2015. We are six billion voices. We want justice now. No more excuses. We will not stand for them.

The IYPF will further explore the contribution young professionals can make and are making to achieve the MDGs by 2015 at the 3rd International Young Professionals Summit (IYPS) in August 2008 in Manchester, UK. For more, see <http://www.iyps.org>.

For further information:

IYPF Website: <http://www.iypf.org>

IYPF Event Website: <http://www.iyps.org>

IYPF on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2313389229>

MDGs & Stand Up

Stand Up Campaign: <http://www.standagainstpoverity.org/>

The Millennium Campaign: <http://www.endpoverty2015.org/>

Youth and the MDGs: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/mdgs.htm>

Youth and the MDGs report (co-written by IYPF) (also available in French and Spanish):

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/youthmdgs.pdf>