

**war on want**  
**annual review 2008**

what have you helped us achieve?



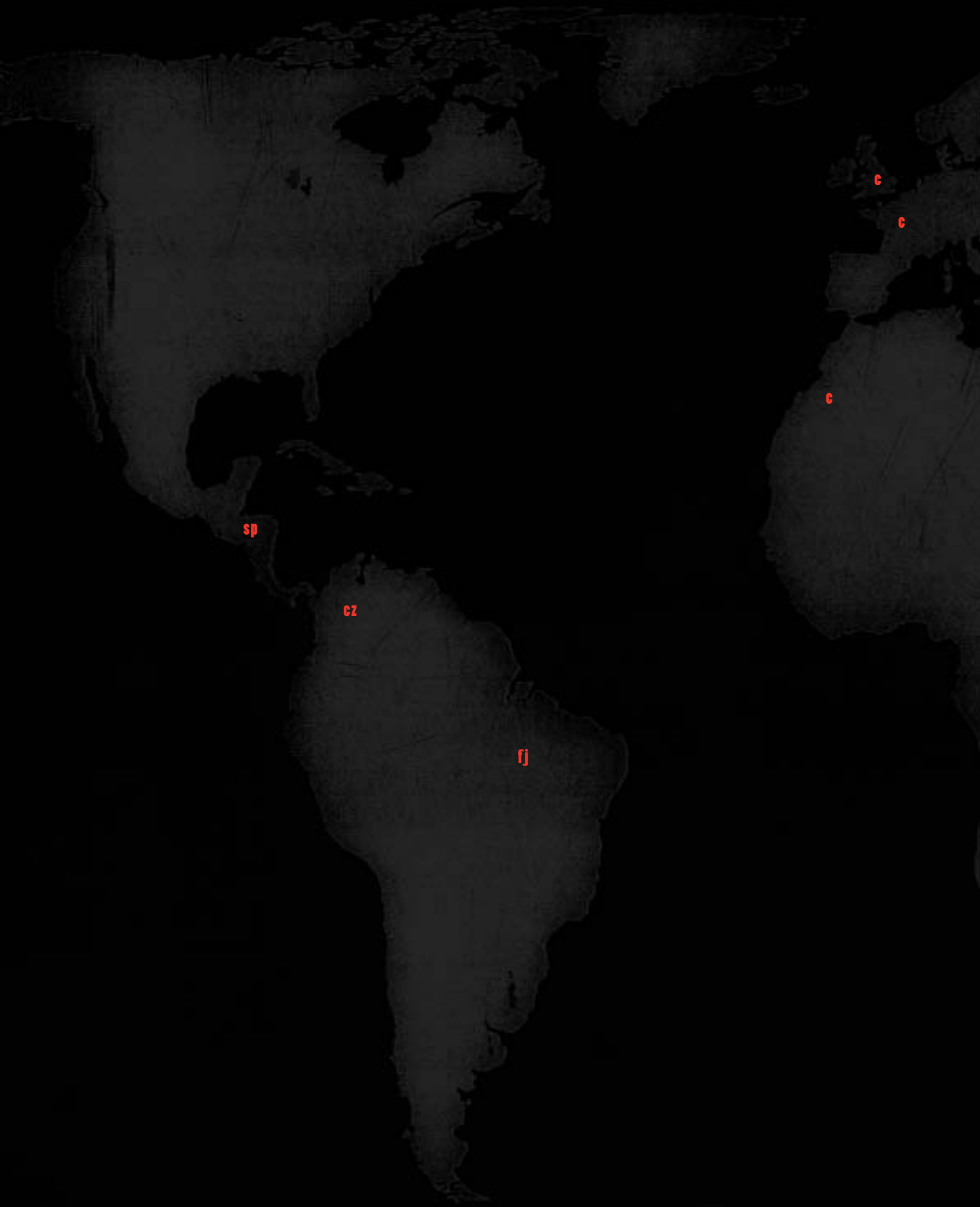
FIGHTING GLOBAL POVERTY



**war on want**  
**what have you helped us achieve?**

**informal economy ic**  
where we help to empower people who  
are forced to work without regular,  
secure employment.

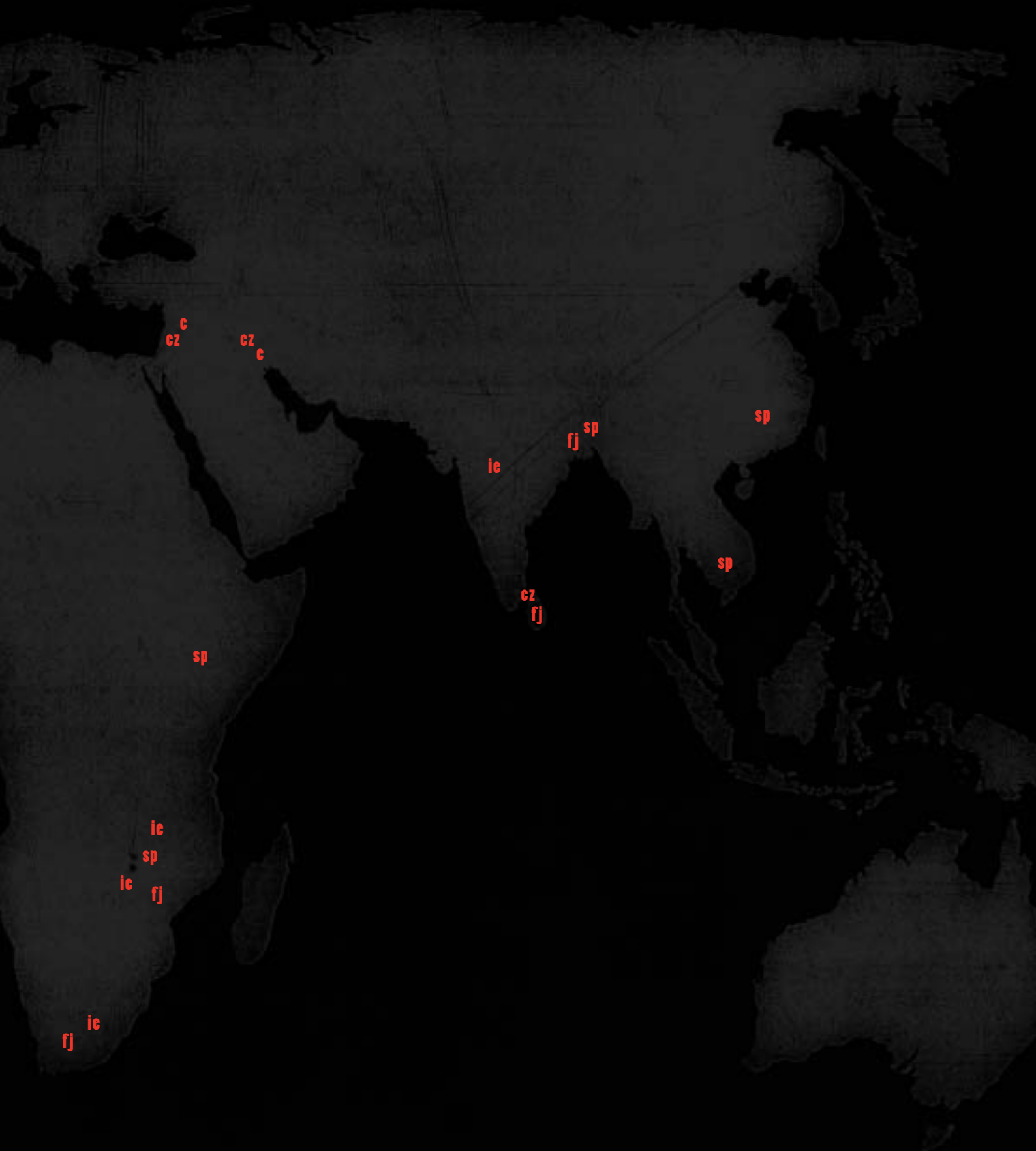
**food justice fj**  
where we support small farmers to provide  
enough food for themselves and their families  
in a world where trade policies are squeezing  
them out of business.



**sweatshops and plantations sp**  
where we are helping to improve the  
working conditions and rights of people  
in low-paid work.

**conflict zones cZ**  
where we support partners fighting  
poverty against a backdrop of violence.

**campaigns c**  
where we fight against the root  
causes of global poverty.



**supporting war-ravaged communities**

**speaking without**

**fear or favour**

**a shareholder challenge to Tesco**

**fighting privatisation in Iraq and South Africa**

**organising sweatshop workers**

**exposing**

**exploitation**

**combating mercenary armies**



**vision** a world free from poverty and oppression, based on social justice, equality and human rights for all.

**mission** to fight global poverty by working in partnership and solidarity with people around the world, and by campaigning against the root causes of poverty, inequality and injustice.

## greeting from the chair

Poverty is not inevitable. Poverty is the result of power and influence, the institutions and corporations that run the world we live in. We know that we can change this by working with partner organisations throughout the world and campaigning against the structures that keep people in poverty.

