



Human Rights Education Institute of Burma

Annual Report 2009 >>





Changes in the external context & major organizational developments

5

Human Rights and Community Organizing Programs

7

Child Rights Program

9

25 RISKS

Sexual Health and Rights Program

12

26 Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Gender and Women's Rights Program

13

Outputs

15

Beneficiaries

24

LETTER FROM HREIB'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the history of the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma. Just nine years ago we started with two staff, committed to raising awareness about human rights in refugee camps along the Thai - Burma border. We now have over 50 staff working inside Burma and along Burma's borders in Thailand, India, and China. We have developed resources for human rights educators in over seven languages and have trained thousands of activists to stand up to abuse.

2009 was a momentous year for HREIB. We instituted significant structural reforms and policy changes, including a reconstitution of our approach to field-team supervision and an overhaul of our financial management system. These changes are described in detail in this report. Our trainers continue to take on great risks to promote human rights inside Burma. In 2009 they faced increasing harassment by the military regime—a constant reminder of the need to protect human rights defenders. Many of our trainers have sacrificed their liberty for the sake of human rights education; their courage is remarkable.

In 2009 we learned from our challenges and achievements, alike. During this period, our programs on human rights, women rights, child rights, and LGBT rights have moved forward from education to action at the community level. This report highlights such action, including an example of how children have taken on a campaign to raise awareness about child trafficking with creative theater performance. This report also conveys the importance of looking at Burma's socioeconomic challenges through the lens of human rights; it illustrates how the issue of sexual health for LGBT people must be tackled with a rights-based approach.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all HREIB staff. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to HREIB's partners and network organizations for their rich ideas and solidarity in action. Finally, special thanks are due to our funders who provide steadfast support and encouragement. Our commitment to human rights in Burma remains as strong as ever!

In Solidarity,



Aung Myo Min



Changes in the external context & major organizational developments

EXTERNAL CONTEXT

Political Dynamics in Burma. Burma's ruling junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), announced it will hold elections in 2010. HREIB and other human rights groups maintain that as long as the 2008 constitution is in place, the elections will not be free and fair.

International Agreements and Resolutions. On 24 December, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that condemned the SPDC's "ongoing systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms" of the Burmese people. It was the 19th resolution passed by the UNGA against Burma's military regime since 1991. The resolution called on the SPDC to immediately release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and urged the junta to undertake a transparent and inclusive review of its 2008 constitution. It also called on the SPDC to allow a full, transparent, effective, impartial, and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations, and to bring to justice those responsible.

On 4 August 2009 the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1882 which is intended to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict. The resolution calls on the UN Secretary General to continue to monitor and report grave violations of child rights. It also calls on the Secretary General to list parties that kill, maim, rape and/or use other forms of sexual violence against children in his annual reports on children and armed conflict. Formerly, the Secretary General was only obligated to list parties that used/recruited child soldiers. HREIB has included this new resolution in its curriculum on child rights.

The Military and Armed Conflict. In early 2009 the Burmese government embarked on an initiative to transform the troops of ceasefire groups into border guard forces before the upcoming 2010 election. Many non-state armed groups (NSAGs) have rejected the call to transform, and have indicated that there may be renewed conflict along the borders. In an interview with HREIB, one leader of a powerful ceasefire-group on the China/Burma border stated, 'If the SPDC forces our group to accept this proposal then there will be civil war, for sure.'

The junta launched an offensive in August 2009 against the Kokang cease-fire group in Shan State, northeastern Burma, after the Kokang refused to become a Border Guard Force. Approximately 37,000 refugees fled to China as a result of the fighting. In recent months, low-intensity fighting has continued between Karen National Union (KNU) rebel fighters and the

Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), the latter of which has aligned itself with the junta's military. The DKBA has agreed to become part of the junta's Border Guard Force. However, several hundred DKBA members have defected to the KNU due to the DKBA's cooperation with the junta.

Host Country Concerns. On 13 June 2009, 70 Burmese nationals were arrested in Aizawl, India. Community leaders went to inquire who got arrested and went to the court see them. On 18 June 2009, the Committee for Democracy Movement in Burma (CDMB) and the Burmese democratic organizations organized a meeting to talk about the arrest of Burmese nationals and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday ceremony. The participants decided to send an appeal letter to India's Prime Minister and Home minister about the arrest of Burmese nationals and to help the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. These efforts would be carried in association with the local Mizo organizations that support Burma's democracy cause.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Staff Development and Capacity Building. HREIB staff members attended a number of capacity building workshops in 2009, these included a computer programming course focusing on Photoshop and other design software programs, a report writing workshop organized by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a computer security training organized by People in Need (PIN) an NGO based in Prague, and a video editing training for documentary film makers. Three members of HREIB's administrative and finance staff also attended an English language course organized by the IRC.

