

**Human Rights Learning and Human Rights Cities .**

**Achievements Report .**

**Prepared and developed by  
the PDHRE International Office  
And  
the three Regional PDHRE offices in  
Latin America, West Africa and Anglo Africa.**

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*...Develop a new political culture based on human rights.—Nelson Mandela*

# **PDHRE**

## People's movement for Human Rights Learning

### **A, INTRODUCTION**

**A-1** PDHRE was founded in 1989 as a non-profit, international organization with a deep belief in the power of learning about human rights as a way of life that leads to economic and social transformation. PDHRE has worked directly and indirectly with its network of affiliates and partners in over 60 countries around the world to develop and advance the learning about human rights as a strategy for participatory economic, human and social development. It enables women and men to re-imagine their lives and discover their own power to influence the destiny of their community. Participating in the planning of their future, they see the human rights framework as a guideline for their active involvement in the development of the community. In pursuing its work in the field, PDHRE is constantly revitalized by actions being taken in local communities to create a space for a meaningful change as a result of internalizing the praxis of human rights. Assuming social responsibility, people move away from humiliation and become part of their community in dignity with others.

In order to create an infrastructure for the learning/acting process in the communities, PDHRE is engaged in training trainers and facilitating seminars, workshops and dialogue at the grassroots level. The strategy is to support people's evident desire for social justice and democracy and away from humiliation. PDHRE is guided by the core belief that through human rights learning, everyone can be encouraged to take control over their lives.

To achieve its vision and mission in a practical way, PDHRE has been facilitating the development of Human Rights Cities around the world.

### **A-2. Human Right Cities– a practical way for women and men to learn and chart the future of humanity**

What is a Human Rights City?

A Human Rights City is a city or a community where people of good will, in government, in organizations and in institutions, try and let a human rights framework guide the development of the life of the community. Equality and nondiscrimination are basic values. Efforts are made to promote an holistic vision of human rights to overcome fear and impoverishment, a society that provides human security, access to food, clean water, housing, education, healthcare and work at livable wages, sharing these resources with all citizens-- not as a gift, but as a realization of human rights.

A Human Rights city is a practical viable model that demonstrates that learning about human rights and applying this insight can improve society -- a viable structure that can offer various experiences that can revitalize development programs around the world.

**PDHRE** works to develop and implement a program by, for, and with the inhabitants of the city and the local authorities to:

- **Instill a sense of ownership of human rights as a way of life, leading to action for the realization of all human rights in the city, to benefit all its inhabitants: women, men, youth and children**
- **Enhance actions that promote democracy as a delivery system of human rights in order to achieve sustainable development, peace, economic, human security, and social justice.**
- **Capacity building to strengthen activities that ensure community development and accountability guided by the comprehensive human rights framework. Individuals and groups participate.**
- **Become a beacon of light for communities all around the world to illustrate how the application of the human rights framework can make every citizen a creative partner of society.**

**The city**, its institutions, and its residents, as a complex social economic and political entity, become a model for citizen's participation in their development. This process leads to the mapping and analysis of causes and symptoms of violations such as poverty and the design of ways to achieve well being in their city. As women and men work to secure the sustainability of their community as a viable, creative, caring society, they will seek ways to resolve the conflicts that they encounter.

**Human Rights Cities** as developed by partnerships from around the world are based on the premise that all people wish and hope for social and economic justice. It stands on the conviction that for the moral, political and legal tenets of human rights to be effective, citizens must know and adopt this inclusive framework, giving momentum to efforts to attain a better life for future generations.

**Human rights learning and socialization** highlights the normative and empirical power of human rights as a tool in individual and collective efforts to address inequalities, injustices and abuses at home, in the work place, in the streets, prisons, courts, and more.

Even in "democratic" societies, citizens and policy-makers must learn to understand human rights and the obligations and the responsibilities that they entail in a holistic and comprehensive way. They must learn to enforce human rights effectively and efficiently. This is the promise and responsibility their governments have undertaken when ratifying various human rights Covenants and Conventions.

