



**Center  
of Concern**  
*...catalyst for economic and social justice*

Annual Report 2007 / 2008

**Advancing the Common Good**

## Our Mission & Vision

The Center of Concern is a Catholic organization working in collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith networks to bring a prophetic voice for social and economic justice to a global context. The Center is both a provider of information and analysis as well as a catalyst for launching projects to address issues and opportunities that advance an authentic human development agenda. Through analysis, education, advocacy and capacity building, the Center challenges structural injustice and promotes innovative economic alternatives.

To advance this mission, the Center of Concern focuses on the following strategic areas:

### 1. Influencing public policy

- Providing policy critiques and recommendations for the general public, policy-makers and those in leadership positions
- Ensuring that voices of the poor and underserved are heard in negotiations
- Building networks and coalitions to advocate for policy changes

### 2. Exercising leadership in national and international arenas

- Strengthening relationships among Catholic organizations
- Engaging in ecumenical outreach and collaboration
- Facilitating contacts and relationships with new groups

### 3. Educating for justice and social transformation

- Promoting skill-building for social analysis and critical thinking
- Creating educational materials on specific policy issues
- Increasing knowledge about Catholic Social Teaching

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*In Paredones, Bolivia, Gisel smiles proudly after sampling some of her father's strawberry harvest. Gisel's family owns a small farm in the valleys of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where they produce a wide variety of organic fruits and vegetables for both themselves and other members of the community.*

*Many of the photographs used in this report were selected from Photoshare, a service of the INFO Project to help raise awareness of international, non-profit development work. We selected these images to help communicate our work and to support awareness of Photoshare and the different projects/development needs pictured.*

## Letter from the President

Dear Friends of the Center of Concern,

While many are painting a picture of the economic crisis that is laced with fear and feeds on our everyday worries and insecurities, we at the Center hope you will join us in remembering that with crisis also come new opportunities.

It is true our nation and the entire world are facing the potential of great suffering and disruption due to crises involving finance, social relations, terrorism, food and hunger, trade relations, economic development and global warming. However, it is also true that we are currently confronted with the broadest and deepest field of opportunities in nearly 80 years. The economic collapse we are experiencing will be the seedbed for far-reaching institutional and systemic change. Our challenge is to work together so that the era of change opening before us avoids the risk of a spiral into violence and social disintegration and builds the infrastructure for a new, expansive sense of global solidarity.

In this report of our work over the last year, you will see how our projects contribute to forging a vision of the global common good that steers us toward a more just and graced future for the human community and for our planet. Toward that end, the Center took full advantage of the long political campaign season to advance this goal by reaching out to voters so that together we could reflect on the social and economic issues of our time from the solid foundation of Catholic social values and principles.

We also worked intensively to build international and national networks of people who share these values and expand our capacities to tackle the tough problems. We continued to build on our work to help Non-Governmental Organizations and Government Ministers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia develop their capacities on trade and finance issues so that the perspectives and needs of marginalized peoples can

be brought effectively into the Financing for Development Conference coming up this winter. Also, by establishing partnerships with organizations striving to ensure that people in poverty can effectively organize to get their voices heard and concerns attended to, we helped bring those concerns to the national and international policy centers that will be reshaping our future.

The Center also launched a new project on Ecology and Development and began participating in the planning of a global campaign for Poverty and Climate Justice that will educate people everywhere about the increasing devastation that global warming brings into the lives of the poor and what we can do about it. Finally, through our new and improved Education for Justice website, we provided superb and timely educational materials on current events and critical justice issues to thousands of teachers, students and opinion makers across the nation and in more than 89 nations across the globe.

I hope and trust that our work makes you feel grateful for being part of the Center of Concern family and will encourage you to continue supporting us generously in the challenging times that surely lie ahead of us. Investing in work for the global common good at this time in history is essential. Thank you for joining our efforts to advance the common good.

Sincerely,



James E. Hug, S.J.  
President



# ELECTION 2008



## Project Summary

The Center's Election 2008 project was designed to help individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds participate actively in the political campaigns leading up to the presidential elections as informed and faithful Christians. The project has conducted research, developed new materials, and directed people to a variety of resources to help them deepen their own analysis and make their own evaluations of the policies, platforms and candidates, and further engage their local communities.

The issues covered by the Election 2008 project are framed in the context of globalization and a commitment to the common good faithful to the universalism of the Christian vision. They reflect the conviction that merely national solutions to problems involving security, poverty, employment, migration, and ecology cannot provide more than short-term fixes. Long after the elections, the resources produced by this project will continue to serve those looking for answers as we work with a new administration to create a better future for people in the U.S. and abroad.