HREIB's Human Rights Program Coordinator attended a study trip to the Czech Republic organized by PIN. Along with other Burmese activists she studied the Czech transitional period and took back many lessons for Burma. She focused on legislation and judicial reform and was able to meet several lawyers and judges from the three main courts in Czech Republic. She gained an understanding of what Burma needs to do to set up a proper constitutional council or court to uphold basic democratic principles.

In 2009 a program support specialist from VSO provided invaluable assistance to HREIB's program coordinators. The specialist helped our Sexual Health and Rights Program Coordinator complete his application to attend an international lesbian and gay youth conference in Netherlands and our Women's Rights and Gender Coordinator apply to the 2nd UN Advocacy Training Session for Asian Human Rights Defenders (UNATS). The specialist also facilitated a number of workshops and discussions with HREIB's program coordinators. In an evaluation of these sessions, the program coordinators described the benefits of working together noting that

they have increased confidence in their work environment, a better understanding of each others work and HREIB's activities as a whole, and an increased ability to be systematic and efficient. However, they also felt that they needed more support on planning, monitoring and evaluating their activities.

Outcomes and Impacts

This section will review the outcomes and impacts of HREIB's activities by program.

Human Rights and Community Organizing Programs

- **Community organizing as effective tool and alternative strategy of HRE will be increasingly accepted and used by other community based organizations such as women and youth groups specifically from ethnic nationalities.**



HREIB's community organizers based in Magway Division inside Burma organized a series of discussions aimed to empower small-scale agricultural workers to take action to address harmful policies introduced by local authorities. The villagers learned how community organizers were able to successfully stop the local military's practice of releasing militaryhorses without guards into the fields, a

practice which of ten destroyed farms. They collected signatures and submitted a petition to the military commander; they also held several meetings with the commander, who eventually ordered the practice to stop. The villagers were very encouraged by this success story.

In **Shan State** HREIB facilitated an advanced training, focused on building youth volunteers' skills in leadership and community development. The participants learned more about how to analyze power and conduct community need assessments. After the training, six small youth groups were formed. Each of the groups returned back to their communities to initiate community development plans based on the community need assessment.

In October 2009 HREIB trainers held a training with young monks from various townships in **Mon State**. The monks are now active in organizing awareness raising events with other religious leaders using the methods they learned in the HREIB training. Two monks will attend HREIB's Training of Trainers program in 2010.

- Through community organizing HREIB will support trust building and help mitigate potential conflicts between the Thai public and Burmese migrants on the one hand and among Burmese ethnic groups on the other.

In Phang Nga and Mae Sot HREIB trainers facilitated discussions aimed at increasing awareness of Human Rights among migrants. In these discussions participants learned about unlawful labor charges, occupational accidents, and Thai labor law. They also had the opportunity to share experiences about employer abuses and hear about successful ways to address these issues.

In order to foster a mutual understanding between the Thai and Burmese migrant communities HREIB invited Thai officials and community members to campaign events. For example, on International Human Rights Day four prominent Thai people in the community, including a village leader, an NGO worker and a Thai official were invited to speak in an open forum. The Thai official presented on the human rights situation and highlighted the relationship between Burmese migrants and Thai citizens. They mentioned in their speeches that human rights are not only for Thai people nor only for Burmese people; human rights apply to everyone, and no one can take them away. The speakers also discussed the importance of building trust between Burmese migrants and Thai business owners so that the business owners respect migrants' rights, pay reasonable wages and take responsibility for their workers' health care. Additionally, they urged that the police be included in the Human Rights Day event in order to reduce corruption in migrant communities and decrease abuse of migrant rights. They committed to organizing police involvement in the Human Rights Day campaign next year.

Knowledge and Skills for Rights-Based Organizing: Where are HREIB's Interns Now?

KS is a young man from Rangoon. Before he came to HREIB's internship program he worked with a local organization in Burma's former capital to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and other related health concerns. After he completed his internship with HREIB he returned to Rangoon to conduct a series of informal community discussions with a network of 15 gay and transgender youth.

The discussions focused on LGBT Rights and Human Rights, which were new topics for

all of the participants. In fact, most of the participants did not even know that LGBT people had human rights and considered themselves second-class citizens. They had never heard of an NGO that was organized specifically to stand up for and raise awareness of LGBT rights, but were really excited to get involved in the LGBT Rights movement. KS used HREIB's Rainbow Magazine as a resource during all the discussions and everyone is anxiously waiting the next issue of Rainbow Magazine.

KS is currently a participant in HREIB's Training of Trainers program. When he completes the TOT he will return to Rangoon once again to cooperate with HREIB's team of trainers to implement more human rights awareness raising activities.

