

Human Rights Education Institute of Burma

Annual Report 2010

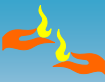


GPO Box 485, Chiang Mai, 50000, Thailand

e-mail : hreburma@loxinfo.co.th website : <http://www.hreib.com>

CONTENTS

5	Organizational Developments
7	Outcomes and Impacts
22	Outputs
26	Networking
27	Beneficiaries
29	Challenges and Lessons Learned



Letter from the Executive Director

As I look back on the last ten years I am filled with many emotions. But what stands



out most is a sense of encouragement. I am encouraged by all of those who continue to fight for freedom and human rights in Burma—by their determination to stand up for dignity.

In 2010 the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma celebrated its 10th anniversary. For ten years we have been working to protect and promote human rights for the people of Burma through education, advocacy, and community organizing. For ten years our commitment to the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has not wavered.

Over the past decade I have watched our staff, trainers and partners work to advance human rights in the face of incredible personal risks. They are extraordinarily dedicated and without them we would not be where we are today.

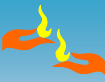
Human rights education is one of the most important tools we have in the struggle for peace and justice. When you raise awareness about human rights among oppressed people they will demand respect for themselves and others and seek an end to abuse and discrimination.

I strongly believe that human rights will be restored in Burma when people know and understand their rights. Our goal of *building a culture of human rights in Burma* is a journey. For the past ten years we have been taking steps along this journey and will continue to do so every day *because a rights culture is the right culture!*

Aung Myo Min

Executive Director
HREIB





Organizational Developments

Registration

Ten years after holding our first training along the Thai-Burma border, the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma officially registered in Thailand as the H.R.E.I.B. Foundation. We look forward to the day that we can open an office inside Burma, but until then we hope to enjoy all the benefits of being a foundation, including more security for our office and staff, work permits, group health insurance, and organization bank accounts. In October 2010 we established a new partnership with the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)—this partnership would not have been possible without registering in Thailand.

Staff Capacity Building

HREIB regularly provides staff with opportunities to attend trainings and workshops to gain more knowledge about international human rights mechanisms and improve their facilitation and documentation skills. Below please find examples of these professional development activities:

In October 2010, one of HREIB's field trainers based along the China-Burma border participated in the Annual Training and Study Session for Asian Human Rights Defenders organized by Forum-Asia. The same trainer also attended a community organizing training with the Southeast Asia Popular Communications Program (SEAPCP).

Two field trainers, one from Mon State and one from Shan State, attended courses on documenting human rights abuses related to the 2010 election. The courses were organized by the Network for Human Rights Documentation in Burma (ND-Burma).

Members of our Audio/Visual Unit learned new technical skills with local and regional organizations. The Unit's assistant editor attended a video editing training in Malaysia with Komax, a partner organization that focuses on using media to raise awareness about human rights



Module Development Training

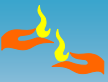


issues. And the Unit's cameraman attended an advanced video training in India. Members of our Finance team attended capacity building initiatives organized by the International Rescue Committee in Chiang Mai. HREIB's accountant also offered in-house workshops on Quickbooks accounting software.

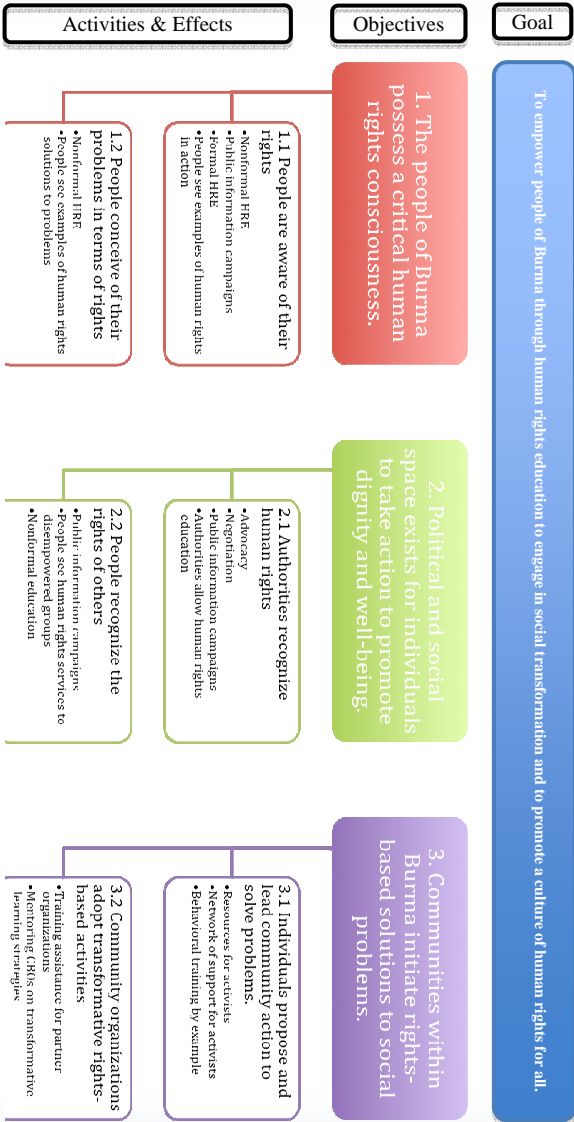
Our Human Rights Coordinator attended the World Movement for Democracy's Sixth Assembly organized by the National Endowment for Democracy in Jakarta from 11-14 April 2010. Over 500 democracy activists, human rights activists, teachers, politicians, bureaucrats, migrant workers attended.

