

Hivos HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY DOCUMENT

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List of acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome
EU	European Union
GLBT	Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PLWAs	People living with HIV/AIDS
UN	United Nations

Preface: The Need for Review

The first Hivos human rights policy document was published in 1996; the present document is meant to update that policy. Among the reasons for updating the policy are:

- The need to make adjustments to the human rights policy to bring it into line with Hivos' new overall policy "Civil Voices on a Global Stage" of 2002
 - The need to integrate the "lessons learned" by Hivos in the area of human rights in the last five years into its future work
 - The need to set clearer overall objectives for Hivos' work in the area of human rights
 - The need to re-examine the relevance of choices and priorities in line with changing realities in the countries where Hivos works and internationally
 - The need to better describe the relevance of human rights in relation to the activities that Hivos supports
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1. INTRODUCTION: HUMAN RIGHTS IN HIVOS POLICY

Hivos is a non-governmental organisation, rooted in the Netherlands and guided by humanist values, that strives to contribute to a free, fair and sustainable world where citizens, women and men, have equal access to resources, opportunities and markets, and can participate actively and equally in decision-making processes that determine their lives, their society and their future.

Hivos' basic commitment is to poor and marginalised people – and their organisations – in the countries of the global South and East, and Eastern Europe. A sustainable improvement in their situation is the ultimate benchmark for the work and efforts of Hivos.

Hivos bases its work on the assumption that more inclusive and transparent decision-making processes – at the national and international levels – lead to more just outcomes of those processes for poor and marginalised people, and to a more sustainable development of the world as a whole. To Hivos, inclusive decision-making means that the interests of all people involved and affected are being represented and taken into account, including minority interests and the responsibility for collective goods such as natural resources.

Hivos' ultimate goal is to contribute to a democratic, pluriform world society where all people – women and men – have equal rights and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes that determine their lives, and where justice and sustainable development are ensured. Justice and sustainable development cannot be achieved without gender equality, and have different dimensions – social, political, economic, ecological, and cultural – that need to be addressed coherently.

Hivos offers financial and political support for civil organisations and initiatives that share the Hivos goals. Besides providing funding, Hivos is involved in networking, lobbying, and knowledge sharing in the international arena as well as in the Netherlands.

Hivos specialises in two main policy domains: “civil society building” focuses on the reinforcement of, and conditions for, inclusive and democratic decision-making, and “economy and sustainable development” focuses on the economic aspects of development within the perspective of social and ecological sustainability.

Hivos has developed *sectoral* policies in five domains:

- Economy
- Arts and Culture
- Gender, Women and Development
- Human Rights and AIDS
- Environment and Sustainable Development.

Human rights is a sectoral domain, but it also lies at the foundation of Hivos' vision and programme, relating to civil society building (political and cultural rights) and economy and sustainable development (social and economic rights). The purpose of this document is to clarify the position of human rights within the overall Hivos policy as well as within the sectoral policies.

The empowerment of women towards gender equality is a primary directive of Hivos policy. Gender, Women and Development constitutes a separate policy area with its own policy document. For this reason, women's rights will not be covered in detail in this human rights policy document. What is relevant is the integration of gender into human rights activities. A separate policy document also exists for AIDS.

Chapter 2 of this document provides an overview of international human rights. In Chapter 3, the analysis of the human rights situation and some major factors affecting it at the international, national and local levels is updated. Chapter 4 looks back at the human rights work done by Hivos in the past, and the lessons learned. Chapter 5 outlines the Hivos human rights objectives and strategies. Chapter 6 describes the main activities that Hivos will undertake to implement its policy, and finally, chapter 7 describes how the implementation of the Hivos human rights policy will be monitored and evaluated.

2. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: AN OVERVIEW

Emergence and content of international standards

The international human rights regime was established to protect human dignity and to prevent conflicts, to ensure peace, and to promote democracy and development. These standards emerged from experiences of discrimination, political repression, economic deprivation and exploitation, and genocide in individual countries throughout history and especially in Nazi Germany before and during the Second World War.