Child Rights Program

CHILD SOLDIERS

- Use of children as soldiers in non state armed groups is eliminated and new programs are initiated for demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former child soldiers

In 2009 HREIB conducted three intensive five-day trainings with the following non-state armed groups:

- Chin National Front
- Zomi Resistance Army and Arakan Liberation Army
- Karenni Army



These trainings are a part of HREIB's wider program to end the use of child soldiers in Burma. Additional armed groups will be targeted in 2010.

In one training HREIB targeted high ranking members of the Karenni Army (KA) who are experienced both in fighting in the field and training officers. As a people with limited movement, confined to the area of their refugee camp and the Thai-Burma border, the KA has very limited access to information. The participants were eager to gain knowledge from outside of their community due to this lack of information flow. For some of the participants, this was the first time they had ever been in a training. One of the officers in the training was a former child soldier. He was able to share valuable information about his experience as a child victim

of armed conflict. This participant shared:

When the head of the village ordered that villagers be sent to do forced labor to fill the quota, my father let me go because he thought that the SPDC soldiers would show sympathy toward me, a small, twelve-year-old boy. But that was not true! Some of the experienced porters took lighter loads and left the heavy loads for me. It was a very hard time for me, and I experienced many difficulties, including dropping out of school, intense work, lacking enough food, and walking the entire day in the jungle in all weather conditions. When I realized that not only I, but also most Karenni people, were suffering at the hands of the SPDC, I decided to join the KA to fight against the SPDC. I have been fighting for 20 years, but still nothing has changed.

In 2009 HREIB also engaged in international advocacy to stop the use of child soldiers. In July HREIB's deputy director traveled to New York with members of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers to address the United Nations Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. The Mexican mission hosted a briefing for HREIB and the Coalition, which was attended by seven other members of the Security Council Working Group. Unfortunately, China and Russia, two permanent members of the Council who have a great influence over any statements/reports/ conclusions issued by the Working Group did not come to the briefing. Informal feedback from other members indicated that they did not like the idea of being briefed by nongovernmental organizations, let alone one that had Burma in its name. After the briefing attendees had the opportunity to ask questions; many people were interested in HREIB's engagement with NSAGs and access restrictions levied by the Burmese government; interestingly, none of the questions directly challenged the government's recruitment practices.

In Focus:

Negotiating Deeds of Commitments

In February 2009 HREIB's director met with the Chin National Front's vice army-chief-of-staff and assistant in charge of publicity and information. The CNF welcomed the meeting and stated that they never recruit children to be soldiers in their army and does not accept children to be members of their political party. They said that previously the CNF had to accept children as army members as they had no choice because some children very keen to be soldiers. The assistant said he was hopeful that they would be able to adopt a deed of commitment on child soldiers. He further requested information from HREIB about releasing a statement.

This meeting with the CNF was successful resulting in agreed regular communication

with them for drafting statements, providing further information on the safety of soldiers, including child soldiers.

This was the second training with leaders of the CNF on the child soldier issue and focused on the 1612 reporting process and developments regarding Deeds of Commitment by other ethnic organizations. Officials asked many questions about the Deeds of Commitment and reviewed two case studies of commitments already signed by the KNU and KNPP. Officials were provided with an update situation of Burma and 1612. They showed a great deal of interest in the future action by the UNSC on Burma for the use of child soldiers. The CNF has agreed to send delegate to HREIB's coming workshop on 1612 in July. One of the significant result of this training was a DoC by the CNF released in March 2009.

The UN Secretary-General acknowledged the CNF/CNA Deed in his June 2009 report to the Security Council. Such acknowledgement marks a huge success for HREIB, as we spearheaded the initiative.

CHILD TRAFFICKING

- There is a child protection network and mechanisms in communities where child trafficking is rampant. Children are participating in planning, implementing and evaluating child rights campaigns.



HREIB trainers facilitated a series of discussions aimed at producing appropriate child protection policies for HREIB and its local partners who provide social services to at-risk children. These consultation meetings were part of an inclusive and community-focused process. HREIB's trainers worked closely with the Burma Against Child Trafficking

(Burma ACTs) network, which is well positioned to provide feedback regarding interacting with victims of child abuse. As a result of this project three documents were produced: guidelines on interviewing children, guidelines on interviewing women, and child protection policies. All three documents are in Burmese; however, they will be translated into

other local languages.

HREIB encourages children and youth to participate in all aspects of the Anti-Child Trafficking Campaign. Children act as peer educators and help plan and implement campaign events. A group of young students formed a theater troupe called United ACT. The troupe developed new scripts based on true-life experiences and performed in front of audiences comprised of migrant workers, teachers, students, and community leaders. After each performance, the actors engaged the audience in a question and answer session. Discussions focused primarily on the definition of child trafficking, root causes of trafficking, and methods used by traffickers. They also explored the work which trafficked children are forced to do and the impact of trafficking on children. The facilitators conveyed personal experiences bringing together their knowledge about situation of local migrant workers.

