

equitas

Centre international d'éducation aux droits humains
International Centre for Human Rights Education



annual report 2010-2011

educate > empower > change



An Equitas Success Story Harnessing the Power Within

ON APRIL 17, 2011, A NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE WAS INAUGURATED in Petit-Goave to provide a space for literacy training and other learning opportunities for local market women that will improve their opportunities for economic and social advancement. The centre was conceived and built by a group of 50 local women.

IN PETIT-GOAVE, LÉOGÂNE AND GRESSIER, THE MANAGEMENT committees for four displaced persons camps deliberately recruited 15 women to become members. Previously, there had been no women on the committees and the young men who were responsible clearly stated they had no interest in handling issues of violence against women. The women have become active members and, together with the men, they built a support centre for women in the camps and have ensured that issues of priority to women, particularly sexual violence, are being addressed in a more effective and sensitive manner.

These are two of many examples of the impact of projects undertaken last year by educators that were trained by Equitas and are part of our ongoing program to encourage a more engaged citizenship in Haiti. The changes in Petit-Goave, Léogâne and Gressier are particularly significant for women who previously found themselves excluded and vulnerable. Less visible, but of equal or greater importance, are the changes that took place within the participants in these initiatives. Their empowerment provides a concrete example that can be repeated and

emulated by others to demonstrate how human rights education can help to harness the power within to improve one's own situation.

When Equitas met with members of its alumni network a few months after the earthquake, they affirmed that Haiti required more than rebuilding of its physical infrastructure to recover from the shock of January 11th. The alumni, representing many of the leading human rights organizations in the country, identified the need to build a new and more inclusive Haiti where even marginalized and vulnerable groups could exercise their human rights and participate in defining the future of the country. After participating in workshops and receiving coaching provided by Equitas, approximately 15 Haitian organizations worked with local communities in different parts of the country on strategies to enhance community participation. They are now working with Equitas to document the experience and produce a toolkit and provide additional training to share these models and experiences across the country.



Above: Equitas staff and Haitian partners during training in Port-au-Prince. (Photo: Daniel Roy)

Right: Children at Cité Soleil, during a visit with Haitian partners. (Photo: Daniel Roy)

Cover: A symbol of unity and diversity—the hands of participants who attended the South Asia Training of Trainers Evaluation meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (Photo: Paul McAdams)



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Equipping communities

Message from the President and Executive Director

As our year began in April 2010, Equitas was working with our partners in Haiti to develop a human rights-based response to the devastating earthquake that struck in January. One year later, we were able to see the results of these efforts in Petit-Goave, Léogâne and Gressier and in other parts of the country as the communities targeted by our partners adopted more inclusive and participatory strategies to address the challenges posed by the reconstruction.

As political upheavals swept through the Middle East and North Africa later in the year, Equitas' partners were there advocating for human rights, democracy and accountability. In order to ensure that these popular uprisings result in real and lasting change, Equitas is working with its partners to equip local communities, and particularly women and youth, with tools to effectively participate in decision-making and building an experience of democracy from the grassroots.

These experiences as well as others described in these pages help to demonstrate Equitas' contributions are meeting the important human rights challenges of today. They also reaffirm Equitas' faith in the fundamental importance of community participation in advancing human rights. Whether it was working with displaced persons in Haiti, women in the Middle East or youth in Montreal, Equitas programs last year were equipping people to become more active and effective advocates for their rights and actors in shaping the future of their communities. Building upon the values of equality, inclusion, collaboration

Shaping children as future human rights defenders—in Tamil Nadu, children and teachers participate in human rights clubs in schools promoting a human rights culture in society, free from discrimination based on caste, gender, and religion. (Photo: Bernat Lakshmanan, IHRTF 2009)

and respect, Equitas believes that human rights-based participation establishes a solid foundation upon which communities can ensure social and economic development and harmonious relations.

We are particularly proud of the launch of a new program for 13 to 17 year old youth called, *Speaking Rights* in Montreal last November. Building on the success of our programming for younger children in Canada, *Speaking Rights* is providing much needed tools for youth workers to reinforce human rights values while promoting self-esteem and community engagement. Building on the success of our *Play it Fair!* program for 6 to 12 year old children, *Speaking Rights* is already in high demand from our partners in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto.

We continued to explore new strategies to engage our many stakeholders and share our educational expertise and tools. We re-launched our web site with a new look and new platform and we held our first-ever public event in Toronto at the TD Centre, featuring Phil Fontaine, recipient of the first *Equitas Award for Human Rights Education*.