Every individual, by virtue of being human, is entitled to human rights. International human rights standards have been set down in a number of documents. The most important are the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1948, and the two international legally-binding treaties flowing from the Universal Declaration: the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, both of which came into force in 1976. These three documents together make up the *International Bill of Human Rights*. Besides the above-mentioned treaties, detailed international treaties have been developed and are in force in relation to specific human rights issues such as discrimination against women, torture, racial discrimination, children's rights, worker's rights, and the rights of indigenous peoples. Other rights have been recognised at the international level in treaties and declarations in areas such as biodiversity, intellectual property and social development. Besides these global instruments, there are also regional human rights regimes in place in Europe, Africa and the Americas, with their own treaties, commissions, and in Europe and Latin America, courts. The vast majority of countries have ratified the major international human rights instruments and it is the obligation of states, both individually and collectively, to ensure their implementation.

Human rights laws continue to evolve in accordance with perceived threats to human dignity. For example, debates have emerged about rights such as the right to development, to the equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind, to peace, to a clean environment, and to humanitarian relief. These rights imply obligations at the international level and stem from Article 28 of the *Universal Declaration*, which states that every individual is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the *Declaration* can be fully realised.

Recent debates

Despite widespread support for international human rights agreements, many disputes as to their content remain. A major debate relates to claims that human rights are a "western" imposition on non-western cultures. An example is the discussion on the issue of "Asian values." Proponents of "Asian values" have advocated that particular "western" civil and political rights are not applicable to their societies, and that their violation is justified in order to ensure the political order and stability needed for economic development. Leading proponents of this view are the governments of Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, which have not ratified the two main international human rights covenants. It is true that human rights standards were developed for the most part in Western countries in reaction to such phenomena as political repression and economic exploitation, however these phenomena threaten human dignity throughout the world. The governments that have advocated "Asian values" have been opposed by human rights activists in their own societies, remain members of the United Nations, and have participated in drawing up human rights declarations and action plans which proclaim the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of human rights, such as those produced at the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, with the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. Whether the standards were first developed in the "West" or not, governments and peoples from around the world have seen the importance and relevance of international human rights, as the widespread ratification of the international human rights treaties testifies.

Challenges for implementation

Though human rights standards are ratified by most states, the enforcement of human rights at the international level is very weak. There are few penalties for countries who do not respect these rights. With a few exceptions, legal action at the international level produces few results. Victims of human rights violations have little recourse at the international level. Enforcement and implementation depend on the translation of international human rights standards into *legal* rights through regulations and national laws, such as a Bill of Rights in the constitution. In this manner, they become justiciable, and can be claimed if they are being denied, however the effectiveness of legal action is usually limited. More often than not, it is political action and change that bring about the realisation of human rights as defined in international agreements.

Throughout history, those who have fought for human rights have proclaimed their universal relevance and the inherent equality of people. Nevertheless, even as equality and universality were being proclaimed, and for various reasons, certain groups were simply left out of the equation. These groups included people whose property or income were below a certain level, as well as blacks, indigenous people, women, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people. At times this omission was a result of customs or traditions; other times it was due to more blatant interests of wealth or power. As in the past, the struggle for human rights today is the ongoing struggle of specific groups to be considered "human," to be counted among those to whom human rights apply.

Through the *Universal Declaration*, governments committed themselves to respecting and guaranteeing human rights. Nonetheless, governments remain the greatest violators of human rights. The struggle for human rights is largely the struggle to have human rights respected by those in power, paralleling the struggles that were necessary to have them defined and recognised in the first place.