## Leading the Common Good

As part of our 20 month-long effort to bring the values and principles of Catholic Social Thought (CST) into the campaign season and the post election processes effectively, the Center of Concern co-sponsored the Convention for the Common Good convened by NETWORK and Catholics In Alliance. The excitement and energy in the air were tangible as more than 800 representatives of local communities across the U.S. met in Philadelphia for the Convention.

Adopted during the Convention was a Platform informed by the U.S. Bishops' teaching on *Faithful Citizenship* and shaped by discussions and feedback on the issues affecting the communities of Convention participants. It provided a tool that could be used to call candidates everywhere to embrace

the vision of our Christian tradition and to hold elected officials accountable to it in the months ahead.

To achieve this, the Center produced a series of policy papers and a range of educational materials on the key issues facing us all: globalization, immigration, international relations, war and peace, the environment, jobs, livelihoods, and poverty. As each set of materials emerged, we published them on our website.

Guided by CST, we began with the insight that the global interconnectedness of the world today changes every critical issue facing our nation. None of these issues is any longer simply domestic. The wellbeing of our communities now requires attention to the common good of the whole global community. This awareness informs our search for good government and for the right direction for the nation into the future.

Armed with tote bags, bumper stickers, and above all our educational resources on CD-Rom, we went to the Convention where we distributed them extensively, met with participants in workshops to deepen understanding of the issues and appreciation for the faith and the values we stand on.

The election materials continue to be updated and available at [www.coc.org/election2008](http://www.coc.org/election2008). Our blog hums with frequent responses to the developments in the campaigns. Our Education for Justice Program at [www.educationforjustice.org](http://www.educationforjustice.org) is providing valuable ready-to-use resources bringing CST to focus on our national discussion.

This season of decision and the early formative months of the new Administration and Congress are critical times for reinforcing the highest Christian ideals in our nation. Throughout the transition period, the Center continues to provide leadership, catalyzing the type of change that will help to forward Christ's vision of one human community united in the love of God.

*Center of Concern staff members Stephanie Heishman and Abiosseh Davis distribute the Center's CD compilation of educational materials about the critical election issues at the Convention for the Common Good in Philadelphia, PA in June.*

*"Father Hug's message holds importance for college students today; because not only will we be affected by the election now in 2008, but also when we are out of college—looking for jobs, buying apartments and becoming integral parts of society. It is very important for us to be informed and educated before we cast our votes,"*

*-Katrina Miller, Loyola College Class of 2012, after listening to Jim Hug's lecture about social justice awareness and elections.*



# EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE



## Project Summary

The Education for Justice (EFJ) Project was created to promote social justice through on-going education, faith formation and advocacy. The EFJ website is one essential way in which the project provides educators and people of faith with print-ready resources designed to foster greater knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching and demonstrate connections to current social justice issues and world events. The site features downloadable educational materials in the form of lesson plans, briefing papers, fact sheets, bulletin inserts, case studies, prayers, lectionary reflections, interactive materials and links to related resources—all with an explicit Catholic Social Teaching perspective.

EFJ staff develop resources, consult and collaborate nationally, and host seminars and retreats. EFJ's diverse network of members includes high school and college teachers, campus ministers, parish social concerns committees, diocesan social justice coordinators, and religious communities.

## Connecting Faith, Action, and Global Justice Issues

Education for Justice marked 2007 with several significant signs of hope and progress. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment was the redesign and re-launch of the EFJ website. After six years of providing resources for educators, this highly acclaimed national resource needed upgrading in order to better meet the diverse needs of those promoting Catholic Social Teaching today.

EFJ subscribers responded enthusiastically to the new site by spreading the good news to their colleagues and friends, increasing membership by 36 percent since December of 2007 when the new site was launched. Feedback on the improved site has been remarkably positive. "Your site is an excellent way to keep up with social justice issues. I share a lot of

information with my teachers and pastor. Thank you and God bless," wrote Sr. Leonita Barron of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. Paul Amrhein of Richmond, VA wrote, "What you do is the most important work in the Church. If we cannot get people to understand that, nothing else we do really matters." Jeannie Colber of Catholic Relief Services called the EFJ website "beautiful, accessible and timely."

In June of 2008, the EFJ staff convened an invitational meeting titled *Transforming the Heart: A Colloquium on Education and Catholic Social Teaching for the Next Decade* in collaboration with USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development. Leaders in the field of Catholic Social Teaching from organizations such as the National Catholic Educational Association, Catholic Relief Services, JustFaith and other nationally-engaged groups, and from prominent academic institutions such as Notre Dame, Georgetown, and Villanova University met for two days of intense examination of new research on transformative educational processes. The event focused on emerging needs in transformative education, and participants planned coordinated educational efforts for the decade ahead. Attendees of the colloquium were unanimous in their gratitude for Education for Justice's leadership on this important topic.