HREIB's Child Rights Program Coordinator participated in a two-month long internship program in the Czech Republic organized by People in Need (PIN). She studied the Czech transition to democracy and learned how to apply these lessons to Burma.





Outcomes and Impacts



Objective I: People of Burma Possess a Critical Human Rights Consciousness

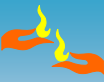
*PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF
THEIR RIGHTS*



Intensive Human Rights Course

In 2010 HREIB initiated a new Intensive Human Rights Course. The 2-month course aimed to provide students with knowledge of general human rights, child rights, gender and women's rights, and minority and indigenous rights. Nine students completed the course after passing a comprehensive exam. The results of the exam indicated that all of the students gained a cognitive understanding of the issues. They demonstrated an ability to not only identify specific human rights laws and recount articles of human rights conventions, but also the ability to think critically about the human rights situation in their respective communities. The latter requires a deeper understanding of human rights and an important skill-set that they will be able to use when they return to Burma. Throughout the course, participants engaged in discussions about the international human rights system and how it applies to them. They explored questions like whether or not human rights come from "above" or come from the people.

Two of the participants from Chin State and two from Kachin State are now working with international NGOs inside Burma. They have been able to incorporate their knowledge of human rights into community development projects and conduct multiplier trainings. The Chin graduates held one such training with over 40 members of local youth groups. The training helped the members of the youth groups identify rights abuses in the lead up to the 2010 election. The trainers used education modules they developed while participating in the Intensive Course. After this training the participants documented irregularities associated with the election.



Objective I: People of Burma Possess a Critical Human Rights Consciousness

New Human Rights Education Curriculum

HREIB worked with several human rights experts to design new training materials. A fellow from Harvard Law School's Human Rights Clinic created a five day module on International Human Rights Law and the International Criminal Court. The module contains dynamic presentations, strategies for approaching relevant discussion topics, teaching aids, and interactive exercises.



HREIB also worked with the Program Director of Mahidol University's Center for Human Rights; he developed a customized curriculum for a training on the Human Rights Based Approach to Development. The curriculum includes an introduction to theories of development, an overview of the rights associated with development, exercises on analyzing and solving development-related human rights problems, and ideas for implementing rights-based programming. All the materials were translated into Burmese and can be used in future HREIB programming.