Together with Asia ACTs and Terre des Hommes-Netherlands, HREIB hosted an Inter-Regional Conference for Experience Sharing and Evaluation of Anti-Child Trafficking Projects. The conference encouraged TDH-NL partners to share experiences and knowledge gained from lessons learned and good practices in the field of capacity-building to stop child trafficking. A total of 42 partners from three regions attended: Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. By the end of the conference, the participants came up with a summary of recommendations based on experiences gained. They also developed a strategy to follow up on projects to ensure sustainability and how to coordinate intervention. HREIB's director shared Burma ACT's work on community education programs and child participation. This work was chosen as one of the best practices in anti-child trafficking campaigns. After the conference, a researcher from TDH-NL visited Mae Sot to document the strategies and methods for TDH-NL's future publication on good practices.

Sexual Health and Rights Program

Human rights are not at the center of health education programs in Burma. This failure to adopt a rights-based approach means that the root causes of violations relating to sexual health and reproductive rights, including access restrictions to health services, remain unaddressed. Moreover, it leaves rights-holders unable to articulate their demands in the context of a rights-framework. As a result marginalized populations, particularly LGBT people are at greater risk to abuse.

In July 2009 HREIB invited activists committed to eliminating homophobia in Burma to come together to consider ways to promote the rights of LGBT people. Participants first

evaluated the situation of LGBT people inside Burma. They realized that one of the only programs available to LGBT people related to HIV/AIDS. They then outlined ways to improve education programs by expanding programs that only focus HIV/AIDS to include LGBT rights awareness raising activities. Such activities could still be taught within the framework of HIV prevention, but also have implicit campaign objectives to end homophobia in the public.



They focused on developing strategies to protect and promote LGBT rights inside Burma and strengthening communication and networking. They provided feedback about HREIB's current website Rainbow, which they maintain is good for education. They also determined that a new Myanmar Gay Education site should be used as

a social forum to recruit more LGBT people and introduce them with the Rainbow site. Finally, they agreed that the HIV/AIDS programs inside Burma make for good entry points.

In February 2009 the second Rainbow Magazine was published and distributed. Rainbow has eight sections: hot news, feature, general knowledge about LGBT and sexual health, article, interview, straight talk, cartoon, and entertainment. This edition featured articles by well-known Burmese writers, a famous Burmese cartoonist and an LGBT celebrity. It was distributed in Rangoon, Mandalay, Mongnya, Kyauk Padaung, Kaw Tawng, Myawaddy and Mawlamyaing in Burma. In Thailand, it was distributed in Bangkok, Maha Chai, Chiang Mai, Ranong and Mae Sot. Internationally, Rainbow is distributed by request to Burmese LGBT people in the United Kingdom and the United States. Readers include Burmese migrants in Thailand, Burmese LGBT people and sexual health peer educators and NGO social workers.

Gender and Women's Rights Program

In 2009 24.4% of all activities conducted by HREIB had an explicit gender and women's rights thematic focus. Moreover, HREIB strives to promote gender equality in all its programming, whether by addressing the trafficking of women along the China - Burma border or supporting women's income generation projects for migrants in Southern Thailand.

- Local communities are free from domestic violence.

In 2009 HREIB organized 21 activities to raise awareness about domestic violence against women. Topics covered in these activities included international mechanisms aimed at eliminating violence against women, sexual harassment, the cycle of domestic violence, examples of gender-based discrimination, sex and gender, and local laws and policies. During all the activities trainers encouraged women and men to participate in discussions and role plays and to share their real-life experiences. The participants of these activities committed to practicing what they learned in their own families and sharing concepts about gender and women's rights with others.



During some activities HREIB targeted women; however, HREIB also promotes men's cooperation in addressing domestic violence against women. This year, trainers facilitated 8 Men Talk discussions in Phang Nga, Thailand. In one discussion forum with migrant workers male participants were

able to share experiences in which they treated their female family members, including wives and sisters, in an inappropriate or abusive manner. The following are examples of what some of the male participants shared during the discussion:

Before, I thought that men were superior to women, and no rights should be given to women. Now, I have become aware that this is gender-based discrimination which does not have any rational reasoning behind it. We must change our mindset.