Education for Justice is a recognized leader in providing resources on the Church's social teaching for a wide and growing audience. The project currently serves 9,242 members comprised of educators on the high school and college levels, campus ministers, youth ministers, parish leaders, religious communities, social action directors and other individuals and organizations. In addition to continuously developing dynamic new resource materials, EFJ presents workshops at regional and national gatherings and provides training and consultations for Catholic high schools and colleges, diocesan offices and other groups to inform minds and transform hearts.

*"The Education for Justice project must be congratulated for providing this important opportunity and significant resources for national leadership to creatively collaborate in shaping the future of CST education in the next decade. This has been one of the most stimulating opportunities for sharing I have attended in the last decade."*

*Dr. Kathleen Maas Weigert, Executive Director, Georgetown University Center for Social Justice Research commenting on EFJ's Colloquium on Education and Catholic Social Teaching.*



*Internally displaced women return to their camp at Sisi in West Darfur, Sudan, after scouring the surrounding countryside for precious firewood. Conflict-affected populations dependent on wood for cooking and local vegetation for shelter materials overexploit the environment in the vicinity of the camps and over time must journey deeper into insecure areas to gather essential supplies. Women in Darfur face the risk of sexual and physical assault by leaving the camps to collect firewood.*

# RETHINKING BRETTON WOODS



*United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Roundtable discussion on aid.*

*RBW testified at hearings before the U.S. Congress on the Jubilee Act and served as a Civil Society representative in high-level roundtable discussions at the General Assembly of the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development.*

## Project Summary

The Rethinking Bretton Woods (RBW) project promotes the reform of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund as well as other regional funding agencies. RBW strives to ensure that global financial policies promote the democratization of economic policy-making, human rights, and sustainable development.

## Shaping More Just Finance and Development Policies

Countries such as Kenya, Bolivia and the Philippines have very diverse realities, but they also have many things in common. They are all developing countries, featuring huge inequality gaps and large parts of their population living in deep poverty, unable to satisfy basic human needs such as water. They all went through large fiscal deficits, incurred high levels of public debt, trusting that the products they produced for exports would maintain high prices and allow them to repay, which then did not happen. They had to resort to external financing for solving their budgetary shortfalls and as a result have, for longer than two decades, lived under the influence of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

It is developing countries like these and their people who benefit from the Rethinking Bretton Woods project. RBW works to empower people, especially the poor in developing countries, so they can gain control of the economic policy models that dominate their societies and their lives.

RBW works with an extensive network of civil society organizations throughout the world. It plays a major role in building the capacity of organizations on the ground so they can disseminate information, educate the public, mobilize their constituencies, and engage in advocacy with their national economic policy-makers and representatives to global financial institutions.

For example, RBW coordinates an International Working Group that brings together organizations working on trade and financial policy issues. Last year, with the realization of a Seminar on Trade-Finance Linkages in Africa, RBW crowned a three-year effort to build Southern platforms for an organic and sustained analysis of the trends in trade and financial linkages in each region of the South.

RBW's advice and insight is routinely sought to inform the strategic planning of several organizations, coalitions and networks. This is a role that RBW plays both informally and formally through activities such as serving on boards like that of the Jubilee USA Network and the IFI Latin America Monitor and co-coordinating one of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network working groups.

RBW has a solid reputation as an articulate and knowledgeable spokesperson for Civil Society concerns. RBW has testified at hearings before the U.S. Congress on the Jubilee Act and served as a Civil Society representative in high-level roundtable discussions at the United Nations General Assembly with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the U.N. Committee on Trade and Development.

Responding to the demand for quality strategic analysis and capacity-building within governments in the South, RBW routinely provides consulting for governments and inter-governmental organizations. Last year, RBW made presentations on the topic of Financing for Development before the Group of 77 in New York, Arab country governments at a meeting in Doha, and Latin American Finance and Planning Ministry representatives at a conference in Buenos Aires.

RBW also advances its mission through the intellectual debate in the academic community. In the last year, RBW presented papers at various conferences and assemblies. In addition, it authored a chapter in "Aid for Trade and Development" published by Cambridge University Press, and has another chapter scheduled for publication in a forthcoming book.



