

Campaign update: Food

Stop betting on hunger campaign hits the news

The public launch of the food campaign in July brought WDM one of our biggest recent media responses, with strong articles in many papers including the Guardian and the Daily Mail, and WDM campaigners interviewed on Newsnight, Radio 4's Today Programme, and Al-Jazeera's Counting The Cost.

Included with this month's *Think Global* is a selection of the best media coverage for campaigners to use on stalls, at meetings with MPs, or anywhere else it's useful to show that the media are taking the issue of food speculation seriously. This pack was requested by the London WDM groups; if you have an idea for something that would help you campaign more effectively, please let the office know.

WDM supporters get through to the FSA

Over 1000 people pledged to call the Financial Services Authority, asking them to take action against Goldman Sachs' gambling on hunger – a fantastic response.

You can read the experiences of some of the WDM campaigners that made the call at <http://www.wdm.org.uk/action/shop-goldman-sachs-regulator>

Thanks to your calls, we were invited to meet with two of the FSA's commodities and derivatives policy experts. While, as you might imagine, the FSA doesn't go far or fast enough, they did agree that excessive speculation is a problem. They also confirmed that their expert advice has a crucial role in shaping UK government policy, so your calls for action will be heard at the heart of that process.

Kenya trip

At the end of July, WDM staff James O'Nions and Caroline Griffin visited Kenya for two weeks. They were primarily there to investigate the impact of the 2008 food crisis on Kenya's poor majority, in order to help better communicate our Stop Betting on Hunger campaign. They met residents of some of Nairobi huge slum districts, as well as street traders, small-scale farmers, academics and campaigners. They were assisted in planning the trip by a colleague from the Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN), Kiama Kaara.

The trip was very successful in adding to our knowledge of the myriad impacts of high food prices, and you will be seeing the results in WDM communications soon. James and Caroline were also able to speak to Kenyan campaigners about other issues, including climate debt and the continuing impact of IMF and World Bank imposed structural adjustment, reinforcing our existing dialogue with activists in the global south. You can read their blog posts from Kenya at www.wdm.org.uk/blog/kenya