The standards set in the *Universal Declaration* grew largely out of the experiences of modernisation, such as industrialisation, urbanisation, privatisation and the emergence of markets. Social and cultural change in the most modernised countries gave rise to and supported the development of human rights standards. However even in the most modernised countries, values and traditions are not always in line with the standards set in the *Universal Declaration*. In some countries, especially those less transformed by modernisation or where religious influences dominate, the sometimes great contrast between the standards established at the international level, and local social and cultural values, is one of the factors conditioning the interpretation of international human rights and hindering their full implementation. Such problems may be exacerbated by government decentralisation.

Hivos has examined the body of standards that constitute international human rights, the debates around these, the challenges their realisation presents, and the views of its partners. Hivos bases its programme on the international human rights declarations and covenants of the United Nations and stands by the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of human rights that these documents proclaim.

3. CHANGING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXTS

Although more countries than ever have democratic political systems, consolidating democracy remains difficult, and specific groups of people still face human rights violations. Many factors at the national and international levels underlie continuing human rights violations, however the activities of civil society organisations, including human rights organisations, have increased both within countries and globally to meet these challenges.

Democracy and political rights

Though the spread of formal democratic political systems has led to increased respect for basic political rights world-wide, a variety of problems remain in many countries. Constitutions often give excessive power to the executive branch of government, at the detriment of the legislature and judiciary. The activities of human rights activists and the independent media are undermined through intimidation and legal and administrative regulations. Access to information is restricted. Elections are held but with technical irregularities and intimidation of the political opposition.

While democratic structures and processes are often better developed at the national level, political participation at the local level is growing in importance as more and more countries undergo processes of decentralisation.

Rights of specific groups

Rights violations affect some groups more than others. Discrimination against minorities is one of the most persistent problems of democracies. Inequality between men and women remains a central concern, as reflected in the enormous problem of domestic violence. Indigenous peoples are discriminated against and remain the poorest and most marginalised in the countries where they live. In India, despite government policies of affirmative action, tribal peoples are driven off their traditional lands and are economically exploited. Though the caste system has been outlawed, approximately 260 million Dalits (former "untouchables") still face economic exploitation, landlessness, and discrimination at many levels. In many countries GLBT people are forced to hide their sexuality due to the criminalisation of homosexuality, physical intimidation, stigmatisation and discrimination. People living with HIV/Aids (PLWAs) are stigmatised and denied the right to the health services that they need, contributing to the spread of this deadly epidemic. Within these groups, women often face extra discrimination and marginalisation. Significant changes must take place to ensure the dignity of these groups.

Factors affecting human rights – national level

Within countries, many factors underlie human rights violations. Corruption is a growing problem. Economic liberalisation and privatisation are considered to have contributed to the growth of the problem in recent years. Government corruption has serious consequences for development and weighs heaviest on the already poor and marginalised, including women. The countries where Hivos works are perceived to be among the most corrupt in the world. Local people and organisations in these countries see corruption as a crucial obstacle to development and the realisation of human rights.

In many countries, human rights awareness remains minimal. The *Vienna Declaration* calls on states "to include human rights, humanitarian law, democracy and rule of law as subjects in the curricula of all learning institutions in formal and non-formal settings." Nonetheless, states often neglect their obligation to educate their populations about human rights. A lack of awareness and information undermines informed political participation. Citizens do not know what the obligations of their government are, what their own rights are, and what they can do if their rights are violated. In general, women's awareness is considerably lower than that of men.

Impunity for human rights violations creates a climate in which further violations are encouraged. In many countries, attacks on human rights defenders, journalists and opposition political parties are stimulated by the fact that the perpetrators of these violations are not held accountable before justice. Other factors undermining human rights include armed conflict, the growing importance of

ethnic/ religious/ national identities translating into intolerance for diversity, and a lack of civilian government control over military and police forces.

International factors

International factors affecting the human rights situation are of increasing importance. These factors work both for and against democratisation and human rights in the countries where Hivos works.