*Señor Joao and his grandson warily listen to a conversation about income generating alternatives from forest products in a remote area in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Despite his age, the grandson stays for hours next to his quiet grandfather. They represent the past, present and future of one of the most beautiful places on earth.*



*Three men display their new "domestic cooking box." With increasing pressures on the natural landscape in sub-Saharan Mali, wood resources have become scarce and expensive. In partnership with LWR, GRAT (Groupe de Recherches et d'Applications Techniques) helped to develop an inexpensive cooking box which reduces the amount of wood needed to prepare food and increases financial savings for many families.*

# CENTER OF CONCERN AND EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE MATERIALS WERE DOWNLOADED IN OVER 130 COUNTRIES

The Center had a huge presence at the Convention for the Common Good in Philadelphia, PA. In addition to writing several Election 2008 briefing papers, staff members from the Global Women's Project were co-planners of the Convention. At the event, COC President Jim Hug presented an extremely well-received workshop titled "Voting the Global Common Good: American and Catholic 2008."

In November of last year, the director of the Rethinking Bretton Woods (RBW) project provided expert testimony during the Hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee on H.R. 2634 "The Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007."

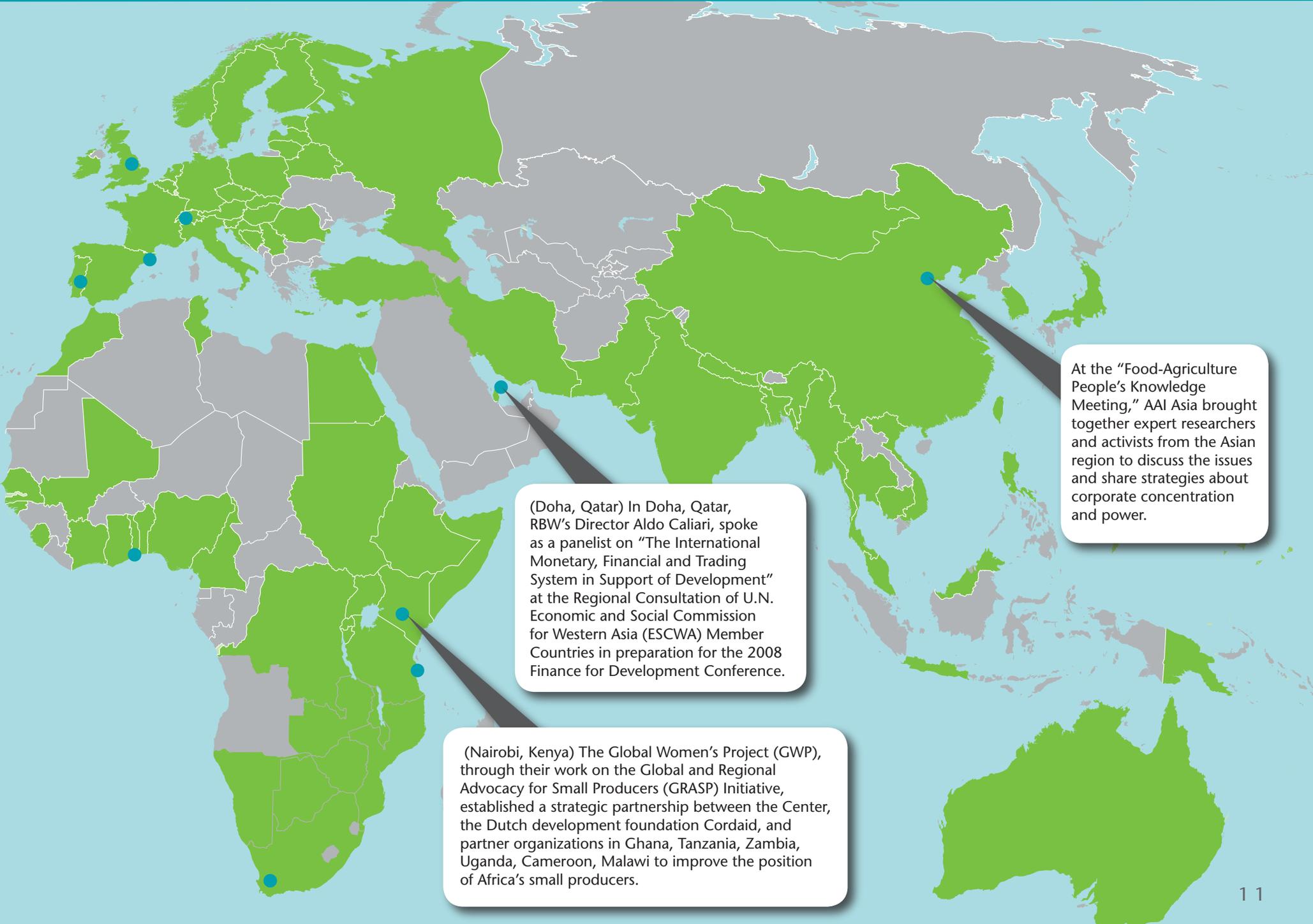
Education for Justice was invited as a noted educator promoting Catholic Social Teaching to the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops Meeting on CST in November 2007, which was a 10-year review of the document, Sharing Catholic Social Teaching. Participants at this event received a new resource, "Engaging Faith in the World, CST and Global Solidarity," authored by an EFJ staff member.