Equitas owes its continued success to our dedicated team on the staff, Board of Directors and Honorary Board as well as our volunteers, interns and partners in Canada and around the world. We also wish to express our particular appreciation to the institutional and individual donors who made financial contributions to Equitas during the past year. Raising funds to sustain innovative and important programs described in this report remains one of our greatest challenges. With relatively modest means, Equitas has had a tremendous impact in Canada and around the world during the past year and we look forward to your continued support.

Robert Yalden
President of the Board of Directors

Ian Hamilton
Executive Director

international impact

Regional Training in Former Soviet Union



"We have been transformed from representatives of different countries to a group with shared concerns, thoughts and views. We started with five different languages — Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Ukrainian and Russian, but now we're all trying to think and speak with Human Rights alphabet."



Equitas at work with Human Rights Defenders and Educators

Equitas' human rights education programs build the capacity of individuals and organizations to make human rights principles and values come to life. Participation is both the end result and the means by which we achieve our goals. As part of our sustained engagement with partners in Canada and around the world, Equitas provides specialized training, coaching and technical support and the online Equitas Community to facilitate continuous learning. In 2010–2011, Equitas programs in Canada, Asia, Africa, the Americas, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Former Soviet Union continued to innovate and have an even greater impact on the lives of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

In rural Kenya, John Tharuba Kariuki, a participant in Equitas' East Africa Human rights training program, works to empower women's social groups to help them realize full enjoyment of their rights. (Photo: John Tharuba Kariuki)

our programs

The Global Human Rights Education Program (GHREP)

GHREP helps to build the capacity of the more than 3,200 alumni of Equitas programs and hundreds of future participants to become more effective agents of social change in their communities.

The International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP) has been delivered annually in June since 1980. In June 2010, this cornerstone of Equitas' international programming brought together 125 human rights defenders and educators from approximately 60 countries to Montreal.

National or Sub-Regional Human Rights Training Sessions mobilize the knowledge and skills of emerging alumni networks interested in providing human rights training for community-based organizations using the methodological approach of the IH RTP. These are designed and delivered by the alumni with coaching and technical support provided by Equitas. The content of the training is adapted to the specific needs of the country or region where the training will take place. In 2010–2011, these sessions began to take root in a number of countries and regions:

- > First session in West Africa brought together participants from Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Senegal
- > First session in East Africa brought together participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
- > First session in Central and Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union brought together participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine
- > The second national session was delivered in the Philippines
- > The fourth national session was delivered in Indonesia.

Continued...



Above, from top:
Constructing webs of connection,
International Human Rights Training Program.
(Photo: Marc Forget)

Classroom work, International Human Rights
Training Program. (Photo: Marc Forget)

Field visit to Equitas partner in Senegal.
(Photo: Natalie Doyle)

Budget analysis and advocacy training in
Bantul District, Yogyakarta Special Province,
Indonesia. (Photo: Valentina Sri Wijiyati,
IH RTP 2008)

...our programs

Advanced Human Rights Education Training Workshops permit selected alumni to develop specialized skills in the design and delivery of human rights training sessions. In 2010–2011, workshops were organized for alumni in Haiti, South Asia and Latin America

The on-line Equitas Community, launched in 2006 now has approximately 1,800 registered users who took part in virtual conferences on such topics as *Women's Voices in Social Change* and *Improving our HRE work through Evaluation*, as well as regional and thematic discussion groups.

The Middle East and North Africa Program

This program builds the capacity of human rights educators and their organizations to more effectively promote human rights, gender equality, democratic citizenship, and peaceful conflict resolution. In September 2010, Equitas launched the second phase of its programming in collaboration with partners from the Arab Network for Human Rights and Citizenship Education (ANHRE). The project activities, taking place in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and Palestine are providing tools to promote democratic participation in the region and will result in the creation of an Arab toolkit for citizenship education.

Training for Government Officials and National Institutions

In 2010–11, Equitas continued to work with government agencies and national human rights institutions with a focus on our ongoing collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs to deliver training on a Rights-Based Approach to Social Work. A training program was delivered in Yogyakarta in May 2010 and Equitas hosted an exposure tour from the Ministry in October 2010.

Professional Services and Advisory Services

In March 2011, Equitas and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released an important new publication aimed at helping human rights educators better evaluate the results of their work: *Evaluating Human Rights Education Activities: A Handbook for Human Rights Educators*.

