

act:onaid

**GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION
FOR
DEBT CANCELLATION
NEWSLETTER**

OCTOBER 2020



#YOUTH4DEBTCANCELLATION

#DEBTMUSTFALL

#ENDAUSTERITY

#CANCELTHEDEBTNOW

GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR DEBT CANCELLATION(GWOA)

CONTENTS



1. Why #DebtCancellation
2. A Call to Action
3. Open letter to all Governments, International institutions and lenders
4. Media advocacy on Debt cancellation

6. Sounding the Debt Alarm- Solidarity Online concert
7. Rising to the Beat on debt
8. International Rural Women's Day
9. The Debt-Poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar



OVERVIEW

Why Debt Cancellation?

During the Global Week of Action for Debt Cancellation (10th-17th October 2020), young women in Malawi and allies joined organizations and citizen groups in the global movement to raise awareness of the urgency of the debt issue and to call for debt cancellation, including debt held by international institutions and private creditors.

The Objectives of this campaign were aligned to the young women's call for "a strongly funded public services sector and delivery of gender responsive public services"- a vision that is currently hindered by the stock of Malawi's public debt.

Malawi's fiscal deficit is above SADC set threshold of 4% of GDP and the debt stock has astronomically increased by nearly three quarters over the past 5 years from 2.41 trillion Mwk in 2016 to 4.1 trillion Mwk in 2020 .

The 2020/2021 national budget shows that the Government of Malawi will be unable to effectively support people due to debt payments as it will spend more money (17%) on debt payments to rich governments or foreign lender institutions than in healthcare or other key public services.

This first edition of "Public Debt Newsletter" Feminist macro-Economic Alliance - Malawi therefore provides highlights of key interventions implemented in during the week.



Children in the Lilongwe rural holding a debt cancellation placard

A CALL TO ACTION

Feminist Macro-Economics movement in Malawi implemented several interventions in the period before and during Global Week of Action for Debt Cancellation to mark the launch of the week and also to mobilize the public to join the many activities planned for the week or organize their own activities in support of the debt cancellation campaign.

Key activities included media advocacy, orientation of high-impact digital and media influencers as well as face-to-face interaction meetings with CSO members.



ActionAid Malawi Head of Policy and Programs, Clement Ndiwo-Banda speaking to the media ahead of the campaign launch



An orientation of Digital Influencers discussing online campaign strategies for the cancellation of debt

Did you know?

17% of Malawi's National Budget goes to making debt repayments. What does this mean?

This means that during the year the world faces a #GlobalPandemic #Malawi allocates only 9% to Health& the Education sector has had a budget cut.

Cancel The Debt Now | Feam Press Briefing

<https://nmnafrica.com/cancel-the-debt-now-feam-press-briefing/>

4 **7 DEMANDS FOR DEBT JUSTICE**

A fair, transparent, binding and multilateral framework for debt crisis resolution (under the auspices of the UN and not in lender-dominated arenas) that addresses unsustainable and illegitimate debt.

GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR DEBT CANCELLATION
Know more about our call for debt justice! Visit <https://www.debtgwa.net>

The graphic features a red background with a large yellow number '4' and a circular logo containing a stylized 'UN' and 'WORLD' text. A small icon of hands holding a globe is in the top right corner.

Open Letter addressed to All Governments, International Institutions and Lenders

A key highlight of the week was an Open Letter addressed to All Governments, International Institutions and Lenders.

The open letter, read by ActionAid and signed by Feminist Macro Economics Alliance- Malawi (FEAM) members was delivered during a press briefing to ask international lender institutions to unconditionally cancel Malawi's external debt.

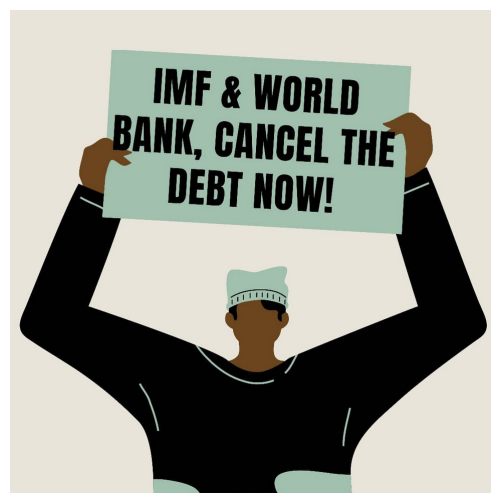
The letter's message made a big impact— both in terms of the message to make sure that voices from young women and people of Malawi are heard as well as the breadth and number of signatories from among organizations, movements, citizens groups and public leaders.