RBW presented at the workshop, Finanzas y Comercio: Reflexiones sobre el financiamiento para el desarrollo, organized by Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales.

 Countries where COC materials were downloaded in FY08

 Locations of COC Events in FY08

EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN 45% SINCE THE EFJ WEBSITE RE-DESIGN IN DECEMBER 2007



(Doha, Qatar) In Doha, Qatar, RBW's Director Aldo Caliarì, spoke as a panelist on "The International Monetary, Financial and Trading System in Support of Development" at the Regional Consultation of U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Member Countries in preparation for the 2008 Finance for Development Conference.

(Nairobi, Kenya) The Global Women's Project (GWP), through their work on the Global and Regional Advocacy for Small Producers (GRASP) Initiative, established a strategic partnership between the Center, the Dutch development foundation Cordaid, and partner organizations in Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, Cameroon, Malawi to improve the position of Africa's small producers.

At the "Food-Agriculture People's Knowledge Meeting," AAI Asia brought together expert researchers and activists from the Asian region to discuss the issues and share strategies about corporate concentration and power.

# GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT



## Project Summary

Advancing gender equality and development, within the context of liberalization and globalization, is the primary objective of the Global Women's Project (GWP). The project promotes greater understanding of the negative impacts current trade policies have on people living in poverty. It also researches alternatives to these policies and advocates for their change while advancing the agenda of gender equality and sustainable livelihoods for people around the globe.

As trade and financial regulations continue to encourage the domination of the global economy by large multinational firms, we see the potential gains from trade unjustly channeled into the hands of the few. Economic liberalization and trade liberalization have not fostered environments that enhance gender equality. Instead, neo-liberalism has proved largely unsuccessful and offered minimal promise of generating social development. The majority of the world's women have not benefited from this economic model, which is why GWP is working to change it.

## Organizing and Advocating for Change

Family farmers in Georgia raise chickens for a prominent poultry company and receive a meager return on their labor and investment, despite years of quality performance and compliance with the company's technical demands. In Ghana, small farmers are locked out of lucrative urban markets as supermarkets opt to source through global supply chains rather than buy from local growers. In Tanzania, thousands of peasant farmers are being pushed off their lands for the creation of biofuel plantations to feed the energy demands of Europe and North America.

These are just a few of the injustices explored and addressed by GWP staff while working on their Strategic Partners Initiative. This initiative forges critical partnerships with local

and regional community based groups to more effectively create economic and social change at the community, national and global levels. The initiative has three active partnerships advancing the following needs:

- **Just and sustainable poultry production on the Eastern Shore:** After unsuccessful attempts to work with the poultry companies and seek regulatory reform, our partner's strategy has shifted to establishing an alternative poultry industry on the Eastern Shore, one that is better for the birds, growers, workers, consumers and environment. GWP continues to support their efforts through research and analysis on alternative models and increasing awareness of their struggle.
- **Improved access to markets for Africa's small holder farmers:** In the Global and Regional Advocacy for Small Producers (GRASP) partnership, GWP joins with Cordaid (a Dutch development agency) and partners in seven African countries in a program of coordinated research and advocacy to enhance the influence of Africa's small producers and their representatives in policy-making settings to achieve improved livelihoods and household food security.
- **Land retention by indigenous and impoverished populations:** While tourism and luxury industries may increase GDP in a region, this growth can also negatively impact the local population's access to land, cultural identity, and livelihood options. In partnership with the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, GWP is identifying the policy connections between the experience of heirs' property holders in the U.S. and communities in the Global South who struggle to preserve their land, livelihoods and culture in the face of tourism and leisure "development."

*The Center has been an effective institution in sowing seeds for new networks and linkages that bring together faith-based social justice movements with new rights-based analysis groups and progressive individuals in invigorating alternatives on global issues such as on gender and trade, trade and finances linkages, and agribusiness accountability.*

*Gigi Francisco, Development Alternatives with Women of a New Era (DAWN)/International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN)*



A woman weeds a field with her child on her back at the site of an irrigation project in Karonga, Malawi. This project is part of a multi-year food security project that teaches farmers to use irrigation to grow crops year round, thus increasing their food security and their access to income throughout the year. This woman is one of the 77 group members benefiting from this particular irrigation project.



Indigenous people of Cauca department, Colombia, march in protest over land rights.