While the United Nations has excelled at producing declarations and agreements, the UN machinery has been ineffective in enforcing them. Instead, implementation of these standards depends on their translation into laws and policies and their enforcement and implementation at the national level. Nevertheless, the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda in the first half of the 1990s represented a major step in international enforcement of accountability for human rights violations. A permanent International Criminal Court to try war crimes and crimes against humanity has recently come into existence. In Sierra Leone, East Timor and Cambodia, the UN is assisting efforts to set up nationally-based courts to try the same crimes.

Northern donor countries increasingly condition co-operation on respect for human rights, good governance, and anti-corruption efforts. Under Article 96 of the *Cotonou Agreement*, established in June 2000 between European Union (EU) and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, the EU can impose sanctions if an ACP country fails to respect minimum human rights standards. Such conditionality can sometimes have a positive effect. The place of human rights in the policies of some donors and the United Nations is growing, as reflected by commitments to the integration of human rights concerns into wider areas of policy and the adoption of a "human rights-based approach" which emphasises the right of poor and marginalised groups to participate in the formulation of government policies.

While on the one hand Northern countries espouse democracy and human rights, on the other hand their policies often lack coherence, and these countries are often selective in the violations they criticise. Geopolitical and economic interests often override concerns for human rights. At worst, human rights are abused as a foreign policy tool. The selective attention to human rights issues undermines the credibility of international action in favour of human rights. In the aftermath of the attacks of 11 September 2001, some national governments, including the United States itself, are introducing laws which undermine human rights. Many observers express concern that Western countries, in particular the United States, will overlook human rights violations or even support repressive regimes if the governments in question are seen as important allies in the "fight against terrorism."

States are the key actors in the area of democracy and human rights, but globalisation has diminished their ability and even their jurisdiction in shaping their national policies and economy, including policies affecting human rights. Concern has been growing about the so-called 'democratic deficit': the lack of influence on and democratic control of global economic processes and financial markets by elected bodies, and the apparent powerlessness of politics in the face of major world problems. Decisions and policies of international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organisation reflect the interests of Northern countries and hardly integrate concerns for human rights.

Globalisation has gone hand-in-hand with the growing role and power of multinational corporations (MNCs). The volume of business of the largest MNCs now surpasses the gross national product of many low-income countries. MNCs can influence the human rights situation through their policies and practices towards the labour force and through their commercial exploitation of natural resources such as forests, fossil fuels, minerals, water supplies, and land. MNC investments have sometimes served as a major source of support for corrupt and repressive governments. Recognising their potential to do good or harm, more and more MNCs are engaging in a dialogue with human rights organisations, increasing their transparency and accountability, and adopting principles meant to ensure that their business practices do not undermine human rights.

Responses from civil society

Responding to these issues, the number of organisations and movements struggling for human rights both at the national and international levels has grown substantially. Increasingly, these organisations form national-level networks in defence of human rights. Examples are campaigns for constitutional reform, campaigns for the right to information, voter education drives and election monitoring.

Indigenous peoples organisations have lobbied at the national and international levels for the recognition of their rights. Important progress has been made, including the ratification by countries such as Guatemala, Bolivia and Peru of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) *Convention 169*, which protects a wide range of rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, including rights to land/ territory and natural resources. In some countries, indigenous peoples have had their distinct cultures and territorial rights recognised.

New organisations have emerged, such as groupings of PLWAs and GLBT people. While in some countries GLBT people and their organisations remain "underground" and relatively isolated, in others they have become increasingly visible and active, combating discrimination through public activities such as marches and debates, and taking part in wider movements for human rights. Links with outside organisations, facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as the Internet, lead to South-North networks. Increasingly, southern organisations and networks play a leading role in addressing issues at the international level that influence human rights.

At the international level, the term "new governance" has been coined to refer to the increasing role that civil society organisations, facilitated by ICTs, play in influencing the international policy agenda and its implementation, by lobbying at UN Conferences and other international meetings, pressuring for increased MNC social responsibility, forging new world-wide alliances and mobilising an international support base. To this end, Hivos co-operates with four other European donor organisations with the Alliance2015 initiative.