War on Want achieved great things in 2007 in its campaign to hold supermarkets to account for the treatment of their suppliers overseas. UK corporations make mammoth profits by squeezing the people in developing countries who make the goods they sell. The momentum generated by our *Fashion Victims* report, which focused on the degrading conditions and poverty wages of Bangladeshi factory workers, produced a tide of media attention that lasted throughout the year. Two further reports in 2007 garnered even more media coverage for the issue. We have redefined the terms of the debate on supermarkets and their suppliers and we will keep up the pressure throughout 2008.

The year also saw great achievements from our partners supporting sweatshop and plantation workers. In Honduras, our partner won a landmark hearing with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the human and labour rights abuses endured by garment workers there. Together with other organisations our partner is hoping to expose an ineffective system of labour laws that leave garment workers most exposed in regions with the greatest density of factories.

In 2007 the US and UK pressured the Iraqi government to pass a law that would sign away the revenue generated by its oil. We raised awareness of the disastrous oil law in the UK and our partner in Iraq won a major victory when attempts to rush the law through Iraq's parliament fell flat. We also lifted the lid on the human rights abuses committed by corporate mercenaries working outside the law in Iraq.

Working with the broad-based Enough! coalition, we campaigned for the rights of Palestinians with a series of events throughout 2007, the 40th anniversary of Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. As part of Sandblast, we organised a successful arts festival to celebrate both the struggles and the heritage of the Saharawi people of Western Sahara, who have lived under Moroccan occupation for more than 30 years.

Our work and success are only possible due to your support and generosity. It is thanks to you that we are able to fund organisations in some of the poorest and most vulnerable regions of the world and help them fight for improvements in people's lives.

As you read through the following pages, I hope you will feel proud of what your support has achieved.

Sue Branford, Chair  
War on Want



## campaigns

War on Want's campaigns have continued to define the debate on global and economic justice. Our action in support of workers who supply UK retailers such as Tesco, Asda and Primark has reopened the debate on the threats and challenges of globalisation. Our EU-funded campaign is based on our longstanding belief that decent work offers people a chance to escape poverty, while the constant demand for lower costs by British retailers condemns millions to long-term despair.

### Campaigning against sweatshop labour

We followed up the success of our *Fashion Victims* report into the fate of Bangladeshi garment workers with two high-profile media exposés of the wider use of sweatshop labour by UK high street stores. Together with Labour Behind the Label, we published research in September 2007 to examine the difficulties facing workers in the worldwide garments industry who are denied a living wage. In conjunction with our Colombian and Kenyan partners, we exposed the dangerous working conditions facing women in the cut flower industry – a growing concern as British supermarkets seek to source more of their flowers from developing countries.

To follow up on the findings of this research, War on Want's company secretary led a shareholder challenge to Tesco over its continued reliance on sub-standard labour in its supply chains. Tesco was eventually required to circulate a War on Want resolution to all shareholders calling for good practice in its supply chains – the first time such a resolution has forced its way onto the company's agenda. Our call was backed by an unprecedented number of shareholders at Tesco's annual general

meeting, and the action has set a precedent for shareholder activism under the terms of the new Companies Act.

We are grateful to the EU for its support of our campaign challenging those companies which profit from conflict and thereby condemn vulnerable communities to long-term poverty. We continue our efforts to curb mercenaries employed by private military and security companies in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, and we hope to see legislation to cover such companies introduced in the coming year. At the same time, we have examined the impact of British mining companies on local communities facing human rights crises in countries such as Colombia and the Philippines, where just being singled out as 'anti-mining' is enough to sign your death warrant.

### Lobbying for Palestine

To mark the 40th anniversary of Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, War on Want brought together an unprecedented coalition of trade unions, faith groups and campaigners to press for peace and justice for the Palestinian people. The campaign won international attention with a major rally in Trafalgar Square in June, followed by the largest ever lobby of parliament on behalf of the Palestinian people in November 2007. War on Want met with further success when the International Development Committee of the House of Commons backed our call for suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, a treaty which rewards Israel's aggression by granting trading preferences to its exports into the EU.





## programmes

War on Want supports grassroots organisations in developing countries in fighting against the poverty their communities face every day. When choosing programme partners we look to make ongoing commitments so that they can make long-term plans. In 2007 we supported 40 projects in 18 countries around the world. We support programme partners who work in one of four areas: Food Justice, Conflict Zones, Sweatshops and Plantations and the Informal Economy.

