

HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS FROM ACROSS INDIA

- In Rajasthan, the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON) and a huge network of partner organizations mobilized people from all walks of life through rallies and flag marches and community level gatherings to create awareness on the MDGs and demand that the MDGS be achieved.
For more details contact Alok Vyas (CECOEDECON) at +91-98299-06260
- The National Confederation of Dalit Organizations (NACDOR) and Tehreek-E-Pasmanda Muslim Samaj (TPMS) mobilized more than nineteen lakh people across India to demand better delivery of essential services such as health, education and livelihood to the most marginalized and excluded communities including Dalits, Muslims, Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes and women. Also among their demands was the enactment of an Urban Employment Guarantee Act to provide livelihood opportunities to millions of people living in poverty in urban slums across the country.
For more details contact Ashok Bharti on +91-98109-18008.
- The Art of Living set up information kiosks in the remotest parts of the country to provide information to poor and marginalized population on schemes and programs for poverty and hunger alleviation, education and environment. Art of Living's large volunteer base was trained in using the Right to Information Act. RTI applications were filed on unutilized budgets of MP and MLA LAD funds as well as the budgets allocated to state institutions responsible for implementing programs for poverty reduction and universal education. In Assam, the Chief Minister joined the Campaign by reading the pledge on Doordarshan.
For more information contact Richa Chopra on +91-99161-20851 and Aswin Nandakumar on +91-98861-34001.
- Campaigners from the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) submitted memorandums to District Officials across Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, to demand equal wages and jobs under NREGA, better health facilities for women under the National Rural Health Mission and overhauling of the ICDS to tackle child mortality and maternal deaths.
For more details contact Annie Raja on +91-98681-81992.
- Across over 100 parliamentary constituencies in India, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan mobilized people for the second phase of the 9 is Mine Campaign, advocating for functional health centres and schools in every village, town and city of India. Stalls were set up in public places such as markets, railway stations, bus stands, outside hospitals and on the roadside, where volunteers requested passersby to fill in a simple questionnaire on health and education services available in their neighborhood. Findings from this citizen's audit will be published in the form of state level and national level report cards which will then be shared with the government as a direct feedback from people.
For more details contact Reni Jacob at +91-99400-77031 and Siba Sankar Mohanty at +91-95559-27083.

- Faith based organizations renewed their efforts to ensure that essential services of health, education and livelihoods reach the most marginalized among their communities; from Friday prayers at mosques across the country, including at the Taj Mahal in Agra, to Sunday services at Churches across the country facilitated by the Catholic Bishop Conference of India (CBCI), Don Bosco Mission and the Churches of North India (CNI), and prayers meetings arranged by Ram Chandra Mission, faith leaders led their congregations to Stand Up and remind leaders of their promises to achieve the MDGs.

For more details contact Mandira Moddie on +91-9818857582.

- Other campaigners on a wide range of issues used the occasion of the Stand Against Poverty campaign to highlight the importance of essential services reaching the most marginalized. From the Centre of Environment Concerns (CEC) and the Child Rights Forum in Andhra Pradesh, to the Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network (UPVAN) and Urban Health Resource Centre (UHRC) in U.P., the Dhan Foundation and the Indian Youth Climate Network in Tamil Nadu, Samarthan and Vikas Samvad in Madhya Pradesh and the Voluntary Forum for Education and Hunger Free Bihar Campaign in Bihar, campaigners raised their voices on a host of issues ranging from child rights to effective implementation of government schemes relating to health, education and livelihoods.