In Kandy, Sri Lanka, children learn that building a culture of human rights requires dedication and perseverance much like trying to fill a bucket by passing water from hand to hand. (Photo: Father Nandana Manatunga, IHRTIP 2004)



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international Impact

Uganda Irene received training from Equitas alumni as part of the East African Human Rights Program that took place in Nairobi in September 2010. Following the training, she used her new knowledge and skills to help restore dignity to HIV/AIDS widows in her community and put HIV/AIDS on the agenda of the 2011 Presidential Election. Integrating the participatory approaches she learned into her workshops, she helped the women to believe in themselves again and begin to discuss their problems. In describing how her work changed as a result, she said: "What you don't have, you can't give".

Burkina Faso Following the first regional training session in West Africa, eleven participants from Burkina Faso led a campaign to denounce violence against children in schools, a common practice throughout the country. In order to reach students, teachers and the general public, they produced a television show on the issue which was broadcast nationally. They also produced five radio shows in two local languages, held public debates, staged forum theatre and played games from Equitas' *Play it Fair!* toolkit. Through these combined efforts, they reached over 800 children in two schools in Bobodioulasso and in Ouagadougou as well as the general public. The children and their teachers claimed to better understand the concept of children's rights and committed to report child rights abuses in the schools.

Middle East & North Africa

Our partners have been actively engaged in the struggles for greater democracy that have swept the region. The work they are doing with Equitas to promote civic education and local participation is helping create the foundation for lasting democratic change.

Above: Youth who have grown up in Internally Displaced Persons camps learn cooperation through games that illustrate the need to work together to combat the numerous abuses, Kitgum High School Northern Uganda. (Photo: Geoffrey K. Tumusiime, IHRTIP 2010)



understanding human rights

Equitas programs at work with children and youth

Equitas provides specialized training for individuals and organizations working with children and youth. Based on Equitas' *Play it Fair!* and *Speaking Rights* toolkits, these programs help to build understanding of human rights values, reinforce self-esteem and teach young people how to participate effectively and respectfully in groups and their community.

Speaking Rights, our new program for 13 to 17 year-old youth, was officially launched in October 2010. It engages youth in exploring issues that are important to them and identifying strategies to address discrimination, bullying and exclusion. The *Speaking Rights* Toolkit was designed to be used in youth centers, community and recreational centres or other facilities where organized youth activities exist. The program grew out of an extensive needs assessment that began in Montreal in 2008 and builds on lessons learned and relationships developed through *Play it Fair!* Equitas is already working with partners in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto who have expressed a strong desire to introduce *Speaking Rights* into their own programs for youth.



Youth workers tell us...

"The *Speaking Rights* Toolkit really helps because it really responds to the needs and interests of youth. The educational approach works because it draws on their experiences and gives young people the opportunity to express their opinions. They are able to make really concrete links to their own lives."

"I really like this project. It's a project that corresponds to what I really want to do with youth. I find that the Toolkit is a goldmine for youth centres."

Play it

Fair!

Play it Fair! in Canada

Play It Fair! is designed for children aged 6 to 12. Originally developed for summer camps, Equitas successfully piloted the program in after-school programs in 2010–2011. As use of the program continued to expand in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Fredericton, Moncton and Dieppe, new partnerships were developed in Victoria, Lillooet, Surrey, Halifax, Charlottetown and St. John's. In 2010–2011 alone, 65,000 children were reached and approximately 2,000 childcare workers participated in training sessions.

Play it Fair! International

In 2010–11, Equitas continued the expansion of *Play it Fair!* at the international level. A training session was delivered in Indonesia for teachers in Islamic schools and partners in Haiti continued to experiment with the toolkit in their programs for children. Planning also took place for a training session in Lebanon and the publication of the toolkit in Arab in May 2011.

Play it Fair! has impact

"At the beginning, there was a lot of attitude and disrespect in my group. I started using simple collaboration games. Later, I used more complex games that worked on other values such as *The Race against Anger* and *I Have a Disability*. In the disability game, the children all looked for solutions to help each other, even carrying each other on their backs. Later, when a disabled child joined our group, all the kids tried to apply what they learnt from that game, offering to accompany him and help him. I was happy!"

Camp counsellor, Montreal

"We found a few kids were bullying each other, we addressed this with a game and the next week when bullying happened, the kids addressed it themselves."