**In the cities**, governing bodies, law enforcement agencies, public sector employees, religious groups, NGOs and community groups, those working on the issues of women, children, workers, indigenous peoples, poverty, education, food, water, housing, healthcare, environment and conflict resolution, and all other non affiliated inhabitants, join in the learning and reflecting about human rights as significant to the decision-making process and towards societal development. An objective is to base the activities of society on respect for the dignity of the individual.

**A Steering committee** representing all sectors of society develops specific programs for various audiences. The plan includes the examination, with a gender perspective, of laws, policies, resource allocation and relationships that prevail in the city. Step by step, neighborhoods, schools, political, economic and social institutions, and NGOs, examine the human rights framework relating it to their traditional beliefs, collective memory and aspirations with regard to environmental, economic and social

justice issues and concerns. As agents of change they learn to identify, mentor, monitor and document their needs and engage in important actions in the city. Examples are influencing the city's budget or develop an alternative participatory budget as a tool for advocacy.,

**Activities in the Human Right Cities** are being publicized throughout the country, expecting to radiate knowledge and serve as a model for stabilizing democracy and building good governance, and to encourage other people to bring human rights to their societies.

**The program** includes the further development of existing and additional human rights cities and regional training of young community leaders in Latin Amrcia and Africa and Europe

As of January 2007, 17 cities are already in development in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Canada and 100 community leaders have been trained. The current Human Rights Cities are progressively fulfilling the original objectives and goals that PDHRE had set forth.

#### **Human Rights Cities in Latin America Africa, Europe and Canada. January 2007)**

- Rosario, Argentina
- Thies, Senegal
- Kati, Kayes and Timbuktu, Sikasso, Kita - Mali
- Korogocho, Kenya
- Nimamobi, Walewale, Bongo, Newton- Ghana
- Musha, Rwanda
- Graz, Austria
- Edmonton, Canada
- Mogale, South Africa
- Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Bihac – Bosnia
- Winnipeg- Canada

**At the request by SDC**, that has been a major source of funding through UNDP for the program during the last three years, the PDHRE office in New York has asked the regional offices in Latin America, West Africa and Anglo Africa to report on the past achievements of the program in their cities and to indicate needs for the next three years.

The reports are submitted, with slight editing, as developed by them in their language and articulation.- (See "B" below.) Their three years plans follow in C.

#### **B. ACHIEVEMENTS**

The following are testimonies from the three PDHRE affiliates in Latin America, West Africa and Anglo Africa'

#### **The Regional PDHRE Office in Latin America:**

Presented by Susana Chiarotti, Rosario

In the words of the founder of PDHRE, Shulamith Koenig, "imposed ignorance is a human rights violation in itself, and I sustain that the fundamental change could only be attained if every human being was aware that he or she is a human rights owner, that everybody should be human rights educators, monitors and driving forces from generation

to generation.” Consequently, the first requisite to be able to exercise a human right is to know it.

Continuing human rights learning in the city is the starting point for:  
Enhancing knowledge  
Clarifying values  
Changing attitudes  
Developing critical understanding  
Promoting solidarity  
Altering personal and institutional behaviors and/or practices

There are three pivotal premises to the approach applied:  
1- Universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights.  
2- Gender perspective  
3- Inclusion of fundamental principles in people’s daily lives

The program is implemented through 5 steps, although the peculiarity of each place will determine its particular characteristics:  
1. Summoning  
2. Creation of a Steering Committee  
3. Draft of a plan of action.  
4. Citizens learn and adopt human rights as a way of living.  
5. Citizens commit themselves to societal engagement through learning, action, monitoring and documentation.

The Steering Committee is representative of society’s different sectors, and works on a community’s critical issues. The plan of action must emerge from collective participation, which calls for a training stage and the sharing of knowledge.

It must be taken into consideration that this is an everlasting, ongoing process, whose success will be guaranteed by the extent of participation of the different social, economic, cultural and academic sectors. They will get involved as they are mobilized and consensus is achieved.