International human rights organisations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (HRW) enjoy high visibility and credibility, and are taking on a wider range of human rights concerns. Ongoing poverty and marginalisation and the exclusion of the poor/ marginalised from decision-making processes at the international level has been challenged by street protesters as well as at international gatherings such as the World Social Forum involving hundreds of civil society organisations from both North and South. Growing attention focuses on economic, social and cultural rights due to the persistence of poverty and the growing gap between the haves and have-nots.

Hivos, as a member of "global civil society," plays an active role in the efforts of a growing number of human rights and other organisations to address the many deficiencies that still remain in the achievement of internationally recognised human rights. Both through its own actions and through supporting the actions of others, Hivos works for positive change.

4. HIVOS' EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

Hivos' human rights programme

Hivos has been supporting human rights activities since the 1970s. From the early 1980s to the mid-90s, Hivos' human rights programme prioritised activities in the areas of information dissemination on (national) human rights issues, civic education, advocacy and the exposure of human rights violations, independent media, and the rights of specific groups, including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, women, children, PLWAs and agricultural labourers.

In 1996, Hivos organised its work into five policy areas and published its first explicit human rights policy. Since then, the human rights policy has focussed on the following activities:

- the basic pre-conditions for democracy (freedom of expression and constitutional reform)
- civic education (human rights awareness)
- the rights of specific groups [children, indigenous peoples/ethnic minorities, Dalits/scheduled tribes (tribals) in India, GLBT people, PLWAs, workers, human rights activists]
- land rights
- monitoring and reporting of human rights violations
- general legal assistance

Through observations, reports by partner organisations on the implementation of programmes, and formal evaluations of partner programmes and activities, including the programme evaluations carried out in co-operation with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs,¹ Hivos has learned many lessons in the implementation of its human rights policy.

Full realisation of human rights is a long-term and difficult struggle

Hivos' experience has confirmed that human rights priorities depend heavily on the local context. Hivos supports organisations that have a thorough understanding of the local environment; this increases the effectiveness of interventions. In more politically repressive situations, human rights organisations prioritise respect for civil and political rights. Once respect for political rights is achieved, greater priority is given to the struggles of specific groups and to economic and social rights in general. This evolution is clearly visible in Latin America, where military governments have given way to civilian governments, and where there has been a marked improvement in the civil and political rights situation. The priorities of human rights organisations there have changed accordingly. Where the civil and political rights situation is relatively stable, such as in India, focus has remained on the economic and social rights of specific groups.

Bringing about significant human rights improvements is a long-term struggle. Awareness, education, organisation and civil society development are crucial in this process. Widespread mobilisation is sometimes necessary to influence governments, and can only be achieved if people perceive the potential change as an improvement to their everyday lives; this has been the experience in efforts to achieve constitutional reform, where partner organisations were able to force non-responsive governments to put this issue on the agenda, or successfully opposed non-participatory constitutional reform processes. Negative public attitudes and customs can also bring about human rights violations. Hivos' experience in supporting the rights of Dalits and tribals in India, and GLBT and indigenous peoples in general, illustrate this. The mass media play a crucial role in raising awareness, changing public attitudes and stimulating debate. Sometimes fundamental political and social change is required before the human rights situation can substantially improve.

The experience of Hivos has shown that legal reforms and good laws are not sufficient to bring improvements in the human rights situation. Indigenous peoples have successfully lobbied governments to recognise their rights to territory, but actual territorial claims have not always been granted. The non-implementation of rights usually relates to the interests of the power-holders or dominant classes. For this reason, political action is necessary to demand the proper implementation of laws and policies. Likewise, democratisation is not always sufficient to protect minorities, or ensure the participation of poor/ marginalised people and thus ensure better

outcomes for them. Empowerment of marginalised groups is also needed to ensure their effective political participation; this can occur through increased awareness, education, and better access to information. Empowerment also ensures that these groups may improve their economic position following the successful claiming of land rights.