- Mg Paing Soe

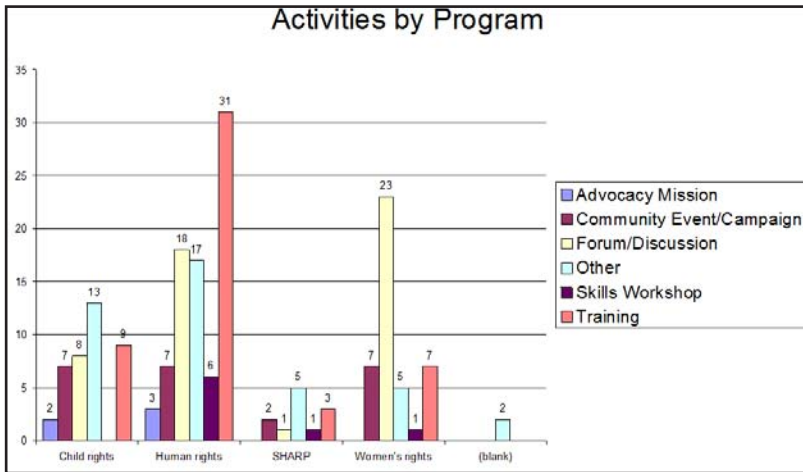
In the past, I never confessed I was wrong or asked for forgiveness when I hurt my elder sisters or wife because I thought that, because I am a man, I do not need to behave humbly toward them. Now I have children, and I don't want them to behave the way I did. I will try to teach them to treat people fairly in order to avoid discrimination and needless problems in the future. Also, I think men must admit when they have committed wrongs against women. In the past, people turned to alcohol to solve their problems, but this is not the proper solution.

- Ko Taik

In my experience, I have seen many capable women who are skilled leaders in high positions in NGOs and government departments. We need to be aware that men and women should have the same opportunities and rights.

- Tha Gyi

Outputs



ADVOCACY MISSIONS

- Bangkok Advocacy Mission on Child Soldiers
- Drug Prevention Poster Distribution
- Study Trip to Czech Republic
- ASEAN People's Forum (APF)
- Advocacy with UN Security Council Working Group: Children and Armed Conflict

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HREIB supports community events to raise awareness during national and international days related to human rights. Events often include theater performances, which are a particularly potent way to raise awareness of key human rights issues. HREIB's India office organized an event to commemorate the 21st Burma Human Rights Day at the Burmese Community Resource Centre (BCRC) in New Delhi. There were around 180 participants including three MPs (from Burma's 1990 election), two monks who participated in the Saffron Revolution, and leaders of Burmese organizations in New Delhi.

HREIB's trainers in China hosted an event on the international day to stop violence against women. Facilitators guided participants in taking part in a role play about VAW issues. In addition, there was an open forum in which participants shared their experiences related

to VAW. Many questions arose from this discussion especially from men participants who complained that women themselves also commit violence against men or other women. However, after the discussion, all participants had a clear understanding of gender equality and women's rights as well as the importance of mutual respect. HREIB distributed domestic violence against women (DVAW) posters, pamphlets and brochures. The HREIB facilitator also gave the presentation on women human rights defenders, the situation in Burma, the current situation of imprisoned women, and Aung San Su Kyi's struggle for democracy. The event facilitators invited the media to the event, so they gave interviews regarding the event and the issue of violence against women.

In **Thailand** HREIB trainers helped organize a parade on World AIDS Day. Over 200 people from the community and different NGOs, including World Vision, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), and National Catholic Commission on Migration (NCCM).

International Campaign Days

- International Human Rights Day
- Anti-Child Trafficking Day
- Red Hand Day to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
- International Peace Day
- World AIDS Day
- International Women's Day
- International Day to Stop Violence Against Women
- International Day Against Homophobia

Burma Solidarity Days

- Free Burma Political Prisoners Now Campaign
- Burmese New Year and Water Festival

FORUMS AND DISCUSSIONS

In addition to facilitating trainings, HREIB hosts small scale, regular discussion forums that provide community members an informal opportunity to explore human rights issues. The group size of these discussions allows for participants to speak with one another and share experiences about human rights issues in their homes and communities.

- **Men Talk.** The Men Talk program targets men in migrant communities and provides them with a forum to discuss various issues related to gender and gender-based violence. An example of one discussion session is below:

Men Talk

Kuraburi Village, Phang Nga, Thailand

On 19 January 19, 2010 HREIB's trainers in Phang Nga held a Men Talk forum with seventeen male migrant workers. This discussion focused on power sharing, women's rights and violence against women. The facilitator asked the participants to form pairs and then stare at one another for several minutes—one person had to be sitting down and the other standing up. After this role play the facilitator asked the participants who were sitting down about how they felt—all of them described feelings of inferiority, discomfort, shyness, anger, and fear. Some of the men mentioned that they felt the same way when they were caught by the Thai police. Then the facilitators asked the participants who were standing how they felt—they mentioned that they felt superior, more powerful, but some also expressed that they felt pity for those sitting.

The facilitator explained that power is the main factor leading to discrimination and often makes certain groups look down on other people, especially women.

The facilitator asked the pairs to stare at each other one more time, however this time all were asked to remain standing. During the feedback session the participants conveyed feelings of happiness, equality, comfort and freedom. This activity helped the participants understand the difference between power over and power sharing. Participants then shared their experiences of power over in their families, work place and society. The consequence of power abuse could be violence against women.

