

# Evaluation of the immediate impact of the GSF2010 Regional Sixth Form Conferences



Global Student Forum  
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## Executive summary

### 1. Introduction

This report evaluates the immediate impacts of the two GSF2010 Regional Sixth Form Conferences on students' knowledge, understanding, attitudes, perceptions and capacity to take action in relation to the theme, *Education Beats Poverty*. It is based on the analysis of 190 'pre-conference' survey forms, and 189 'end-of-conference' forms completed by students attending the two conferences. With a total registration count of 214 students across the two events, which both adopted the same format and content, this response rate provides an excellent basis for drawing robust conclusions.

### 2. Key findings

#### (a) Impacts on knowledge and understanding

The conferences aimed to equip delegates with a command of authoritative key facts and figures. Given the specialist nature of the knowledge, it is unsurprising that the 'pre-conference' survey revealed a very low baseline of student familiarity with the key facts and figures, but the contrast between this low baselines and students' command of the facts and figures at the end of the conferences is striking. The average percentage of students able to cite authoritative statistics for each question posed by the 'pre-conference' survey was 10%. By the end of the conferences, this had risen to 83%.

During the conferences, a large majority (68%) of students shifted towards a stronger level of agreement with the statement, *'I understand the complex reasons why many young people miss out on education'*. These shifts resulted in 97% of students affirming the statement on leaving the events.

#### (b) Impacts on attitudes, perceptions and confidence to engage others

As with the national GSF2010 conference, the majority of GSF students came to the regional events already concerned about global poverty but lacking confidence in their ability to engage others in relation to global issues. At the close of proceedings, 79% felt more confident to educate other people about global issues and about the links between education and overcoming poverty than they did before the event. By this point, 94% felt confident to do this (compared with only 36% beforehand). Furthermore, 82% returned to school or college confident about using the media to highlight global issues (compared with only 27% beforehand). Likewise, 82% also returned confident about engaging politicians on global issues (compared with only 28% beforehand).

#### (c) Anticipated impacts on behaviour and actions

The following quotes provide some insight into how the GSF2010 regional conferences helped develop students' sense of agency in relation to the issues:

*"I will create a group to make a global impact. We will raise awareness and raise money for Christian Aid."*

*"I am going to talk to my MP and flag up the issue in my school."*

*"I will work with schools in the local area to raise awareness of poverty and what they can do."*

*"I am very interested in doing my part. I hope to do some charity work abroad in my gap year and today has clarified my plans."*

### 3. Conclusions

The results of the research into the immediate impacts of the two regional GSF2010 conferences mirror the findings from the national GSF2010 conference very closely. Virtually all delegates left the conference with a much greater awareness and understanding of a wide range of issues relating to the achievement of the second Millennium Development Goal, with many students personally testifying to these impacts. The greatest legacy of the first two GSF regional conferences, however, may well turn out to be the remarkable boost given to the confidence of most students to share their learning with others, including their peers and their political representatives, and to use the media in order to engage an even wider audience.