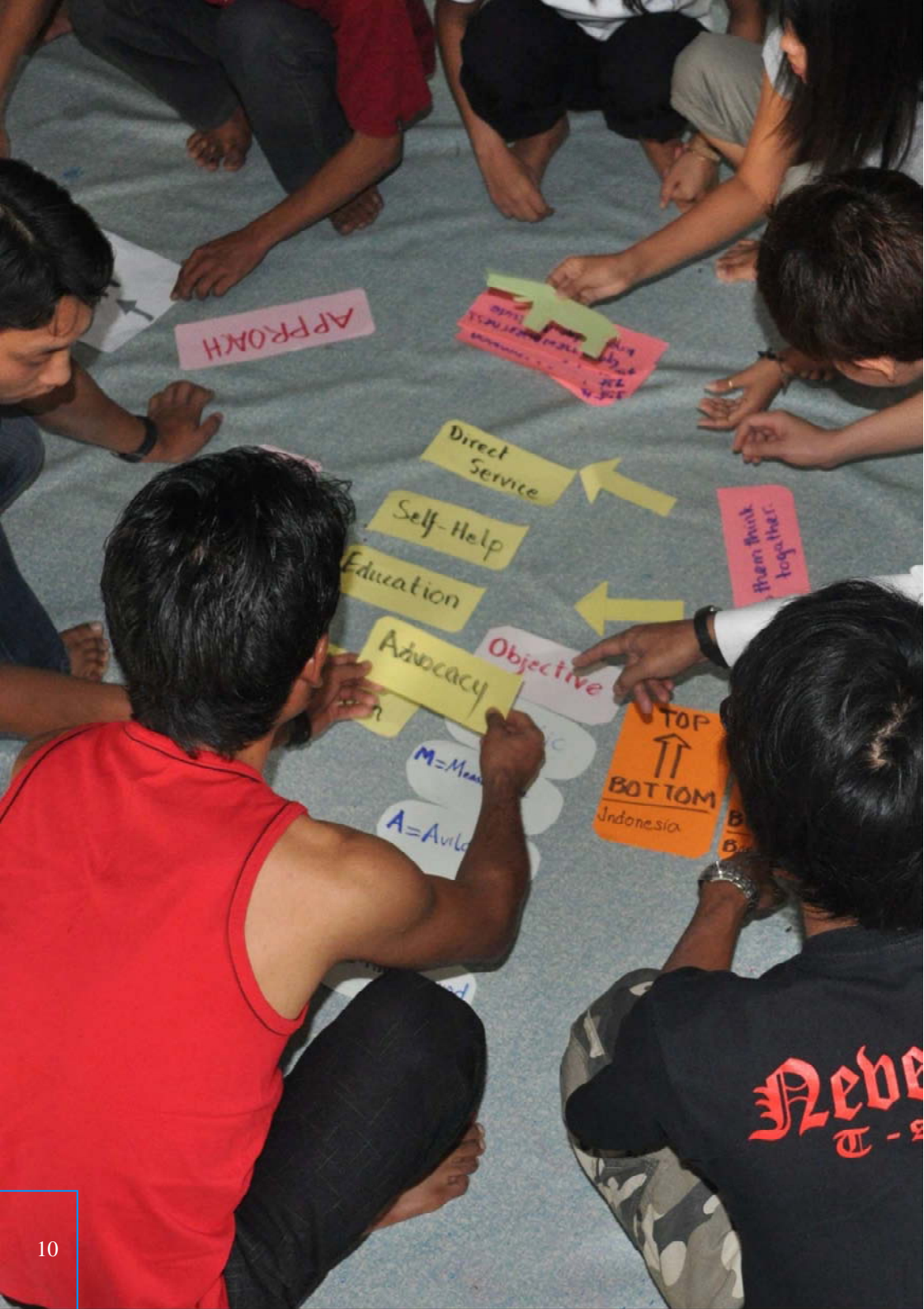


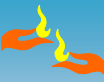
New resources for other subjects, namely Gender and Women's Rights, Child Rights, Community Organizing, and Facilitation, were developed during HREIB's Module Development Workshop in February 2010. During this workshop HREIB's senior trainers created 53 new, locally-situated human rights education modules. All HREIB modules, teaching aids and handouts are available on our website in Burmese.



The module can be found online at:
<http://prezi.com/fviribdonqet/human-rights-law-and-burma/>

¹ Exam questions and results available on request





Objective I: People of Burma Possess a Critical Human Rights Consciousness

Multimedia Resources



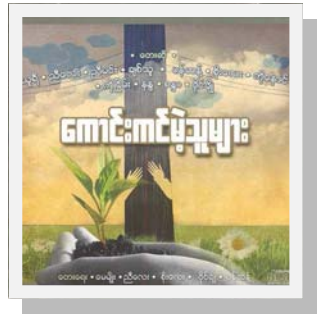
HREIB seeks to promote human rights awareness as a long-term approach to addressing human rights violations and help people of Burma defend their rights in their own ways. Multimedia resources such as documentaries, songs, music videos, websites, and animation are an effective method of teaching people about their rights, especially with youth. These resources can be incorporated into campaign activities at the commu-

nity level and also help HREIB expand its presence with our media network. Below are some examples of the resources we produced in 2010, please see the *Outputs* section of this report for a complete list:

Songs and Music Videos

HREIB produced two music albums and ten music videos in 2010. All of the songs, including the popular single *Skylless*, are posted on YouTube, Facebook, and other social networking sites. Positive comments about the songs and videos are ubiquitous on all of the Facebook pages that feature them.

HREIB captured a diverse audience in terms of both age and ethnicity by mixing genres in each of the music albums. Songs ranged from pop to hip hop and from country to traditional Burmese styles. We attracted attention from youth throughout Burma by working with well-known artists from some of the most popular bands inside Burma. We also reached out to ethnic nationalities by cooperating with Kachin, Karen, and Mon musicians.



While collaborating with HREIB, the talented artists and composers themselves learned about human rights, which will likely play a major role in shaping their future songs and performances.