Finally the facilitator explained 3 kinds of violence against women: physical, moral and sexual. They shared that some people don't want to interfere in other people's relationships, especially when there are VAW cases. The facilitator explained it is not a family cases or a personal case, but a crime.

- Women's Exchange. In 2009 HREIB trainers facilitated Women's Exchange activities with migrants from Burma in Phan Nga, Thailand and Delhi, India. The program encourages women to discuss violence against women in their communities, stereotypes relating to women.
- Community Discussions on Child Trafficking. In Mae Sot former victims of trafficking and other participants of HREIB's trainings set up a weekly exchange program to discuss the current trends in child trafficking and potential intervention strategies. It is imperative

to include former victims as they are able to contribute to meaningful dialogue, helping everyone gain a better understanding of the reality of trafficking. Their participation is also important as they learn to cope with the repercussions of their traumatic experiences.

TRAININGS

In 2009 HREIB conducted a total of 50 trainings. These included:

- 31 Human Rights Trainings
 - Training of Trainers Advanced Course
 - Human Rights and Leadership
 - Labor Rights and Thai Labor Law
 - Human Rights and Drug Prevention
- 9 Child Rights Trainings
 - Children and Armed Conflict
 - Child Trafficking
 - International Child Rights Mechanisms
- 7 Gender and Women's Rights
 - Project Cycle Management and Facilitation Skills
- 3 LGBT Rights Trainings

In addition to the activities described in this section, in 2009 HREIB trainers were requested to facilitate trainings with 18 groups in Thailand, China, India, and Burma. Topics included human rights, gender and women's rights, team building, and facilitation skills. These continued requests demonstrate HREIB's leadership in the field. Table 1 lists each of the groups and topics facilitated:



	Organization	Topic(s)
1.	Burmese Women's Union	Gender and Women's Rights
2.	Mae Tao Clinic Health Team	Child Rights
3.	Generation Wave	Human Rights and Community Organizing
4.	International Rescue Committee	Team building
5.	Grassroots Human Rights Education	Facilitation skills
6.	Earthrights International	Gender and Women's Rights
7.	Kachin Women's Association in Thailand	Basic Human Rights and Women's Rights
8.	Paluang Women's Organization	Gender and Women's Rights and Facilitation
9.	Nationalities Youth-Forum	Basic Human Rights
10.	Women's League of Burma	Peoples Empowerment Program
11.	Forum for Democracy in Burma	Community Organizing
12.	Student and Youth Council of Burma	Human Rights and Community Organizing
13.	Committee for the Protection and Promotion of Child Rights	International Child Rights Treaties
14.	Karenni Health and Development	Team Building
15.	Human Rights Foundation of Monland	Child Rights and Documentation
16.	Minmahaw Migrant School	Basic Human Rights
17.	Burmese Women Delhi	Gender and Women's Rights
18.	Map Foundation	Gender and Women's Rights

SKILLS WORKSHOPS

- Language Courses. HREIB, in collaboration with the Arakan Workers' Union (AWU), organized three month Thai lessons for 14 Arakan migrant workers: 6 men and 8 women. They also held English courses with the help of an American volunteer. In attendance for this course were 12 migrants: 6 men and 6 women.
- Livelihood Skills. HREIB worked with a new women's group to help them develop programs to provide skills training on handicrafts and sewing.

PUBLICATIONS

Audio/Visual Resources. A total of 9 audio/visual resources were created in 2009. HREIB purchased relevant English-language documentaries and translated them into Burmese to reach a wider audience inside Burma. HREIB also documented theater performances and produced a video about migrant workers in India.

Documentary Title	Translation or HREIB Production	Time
Child Soldiers: Road to Recovery	Translation into Burmese	0:28
Child Soldiers: Invisible Combatants	Translation into Burmese	0:28
Memories United ACT: Theater Performance	HREIB Production	0:06
International Day against Homophobia	HREIB Production	1:49
International Day against Homophobia	HREIB Production	0:30
United ACT Theater Performance	HREIB Production	0:10
Burma ACT Interview	HREIB Production	1:00
Boys, Toys and The Big Blue Marble	Translation into Burmese	0:51
Walking Together	HREIB Production	0:45

Walking Together Documentary. This documentary features two community workers in Thailand, one in Phang Nga and one in Ranong. The community worker in Phang Nga is a migrant worker affected by the tsunami who actively organized his community by founding a social welfare group in his village. Using religious and social activities, he organized the migrant workers to teach them about disaster management programs, ending discrimination against Burmese by Thai society, and migrant workers' collective rights.

The other community organizer works with the LGBT group in Ranong. He explains the attitude of homophobia towards LGBT people, and his community organizing work involves LGBT empowerment. After founding this LGBT group, the group works on funding raising and community education through the theater.