Hivos' efforts have traditionally focussed on bringing about change at the national level. While this level remains the most important for influencing the human rights situation, globalisation means that the importance of respect for human rights by international actors and the integration of human rights concerns in international agreements and processes has become more urgent. This need has been highlighted during the implementation of programmes in support of workers' rights in Asia, and children's right to education in East Africa.

Indivisibility of rights

Hivos' experience underlines the indivisibility of human rights. Political, economic and social exclusion go hand-in-hand, and it is difficult to make progress in the areas of economic and social rights without improvements in the respect of political rights.

The promotion of the rights of specific groups, and broader human rights work on specific themes such as freedom of expression or corruption, reinforce each other. The violations commonly experienced by large numbers of poor/ marginalised people can be addressed in a more structural way through advocacy at a broader level, such as the national level. For this reason, Hivos supports activities addressing supra-local thematic issues such as corruption, impunity and land rights.

In the past, human rights activities and activities to promote social and economic development were approached as separate areas in Hivos policy, reflecting divisions in the activities of non-governmental organisations in general. Hivos' activities in the area of human rights were examined in relative isolation from its other policy areas. In the course of implementing its programmes, Hivos has increasingly seen the relevance of international human rights standards and agreements in promoting not only political development, but also sustainable economic and social development.

Organisational and institutional development

Hivos has contributed to the growth and strengthening of human rights organisations, many of which are still young. To make these organisations more effective, improvements are needed in the areas of monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning and programme focus, co-ordination/ co-operation with other organisations, administrative and financial management, and internal and external accountability. Some older activist organisations need to adapt their methods and the issues they address to changing contexts. Membership organisations of specific poor/ marginalised groups present the greatest challenge in terms of organisational and institutional development. The implementation by human rights organisations of recommendations made by external consultants in the area of capacity-building should be improved through greater co-operation within organisations and a greater "ownership" of the recommendations. Hivos also needs to improve its monitoring of the implementation of such recommendations by partner organisations.

Networking and exchange among human rights organisations is important in lobbying, for capacity-building and for sharing knowledge and experience. When organisations co-operate at the national level, they increase their potential impact. On average, lobby networks addressing single issues have been more effective than networks addressing a broad range of issues. Examples include networks or coalitions working for constitutional reform, and access to medical treatment for PLWAs. Institutionalised networks run the risk of distancing themselves from their membership, and becoming overly bureaucratised, bringing their "added value" into question. Unfortunately, some organisations are reluctant to build alliances with highly stigmatised groups, such as GLBT people.

Links between local and international human rights organisations play an important role in the distribution of information about human rights violations, and in the organisation of international protests against violations. For greatest impact, information must be accurate, credible and

perceived as impartial; this is especially important in highly polarised political situations, such as conflict situations. To be effective, lobbying needs to be sustained.

Gender

The integration of gender equality in the policies and programmes of human rights organisations is generally weak. Gender expertise and awareness of staff must be improved, and organisations need to develop gender policies and strategies. Some organisations require more clarity, support or follow-up from Hivos on the issue of gender mainstreaming. Hivos encourages greater involvement of women in broad-based struggles for democratisation and constitutional reform, and supports the improvement of their position within membership organisations representing specific poor/marginalised groups.

Hivos has learned many valuable lessons in the implementation of its human rights programme, among the most important of which are that the struggle for democratisation and the realisation of human rights is a long-term one; that supporting membership organisations of the poor/marginalised is important though it presents special challenges; that legal reforms need to be followed up by concerted action in the area of ensuring that laws are enforced; that awareness, mobilisation and organisation of civil society is crucial to the achievement of substantial and sustained improvements in the human rights situation; and that not only national, but also international factors underlying human rights violations need to be addressed. These and other lessons form an important input for the present policy.