Facebook video can be found online at:
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Human-Rights-Education-Institute-of-Burma-HREIB/136324343076064?sk=app_2392950137



Objective I: People of Burma Possess a Critical Human Rights Consciousness

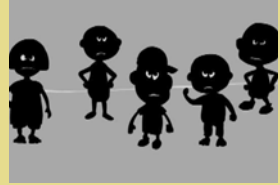
Child Soldier



Animated TV Spots

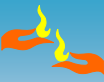
HREIB worked with a talented activist and artist in exile to produce three informative animated TV Spots—one on Child Trafficking, one on Child Soldiers and one on Violence Against Women. HREIB screened the TV Spots on International Human Rights Day at our 10th Anniversary celebration. The three TV Spots have been broadcasted on the Democratic Voice of Burma satellite TV channel and viewed by millions of people inside Burma.

Child Trafficking



Violence against Women





Objective I: People of Burma Possess a Critical Human Rights Consciousness

PEOPLE CONCEIVE OF THEIR PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF THEIR RIGHTS

Understanding Forced Labor

Prior to 2010, HREIB's trainers existed more as a loose network rather than as coordinated and structured teams. As teams they are better equipped to expose people inside Burma to human rights and help those people recognize abuses being perpetrated against them. In Mon State HREIB's team conducted a three day workshop with 14 youth from the Mon Affairs Union. During this training participants reviewed their everyday difficulties and linked those difficulties to the State's disregard of its human rights obligations. At the beginning of the training many participants expressed that it was good to work for their villages' development even if such work was forced and unpaid. After looking at these issues from a human rights perspective, the participants realized they all had rights as human beings that were codified in international treaties.

Recognizing Election Related Abuses

Before the November 2010 elections field trainers in Kachin State integrated discussions about the upcoming election into some of their trainings. The participants learned about free and fair elections and how to document human rights violations during the polls. These discussions provided a safe space for participants to share ideas about the election and resulted in a feeling of solidarity among the participants and an increase in interest about political affairs. The participants helped document abuses that were shared in ND-Burma's post-election report: *Human Rights Violations in Burma's 2010 Election*.

In Mon State HREIB's field team organized a series of discussions on democracy and human rights; the team used HREIB's new modules focusing on Burma's constitution including the *Constitution and People's Participation Module* and the *Constitution and Fundamental Rights Module*. Before attending the training some of the participants did not realize that citizens had the right to work in government—they thought such positions were always reserved for the military—however, after the training they understood that citizens not only have the right to hold positions in the government, but could also take on leadership roles and even become President in a democratic system.



Objective I: People of Burma Possess a Critical Human Rights Consciousness

My Identity, My Dignity

HREIB organized a series of trainings with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender participants from inside Burma. As a result of these trainings, participants became more comfortable with their identity. Five gay men and three lesbians who never spoke about their sexual orientation came out to their friends and family. One transgender participant was even featured as a cover girl for Colours Rainbow magazine and was interviewed for the In & Out column in the same issue. Another participant, a journalist by trade, became a volunteer writer for the LGBT news section of the magazine. The participants of these trainings developed the first ever LGBT rights online training network, to share information and experiences. Also as a result of these trainings several new LGBT groups have emerged inside Burma. A lesbian group formed in Rangoon and now has over 20 young members. The group organized an event with lesbian celebrities including a famous female pop musician and raised funds for victims of cyclone Giri.



International Day Against Homophobia
May 17, 2010

Homosexuality is not a sickness but Homophobia is





Objective II: Physical and Social Space to Promote Dignity

An HREIB training participant from Rangoon opened her home to provide additional human rights and health discussions. This creation of physical space will allow for more people to gain human rights knowledge.

AUTHORITIES RECOGNIZE HUMAN RIGHTS

Child Rights with Non-State Armed Groups

In 2010 HREIB continued to raise awareness of child rights with political and military leaders in semi-autonomous areas throughout Burma. As a result of these efforts, several leaders of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) have changed their perspective on the use and recruitment of child soldiers. For example, a commander from the Chin National Army who during a training in 2009 argued that using children to fight could be justified in some cases changed his opinion after reflecting on the issue and speaking more with HREIB's trainers in 2010.

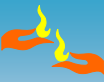


WNA, PNLA and SSA Leaders

These leaders helped institute policy changes in their groups. The Pa-O National Liberation Organization established 18 as the minimum age for membership in their political wing. The group also decided to consider steps to make the distinction between their political and armed wings clearer, for instance by separating the administrative and military personnel and allowing administrative personnel to wear civilian clothes.