Presentation of the letter was timely and happened during a week the G20 Finance Ministers met and it also helped to send a strong demand from civil society for the IMF-World Bank Annual



Leaders of organisations under the Malawi debt campaign carrying placards to urge donors to cancel the debt for Malawi at a press briefing at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe.

ActionAid Malawi Executive Director, Assan Golowa speaking to the media after the press briefing in Lilongwe



MEDIA ADVOCACY ON DEBT CANCELLATION

SEVERAL PRESS BRIEFINGS WERE ORGANIZED , ENGAGING WITH DIGITAL INFLUENCERS AND TRADITIONAL JOURNALISTS TO ENSURE WIDE COVERAGE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GWOA.



ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE DEBT CANCELLATION CAMPAIGN HOLDING A PRESS BRIEFING ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN IN LILONGWE



AN ORIENTATION OF DIGITAL INFLUENCERS DISCUSSING ONLINE CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES FOR THE CANCELLATION OF DEBT

MALAWI'S INTERGENERATIONAL DEBT BURDEN: YOUTH VOICES NEEDED!



MEMBERS OF ACTIVISTA YOUTH NETWORK CARRYING PLACARDS ON DEBT CANCELLATION FOR AN ONLINE CAMPAIGN



For full article:

<https://www.tiunike.com/post/malawi-s-intergenerational-debt-burden-youth-voices-needed>

<https://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-feminist-alliance-calls-for-unconditional-cancellation-of-debts/>



ACT NOW

LET G20 LEADERS KNOW WHY THEY SHOULD
#CANCELTHEDEBT

FEAM SEEKS UNCONDITIONAL DEBT CANCELLATION

<https://www.developmentdiaries.com/2020/10/malawi-feam-seeks-unconditional-debt-cancellation/>



SOUNDING THE DEBT ALARM

MALAWIAN ARTISTS JOIN SOLIDARITY CONCERT



RISE TO THE BEAT OF DEBT JUSTICE

Register: <http://bit.ly/DebtConcertRally>

An Online Concert-Rally with music, poetry and testimonies
14 OCTOBER 2020

TIME:

3-7pm KARACHI, LAHORE	12nn-4pm BRUSSELS, PARIS, BONN, MADRID, GENEVA, ROME, OSLO, JOHANNESBURG, LUSAKA
3:30-7:30pm BANGALORE, COLOMBO, DELHI	1-5pm NAIROBI
3:45-7:45pm KATHMANDU	6-10am NEW YORK, WASHINGTON DC, TORONTO
4-8pm DHAKA	3-7am SEATTLE, SAN FRANCISCO
5-9pm BANGKOK, HANOI, JAKARTA	4-8am MANAGUA
6-10pm MANILA, HONG KONG, BEIJING	5-9am LIMA
7-11pm - SEOUL, TOKYO	6-10am SUCRE
9pm-1am SYDNEY	7-11am RIO DE JANEIRO, BUENOS AIRES
10pm-2am SUVA	
11am-3pm LONDON, DUBLIN	

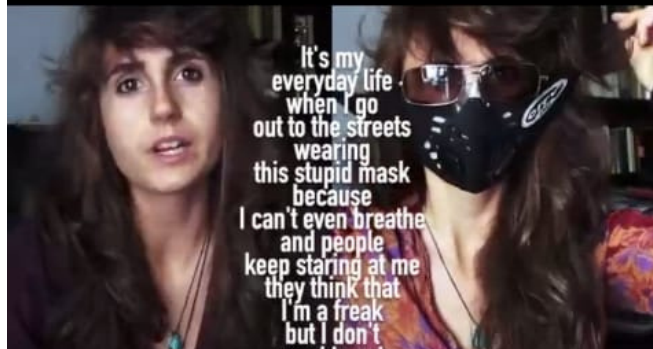
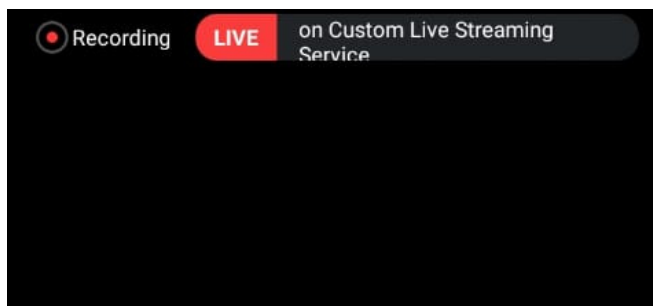
The Concert-Rally is part of activities during the Global Week of Action for Debt Cancellation, 10-17 October 2020, meant to raise awareness on the debt issue and to advance ways forward

ORGANIZERS: FIGHT INEQUALITY, APMD, 350, AMP3, actionaid

AN ONLINE CONCERT - RALLY WITH MUSIC, POETRY AND TESTIMONIES. THE CONCERT - RALLY IS PART OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR DEBT CANCELLATION, 10 - 17 OCTOBER 2020, MEANT TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DEBT ISSUE AND TO ADVANCE WAYS FORWARD.

