

Global Action Theme (GAT) PowerPoint presentation script

The text is also available in the notes section of the presentation

Slide 1: GAT Presentation

Slide 2: GAT

WAGGGS' new Global Action Theme is *girls worldwide say "together we can change our world"*. It was announced at the 33rd WAGGGS World Conference in 2008 and focuses on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Slide 3: Where are we going?

Where are we going? Why is WAGGGS doing this? The first ever triennial theme was Create Peace Worldwide which addressed world peace. This was followed by the Building World Citizenship theme which addressed global citizenship. Our Rights, Our Responsibilities has addressed our rights and responsibilities as global citizens. The new theme follows on from OROR to address the most compelling global agenda of the moment: the Millennium Development Goals.

Slide 4: What are the MDGs?

Ending poverty was the historic promise made by 189 world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000. It has eight areas of focus and through these interlinked areas, the aim is to improve the lives of the poorest people in the world as well as raise awareness in everyone about the situation. All UN member states signed up to measurable targets with clear deadlines, the ultimate deadline being 2015, by which all goals should be achieved.

Slide 5: 'Voices against poverty' movie

Here is a short video (4mins) produced by a UN about the MDGs.

[NOTE: this video can be downloaded from:

http://rapidshare.com/files/154302165/Voices_Against_Poverty.wmv.html Click on free user. Remember to link the video to the PowerPoint presentation so that it starts on a mouse click!]

Slide 6: MDGs

As we take a look at the eight Millennium Development Goals, notice how they align with much of the work already undertaken by Member Organizations. Ending poverty can only be achieved through addressing these issues of: hunger, education, empowerment of women, child mortality, maternal health, epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, and environmental sustainability. And global issues can only be tackled by working together through global partnerships.

Slide 7: Our role as global citizens

This is a great time for WAGGGS to get more involved in the MDGs. At the midpoint of the MDGs and with just a few more years to go, governments admit that the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 is still far away. International NGOs must work together and encourage governments to achieve the MDGs. As a global movement, WAGGGS is stepping up to the challenge to build a better world. The MDGs represent the most compelling world agenda for young people right now. By aligning our work with the MDGs, we are enabling girls and young women to influence issues that affect them. We have strong, established links with the United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals address global issues. WAGGGS can consolidate existing work by its Member Organizations and champion new work. The MDGs are connected to our vision and core values. Being involved means being a responsible citizen of our world and realizing our Mission.

Slide 8: Educate and raise awareness

WAGGGS is producing resource materials to support its Member Organizations as they work with the GAT and the MDGs. This will include Implementation Guidelines for MOs and a GAT Badge curriculum with activities for Girl Guides/Girl Scouts on all the MDG topics. The introduction to the GAT is distributed in

January 2009. It includes a session plan for MOs to use at a national level as they begin to plan their work on the MDGs. This will be followed by the Phase 1 Guidelines and Badge curriculum in April 2009. The Phase 2 Guidelines, which will outline way to make strategic alliances with other organizations and some fund development tips will be available towards the end of 2009.

Slide 9: Encourage advocacy

The Global Action Theme is a great way to encourage advocacy work. The MO guidelines will include suggestions of how to do advocacy work with the MDGs, and this will link to the recently published WAGGGS Advocacy toolkit. If you would like to have the toolkit you can download it from the WAGGGS website. It helps you to plan and run your advocacy project (no matter what topic actually) and can talk about how to introduce advocacy in your educational programme and how to apply advocacy action at different levels, e.g. national board, group, troop, etc.

WAGGGS' advocacy work will also focus on the MDGs. The MDG messages are the new advocacy key messages. They follow and incorporate the seven adolescent health messages, so any work in this area becomes part of our work around the MDGs. For example girls worldwide say "fight AIDS" is now part of girls worldwide say "we can stop the spread of AIDS, malaria and other diseases". There will be new or amended versions of our position statements produced, one for each of the MDGs. And existing as well as future strategic partnership projects, publications with UN agencies etc., will focus on the MDGs. WAGGGS will encourage girls and young women to influence people to take decisions which improve their lives and the lives of others.

Slide 10: Foster international thinking

WAGGGS is a global movement stepping up to a global challenge. As a global movement we can inspire our members to think about how the MDGs affect girls and young women in other countries as well as their own. "Together we can change our world." 'Our world' is about our local community, our country and our planet. As a youth movement, we will add the voice of girls and young women to this call to action. We will bring new energy as we encourage our members, young and old, to become agents for change.

Slide 11: Build leadership skills

The GAT will be a thread in all WAGGGS events including leadership seminars, projects, events and advocacy. World Thinking Day will adopt an MDG as its theme each year. This topic will become WAGGGS' yearly focus until 2015. The World Centres will run programmes, activities and seminars connected to the MDGs, and the 34th World Conference will be an occasion to showcase WAGGGS' contribution to the achievement of the MDGs.

Slide 12: Strengthen Member Organizations

The resource materials developed by WAGGGS will help to strengthen Member Organizations through their programmes. The MO Guidelines will include:

- How to use the GAT badge curriculum
- Suggestions for national projects and campaigns (linked to using the Advocacy Toolkit)
- How to integrate the MDGs into MOs' national programme
- And at a later stage, Strategic alliances and fund development at national level

The GAT badge curriculum will have information and activities on each of the eight MDGs. There will be three levels to choose from: basic, advanced and specialist. The specialist level will give girls the opportunity to focus on one particular MDG topic of interest.

Slide 13: Showcasing success

Each region will have a number of 'GAT Champion' Member Organizations. The countries listed are the Champions for four regions. There will also be GAT Champions in the Arab regions, to be confirmed. These MOs have worked on MDG

topics in the past, and have committed to working with the theme in a big way. They will contribute to GAT resources, support other MOs in their GAT work and showcase what they have done at regional and world conferences.

Slide 14: Our world

WAGGGS encourages everyone to take action and change the world around them. Action can happen at many levels. 'Our world' starts at a personal level, and expands to include our local community, national and international levels. WAGGGS sees the initiative as an important method of educating the young people who are the leaders of tomorrow and raising the awareness of the wider public. It starts with action on a local level and extends through national level projects and campaigns to the international level as WAGGGS mounts an international advocacy campaign on MDG topics.

Slide 15: WAGGGS messages

To encourage girls and young women to take up this challenge, WAGGGS has created phrases that will engage and excite them. Under the heading of *girls worldwide say "together we can change our world"*, each of the MDGs has its own 'girls worldwide say' message which will be used in all areas of WAGGGS work, like for example our resources, our advocacy work, etc.

Slide 16: Our future

Imagine these young girls. Let's call them Jenny, Priya and Mary. They're all eleven years old and they could well be Girl Guides or Girls Scouts. By 2015, they will be eighteen. What will life be like for them in seven years' time? They are the faces of the future. Achieving the MDGs matters because it will affect all of us, including them.

Slide 16: quote

In conclusion, here is a quote from Kofi Annan, the former United Nations Secretary General: "It is not in the United Nations that the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved. They have to be achieved in each of its Member States, by the joint efforts of their governments and people."