

THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with the
World Development Movement



September 2011

World 
Development
Movement
Justice for the world's poor

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Letter from the network team

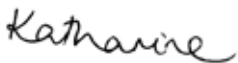
Dear friends,

I'm hoping you have all had a restful summer and feel full of energy as we head into September, as there's a busy few months of campaigning ahead! We have an exciting line-up of events which we hope will inspire and engage you. We'll be kicking off with the WDM groups gathering in Nottingham on Saturday 17 September, a great opportunity for group members to learn from each other, and to get skilled up on the web from Pontus, amongst other workshops.

We will be welcoming two speakers from South Africa during our climate justice speaker tour in October, 'Africa demands climate justice'. We will also be hearing from a brilliant panel of speakers at our food sovereignty public meeting, Hunger for justice, in Manchester on 19 October. Further north, the Take One Action film festival has a fantastic range of films on show in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Check out our events section on pp 8-9 for more information on all these.

We're delighted that we will have a new regional co-ordinator in post from the start of September. Andy Lockhart will be supporting groups in the north of England, he is based in Manchester and looks forward to meeting groups in the north!

All the best



Katharine Talbot Network development officer

News bites

Climate justice

- Talks about the World Bank's climate funds were held in June. At the meeting, the proposals for all five countries discussed were approved, meaning that in total over \$400m of new debt will be created.
- Since the meeting the UK admitted, during a meeting with NGOs, that it was aware of potential flaws with the World Bank's climate funds, whilst remaining one of the countries giving the most financial and political support to these funds.

Food speculation

- The Treasury's position on food speculation has shifted slightly and they are now agreeing that more transparency is needed in the market.
- We are launching a new policy report, 'Broken Markets' in September. This report goes into the technical details of how speculation on food works and confronts head-on some of the main arguments which deny any link between speculation and food price rises.

Cleaning up the banks

- French oil giant Total has requested a year's extension to its exploration license in Madagascar, rather than going ahead with exploitation.
- As a result of WDM's partnership work with Malagasy campaigners, they now have a greatly strengthened network of international support to help ensure that Total abandons its mining project permanently.

Action checklist

Groups

Climate debt

- Distribute and fill in the new action card and order more as you need them.

Food

- Start distributing the new action card and order more as you need them.

At your next meeting

- Decide if you would like a 'No new chains of debt' action pack to hold a paper chains stunt during the week of action (8- 16 October).
- Start planning your MEP lobbying for the food campaign (late November to January)

Activists

Climate debt

- Distribute and fill in the new action card.

Food

- If you had a response from your MP, edit and send WDM's template response letter (downloadable from our website).

Inserts

- MEP lobby pack (groups only)
- Climate report, Climate Loan Sharks (groups only)
- Leaflet: Mapping destruction

Campaign update: Climate justice

World Bank 'climate loans' meeting

This June, WDM launched our **Climate Loan Sharks** report, to coincide with a meeting of one of the World Bank's climate funds, the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR). The fund was set up by rich donor countries such as the UK to provide finance to developing countries to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. However the fund will actually lock these countries into deeper debt by giving out finance as loans, rather than grants, in the name of tackling the impacts of climate change these countries did nothing to cause.

The meeting of the PPCR, which took place in South Africa, was set to decide new climate loans for Cambodia, Mozambique, Nepal, St Lucia and Zambia. At the meeting the proposals for all five countries were approved; meaning that in total over \$400m of new debt will be created. These countries are all already debt burdened, with two having already qualified for partial debt cancellation, highlighting the absurdity of building up this debt once again. In total, for the 11 countries that have had funding approved by the PPCR so far, over \$1 billion of the funds will be in the form of loans.

Ahead of the meeting, civil society groups wrote to UK ministers Chris Huhne and Andrew Mitchell calling on them to stop giving climate loans via the World Bank. The idea of giving loans in this way was developed by the UK and is now being copied by other countries such as Spain. You can see the statement on the climate justice section of the WDM website.

During the meeting, serious concerns were raised about these funds by various country representatives. Germany listed a string of issues, including concerns about community participation in the planning and implementation, proper consideration of gender in practice, learning and local community buy-in: all long running problems through the World Bank's history. Yet, all the projects were given the go ahead regardless.

Even the UK government admitted that it has concerns about the World Bank's climate funds, whilst remaining one of the countries giving the most financial and political support to these funds.