### Working to help landless people

Our food justice programme helps small farmers and landless people to gain access to land and combat low wages. In Brazil, our partner has been campaigning against the government's drive to grow genetically modified soyabeans and maize for fuel instead of vital food crops. We also secured several important grants for projects that support rural women workers in South Africa and Brazil.

In conflict zones around the world we work to support people who have been kept in poverty by war. The instability that violence creates and the displacement it often leads to are major factors in creating poverty. Therefore we support organisations that have been rebuilding war-ravaged communities in Sri Lanka. Our partner in Iraq was able to mobilise against the disastrous law on oil privatisation, thanks in part to your generous support for our Iraq appeal. In Colombia, our partner capped a year of active campaigning with a mass rally which has helped focus national attention on the growing humanitarian catastrophe of large-scale displacement.

### Improving working conditions

People in the UK are increasingly dependent on goods produced in sweatshops or on plantations around the world. Workers in these sectors often face terrible conditions and poverty wages. We support projects in several countries that fight for workers' rights such as safe conditions, job security and a living wage. We secured two grants from Irish Aid for partners in Bangladesh and Honduras who support sweatshop workers. We also took part in a pioneering meeting in Colombia on the flower industry where representatives of British supermarkets and Colombian farms met with our partner.

In many countries, workers are forced to make a living in the unregulated informal economy. We work with groups that support street and market traders and rubbish collectors. These workers face unsafe conditions, low and unstable wages, no job protection and few legal rights. Our partners in Kenya and Zambia are campaigning for market trading and street vending to be legally recognised. In July, we held a photo exhibition in London and Brighton documenting the harsh realities of life in Zambian markets.

In December, our South African partner successfully brought a case before Johannesburg High Court challenging the illegal limits placed on household water provision to residents of Soweto.

Our partners touch millions of lives in the developing world. The work they do would not be possible without your generous support.



1 In Colombia, our partner helps women flower workers to demand better working conditions and pay.

2 Our protest at the annual meeting of the British Association of Private Security Companies in December 2007.

3



4



3 The Anti-Privatisation Forum in South Africa fights to keep basic services, affordable and out of private hands.

4 In Sri Lanka, our partner supports small farmers who are fighting for their right to grow food for themselves, not the export market.





## finance

### Using your money wisely

War on Want is passionate about fighting global poverty. But our success in achieving our goals is based on the fantastic support we receive from you. Our income increased by more than £162,000, or just over 9%, in 2006/07 thanks to your generosity. This has meant that we have been able to provide more support to our partners and campaign more effectively against injustice and poverty around the world. Thank you to all our donors, both large and small – every penny that you give to War on Want helps people around the globe to win real victories in their struggle for justice.

In return for your generosity, we make every effort to spend your money in ways that make the most difference to poor people worldwide. Over 76% of our spending in 2006/07 went directly towards our international partners and campaigning work, a figure of which we are extremely proud. We will continue to focus on making your donations work hard in the fight against poverty in 2008.

Total income £1,958,579

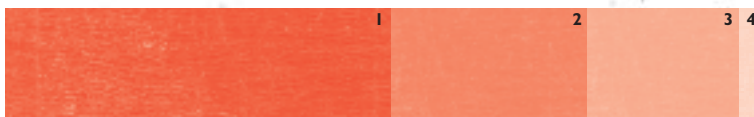


1 donations and legacies £973,892

2 grant funding £923,865

3 other sources £60,822

Total expenditure £1,931,482



1 programmes expenditure £969,001

2 campaigning activity £507,891

3 fundraising £393,720

4 governance £60,870

## campaigns in 2008



We will continue our action on Palestine throughout 2008, the 60th anniversary of 750,000 Palestinians being driven from their homes when the state of Israel was created. Over four million now live as refugees throughout the Middle East, condemned to poverty and cut off from their homes. We will also continue our support for the Saharawi people in their struggle after more than 30 years of Moroccan occupation. And we will continue our solidarity work with Iraqi trade unionists striving to save their country's oil wealth from privatisation at the hands of companies such as BP and Shell.

### Challenging trade rules

In addition, War on Want will embark on a major new campaign for trade justice over the coming three years. While multilateral talks have failed at the World Trade Organisation, the UK government and its EU partners are embarking on a series of bilateral trade treaties with developing countries which could be even more damaging to the poor. We will focus on the threats posed by these talks to jobs and people around the world, especially women,

and we will build a pan-European campaign for positive alternatives in place of the 'free trade' agenda of the EU.