Exploring Synergies in Microfinance and Human Rights Education. HREIB has initiated several income-generating projects that, while maintaining some fundamental principles of microcredit, have adopted unique, effective strategies to counter obstacles existing in this extralegal context. Such obstacles include issues of personal security, trust, and migration of community members. These strategies and the success of the income-generating projects speak to the possible sustainability of microfinance in such migrant communities. In addition, the income-generating projects have enhanced HREIB's goal of community empowerment by not only economically empowering community members, but also by utilizing the project as a source for increased community collaboration and cohesion.

In June 2009 HREIB commissioned a member of the Harvard Law School Human Rights Clinic to conduct a study on the links between human rights, community organizing and income generation projects/microfinance. The study focuses on past HREIB income generation

projects supported by AJWS, NME and other donors; it is based on a field survey of these projects and also draws on the theoretical links between the aforementioned topics. Findings show that a significant number of Burmese migrants in Thailand survive in extralegal communities, causing microcredit institutions to avoid them as potential clients.

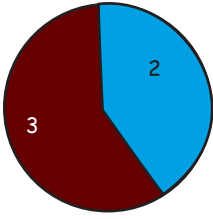
Updated and Reprinted Educational Resources. In 2009 HREIB also updated, reprinted and distributed three of its publications: a reference book about the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a cartoon book on the CRC, and a pocket-sized booklet on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

- On 23 January 2009, HREIB published a third edition of its guide to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. HREIB printed 2,000 copies of the 160-pages book.
- On 20 March 2009, HREIB printed 1,500 copies of the 36-page cartoon booklet on the CRC, and again distributed these among the abovementioned groups.
- On 12 June 2009, HREIB published 1,500 copies of 92 pages Human Rights Hand Book that includes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Convention on the All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This publication was published based on the feedback from the trainers and community organizers who used HREIB's wall posters as training references.

Publication	Total Printed	Total Distributed	% Distributed
CRC Cartoon	2,000	399	20%
CRC Book	1,500	326	22%
HR Pocket Book	1,500	331	22 %

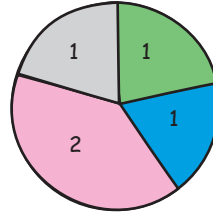
Human Rights Manual. Finally, HREIB reprinted and updated the Human Rights Manual, HREIB's premier human rights resource for activists from Burma.

Advocacy Mission by program



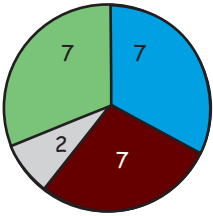
Child Rights ■
Human Rights ■

Advocacy Mission by Country



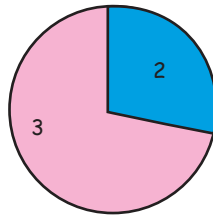
Burma ■ Czech Republic ■
Thailand ■ USA ■

Community Events by program



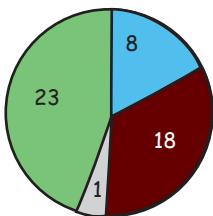
Child Rights ■ Human Rights ■
SHARP ■ Women's Rights ■

Community Events by Country



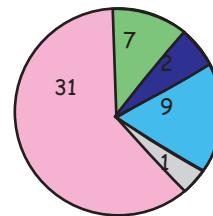
India ■
Thailand ■

Forum/Dicussions by program



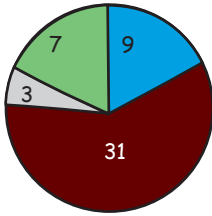
Child Rights ■ Human Rights ■
SHARP ■ Women's Rights ■

Forum/Dicussions by Country



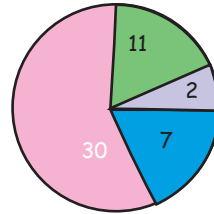
Burma ■
China ■
India ■
Indonesia ■
Thailand ■

Trainings by program



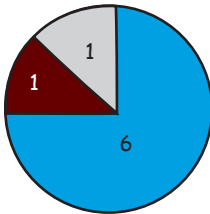
Child Rights ■ Human Rights ■
 SHARP ■ Women's Rights ■

Trainings by Country



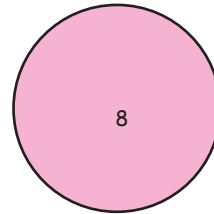
Burma ■ India ■
 China ■ Thailand ■

Skills Workshops by program



Human Rights ■
 SHARP ■
 Women's Rights ■

Skills Workshops by Country



Thailand ■

Beneficiaries

Below is a list of those who directly benefited from HREIB's trainings, community events, discussion forums, and other awareness raising activities:

Table 4 Direct Beneficiaries

Activity Type	Child rights	Human rights SHARP	Women's rights	Grand Total
Advocacy Mission		505		505
Community Event/ Campaign	3377	155	215	4282
Forum/Discussion	204	407	20	1113
Other	118	273	36	481
Skills Workshop		117		267
Training	140	773	61	1088
Grand Total	3839	2230	332	7736

In Their Words:

HREIB/Burma ACT TOT Participant

My name is Thin Thin, and I was born in a small village in Karen State, Burma, in 1982. I am a teacher and an office staff member as the consular at the Green Hope safe house for trafficked children, which is run by Social Action for Women (SAW). My father passed away when I was a child, so I grew up looking after my mother alone. I have two siblings, an elder brother who is a businessman and a younger sister who is working at a factory in Mae Sot. Her salary is approximately 4,000 baht per month. I have a son and a very happy family.