Ahead of the next UN climate talks in Durban, it is critical to express strong and united opposition to the idea of loans being used for climate finance in this way. We will stand in solidarity with people from countries receiving loans in calling for funds to be channelled through the more democratic UN Adaptation Fund. The UK government has yet to give a single penny to this fund, whilst WDM supporters have given to the fund via our 'send a pound' campaign last year.

Debt week: No new chains of debt

To coincide with the global debt week on 8 – 16 October, we are planning a new action to build pressure against the UK's use of climate loans. At the next UN talks in Durban, details of a new 'Green Climate Fund' for long term climate finance are expected to be agreed.

The 'No new chains of debt' action is a cross between a stall, a media stunt and a lobby meeting. The plan is to ask people to write their messages against the UK's support for World Bank climate loans on strips of paper, which will then be used to make paper chains that can be handed in to your local MP. The idea is to pass on the message that we don't want new chains of debt created because of the climate chaos rich countries like the UK are responsible for causing. This will also be a great chance for a short lobby meeting to raise this issue. Even if you are not able to hold a stall, you could simply ask groups members, friends and family to write a message. This action can also happen outside of debt week.

Packs will contain everything you need to run the action, as well as an MP briefing, Q&A on climate loans, and a sheet explaining the action.

It would also be good to do this alongside action cards, so the message can go directly to climate change minister Chris Huhne as well as to your MP.

Please let us know if you want a pack by emailing groups@wdm.org.uk, ideally by the third week of September and we will post a pack to you.

World Bank out of Climate Finance

Week of action: 13-20 November

Another date for your diary is the 'World Bank out of Climate Finance' week of action, just ahead of the next UN climate talks in Durban. This is being run globally, together with our allies around the world. We will send more information about this in the next issue of Think Global as details become available, but please keep a space in your diaries as this will be a really key week of action.

Materials

In this issue of Think Global, you will find copies of our new leaflet about why the World Bank should be kept out of climate finance. On the inside is a map, identifying various destructive projects the World Bank has supported, which can be used as a poster, or as a way to add colour to your stalls. If you would like to order more of the action cards, or you would like extra copies of this leaflet: Mapping destruction: Why the World Bank must stay out of climate finance, please email climatejustice@wdm.org.uk

Campaign update: Cleaning up the banks

In the past six months we have been calling on the French oil giant Total to halt plans to mine for tar sands in Madagascar. With corporate finance from RBS – 83 percent owned by the UK government – Total has been test-mining for tar sands in Bemolanga, in the Western part of Madagascar. Malagasy campaigners fear that the devastation wrought on Canada by the biggest industrial project the world has ever seen will be repeated in their own country, threatening small-scale farming that is the norm in the country, poisoning limited water supplies and threatening the unique biodiversity of the country.

The latest (good) news is that Total has requested a year's extension to its exploration license in Madagascar, rather than going ahead with exploitation. That means that the mining has been put on hold and the tar sands are safe in the ground – for now. Very many thanks to the 1300 WDM supporters who wrote to Total's CEO as part of our e-action.

As a result of our partnership work with Malagasy campaigners, they now have a greatly strengthened network of international support to help ensure that Total abandons its mining project permanently. WDM, however, is now winding down its 'clean up the banks' campaign, which has been run out of our Scottish office on very limited resources for more than 18 months now. But we will stay in contact with activists in Madagascar, as well as campaigners at the UK Tar Sands Network, Platform, People and Planet, FoE Scotland, FoE Europe and FoE France who we've worked with throughout this campaign. If we get a request for help then we will definitely respond to it - and will let local groups know straight away.

In the meantime, this autumn we're expecting to turn our attention in Scotland more to food speculation and climate debt, including the campaign for a Scottish climate adaptation fund (that gives grants not loans!)

Campaign update: Food

European developments

With the European Parliament in recess from the end of July and throughout August, we have not heard any more about a date for the publication of 'Markets in Financial Instruments Directive' (MIFID). MIFID is the name of the European legislation that will include provisions to tackle food speculation and once it is published it will then be discussed in both the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Though the European Commission has not officially announced a date for its publication, in the meantime, we will have to start planning our lobbying of the European Parliament to ensure that UK based MEPs are being contacted by their constituents to get them to vote the right way on tackling food speculation.

To help you to plan your MEP lobbying, we have produced a MEP lobby pack which is enclosed with this month's Think Global which will provide you with all the information you will need to influence your region's MEPs. We suggest that you plan lobby meetings between late November and January. We have sent out one pack for each group contact but if you require more packs, please contact amy.horton@wdm.org.uk. The inserts will also be available to download from the groups' section of the website.