It is not the kind of process that can be developed top-down, even when in some cases the first summoning is sent by governmental institutions. This premise is not a minor point, since human rights learning –the core of the project- implies a real commitment to the change of personal and institutional practices, which can only become a reality when people learn and reflect on human rights.

In a democratic state, in-depth changes are the result of public policies based on the interconnection of laws, governmental actions and cultural transformations that demand reflection, time and conviction.

## **B.2 Achievements in Rosario, Argentina**

In Argentina, human rights became major national issues in 1977, during the military dictatorship, through organizations that addressed themselves to claiming civil and political rights. The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, Grandmothers, Relatives of the Missing, the Human Rights Ecumenical Movement, among others, waived the human rights flag in our country during very hard times, when state terrorism committed the most outrageous violations.

Later, when democracy was restored, new organizations were created, broadening the scope of human rights: women's movements, defense against the auctioning of housing destined to living only, protection of the environment, economic, social and cultural rights, minorities' rights. In tune with what was happening on the regional and international level, where the human rights paradigm was being broadened, our society was getting organized and taking over its own defense.

At the same time, the state started to set up its own organizations at the municipal, provincial and national level, in line with democracy, to guarantee, protect and promote human rights, as in the case of the ombudsman's offices, regulatory bodies for privatized public services, the assistance centers for victims of sexual abuse, the woman's national council, the municipal and provincial human rights departments, just to mention a few examples.

Most of the countries in the region have endorsed the human rights covenants, treaties and conventions, both of the United Nations' system and of the Organization of American States' (OAS). In the case of Argentina, they have been integrated into the 1994 constitution. But this is hardly enough. It is not enough because in practice neither the State guarantees the respect and promotion of all the human rights of all, nor do the inhabitants acknowledge themselves as owners of right. This is here very much as in the rest of the world.

It is in this national and local context that our experience takes place. The city of Rosario, in the province of Santa Fe, Argentina, was the first to be declared a *Human Rights City* in 1997. The initiative was boosted by a program carried out by the Institute for Gender, Law and Development (INSGENAR), the headquarters of PDHRE in Latin America.

On July 30th 1997 more than 35 institutions (human rights organizations, indigenous peoples, sexual diversity groups, academic bodies, development associations, the women's movement, etc.) signed the Commitment Act in the Auditorium of the City Hall of Rosario, in the presence of city mayor, the director of INSGENAR, Dr Susana Chiarotti, and the president of PDHRE, Ms. Shulamith Koenig. This is how Rosario became the first link in this ambitious program that is to sow the world with cities where human rights are known and exercised.

The Steering Committee of the City was progressively constituted by governmental and non-governmental organizations which INSGENAR had been working with for some years in different activities. The Committee meets regularly to debate and discuss their interventions and activities. INSGENAR has stimulated the training of the participating organizations through seminars and courses.

These organizations hold a plurality of ideas, varied backgrounds and differing views. In a fragmented society such as ours and in the exacerbated individualism of postmodernism, we believe that this is the program's core: the challenge of bringing together a medley of institutions demonstrating that it is possible to agree on proposals and carry them forward, working on what we have in common and creating space to analyze the conflicts we go through and find plausible answers in the human rights framework.

Within these realities our purpose is to constantly widen the Steering Committee –as we have been doing all these years- incorporating as many actors as possible, always on the basis of mature and productive agreements.

**A case from Rosario:**

Rosario initiated in 1997 a learning program to overcome a major issue of police discrimination in the community. Once the particularities of these discriminatory actions were identified by the steering committee, police training was developed and facilitated by PDHRE and the leaders of the community. After several human rights training sessions led by local educators and human rights activists, the director of the regional police academy said in an interview, with much conviction: “there is no other option but human rights!”. He was speaking of a world of humiliation and pain so acutely experienced in his country. As a result of the on-going trainings, the police are engaged in a dialogue with vulnerable groups and individuals in the city and are collaborating in human rights education and learning activities in the neighborhoods. It is a rewarding experience, which is reflected in the continuous human rights training in the city. It has also become a mainstay-training program for the police in the region of Santa Fe, where Rosario is the capital.