### Corporations and conflict

We will also continue with our campaign to expose those companies which profit from conflict and human rights abuse. We will keep up the pressure on mercenaries and mining companies, and we will expose the financiers who fuel wars across the world.

War on Want depends on its members and supporters to make these campaigns a success, and we can be rightly proud of our achievements. We are constantly looking to expand our loyal body of campaigns activists, as well as working with a wide range of like-minded organisations and building links with new groups. War on Want has reaffirmed its place in the movement for global justice, speaking out without fear or favour and saying the things that others are afraid to say. We now need to take our campaigning to the next level, in the fight for a better world.

## our partners in 2008



In 2008 we will continue to support many of our inspiring partners, and develop new areas of work in the coming year.

### Helping people in conflict zones

In Colombia, we will strengthen our work with people at risk of displacement, who have already lost millions of hectares of land to paramilitary groups in the last few years. In the Middle East, we will look at ways of expanding our work with existing partners in Palestine and Iraq and explore new partnerships in Lebanon.

### Supporting small farmers

In Sri Lanka and Brazil, we will support a new research project on the role of transnational companies in the seed sector and their impact on small farmers and landless people. This research will provide our partners on the ground with information to help them in their advocacy activities.

We will also be investigating how UK retailers, particularly supermarkets, are exploiting poor working conditions and low wages to sell cheap goods in the UK. This research will support partners in Kenya, Zambia and South Africa in

bargaining with plantation owners for better pay and conditions.

We will also continue our Decent Work, Decent Life campaign, to help workers on the margins of the economy in African countries to engage with their governments to improve their working conditions and rights.

### Improving human rights in China

We will intensify our efforts to enhance human rights in China. A delegation of Chinese workers will be travelling to the UK to engage with policy makers, trade unionists and members of the public about human and workers rights' violations in a year when China will be in the spotlight during the Olympic Games.

All of this vital work is dependent on your generous support. Our work with partners in these countries responds to complex needs and you are a key part of the success we achieve. We look forward to your continued support throughout 2008.



**Thank you for your support  
and generosity. Without your  
contributions we could not  
help the thousands of people  
throughout the world that  
fight poverty on a daily basis.**

**We would also like to thank  
the following institutions  
for their generous support:**

**European Union**

**Department for International Development**

**Comic Relief**

**Irish Aid**

**Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee**

**Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission**

**Prospect**

**PCS**

**Innocent Foundation**

**The Scurrah Wainwright Charity**

**The Rowan Charitable Trust**

**Thompsons Solicitors**

# Yes, I want to support War on Want by becoming a member.

Name

Address (please write in capitals)

Postcode

E-mail (please write clearly)

Phone/Mobile

## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to: War on Want, FREEPOST  
(this is all you need to write)

## Name and full address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager, Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank / Building Society Account Number

Originator's Identification Number – 388240

Reference (to be completed by War on Want)



## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay War on Want Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with War on Want and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank / Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

Please accept this Direct Debit of  £5 a month

£- My own monthly / quarterly / yearly (delete)

Commencing on the  1st  8th  15th  22nd of mm y

(please tick as appropriate)

In order to become a member of War on Want, we ask you to give a minimum of £20 a year in total, £5 if unwaged.

### New Gift Aid Declaration

Please tick if you would like War on Want to reclaim the tax that you have paid on your donations since 6 April 2001 and on any future donations. You must have paid an amount of income and/or capital gains tax (in the UK) equal to the tax that will be claimed (currently 28p for each £1 you give).

Thank you. We'll keep you up to date with news about our work and how you can help.  
If you don't want us to keep in touch, please tick this box.

## Yes, I want to support War on Want by making a donation.

War on Want relies on the generosity of its supporters to continue its work to help poor people around the world. Every pound counts in our fight against injustice and inequality and we are grateful for your support.

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to: War on Want, FREEPOST

(this is all you need to write)

Yes, I can help. Here is my gift of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Address (please write in capitals)

Postcode

E-mail (please write clearly)

I enclose a cheque / CAF Voucher / Postal Order made payable to War on Want  
Please debit my Mastercard / Visa / Maestro / CAF Charity Card

Card Number

Valid From

Expiry Date

Issue Number (Maestro Only)

Security Code (The last three digits on your card signature strip)\*

Name of Cardholder

Signature(s)

Date

\*This number is not retained by War on Want once your gift has been processed.

**New Gift Aid Declaration**

Please tick if you would like War on Want to reclaim the tax that you have paid on your donations since 6 April 2001 and on any future donations. You must have paid an amount of income and/or capital gains tax (in the UK) equal to the tax that will be claimed (currently 28p for each £1 you give).



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