**Now in its third year**, the GWP's Strategic Partners Initiative continues to promote long-term systemic change that strikes at the roots of poverty, serves the economically disadvantaged and addresses the need for deeper understanding, movement building and collaboration between local, national and international efforts to create economic and social justice.

The Initiative strives to reframe the economy in social terms by conducting analysis on issues of gender, race and class that is grounded in the lived experiences of individuals and communities, particularly the poor and marginalized. Our findings allow the Initiative to promote responsible, sustainable solutions to the economic and social crises confronting the U.S. and communities across the globe, helping create a society that values the dignity and contribution of each person.

# ECOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT



## Project Summary

The Center of Concern's newest project, Ecology and Development (ED) was initiated in April of 2008 in response to a growing concern about the moral and social justice implications of global climate change and environmental degradation. Through research and analysis, advocacy and collaboration with national and international partners, the ED project contributes a Catholic Social Teaching and global common good perspective to the evolving dialogue on ecology and development, while promoting ecologically- and socially-just policy solutions.

The human community is connected with the whole of Creation. We cannot thrive, nor in many cases survive, outside of healthy and diverse ecosystems. The realities of global warming, loss of biodiversity, and the contamination and depletion of water and soil resources make it clear that we are on a self-destructive and unsustainable path. Through the light of Catholic social thought and tradition, the ED project analyzes the structural mechanisms driving the ecological crisis, reveals the social justice ramifications, and illuminates the hopeful signs on the path to a more sustainable and just future.

## Protecting the Most Vulnerable

The ecological crisis is not simply an environmental issue, but fundamentally one of justice. Clean air and water, healthy food, and a stable climate are essential for each of us to achieve fulfillment, live in dignity and sustain viable communities. However, these basic human rights are becoming increasingly inaccessible for many of the world's people, and those who are least responsible for the overuse and abuse of the Earth's finite resources are at greatest risk of suffering the negative impacts of climate change.

Around the world, people living in poverty are more dependent on the natural world, yet have fewer resources to adapt to significant shifts in natural systems. They are the first and most deeply impacted, despite having contributed little to the drivers of these changes. The following situations are two cases that illustrate the linkages between climate change and other critical issues such as food security and migration:

- Unpredictable and shifting rains are destroying harvests in the tropical regions of Guatemala. As families face increasing insecurity due to this situation, more young people are leaving their communities in search of work abroad, often facing grueling journeys North, which are made even more harsh by rising temperatures along the US-Mexico Border.
- The Carteret Islands, a series of six small atolls in the Pacific, became the first in November of 2005 to begin the process of being officially abandoned by the population due to rising sea levels. Salt water incursion has contaminated drinking water and made agricultural production there nearly impossible. It is believed that by 2015, the islands will be completely submerged.

The ED project strives to educate the public about situations like these and join forces with other organizations to advocate for policies that will help curb the negative effects of climate change.

Through the ED project, the Center of Concern, along with partner *Caritas Internationalis*, is working with colleagues in the International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) network to launch a global campaign to promote a fair and just agreement on climate change.

Negotiations are already taking place for new commitments on emissions reductions and adaptation support for the period beyond 2012. However, the shape of the new agreement will be largely dictated by the voices heard at the table. By engaging a broad-based civil society movement to pressure negotiators, the network ensures that the voices of those most directly impacted by climate change are heard and their situations more widely known.

This Poverty and Climate Justice Campaign will be unveiled at the Conference of Parties meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2008.



© 2007 Paul Jeffrey/ACT-Caritas, Courtesy of Photoshare

Residents of the Khamsadegaig camp for internally displaced families in West Darfur, Sudan, look down a well they helped construct with assistance from ACT-Caritas, which supports families in Darfur with a variety of services, including potable water, sanitation, and income-generating opportunities.

# AGRIBUSINESS ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE

## Project Summary

Co-sponsored by the Center of Concern and the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, the Agribusiness Accountability Initiative (AAI) is a network of academics, activists and food system experts from farm, labor, environment, consumer, church and development organizations. AAI believes that corporate concentration and vertical integration among transnational agro-food companies threatens the sustainability of the world's food system, an essential foundation of the global common good.

AAI works to create a more democratically accountable global food system which supports food sovereignty, safeguards the livelihoods of farmers and food workers, promotes environmental sustainability, provides consumers with nutritious, safe, informed food choices, and improves access to food for all people, especially for victims of hunger.