Human Rights Based Approach to Development

HREIB facilitated a 3-day seminar on the Human Rights Based Approach to Development with community leaders from inside Burma, all of whom negotiate with local authorities inside Burma in order to implement their projects. During the seminar participants brainstormed about the human rights situation in Burma and how human rights relate to their ongoing work on issues such as child protection and disaster management. HREIB's trainings and seminars that target local



Objective II: Physical and Social Space to Promote Dignity

development workers is one way in which we are able to reach out to authorities in Burma, albeit indirectly.

PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Reducing Gender-Based Violence

Many migrant men from Burma living in Thailand's Phang Nga Province work as fishermen and are at sea for days and/or weeks at a time. In 2010 HREIB's field team in Phang Nga reported instances of drug use, alcoholism, and domestic violence among these men. During "Men Talk Forums" participants explored family violence, including different forms of domestic violence, and gender roles and stereotypes. In one session, the facilitator introduced a story about an old childless couple who were approached by an angel and gave them the choice of having a baby boy or baby girl. This led to a discussion about what participants would do in the same situation. Many participants answered they would choose a boy. In discussing the reasons why, the facilitator was able to introduce the concepts of gender stereotypes as constructs of culture, family, society, religion and government. In identifying the root causes of gender stereotypes, the facilitator introduced concepts of women's rights and portions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The participants then analyzed gender based discrimination.

In Mizoram State in India, HREIB's activities contributed to an increased awareness about women's rights in the community. During a discussion held in February participants examined domestic violence and identified local organizations that can provide assistance to victims. They also shared ways they could help eliminate violence against





Objective II: Physical and Social Space to Promote Dignity

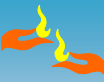
women in their families. The discussion helped dispel the commonly held opinion that domestic violence is a private matter. Such discussions not only raise awareness about specific issues, but allow for further conversations about women's rights and adds to HREIB's goal of enabling individuals to analyze their problems in terms of rights.

Child Participation

During Child Rights trainings HREIB documented significant changes in participants' attitudes about children. For example a father changed his opinion about his son's involvement with a local youth group after attending a training on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at a health clinic on the Thai-Burma border. Before this training the father did not want his son to participate in activities that were not directly related to academic studies. But after learning about the CRC the father realized that children have a right to participation. HREIB has also documented significant changes in participants' behavior towards dealing with child rights abuses. For example, members of a community-based organization that attended a child rights training helped two child soldiers travel to safe houses along the Thai-Burma border.

In 2010 Children who participated in HREIB's trainings along the Thai-Burma border became peer educators and facilitated a series of child rights workshops with other children in their schools.





Objective III: Communities in Burma Initiate Rights-Based

After attending trainings facilitated by HREIB's Northern Shan State field team leader, participants organized new committees to promote community development.

INDIVIDUALS PROPOSE AND LEAD COMMUNITY ACTION TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Establishing Community Governance Structures

Following a Rights-based Approach Training in Northern Shan State in April 2010, participants formed a 7-member committee to conduct and monitor environmental protection activities to address a variety of issues including forest preservation, drug addiction, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, land confiscation, and other prevalent challenges in the community. Other examples of community mobilization as a result of HREIB trainings involve cooperation between neighboring communities for income generation projects, establishing a health clinic, forest preservation efforts, and preserving a sustainable water supply.

Empowering Children Living with HIV/AIDS

Kyaw Swar is from Rangoon; he is young and excited to teach people about human rights. He believes that human rights education is essential to improving the lives of children in Burma. In 2009 Kyaw Swar attended HREIB's three month internship program and later in the year joined HREIB's Training of Trainers program. Since then he has been an active member of HREIB's network of human rights educators in Rangoon—one of the most dangerous places in the world for a human rights activist.

When HREIB's Child Rights Program Coordinator approached Kyaw Swar about organizing an event on Universal Children's Day, he was really enthusiastic. But he didn't want to organize just any event. He wanted to make the Day special for kids who typically wouldn't have an opportunity to celebrate their rights. He visited a small orphanage for children affected by HIV/AIDS and worked with the teachers there to put on an unforgettable event.





Objective III: Communities in Burma Initiate Rights-Based Solutions to Social Problems

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ADOPT TRANSFORMATIVE RIGHTS-BASED ACTIVITIES

Transcending Needs: Ma Shwe's Story

Ma Shwe is a 24 year-old woman who works with a Rangoon-based charity organization. After Cyclone Nargis ravaged Burma's Irrawaddy Delta region, Ma Shwe and her organization helped distribute food and construction supplies to people

devastated by the storm. Though Ma Shwe had good intentions, her relief project was guided by an anachronistic understanding of aid work. She did not consult with the community members before the project, nor did she invite them to participate in the decision-making processes. The project applied the needs-based approach model where resources are just given away to "poor" people.