The program focuses on two working areas:

**a)** Rosario, Human Rights City: with the aim of internalizing the human rights culture and creating a space for the prevention and resolution of conflicts characteristic of human coexistence. It includes different activities for different sectors, ages, interests:

- \* Human rights learning for teachers, security forces, health agents, magistrates, professionals, children, artists, social communicators and district organizations.
- \* Promotion of gender equity.
- \* Care of the environment.

To accomplish our goals we make use of different tools, such as community contests, workshops, research as basis for advocacy, seminars, articles in mass media and others.

**b)** Latin American and Caribbean Program for Human Rights Education: Training of human rights educators, chosen among people with capacity to lead processes of cultural changes in their own communities and the development of additional human rights cities

Our main objective is to contribute to the construction of a culture based on the knowledge, debate and exercise of the principles and values of human rights, conceived from a gender perspective and highlighting the principle of universality, indivisibility and interdependence. We are aware of the fact that the main reason for human rights violation is the unfair distribution of wealth. Perhaps it is not in our power to solve immediately the injustice produced by the huge gap between the “haves” and those who are marginalized from all possessions, but we can report it and take it into account in our analyses, learning and actions...--to make discrimination visible and socially unacceptable as the first requisite to be able to combat it.

It is vital to understand that basic needs cannot be at the mercy of the charity of state programs and policies, but that they must be defined as human rights and understood as such by the people. We can claim this as an achievement that has led to community actions. This perspective offers a different view than traditional charity, both to the governing class and to society as a whole. The task is daunting, but not impossible.

As the Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano has put it in his book *Eager to Do*, “They are little things, they don’t put an end to poverty, they don’t get us out of underdevelopment, they don’t socialize the means of production and exchange, they don’t expropriate the Ali Baba’s caves. But maybe they trigger the happiness of doing and translate it into acts, and after all, to act upon reality and change it, even if a little bit, is a way of proving that reality can be transformed.”

And that is what we set out to do: to show that step by step even the harshest reality can be transformed; that we are not content with the passive acceptance that it has always been like that, that there must be a reason for it, that it is normal that people live in permanent insecurity because of lack of food, housing, health care, or because they get them in meager supplies, as handouts from the State when, in fact, these are human rights that belong to them because every person has the same human rights as everybody else, in a multicultural context in which differences make the extraordinary richness of the human race.

We agree with the Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Souza Santos when he states that “We have the right to be equal when our differences make us inferior, and we have the right to be different when our equality de-characterizes us”.

“Hence the need of equality that reproduces differences and difference that does not produce, feed or reproduce inequalities.”

And that is why Rosario, Human Rights City is more than a program. It is a shared dream, a hope, a challenge, a deeply-held conviction and firm commitment.

Since 1997, we have carried out different activities, such as:

- \* Human rights training courses for the security forces, police cadets, and teachers and students of the teacher's training colleges.
- \* Seminar on Citizens' Security.

- \* International Seminar on Human Rights for members of grassroots organizations from Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- \* Movie-debate season on women's human rights for city district NGOs and professional women's councils in the city and in other towns around the country.
- \* Three contests inviting students from primary and secondary schools to rewrite the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Boys and girls from the city of Rosario took part in the first contest, children from the province of Santa Fe in the second one, and children from 8 provinces of Argentina in the third one, with the cooperation of the Ombudsman Offices.
- \* Court on the Violation of Girls' Human Rights.
- \* Report on the ill-treatment and persecution of transvestites and prostitutes.
- \* Request for the provincial executive and legislative powers to reform the Code of Misdemeanors over these issues.
- \* Shadow report presented before the United Nations Human Rights Committee in relation to the civil and political rights of women.
- \* Three short films on boys and girls' human rights.
- \* Video on the history of women in Rosario, as a result of a study undertaken by the Women's Commission of the Architects' Association.
- \* Contest "Neighbors for the Environment", inviting district organizations and institutions to present a project for habitat improvement through citizens' participatory action and commitment.
- \* Publication of the books "Education and Human Rights: between the reflection and the experience of human rights" and "Boys and Girls' Human Rights: a starting point to reach Heaven"
- \* Publication of articles in different mass media.
- \* Introducing the learning about human rights in the Medical school and the instructions to attend to poor people with respect for their dignity.
- \* The integration of the indigenous community in the activities of the city.