UK parliamentary lobbying

Thank you for all your work contacting MPs this past year. The Treasury has received many letters from MPs because of your lobbying. An Edinburgh WDM group member told us that their MP (Ian Murray) includes in his monthly newsletter the top three issues that constituents have lobbied him about and food prices and speculation came in his top 3 this month!

We have also noticed how the Treasury's position has evolved this past year. When groups first wrote to their MPs to contact the Chancellor, the treasury responded by saying that they were sceptical about the role of speculation in

driving up food prices. Their position has now moved slightly and they are agreeing that more transparency is needed in the market. The tone of their response has also changed and does not discount the role of speculation so vehemently. However, they still reject the idea of position limits to restrict the amount of contracts that speculators can hold and so there is still more to be done!

Moving into the autumn we will be starting to turn our attention to the European process and so we will continue with UK parliamentary lobbying only on a more targeted basis. We will be focussing more on approaching sympathetic MPs who can help us to ask parliamentary questions. We have produced a template letter for such MPs so do contact us if you want a copy of this (or download it from the groups' section on the website)

We have also updated our MP briefing (which was originally written last October) to include statistics and information about 2011 price rises. If you have a sympathetic MP with whom you would like to continue corresponding, then please contact amy.horton@wdm.org.uk to send you a copy or download it from the groups' section of the website.

New report

We have produced a new policy report, 'Broken Markets' which goes into the technical details of how speculation on food works, and confronts head-on some of the main arguments which deny any link between speculation and food price rises.

The report was written for a technical audience such as financial journalists and civil servants in Brussels and Westminster to present a robust technical case on the need to regulate food speculation.

The report will be launched to the media in September and will be available for download or you can request a paper copy from mid-September onwards.

Next phase of the food campaign

We are hoping that MIFID will enable all our campaign asks to be achieved and so once MIFID is concluded we will be moving onto another campaign area within the theme of food and finance.

Thank you to those who took part in our consultation on campaign options for next year. We collated feedback from local groups, staff, groups in the global south, WDM council members, and supporters and we discussed the campaign options. The outcome of the discussion was to go with the campaign option called 'Financialisation of food'.

However we decided that this had not been framed as a specific campaign but was more a broader narrative and so we have commissioned some further research to define the exact campaign that will fit under a 'financialisation of food' theme.

Following this research we may need to engage local groups again to input to the decision making process (if the research produces some very different options to those we have already consulted you on) and we will be contacting you about this if this is the case. In the meantime, if you have any questions on this please contact: heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk

Events

Making a movement

Skills, tools and networking for the fight for global justice: WDM groups' gathering

When: Saturday 17 September, 10.30am to 5pm
Where: Friends Meeting House, 25 Clarendon St, Nottingham, NG1 5JD

It's only a few weeks now until our groups gathering in Nottingham. This full day event will give you the opportunity to meet other WDM group members to share ideas and experiences. We'll be updating you with the latest on our campaign plans, and Pontus is running a session on 'using the web to grow your group'. There will also be time for one on one help from Pontus, so if you're keen to set up a new group website, or would like to learn about how you can make the most of the web to campaign, this is the event for you!

We will be providing lunch, and we're showing a film about a wind turbine school in Brazil, led by the Landless Workers' Movement.

We can also provide travel subsidies.

Contact Katharine to book your free place: Katharine@wdm.org.uk, or call 020 7820 4900.

EU food debate

Regulation, speculation and world food prices

When: Friday 16 September, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Where: European Parliament Information Office, The Tun, Edinburgh EH8 8PJ

Come and participate in a debate on how the European Union and UK should regulate the food commodity markets and the financial traders and pension funds who bet on the price of food. The event aims to bring together Scottish MEPs, WDM, local food groups and other interested people to consider how food commodities should be regulated. All welcome to attend. Registration is encouraged but not required: office@wdmscotland.org.uk

Take One Action film festival

When: 19 September – 2 October,

Where: Edinburgh and Glasgow

Now in its third year, 'Take One Action' is the UK's only major film festival celebrating people and films that are changing the world. The World Development Movement is sponsoring three films, with panel discussion afterwards, as well as an event for World Food Day on 16 October linked to the festival. If you live near Edinburgh or Glasgow, please come and join us for some excellent film viewing:

Even the Rain

When and where: Edinburgh Filmhouse on 21 September at 20:20 and Glasgow Film Theatre on 22 September at 18:00

There Once Was An Island

When and where: Edinburgh Filmhouse on 23 September at 20:30 and Glasgow Film Theatre on 24 September at 16:00