Two years after the cyclone, Ma Shwe enrolled in HREIB's Intensive Human Rights Course to improve her understanding of humanitarian aid and learn about more effective ways to promote human rights in Burma. During the course Ma Shwe struggled with the Human Rights Based Approach concept.

She argued a lot with the course facilitators, maintaining that charity organizations did not have a responsibility to involve the community. She contended that community members would complain and disagree with one another.

After many debates with her classmates and instructors Ma Shwe came to understand that food is a basic human right and that the recipients of aid have the right to participate in decisions that affect them and their community. This was a major attitudinal transformation that eventually led to a significant behaviour change as well. When Ma Shwe returned to Rangoon she integrated the lessons she learned about the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development into her ongoing work to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote gender equality. She shared what



Objective III: Communities in Burma Initiate Rights-Based Solutions to Social Problems

she learned with 25 members of her staff. Since then her organization has changed its approach to aid and relief work—they are now committed to conducting community needs assessment before distributing food and other supplies. Her organization also discussed drafting policies to include community members in decision making processes.

ONLINE SPACE

Rainbow Colours Online Website

The Rainbow Colours website went online in 2009 and continues to be an important source of LGBT information and networking for people from Burma. The site is the only online venue that highlights LGBT rights, MSM sexual health issues, HIV/AIDS for Burmese LGBT communities as well as non-LGBT Burmese communities. The site is divided into nine categories: *hot news, articles, features, in and out, straight talk, general knowledge, health, cartoons and entertainment.*

People from all over the world visited the CRB website in 2010; they came from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Russia, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, China and Burma. Most of the visitors came from Burma. According to participants from HREIB's LGBT rights training, many MSM peer-educators used the website to download resources for community discussions; some even printed out and distributed content to their communities. This year 17 other Burmese websites and blogs linked news and articles from the CRB website.



Rainbow Colours can be found online at:
<http://www.coloursrainbow.com/>



Outputs

ADVOCACY MISSIONS

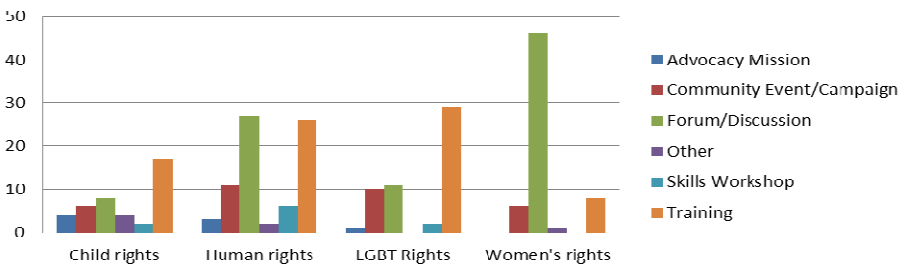
HREIB's 2010 advocacy efforts focused on ensuring that influential regional and international actors hold the government of Burma accountable to its human rights obligations.

In June HREIB hosted a national consultation on the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights. After the consultation participants outlined a strategy for participating in the ASEAN Peoples Forum.



In collaboration with the Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development, HREIB facilitated a workshop on the Universal Periodic Review. Representatives from thirteen different organizations from Burma attended. The participants came from the India-Burma border area, the Bangladesh border area, and Thailand based organizations. During the workshop participants learned about the UPR, the Human Rights Council and different UN agencies. They decided to work on a joint submission for the UPR and identified the main issues that they wanted to highlight.

Activities by Theme





COMMUNITY EVENTS

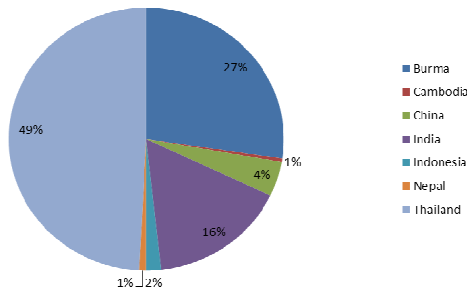
HREIB's 2010 community events included theater and music performances, art exhibitions, and other creative forms of expression to raise awareness about human rights.

HREIB celebrated its 10th Anniversary on International Human Rights Day in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Over 200 people from the community attended this event. Partners from other NGOs and local youth groups performed live music, a comedy show, traditional dances. HREIB's director delivered the keynote speech.