In 1998, in the framework of the Program, we introduced Human Rights in the curricula of the Police Cadets School of the Province of Santa Fe. Since that date, the cadets study Human Rights and they study specific topics like domestic violence. We have also trained high officials of the Police of the Province of Santa Fe. Since 1997 we trained more than 2.000 teachers and 8.000 pupils in Human Rights

In the last three years several new organizations became members of the steering committee. In 2005, the Committee accepted representatives from the Qomlasherlqa and Qolmlalaqpi of the Qom Indigenous community and the Working Table of the Indigenous Peoples. They now have their own voice in the planning process.

The Global Call for Action Against Poverty was elaborated in the various neighborhoods of the city contributing to the writing of a document that was submitted to the National Government of Argentine.

We initiated a Latin American and Caribbean Program for Human Rights Education. This program was implemented in 2004 with an International Seminar on Human Rights and is sustained through a network of educators who exchange experiences, information and pedagogical material.

In January 2005 we facilitated the launching of a Human Rights City in Porto Alegre and are now advising them on how to proceed. The same will take place with the city of Barranquillas in Colombia that is preparing, with our advice, to develop a Human Rights City. There are plans for two possible cities in Chile and Bolivia.

Also in 2005, through the Contest "Neighbors for the Environment" , we added to the program , for the first time, several district organizations and institutions., which widens the scope and influence of the activities in the city.

Fifteen organizations participated in it, developing together projects to achieve our goals. All the projects were related to the use of water; cleaning of drainages and weeds; forest workers; kitchen gardens, recycling trash; recovering abandoned and uncultivated spaces, etc. We found this to be a good methodology as it had people meet and talk about their human right to a healthy environment.

They discussed the various problems in their neighbourhood and came up with solutions to solve them. And most importantly, they organized alliances between them, fixed priorities regarding their needs and what they should claim from the government and what they could do by themselves. They are now working to prepare an integrated project.

### **B.3 Human Rights Cities Program – West Africa**

Presented by Adama Samassekou, President of PDHRE Africa – West Africa

Three Human Right Consensual Cities in Mali: 3-years of achievements and activities.

In order to promote the Human Rights Consensual Cities in Mali , the Peoples' Movement for Human Rights Learning has provided support over the last years. A forward-looking programme for the period 2007-2012 Consensual Human Rights Cities Program for West Africa has also been put together It was the outcome of a workshop held on the 22nd and 23rd of August 2006.

Examples of recent activities are:

- **Kati- Human Rights Consensual City program** (created on December 9 2000):

1) Held in Kati on September 15-16, 2004: A workshop for the strategic actors and administrative agents of the city of Kati on the Human Rights based approach to developing a program for social, economic and cultural development (2005-2009). The workshop counted 50 participants: representatives of Kati's City Hall, administrative agents, notables, and representatives of civil society organizations. The participants expressed their satisfaction and committed to taking into account the Human Rights based approach to programming and planning.

2) Held in Kati from August 4 through August 6, 2005: A workshop in order to develop the 2005-2009 strategic plan for the Kati- Human Rights Consensual City program. The workshop counted 20 participants: representatives of Kati's City Hall, administrative agents, and representatives of civil society organizations.

3) Held in Kati from September 7 through September 9, 2006: A training workshop for the members of the « Neighbourhoods Human Rights Education Committees ». The workshop's objective was the training of a set of Human Rights educators in charge of the « Neighbourhoods Human Rights Education Committees » in order to promote and enhance human rights learning and understanding at the grassroots level. The workshop gave participants (members of the different organs of Kati- Human Rights Consensual City and representatives of the "Neighbourhoods Human Rights Education Committees ») opportunities for capacity building and enhancement. The workshop also enabled the dissemination of human rights through a better comprehension of the rights and duties of the citizens [in their city].