Enjoy your meal

When and where: Edinburgh Filmhouse on 30 September at 20:25 and Glasgow Film Theatre on 1 October at 17:45

For more information about films, panel discussions and to book tickets go to: www.filmhousecinema.com/tickets or www.glasgowfilm.org/theatre

Africa demands climate justice

WDM's climate justice speaker tour

When: 3 – 13 October

Where: Milton Keynes, Leeds, Lancaster, Derby, Brighton, Bristol, Eastleigh, London

Speakers: **Bandile Mdlalose**, general secretary of Abahlali baseMjondolo, a shack-dwellers' movement in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa (3-6 Oct)

Desmond D'Sa, coordinator of South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, which mobilises local people against industrial pollution (10-13 Oct).

Ahead of the international climate talks in Durban in December, join us to hear speakers from social movements on the front line of the campaign for climate justice in South Africa. Find out how you can take action against the UK's unfair policies that are prioritising corporate profits via discredited institutions such as the World Bank.

For full details of venues and times go to www.wdm.org.uk/events/africa-demands-climate-justice

World Food Day event

When: 16 October

Where: Edinburgh Details to follow in the next issue of Think Global, or please contact Jane at WDM in Scotland on jane@wdmscotland.org.uk

Hunger for justice

From food crisis to food sovereignty

When: Wednesday 19 October, 7pm to 9pm

Where: The Mechanics Centre, 103 Princess Street, Manchester M1 6DD

Speakers:

Sarath Fernando, Movement for National Land and Agricultural Reform, Sri Lanka

Speaker from Landless Workers' Movement, Brazil (to be confirmed)

Christine Haigh, World Development Movement

Our speakers will explore the idea of food sovereignty, a way of putting both people and the planet first, re-localising and democratising our food system and challenging the corporate dominance that makes it so unsustainable.

WDM annual general meeting 2012

We have set the date for next year's AGM –

Saturday 23 June, in London. Please put the date in your diaries, we will circulate more details as plans develop.

Groups

Groups' roundup

Our newest group, **Milton Keynes WDM**, has got off to a great start with a lead member publishing an article in Peace & Justice News, and in Citizen First, a local paper in Milton Keynes. This article both promoted our food campaign, and raised awareness of the existence of the new WDM group – great stuff! The group have also been making good use of their website to help members campaign, posting short films on food speculation, and template letters for members to send to their MPs. Take a look at

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/miltonkeynes/>

St Albans & District WDM held a stall at the Festival of Life in July, celebrating community groups. This bi-annual event is turning out to be the group's best outreach event, and they made lots of good contacts.

Bexhill & Hastings WDM held a well attended stall at an interfaith event 'A garden full of family delights' in St Leonards on Sea, which was a great opportunity to promote the food campaign to a new audience.

Oxford WDM organised a stall at the annual Elder Stubbs festival, this is held on an allotment so the perfect audience for the food campaign and the group succeeded in getting 50 action cards signed.

North Kent WDM held a successful stall at the Big Day Out in Gravesend on 23 July.

The following WDM groups have organised enjoyable and thought-provoking evenings with performance poet/activist/author Danny Chivers; **Manchester, London, Macclesfield, East Cleveland, Leeds, Bradford, South Lakes and Derby.**

We are hoping to set up a new group in the **Sevenoaks/Bromley** area, so if you know of anyone who lives in that area and would be interested in getting involved, please let Katharine know.

Growing the movement

In the last year, WDM has signed up 133 new supporters thanks to Ethicall, a telephone fundraising agency based in Bristol. Healthy numbers of financial supporters are essential for the success of WDM's campaigns. It means we have enough money to produce unique research and successful campaigns, and also that we have more clout when talking to decision makers. And of course, more people to take action and help us win our campaigns.

We know this kind of fundraising isn't popular with everyone, so we make it easy for people to opt out of telephone calls if they do not wish to receive them. Telephone fundraising is proving to be a successful way of growing the movement. Nearly 10 percent of people contacted agreed to support us with a regular gift. This great result shows how much people value and respect WDM's work and also how effective the telephone is at getting the message across.

The number of WDM's financial supporters has been dropping over the past few years so finding successful ways of recruiting new supporters is an ongoing priority for us. One way WDM groups can help is to collect people's name, address, email address and phone number when you're running an event or a stall. People only sign our contact forms because they would like to get more involved in WDM so you don't have to worry about asking for people's details. If people have given us permission to contact them, we may follow them up with a phone call to ask them if they would like to support WDM with a regular gift.

