

A year of action

2005 is a year of action for the Quality Public Services campaign.

PSI is part of a huge mobilization, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). This campaign is calling for more and better aid for developing countries, debt cancellation and trade justice.

Through our involvement, we can ensure that the global demands include a call for quality public services. Improvements in aid, debt and trade must be directed to building quality public health, education, welfare, water and sanitation services, if poverty and exclusion are to be tackled.

It is important that unions get involved in the GCAP national coalitions forming around the world. These are developing policy and lobbying positions that should include a call for quality public services.

July 1st and September 10 are key mobilization days. Join the millions of people wearing a white band as a symbol of support for the campaign to make poverty history.

More information: www.whiteband.org



Nelson Mandela, at a London rally for debt relief, 3 February 2004. Photo: S. Cagnoni (reportdigital.co.uk)

“Recognise that the world is hungry for action, not words. Act with courage and vision.”

January 27 The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) was launched at the *World Social Forum*.

March 8 *International Women’s Day* - a chance to focus on tackling poverty and the importance to women of quality public services.

April 10 to 16 The *Global Week of Action on Trade* enables public sector unions to raise concerns about liberalization through GATS. More on www.april2005.org

April 24 to 30 *Education Action Week* - an opportunity to support public education. More on www.ei-ie.org/globalactionweek

May 1 *May Day* celebrations can include an anti-poverty, pro-public services theme.

July 1 *White Band Day* prior to the G8 meeting 6-8 July. Poverty will top the agenda at the meeting of the world’s major economies. We want quality public services also on the agenda. More on www.whiteband.org

September 10 *White Band Day* prior to a meeting of Heads of state at a UN Summit 14-16 September. The Summit will review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The need for quality public services to meet the Goals must be on the agenda.

December *White Band Day* held prior to the WTO Ministerial Conference, 13-18 December. Another opportunity to question GATS and the further privatization of public services.



BRIDGING THE GAPS

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EVERYONE DESERVES QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES TO MAKE LIFE BETTER.
JOIN THE GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY TO BRIDGE THE GAPS.



THE RESOURCES GAP

BETWEEN THE SERVICES PEOPLE NEED AND THE CAPACITY FOR PROVIDING THEM

THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

BETWEEN THOSE WHO MAKE DECISIONS AND THOSE WHOSE LIVES DEPEND ON THEM

THE EQUITY GAP

BETWEEN SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE POOR AND THOSE AVAILABLE TO THE BETTER OFF

THE GENDER GAP

BETWEEN THE BURDEN ON WOMEN OF FAILING SERVICES AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN HOW THEY ARE RUN

THE LABOUR GAP

BETWEEN ACTUAL AND REQUIRED INVESTMENT IN A WORKFORCE WHOSE RIGHTS AND KNOWLEDGE ARE RESPECTED

THE ETHICAL GAP

BETWEEN THE VALUES REQUIRED IN PUBLIC SERVICES AND CORRUPTION BY STATE ABUSE OR PROFIT MOTIVE

THE PERFORMANCE GAP

BETWEEN INADEQUATE SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT AND THE POTENTIAL OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM

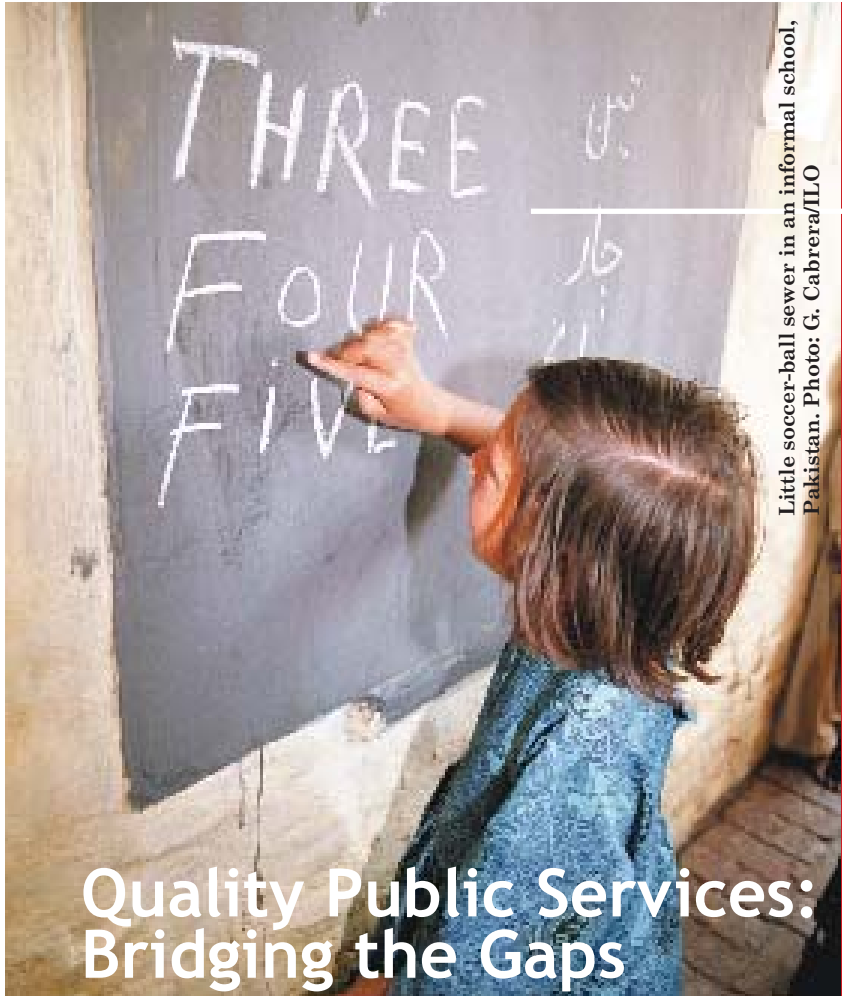
THE SUSTAINABILITY GAP

BETWEEN THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE WATER, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT SERVICES AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT



BRIDGING THE GAPS

PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL WWW.WORLD-PSI.ORG



Little soccer-ball sewer in an informal school, Pakistan. Photo: G. Cabrera/ILO

Quality Public Services: Bridging the Gaps

The United Nations has developed the Millennium Development Goals to tackle the problems of poverty by 2015. Although modest, these MDGs will not be met. The Global Call to Action Against Poverty includes demands for policies to hasten progress towards the MDGs.

PSI is campaigning for quality public services that bridge the gaps, between rich and poor nations and people, between those who have and those who don't. We have identified eight key areas in our "gaps principles", providing a simple description of the important components of quality public services.

In both developed and developing countries, there are often gaps between the services communities need and those available. Building on the eight gaps principles, PSI is working with a number of other organizations to develop a General Agreement on Public Services which would commit governments and international organizations to bridging the gaps to achieve quality public services.

Wear the White Band because ...

- ... every day 1.1 billion people have to drink polluted water
- ... every day 8,200 people die due to HIV/AIDS
- ... every day more than 100 million children are denied the chance to go to school
- ... building quality public services can make a difference

It is time for all of us to act together

It is time to demand that world leaders do more to fight poverty



Be part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty!
www.whiteband.org

Public Services International

E-mail: psi@world-psi.org; www.world-psi.org
Focus on the public services: March 2005



BRIDGING THE GAPS