4) Held in Kati from August 31 through September 1, 2006: A training workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The workshop counted 30 participants (members of the different organs of Kati-Human Rights Consensual City and representatives of the "Neighbourhoods Human Rights Education Committees »), who were committed to acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of CEDAW and the CRC and in turn share their expertise with the populations of Kati.

5) Held in Kati from September 9 through September 15, 2006: A social mobilization and information campaign on human rights for social transformation through a change in behaviours and practices in all 14 neighbourhoods of Kati- Human Rights Consensual City. During the campaign, populations have identified number of human rights violations occurring in each neighbourhood and have been encouraged and helped in finding endogenous solutions to those violations.

6) Held in Kati December 2006 : The contest for the ACT Project Prize. A series of interactive radio shows on human rights in Kati gave opportunities for active learning and enhanced knowledge of human rights. Listeners could win prizes by giving the right answers to questions asked by the show host.

7) Held in Kati throughout the 3 years: The different organs of the Kati- Human Rights Consensual City program have met in session regularly. The meeting of organs such as the « General Assembly of the Strategic Actors », the “Operational Bureau”, and the « Orientation and Coordination Committee » reinforced the involvement and commitment of society’s different actors to the program.

8) Held in Kati in 2005 A study of impact of the Kati- Human Rights Consensual City program in Kati.

- **Timbuktu- Human Rights Consensual City program**

1) A study on the state of human rights in Timbuktu was made.in 2004

2) The General Assembly of the Strategic Actors chaired by the Governor of the Timbuktu Region aimed at reinforcing the structures of the program. The assembly allowed the renewal of the program’s different organs, such as the « Coordination and Orientation Committee » and its “Operational Bureau”, and the « Neighbourhoods Human Rights Education Committees ».

2) Held in Timbuktu from August 18 through August 20, 2004 a workshop in order to develop a 2005-2007 strategic plan (action plan) for the Timbuktu Human Rights Consensual City program. The workshop counted 20 participants: representatives of Timbuktu’s City Hall, administrative agents, and representatives of civil society organizations.

3) Throughout the year 2005: Information campaigns on Human Rights, with the introduction of billboards –an additional tool for continuous learning.

4) Held in Timbuktu on April 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 : A social mobilization campaign for Human Rights. During the campaign, the organs of the Timbuktu Human Rights Consensual City program were renewed and human rights educators for the « Neighbourhoods Human Rights Education Committees » were trained.

5) In between these various meetings continuous small meetings in the neighbourhood to discuss various relevant human rights misses and the human rights of women are taking place.

- **Kayes- Human Rights Consensual City program**

1) A study on the state of human rights in Kayes was made in 2004

2) Held in Kayes from October 21 through October 25, 2004 Human rights training activities were held for the populations of Kayes.

3) October 25, 2004 Launching of the Kayes- Human Rights Consensual City

program.

- 4) On going special radio shows on human rights with in the cultural imperatives which promoted city wide discussions.
- 5) Actions for a “clean and healthy environment” were undertaken throughout the city.
- 6) Information and social mobilization campaign for human rights were led throughout 2005.

- **Sikasso - Human Rights Consensual City program**

1) A study on the state of human rights in Sikasso was made in 2004. It was presented in Sikasso on December 23, 2004 The General Assembly of the Strategic Actors chaired by the Governor of the Sikasso Region aimed at reinforcing the structures of the program. 400 people participated: representatives of Sikasso’s City Hall, of political parties, of civil society organisations, community and religious leaders, and journalists. During the assembly, all the actors showed interest in promoting human rights and committed to implementing the program.

2) A workshops was held in Sikasso from December 24 through December 26, 2004, in order of developing the 2005-2007 strategic plan (action plan) for the Sikasso Human Rights Consensual City program. 20 “Strategic Actors” participated to this activity.

2) Throughout the year 2005 :Information campaigns on human rights were held. Populations were introduced to human rights concepts, and “Neighborhoods Human Rights Education Committees” were put in place.