MARUMBO IS A SPOKEN WORD ARTIST AND POET, WHOSE POETRY IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURE, LIFE, LOVE AND GOD.

CHRISTINA CHIKONDI KAMWENDO IS A STUDENT AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, A WRITER, A POET, SPOKEN WORD ARTIST, AND ENTREPRENEUR. ARTISTS



Join Malawian artists,
@DarkShadow265 & @Marumbo Sichinga performing at the global

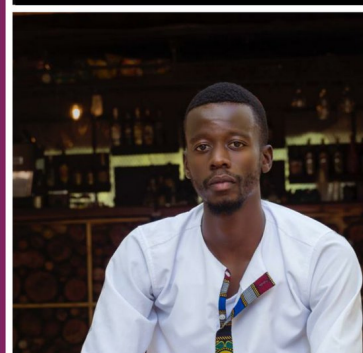
RISE TO THE BEAT OF DEBT JUSTICE

ONLINE CONCERT

14 Oct 2020 // 12 - 4pm CAT

REGISTER
<http://bit.ly/DebtConcertRally>

GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR DEBT CANCELLATION OCTOBER 10-17, FEMINIST ECONOMIC ALLIANCE MALAWI, egisa, OSISA, actionaid, activista, mHu, MIRC



RIISING TO THE BEAT ON DEBT



“Considering the potential length and breadth of this pandemic, we request and are hopeful for debt cancellation ultimately and an extension of the debt moratorium in the meantime. That will enable us as LDCs to recover from this devastating pandemic sustainably,” said Chakwera.

In support of debt cancellation: President Chakwera

70 Delegates were brought together to engage in the conversation on public debt, Macro Economic policies and public service delivery.



The Minister of Gender and Participants take a picture at the of the Parliamentary engagement on public debt, macroeconomic policies and public service delivery in Lilongwe at BICC



ActionAid Malawi’s Head of Programs and Policy on a panel discussion at BICC giving his views on why the government should cancel debt

In summary, 7000 people were mobilized and reached with information on current state of public debt, macroeconomics and public service delivery issues and the need for debt cancellatin



ACT NOW

LET G20 LEADERS KNOW WHY THEY SHOULD #CANCELTHEDEBT



INTERNATIONAL RURAL WOMEN'S DAY

On 15th October 2020, young women and rural women had the opportunity to interact with policy makers to highlight the issue of public debt and gaps on financing for climate action.

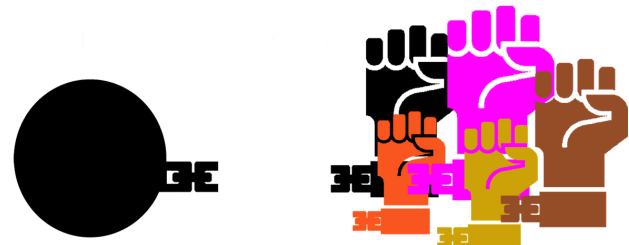


ActionAid Malawi representatives take pictures whilst campaigning for the cancellation of debt as well as promoting funding for climate action at the International rural Women's Day in Nsaru



ActionAid Malawi representatives campaign for the cancellation of debt and promote the funding of climate action at the International rural Women's Day in Nsaru

GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR DEBT CANCELLATION



A Youth Activista Network member campaigns for the cancellation of debt at the International Rural Women's Day in Nsaru



The Minister of Gender, Hon Patricia Kaliati being interviewed on different issues affecting women living in the rural at the International rural Women's Day in Nsaru



Children at the International Rural Women's Day in Nsaru holding a debt cancellation placard

THE DEBT
BY PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

**THIS IS THE DEBT I PAY
JUST FOR ONE RIOTOUS DAY,
YEARS OF REGRET AND GRIEF,
SORROW WITHOUT RELIEF.
PAY IT I WILL TO THE END**

**UNTIL THE GRAVE,
MY FRIEND,GIVES ME A TRUE
RELEASE**

**GIVES ME THE CLASP OF
PEACE.SLIGHT WAS THE THING I
BOUGHT,
SMALL WAS THE DEBT I THOUGHT,
POOR WAS THE LOAN AT BEST
GOD! BUT THE INTEREST!**