We will soon have new collection sheets available, which clearly state how people's information will be used, so contact Katharine if you would like to help.

Making your stall stand out

New materials

We are ordering some new materials for groups to help make your stalls as eye-catching as possible. We have black tablecloths with the WDM logo printed in white, and plastic stands to hold materials (A4 and DL size; the latter being the size of the 'Impatient for Change' recruitment leaflet). If you would like to order any of these materials (1 tablecloth, and a set of one stand of each size per group) please email groups@wdm.org.uk or call 020 7820 4900.

Groups project fund

Remember we have funds available specifically to support local group activities. So if you would like to put on an event but don't have the funds in your coffers, don't worry! Contact Katharine for information about how to apply for money from the groups project fund – Katharine@wdm.org.uk

Case study materials

Our September climate justice appeal mailing will include postcards focussing on a World Bank funded wind farm in Mexico, and the associated problems for the local community. We will have extra copies of this postcard available, so if you would like to order some to use on stalls please email groups@wdm.org.uk

Diary dates

13 September: Stop the Arms Fair day of action, London

16 September: Regulation, speculation and world food prices, Edinburgh

17 September: WDM groups gathering, Nottingham

19 Sept – 2 October: Take One Action film festival, Edinburgh & Glasgow

3 – 13 October: "Africa demands climate justice"- climate justice speaker tour, eight events across the country (see page 9 for more info)

16 October: World Food Day event, Edinburgh

19 October: Hunger for justice: From food crisis to food sovereignty, Manchester

20 October: Joking for justice, Leicester Square Theatre, London

23-30 October: One World Week: Living for one world, all over the country

1-4 November: G20 meeting in Cannes and alter-forum in Nice, France.

23 June 2012: WDM annual general meeting, London

G20: France, 3-4 November

The G20 is taking place on 3 and 4 November in Cannes, France. French global justice and environmental organisations and trade unions are organising a counter conference from 1 to 4 November, in Nice. There will also be an international demonstration. With anti-austerity protest sweeping southern Europe and another financial crisis looming, these events could be big and important steps towards building people-centred alternatives. For more information about the mobilisations being planned see www.altermob.org (in French but English translation available).

As part of the 6 Billion Ways collective, WDM is hoping to organise travel to France and workshops as part of the forum. If you are interested in taking the 6 Billion Ways transport please let Katharine know so we can gauge interest – katharine@wdm.org.uk

Current materials

Food

- ACTION POSTCARD: This is how banks see our food
- ACTION POSTCARD: Stop betting on hunger
- A2 POSTER: This is how banks see our food
- A2 POSTER: Stop betting on hunger
- CAMPAIGN BOOKLET: Betting on hunger (8 pages, A5)
- BRIEFING: Frequently asked questions
- BRIEFING: Parliamentary guide
- REPORT: The great hunger lottery (34 pages)
- BRIEFING: Key messages (for groups' use only)
- BRIEFING: Supporting quotes
- BRIEFING: MEP lobby pack ****new****

Climate justice

- ACTION POSTCARD: Stop the World Bank
- ACTION POSTCARD: Climate debt
- A3 LEAFLET/POSTER: Mapping destruction: why the World Bank must stay out of climate finance ****new****
- A2 POSTER: Climate debt
- BRIEFING: Time to pay climate debt (6 pages)
- REPORT: Climate loan sharks ****new****
- REPORT: The climate debt crisis (48 pages)
- LETTER: Template letter to MPs

Clean the banks

- BRIEFING: Greening the bailed-out banks (2 pages)
- REPORT: A bank for the future
- REPORT: Towards a Royal Bank of Sustainability
- REPORT: Cashing in on Tar Sands

General

- LEAFLET: Impatient for change? (recruitment)
- REPORT: Out of Time: The case for replacing the World Bank and IMF

Groups

- FILM PACK: Cinema for social change
- TALK PACK: Powerpoint presentation and outline of talk for the food and climate debt campaign
- BOOKLET: Fighting the cuts, lessons from around the world
- TALK PACK: Talk on WDM's perspective on anti-cuts campaigning

Partner updates

The world's largest arms fair, DSEi, is taking place in September in East London and lots of different actions and awareness-raising events are being organised.

'Stop the Arms Fair', a coalition of organisations, activist groups and individuals, has called a day of action on 13 September. You can find out more information about the arms fair, its history, and actions taking place in the run up and during DSEi at

www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk

You can also download resources such as flyers and a booklet about DSEi, and find out what's happening near you.