## Wide-Ranging Activities to Advance Good Agribusiness

The AAI North American Regional Forum in North Carolina in the Spring addressed issues such as *Shifting power in the agri-food supply chain: Perspectives of Women and People of Color*, *Changes in the Food Retail/Processing Industry*, and *Biofuels at a Crossroad: Corporate Hegemony or Rural Prosperity?*

The AAI US Farm Bill Working Group brought in international experts for the US-EU Dialogue on Agricultural. Five 8-page issue briefs were developed and will be packaged as public education pieces on topics like: *"Corporate Power in Livestock Production,"* and *"Milking the System: How Corporate Power Impacts Dairy Producers, Consumers and Communities."*

AAI partners in the regions of Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Africa also showed significant growth and increased coherence over the year. Among other things **AAI Latin America** has been engaged in activities against Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Wal-Mart domination of the region, especially its move into the organic food area.

**AAI Asia** held a *"Food-Ag People's Knowledge Meeting"* in China in August 2007. This meeting brought 14 food-ag expert researchers and activists together to discuss the issues and share strategies about corporate concentration and power. The region is also producing white papers and an AAI book on corporate power in the region.

**AAI Europe** has been strongly focused on their Supermarket Working Group and has had a record number of Members of Parliament (489) sign onto a declaration requesting an official investigation into anti-trust issues, especially price-fixing. In May 2007, this Working Group held a two-day seminar in Brussels on supermarket power which was attended by several Members of Parliament, other high-level government officials, and well-respected academics.

There is strong interest from many stakeholder groups in **AAI Africa**, and there was much follow-up after the successful Africa Forum with four working groups: Food Sovereignty, Corporate Impact on Rural Livelihoods, GMOs, and Trade Agreements.

During the past year, AAI has transitioned into a truly consolidated global network. A structure is now in place with 5 regional facilitators, a global advisory council, regional steering committees and 13 working groups. A Global Forum to develop international collaboration will take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in January 2009.



*As part of the Leveling the Playing Field series, AAI published "Power Buyers, Power Sellers: How Supermarkets Impact Farmers, Workers and Consumers—and How We Can Build a Fairer Food System," which explored the impact of concentration in the retail food industry.*

*During the past year, AAI has transitioned into a truly consolidated global network. A structure is now in place with 5 regional facilitators, a global advisory council, regional steering committees and 13 working groups.*



## Donors 2007 - 2008

The Center of Concern gratefully acknowledges all our donors for their generous and faithful support. Without you, we could not do all that we do. Thank you!

### \$50,000 and Above

Cordaid  
The Ford Foundation

### \$20,000-\$49,999

Le Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement  
Maryland Province Society of Jesus  
Novib/Oxfam Netherlands  
SCN Ministry Fund  
Sexton Foundation  
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston, TX  
The Moriah Fund  
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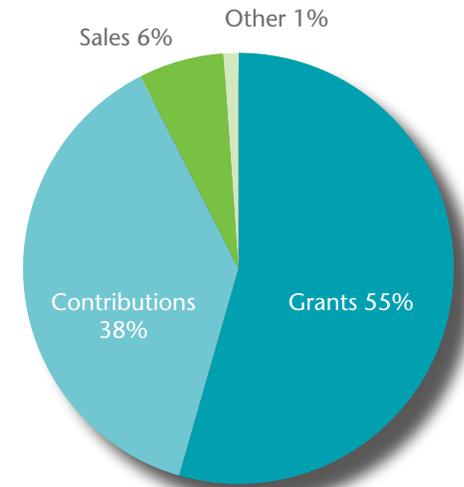
*Three schoolgirls in Kyrgyzstan enjoy a spring Sunday afternoon in a field of red poppies.*



## Financial Statement 2007 - 2008

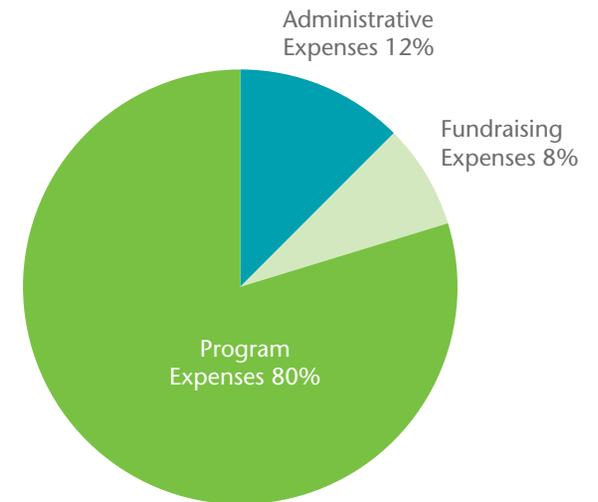
### Sources of Revenue

Grants	\$468,502.00
Contributions	\$325,998.00
Sales	\$55,535.00
Other Income	\$9,340.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$859,375.00</b>