- **Kita- Human Rights Consensual City program**

1) A study on the state of human rights in Kita was made in 2006

2) Held in Kita from December 5 through Decembre 9, 2006 an information and social mobilization campaign geared towards the “Strategic Actors” of Kita. All the actors of the community were involved: representatives of Kita’s City Hall, of political parties, of civil society organisations, community and religious leaders, and journalists. The “Strategic Actors” put in place the different organs of the Kita- Human Rights Consensual City program and developed a 2007-2012 strategic plan.

#### **B.4 Human Rights Cities Program – Anglo Africa**

Submitted by Dr. Raymond Atuguba, Chair person of PDHRE Anglo Africa.

Ghana: 3 Human Rights Cities: experiences and achievements

The Nima-Mamobi Human Rights City of the LRC was formally established in August 2001, after thirteen (13) months of intense Community Human Rights Education within Nima-Mamobi-Newtown communities, mobilization of stakeholders including Youth groups, Women groups, Chiefs and local government authority. Extensive consultation and consensus building were also undertaken as part of the process.

The Bongo and Walewale Human Rights Cities were established in August 2002 after a similar process undertaken immediately prior to the establishment of the Nima – Mamobi HRC.

Generally, achievements by the LRC facilitated HRCs since their establishment cut across areas such as:

1. Successful public human rights education and human rights knowledge sharing
2. Collaborative development planning, implementation and monitoring with local and national level governmental bodies
3. Human Right institution building by strengthening the capacity of other non governmental and community based organizations working in the field of Human Rights
4. Advocacy for improvement in the human rights content of laws passed at the local and national levels
5. Advocacy for the passage of new laws for the promotion and protection of human rights
6. Alternative dispute resolution and legal counselling and representation relating to human rights violations
7. Research for the advancement of human rights in the HRCs and at the national level

1. Development of Human Rights Institutions in the HRCs:
  - a. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- i. Formation of Steering Committees and training of members of the steering committees for all three cities on facilitating the development of a HRC;
- ii. Developed Organizational Strategic Plans with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) within Nima Mamobi HRC
- iii. Developed Organizational Strategic Plans with Community Based Organizations within Bongo and Walewale HRCs
- iv. Developed Work plans with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) within Nima Mamobi HRC
- v. Developed Work plans with Community Based Organizations within Bongo and Walewale HRCs

**b. CAPACITY BUILDING**

- i. Conducted training workshops on “Organisational Development of CBOs in Ghana”.
- ii. Conducted training workshops on “Organisational Development of CBOs in Ghana”.
- iii. Conducted training workshop for CBOs in Nima Mamobi HRC on “Rights-Based Approach to Development, People-Centred Advocacy, Citizen-Government Engagement and Monitoring & Evaluation”.
- iv. Conducted training workshop for CBOs in Bongo and Walewale HRC on “Rights-Based Approach to Development, People-Centred Advocacy, Citizen-Government Engagement and Monitoring & Evaluation”.
- v. Conducted workshops on Financial Procedures for CBOs each in Nima Mamobi and Bongo and Walewale HRCs.

**c. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- i. Assisted local authorities in the Bongo and Walewale Human Rights Cities with design of a mutual health insurance scheme, promulgation of a constitution and an operational manual ;
- ii. General Backstopping to the CBOs as they work with Rights Based Approach to development, People Centred Advocacy, Citizen Government Engagement, and Community Lawyering;

iii. Refresher training for CBOs in Nima and Mamobi, Bongo, and Walewale.

2. Research Products:

- a. Production of the Right to Development Report including stories from the Human Rights Cities;
- b. Production of a report on Corporate Social Responsibility in Ghana;
- c. Production of a report on Consumer Protection in Ghana;
- d. Production of a report on the role of Traditional Authority in ensuring proper taxation processes in communities;
- e. Production of a report on community experiences with flooding as a result of climate change
- f. Production of a report on Human Trafficking in Ghana

## Moving Charity to Dignity

--and the work goes on!