

Day two of World Social Forum *By: Julie Juma – ActionAid Malawi*

Getting up was not easy after the beautiful long march on day one of the opening ceremony of the World Social Forum this coupled with jet lag.



The day started with the team dividing roles i) AA education team stand, ii) participation identified and agreed sessions). I was in the team assigned to set up the ActionAid pavilion in the Education zone at UQAM and others were to participate in different sessions and in particular the ActionAid supported ones. Therefore Victorine, Denis and I set off to find a place to put up our pavilion.

The campus is huge and we got lost a few times but eventually we found our way to the education zone and mounted our stand. After this there was no stopping the team as everyone who passed by heard about our tax and education campaign and promoting rights in schools and we distributed a lot of materials. Most of the participants were French speaking and fortunately most of the materials were produced in English and French. It was also a great opportunity to practice my French.

It was an interesting and exciting day interacting with participants from different countries and with different struggles for social justice. As far as we are concerned the instructions were clear: i) spread the message on tax justice and rights to education for all especially girls, ii) ensure participation in the photo action. We managed to get a lot of pictures for the #taxpaysfor ... campaign.

The two key highlights for the day were: the former CEO of ActionAid Joanna Kerr came to our stand; we just heard 'hello ActionAiders!' And there she was very happy to see us and took pictures with us for the #taxpaysfor girls' education.

Then we had a team of Activists from Ecuador campaigning to stop tax evasion and are calling for a referendum on this. They wanted support on their campaign and Denis, AA Malawi partner, Teachers unions of Malawi spoke in support of the campaign linking it to AA Tax justice campaign on getting corporates pay their fair share of taxes.

While we were busy at the stand, Amade and Andrew participated in the Kilimanjaro Initiative session with Amade as panelist, the Philanthrocapitalism in Education organized by Education international and finally to the convergence meeting of the education zone where participants raised the issues that they would like to see in the thematic declaration of the education zone.

At the end of the day the team also participated in the key note conference on Education for All : From Dreams to reality. This was a good ending of the day with powerful speakers on quality public inclusive education for all.

This ended at 8 pm and I was ready to drop. It was a long but great day!

Viva WSF!

Montreal 10th August.