### Expenditures

Program Expenses	\$721,505.00
Management and General Administrative Expenses	\$112,479.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$69,962.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$903,946.00</b>



## Select Conferences, Workshops and Presentations

### ***Engaging Faith in the World: Exploring Catholic Social Teaching and Global Solidarity***

EfJ presentation at the National Catholic Educational Association Convention, Indianapolis, IN

### ***Transforming the Heart: A Colloquium on Catholic Social Teaching for the Next Decade***

Conference convened by Center of Concern-Education for Justice, Washington, DC

### ***Business Education at Catholic Universities: The Role of Mission-Driven Business Schools***

Participation of EfJ and GWP in this conference at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

### ***Council on Foreign Relations Meeting on Religion and Politics***

Presentation by Jim Hug, S.J. – New York, NY

### ***Ignatian Spirituality Conference***

Two workshops presented by Jim Hug, S.J. : “Essential Ignatian Discernment for the Campaign Season” and “Spiritual Exercises: Foundations for a Contemporary Social Spirituality.”- St. Louis, MO

### ***Strategy Workshop on Trade-Finance Linkages in Preparation for the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development***

Closed event for Group of 77 and invited Civil Society Organizations - New York, NY

### ***High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD on Financing for Development***

Presentation by RBW at UN Headquarters-New York, NY

### ***Selected issues on Financing for Development: South-North Capital Flows and the Search for Innovative Sources of Finance***

Key organizing by RBW for this High Level Dialogue of the General Assembly with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO and UNCTAD, UN Headquarters-New York, NY

### ***Organizing for Women’s Health and Rights in an Era of Neo-liberal Globalization***

Presentation by GWP at this event convened by the Moriah Fund - Washington, D.C.

### ***AIDS, Trade and Child Survival***

Workshop presented by GWP at the Global Justice Annual Conference - Washington, D.C.

### ***Bringing Gender into our Analysis and Advocacy***

Skills-building workshop co-presented by GWP at the Global and Regional Advocacy on Small Producers (GRASP) 2008 Evaluation & Planning Meeting - Accra, Ghana

### ***CIDSE Strategic Planning Meeting for a Global Climate Change Campaign***

Participation by ED – Brussels, Belgium

### ***Supermarket Buyer Power: What should the EC Do?***

Presentation by AAI - Brussels, Belgium

### ***Supply Management Working Group WTO Public Forum Workshop***

Presentation by AAI - Geneva, Switzerland

### ***The Economic and Social Context of Human Trafficking***

GWP workshop - Wichita, KS

## Select Publications

- International Relations for the Global Common Good
- Towards a Just and Peaceful Solution in Iraq
- Livelihoods in a Globalizing World
- Climate Change and the Global Common Good
- The Persistence of Poverty in the U.S.
- Global Poverty and the Global Common Good

### ***The New World Bank/ IMF Debt Sustainability Framework: Does it Live Up to the Human Development Promise?***

by Aldo Caliari, Center of Concern. Paper presented at the Annual Conference for Development and Change, December 9–11, 2007, Cape Town, South Africa.

### ***“The Debt Sustainability Framework: How the Bretton Woods Institutions managed to Subvert the Human Development Grounds for Debt Relief,”***

by Aldo Caliari, Center of Concern. Paper presented at the conference, Aiding the Poorest: Ten years on frhbbsbbom the Birmingham G8, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom, May 16-17 2008.

### ***Trade Liberalization and the Erosion of Public Finance***

by Aldo Caliari in Tax Justice, 2009, Matti Kohonen and Francine Mestrum (ed.), Pluto Press.

### ***Leveling the Playing Field: Issue Brief Series (AAI)***

- Hogging the Market: How Powerful Meat Packers are Changing our Food System and What We can do About it
- Milking the System: How Corporate Power Impacts Dairy Producers, Consumers and Communities—And How We Can Regain Control Over Our Dairy Supply
- Power Buyers, Power Sellers: How Supermarkets Impact Farmers, Workers and Consumers—and How We Can Build a Fairer Food System
- Environmental and Health Problems in Livestock Production: Pollution in the Food System
- Corporate Power in Livestock Production: How it’s Hurting Farmers, Consumers, and Communities – And What We Can Do About It



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## In Memory

During the past year, Jim Hug presided at the funerals of two individuals who made important contributions to the Center of Concern. We will always remember them and the support they gave the Center.

**Sr. Maryanna Coyle, SC** was on the CoC Board of Directors from 1988 to 2004 and served as Chair of the board from 1998 to 2001.

**Martin McLaughlin** joined the Center as an Adjunct Associate in 1993. He authored, *World Food Security: A Catholic view of food policy in the new millennium*, and played a key role in establishing the Center's work on the global food system.

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