The field team in Mizoram State in India organized an event for Burma's Human Rights Day. They gathered with members of the community to discuss the history of Burma's human rights day, the current human rights situation, gender equality and watch documentary movies about human rights violations taking place in the country. At the beginning of the ceremony, Ms Teii from the Chin National League for Democracy (CNLD) talked about women's human rights and lack of protection of women's human rights in Burma. The participants watched and sang songs produced by HREIB on child soldiers.

Activities by Country





In Kachin State, Burma HREIB organized an event to raise awareness about drug use. The event took place at a local Kachin church. The objectives were to end drug abuse and link the issue to human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and child abuse. HREIB also aimed to establish stronger local networks with young people in the community.

International Campaign Days	Burma Solidarity Days
Anti-Child Trafficking Day	Burma's Human Rights Day
Earth Day	Celebration for the Freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi
Coming Out Day	Burmese New Year and Water Festival
International Women's Day	Mon Political Prisoners Day
International Day to Stop Violence Against Women	Miss Queen Myanmar Transgender Beauty Contest
International Day Against Homophobia	Art Exhibition to End Drug Abuse
Red Hand Day to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers	Lesbian Football Match
Universal Children's Day	Theater Performance to End Child Trafficking
World AIDS Day	Youth Football Match to End Drug Abuse

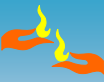
FORUM AND DISCUSSIONS

HREIB conducts regular community discussions to raise awareness about human rights in small and intimate settings. Such settings are conducive to building trust and providing space for participants to share their own experiences and expectations.

In February HREIB's team leader based in China travelled to Je Gaung to meet with 9 Burmese sex workers. The sex workers shared their stories about how they were trafficked from Kachin State or Shan State to China. They explained some of the problems they face in China and the conditions in which they live. Almost all of them wanted to go back to their families but were

afraid to show their face in society. The team leader distributed condoms and shared information about the women organizations along the border and other groups that provide health services.





In March a former HREIB intern initiated a discussion to raise awareness about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with migrants in Phang Nga Province, Thailand. She showed pictures representing each article and asked the participants to discuss these pictures in small groups. They primarily talked about the freedom of movement because they experienced substantial restraints on this right in Burma as well as in Thailand.

TRAININGS

HREIB's learner-centered, participatory trainings are at the center of our work. For ten years HREIB has been training trainers and building up a strong network of human rights defenders inside Burma and along Burma's borders. These trainers are instrumental in the struggle to spread knowledge about rights and raise awareness about abuses.



In April 2010 HREIB's local field trainer facilitated a basic human rights training in a remote area of Chin State with 30 participants. It was the first time that the participants learned about human rights

and the government's responsibility to promote and protect rights.

HREIB conducts follow-up trainings in many of the communities where we work as part of our strategy and long-term commitment to building a culture of human rights. One village leader in Kachin State commented: "I am very glad to hear that you're going to give continuous trainings and discussions, focusing especially on one group. Many NGO's come here to give trainings to community members, but after the training they never come back again. Hence, the participants who wanted to



learn more about the issues discussed did not have the opportunity to do so. Furthermore, the trainers themselves did not have the time to find out how their training influenced the behavior and attitude of the participants."



Networking

HREIB cooperates with national, regional, and international partners to strengthen the movement for human rights and democracy in Burma and around the world.

In 2010 we collaborated with the Network for Documenting Human Rights Violations in Burma (ND-Burma) on a documentation project related to the elections.

Participation in national networks

- Network for Human Rights Documentation in Burma (ND – Burma)
- Task Force on ASEAN and Burma (TFAB)
- Burma Against Child Trafficking (Burma ACT)
- Burma Forum on Universal Periodic Review (BF-UPR)

HREIB's regional partners often provide HREIB staff members with opportunities to attend capacity building workshops. They also help organize and facilitate trainings on regional human rights bodies like the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

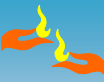
Participation in regional networks

- Asia Against Child Trafficking (ASIA ACTS)
- Asian South-Pacific Bureau of Adult education (ASPB AE)
- Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM Asia)
- Southeast Asia Popular Communications Program (SEAPCP)
- Komas (Malaysian-based organization that focuses on using media to raise awareness about rights issues)

HREIB's director attended the X International Human Rights Colloquium in Brazil. There he developed a partnership with the host organization, Conectas, a Brazilian human rights organization. In 2010 Conectas helped HREIB prepare for advocacy at the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva.

Participation in international networks

- Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
- International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)
- Conectas



Beneficiaries

In Their Words

I was born in 1990 in Thandaung in Karen State. I am studying my tenth standards at the Child Development Center (CDC) and living in the CDC boarding school. My parents live day-to-day on their wages, and the family struggles to survive. Fortunately, I was given the opportunity to both attend the CDC school and board there, which provided me with free accommodations, food, stationary, school uniform, etc.

