



Dear Campaigners,

With over 23 million people standing up to be counted, in 24 hours from October 15th to October 16th, **Stand Up Against Poverty, Stand Up for the Millennium Development Goals**, became “the largest mobilisation of people in the history of Guinness World Record Breaking”!



From remote village communities in Northern Nigeria to schools in Canada, from local authorities in Philippines to football games in Germany, from neighbourhood groups in Gaza and Latin America to churches in Malawi, from Baba

Ramdev and his followers in India to Times Square in New York, from civil society and educational institutions in Indonesia to anti-poverty campaigners in Italy, Spain and Australia, in almost 12,000 events spread across nearly 100 countries, people stood up together to tell their leaders in no uncertain terms: “We have to end poverty, illiteracy and disease. We have less than 10 years to go to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; we will not accept any more excuses”.

Today with this letter we want to thank you and tell you that you and your organization, your constituency, your partners, made this happen. With your active engagement in this historic world record setting challenge, you have become part of the growing global movement of people who will no longer stay seated in the face of poverty that kills thousands each day, knowing fully well that our generation has the means to put an end to this mindless suffering.



Together, we can be proud that we have demonstrated the strength of popular outrage against poverty and the depth of public support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Stand Up in Warsaw**  
[STAND UP Photo Gallery](#)

Already, many leaders have taken note of this massive outcry including the President of Malawi, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (one of the largest regions in India), the emerging political leadership of Nepal and many many others. Please do look at [www.standagainstpoverty.org](http://www.standagainstpoverty.org) for more details.

A unique feature of Stand Up Against Poverty, Stand Up for the Millennium Development Goals was the largely grassroots nature of the actions taken. We know that a very large number of activities that took place did not even get registered because they were in places that did not have proper communications facilities. Most of those who stood up were people dealing on a day to day basis with poverty and exclusion: indigenous people, Dalits, women and children.

What is heartening is that this initiative has generated a massive number of new volunteers, local groups and people who want to be involved with this movement until 2015! The challenge now is to make sure that we build on this outpouring. We know that many of you have already

made specific policy demands on achieving the Millennium Development Goals with your leaders at the local and national level and have started identifying mechanisms of using this mass mobilization into a longer-term campaign for the eradication of poverty. The UN Millennium Campaign, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty with all its constituent members, federations of local authorities across the world, and many others at the global level look forward to supporting you in the next phase in our joint struggle against poverty at the national and local levels.

On behalf of all my colleagues in the Millennium Campaign, let me once again thank you for this massive show of our collective strength and conviction and wish you every success in your important work.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salil Shetty', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Salil Shetty  
Director  
United Nations Millennium Campaign

[www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)  
[www.standagainstpoverity.org](http://www.standagainstpoverity.org)