Camp counsellor, Montreal

respect and inclusion



dedicated staff

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Ian Hamilton	Executive Director
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Thérèse Palu	Administrative Assistant
Ronit Yarosky	Fund Development Officer

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Cristina Galofre	Education Specialist, Equitas Community
Annie Pettigrew	Education Specialist (on leave)
Daniel Roy	Senior Education Specialist
Jean-Sébastien Vallée	Education Specialist

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Laura Butler	Program Officer, Canada
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Thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time to Equitas this year:

Francis Assonfack Zangue, Marie-Pierre Arseneault, Djaby Bechir, Alusine Belli, Stéphane Bilodeau, Isabelle Bourgeois, Pacita Candelario, Gurgeen Chadha, Michael Cooper, Nikol Drouin, Émilie Dutil-Bruneau, George Gao, Yasser El Hamamsy, Dana Hearne, Katherine Jéger, Mariam Kalifa, Rachel Lau, Sara Maranda-Gauvin, Jess Messer, Teresa Merz, Denny Nalley, Ligia Pena, Patricia Plasencia, Rosalind Raddatz, Marianna Ryan, Kamjit Sidha, Catherine St-Amand, Moribo Touré, Geneviève Trépanier, Marie Van Busse, Viet-Anh Vo, Legrand Wamba, Anna Melissa Zarraga

2011 Photo contest winner

Dr. Kulsoom Akhtar (IHRTIP 2010) works with women, people affected by HIV/AIDS and sex workers in Pakistan. During the course of her work, she met Fehmida, a sex worker and drug user. Forced to marry by her family, she fled. Illiterate, there is no work for her but sex work. Dr. Kulsoom saw in her not the just the face of a sex worker, but of a woman, victim of the violation of her rights, at risk and marginalized who faces daily exclusion and discrimination.





support equitas

Make a donation. Leave a legacy.

Thousands of dedicated people around the world work daily to promote a more just, equitable and peaceful world. These are the heroes of the global human rights movement. Your **donation** will help Equitas empower these men, women, boys and girls to advance human rights in their communities.

Your tax-deductible donation to Equitas supports programs that have a proven track record in Canada and around the world.

A **legacy gift** allows you to **make a gift to Equitas that is much larger than you ever imagined possible**. You don't have to be wealthy to make a substantial donation to Equitas, and a legacy gift may have the added benefit of having very positive tax or estate implications for you as well.

There are many ways to make a legacy gift, including life insurance and bequests (wills). Your financial advisor, with Equitas' input, can help you determine which option would be best for you.

For more information on making a donation or legacy gift to **Equitas**, please contact **Ronit Yarosky, Fund Development Officer**, at 514-954-0382 ext 241 or ryarosky@equitas.org

Thank you for your support!

equitas

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Equitas is a duly registered charity
Business number: 118 833 292 RR0001

Children at play and learning about human rights in Bangalore, Karnataka State, India.
(Photo: Sunita Reel, IHRTIP 2005)

Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31

Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

	2011	2010
Revenue		
Grants and tuition	\$3,029,194	\$3,549,641
Donations	49,195	63,577
Interest	462	690
	<u>3,078,851</u>	<u>3,613,908</u>
Expenses		
Projects	2,705,046	3,164,286
Administrative and general expenses	412,336	434,272
Amortization of capital assets	7,769	14,098
	<u>3,125,151</u>	<u>3,612,656</u>
Excess of revenue (expenses)	(46,300)	1,252
Net Assets		
Balance at beginning of year	208,525	207,273
Balance at the end of year	<u>162,225</u>	<u>208,525</u>

FINANCIAL POSITION

Current assets		
Cash	127,706	442,812
Term deposit	13,333	—
Accounts receivable	189,159	118,965
Prepaid expenses	27,513	40,217
	<u>601,994</u>	<u>968,696</u>
Money market funds, at fair value	13,321	13,722
Capital assets	<u>18,162</u>	<u>21,030</u>
Total assets	<u>368,795</u>	<u>633,477</u>
Current liabilities		
Trade accounts payable and accrued liabilities	138,537	248,126
Deferred revenue	20,020	—
Deferred contributions	<u>48,013</u>	<u>176,826</u>
	<u>206,570</u>	<u>424,952</u>
Net assets		
Internally restricted for endowment contribution	8,650	8,650
Unrestricted	<u>153,575</u>	<u>199,875</u>
	<u>162,225</u>	<u>208,525</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>368,795</u>	<u>633,477</u>

This financial information has been extracted from the financial statements audited by Petrie Raymond, a copy of which you may obtain accompanied by the report signed by Petrie Raymond on June 7, 2011.



Equitas would like to thank our supporters for their generosity.

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Equitas also thanks all its individual donors who supported our work throughout the year. (For a complete list of donors visit www.equitas.org)

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Regional Human Rights Training Session, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. (Photo: Natalie Doyle)