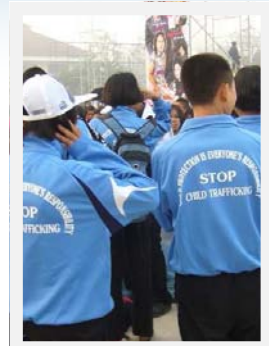
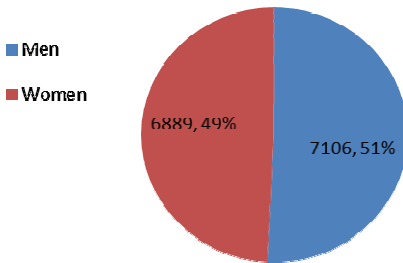
Since I began to hear about and see child trafficking and child labor in my community, I have been interested in those issues and have wished to help. I want those children to have the opportunity to go to school like me. Consequently, I joined Burma ACT's theater camp in April-May 2009 in order to raise awareness about child trafficking in the community as well as to pursue my interest in acting. After the theater training, I became involved in a mobile theater group called United ACT.

The first thing that changed in me after the training was my mindset. For example, I used to live alone and avoid other people, but I now have become a friendly person with strong team spirit. I have gained the ability to act out my character's role well and also have improved in script writing. The training has made me confident and effective in raising awareness about child trafficking through theater art. We used to do evaluations whenever we finished a show. The habit of evaluating oneself whenever one finishes any work made us more mature. I have had the chance to learn to do something new, and this is a step in the right direction for my future.

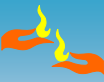




Participants by Gender



Sum of Participants Row Labels	Column Labels				Grand Total
	Child Rights	Human Rights	LGBT Rights	Women's Rights	
Advocacy Mission	59	98	0		157
Community Events	7446	1155	1010	506	10117
Forum/Discussion	277	529	192	687	1685
Other	68	5		9	82
Skills Workshop	50	101	27		178
Training	713	479	427	157	1776
Grand Total	8613	2367	1656	1359	13995



Challenges and Lessons Learned

There will be many challenges because we don't have the right to enjoy our basic human rights. We cannot use the term "rights" directly. We would have to educate basic rights to other people and practice with our own behavior.

- Lone Lone, Mon State

One of the main challenges that HREIB faces is integrating all of our training activities into a coherent education strategy. Indeed, this challenge was first articulated in HREIB's external evaluation; the lead evaluator stated: "HREIB's stand-alone training for Burmese activists has less observable impacts than the training work it combines with community-based organizing initiatives and education projects, which have considerably higher impact. Indeed, best practice human rights education provides a way for learners to practice the critical thinking and community organizing skills learned in a training session by relating training content to lived experience of participants."

In regards to this challenge, one lesson that we learned while implementing activities in 2010 is that we can change the composition of our programs to focus on our main initiatives (education, advocacy, research and documentation, and community organizing).

With regards to monitoring and reporting, the largest challenge facing HREIB is successfully managing the vast amount of diverse information contained in Activity and Monthly Reports. Quantitative data can be stored relatively easily in databases where it is possible to quickly extract specific numerical information. However, at the present time HREIB does not have a system for managing the large amount of qualitative data coming in from the field. The sheer amount of information raises issues of HREIB's current capacity to manage the information even if a comprehensive system were developed. Therefore HREIB recruited a technical volunteer to help develop a smarter database to document reports (for both qualitative and quantitative data) in 2011.

In 2010 there was no centralized contact person for the field teams—no one person or team to manage all of the Activity Reports, Monthly Reports, Activity Proposals. Each of the field teams reported to different program coordinators even though they did not necessarily function within a specific HREIB thematic program. HREIB could have hired someone to manage the teams rather than distributing the management responsibilities to the program coordinators. In late 2010 HREIB brought on two field coordinators to manage the program in 2011.



As HREIB continues to expand we must integrate all of our training activities into a coherent education strategy. HREIB's external evaluation admonished against one-off trainings; the lead evaluator stated: "HREIB's stand-alone training for Burmese activists has less observable impacts than the training work it combines with community-based organizing initiatives and education projects, which have considerably higher impact. Indeed, best practice human rights education provides a way for learners to practice the critical thinking and community organizing skills learned in a training session by relating training content to lived experience of participants." Indeed, HREIB needs to develop a new organizational structure wherein each of our courses represent an integral part of an overall strategy rather than offered as one-off initiatives.

In December 2010 HREIB held an annual strategic planning meeting to discuss all of our challenges and lessons learned; we will continue hold such meetings each year to ensure effective and sustainable long-term, high impact programming.