Though I have been working at the safe house for a long time, I was not aware of Burmese, Thai, or the international laws that relate to trafficking. I also lacked knowledge of how to care for victims of trafficking. Consequently, I was not able to provide the most effective support to victims.

I realized that I needed additional knowledge and skills in order to more effectively support victims of trafficking. Fortunately, I was presented with the opportunity to attend the Anti-Child Trafficking Training of Trainers (TOT), a two-week training in April 2009 which was organized by HREIB and Burma ACT. During the training, I learned about the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the definition of trafficking and child trafficking, the difference between trafficking and smuggling, regional guidelines for trafficked children, and human trafficking laws in Burma and Thailand. I also improved my facilitation skills and studied guidelines on how to conduct interviews with child victims of trafficking.

I was able to absorb much of the information on these subjects due to the creative media tools and participatory teaching style implemented in the training. I was able to

learn from the participants as well because we all shared our experiences.

Due to the effectiveness of the training, I was able to become a trainer in my organization, apply the regional guidelines effectively to children in our safe house, become a skillful interviewer, provide effective access to the victims of trafficking, and become a member of a strong network among Burma ACT members. I am also able to teach child rights to my own son and the neighboring children as well.

RISKS

The following table refers to the principal risks identified by in HREIB's appraisal and tells what has been done to either minimize or eliminate them.

Table 5 Risks

Principal Risks	Progress	Risk reduction/control
Unregistered organization operating in Thailand, employing a number of Burmese staff without legal status.	HREIB has submitted all registration forms to the Thai government and is now waiting approval of its foundation status.	This process has taken longer than expected and continues to be drawn out, however HREIB will become a Thai foundation sometime in 2010.
Capacity to properly implement the system for planning, monitoring and evaluation.	HREIB recently took measures to address program and data management; in July we hired a consultant to put together a database that will help us manage field reports.	HREIB developed a standardized activity report form for all of our staff. In 2010 we will roll out additional needs assessment and monitoring tools for field staff.
Financial control weaknesses	HREIB has taken a number of measures to improve its financial system. Our new accountant has helped us update our payment voucher form and develop a stronger budget approval and checking process. All receipts are now accompanied by a payment voucher form and these forms are signed by the person who authorized, verified, checked, received, and classified/keyed in the data into the QuickBooks software.	In August 2009 HREIB hired a new accountant to help the finance team transition to using QuickBooks. The new accountant formerly worked with a Thai accounting firm. At her former position she specialized in training accountants on how to use financial software. She is a Thai national and will be able to ensure the quality of future financial reports.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Before 2009 HREIB's ability to improve future activities based on an understanding of past performance was limited. Therefore, in July HREIB hired a consultant to put together a database that has helped manage field reports. HREIB also developed a standardized activity report form for all staff. These tools have shown that there are many lessons to be learned from analyzing activities. It is possible to aggregate common challenges to better understand the difficulties faced by field trainers in one particular area or across multiple sites. Analysis will begin to take place in 2010.

During HREIB's August 2009 advanced TOT course all of the trainers and community organizers formed teams. Each of the teams have a team leader who is now responsible for communicating with all team members, collecting activity reports (both narrative and financial) from each team member and submitting reports to his/her supervisor—one of HREIB's program coordinators.

The program coordinators have been assigned to each of the teams and will be responsible for reviewing activity proposals submitted by team leaders, checking activity reports, and monitoring team activities. Each coordinator will visit his/her teams two times per year. During these visits the coordinator will evaluate progress made in the communities and review impacts.

Participants of HREIB's programs have requested more advanced sessions in order to gain a deeper understanding of the issues they reviewed during short-term trainings. In response HREIB has designed an intensive human rights course for 2010. Moreover, each year local NGOs ask HREIB program coordinators to facilitate more education seminars on human rights, child rights, women's rights, and sexual health and rights. These appeals indicate that stakeholders not only want to gain more knowledge about human rights but also that they believe HREIB is the right organization to provide the education. In 2008 HREIB produced several documentaries on child soldiers, child trafficking, cyclone Nargis, and the constitutional referendum; over 1000 copies of each of the documentaries were produced and distributed to local communities. These videos continue to be in high demand, which denotes stakeholders' need and desire for more educational materials, particularly multimedia resources.