5. OVERALL GOAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES OF HIVOS

As stated in Chapter 1, Hivos' assumption is that more inclusive and transparent decision-making processes – at the national and international levels - lead to more just outcomes of those processes for poor and marginalised people and to a more sustainable development process globally. To Hivos, inclusive decision-making means that the interests of all people involved and affected are represented and taken into account, including minority interests and the responsibility for collective goods like natural resources.

Hivos' ultimate goal is to contribute to a democratic, pluriform world society where all people – women and men – have equal rights and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes determining their lives, and where justice and sustainable development are ensured. These cannot be achieved without gender equality, and have different dimensions – social, political, economic, ecological, and cultural – that need to be addressed coherently.

The Hivos human rights policy uses a “human rights-based approach” towards the realisation of this ultimate goal. Hivos perceives poor/ marginalised people not as victims, but as people whose rights have been denied. A rights-based approach implies that Hivos strives to support poor and marginalised people in claiming their rights. It means striving for the accountability of governments, as individual national governments and collectively at the international level, the business sector, and other relevant actors, in respecting, protecting, and fulfilling a broad range of human rights contained in the *International Bill of Human Rights*, ILO Fundamental Conventions and *Convention 169*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, and other global and regional human rights declarations and treaties.

The Hivos human rights policy contributes to progress in the achievement of the “Millennium Goals.” The realisation of basic political rights is a crucial element of good governance. Basic political rights -including economic rights such as fair wages, the rights to education and to health, and the equality of women- are Hivos policy aims, and their realisation supports structural change that will contribute to reaching the Millennium targets.

5.1 Human rights sectoral policy

The Hivos human rights policy focuses on:

- promoting basic political rights
- promoting the rights of specific groups
- addressing key factors underlying human rights violations

The priorities of the Hivos human rights programme vary according to the context in each country. Depending on the situation, different kinds of activities will be supported as a means of achieving objectives, such as public interest litigation, education and training, and lobbying for legal reform. Activities may also include legal action. Hivos addresses issues at the national, international and local levels, depending on the need for change at these different levels.

5.1.1 Basic political rights

Hivos supports activities aimed at achieving legal guarantees and respect in practice of the following basic political rights:

- right to participation/ representation in public affairs
- freedom of expression
- right to information
- freedom of association
- right to vote and be elected in genuine periodic elections
- freedom of assembly

This represents an expansion of the rights which Hivos previously considered to be “basic preconditions for democracy.” These rights are essential to achieving the democratic, participatory and transparent political system and the pluriformity towards which Hivos strives. They benefit all people, and the poor/ marginalised in particular; political rights are crucial in the struggle for economic and social rights. Freedom of expression and independent media are necessary for debating cultural and social values, and transforming these to become more supportive of human rights. A democratic, participatory, transparent political system with tolerance for diversity has not yet been achieved in many countries where Hivos works; in virtually all these countries, there is a need for consolidating and deepening democracy by opening new opportunities for participation.

Hivos supports activities aimed at achieving a democratic constitution that protects human rights – including women’s rights– in line with international standards, including the separation of powers and a system of “checks and balances.” Hivos prioritises broad coalitions of civil society organisations, since experience shows that such movements have the most potential to mobilise pressure for reform. Women’s participation in these processes is monitored.

Because of its importance to the participatory process, Hivos supports activities aimed at achieving meaningful, free and fair elections, such as lobby for electoral reform, electoral monitoring and observation, and electoral/ voter education.

Hivos supports activities aimed at achieving freedom of expression, such as lobby for legal and administrative reforms and activities from independent media. The right to information is promoted through support to campaigns towards increased government transparency, including access to information laws and their implementation. ICTs can play an important role in increasing citizen access to government information.

Hivos supports monitoring and documentation of human rights violations and related lobby activities to bring about positive change. Legal assistance will be supported when linked to lobby for reform of policies and laws towards improvements in basic political rights.

Hivos supports civil society organisations who lobby governments to adopt policy-making structures and processes that maximise the possibilities for participation. Once these structures and processes for participation are in place, Hivos encourages organisations to take advantage of them. In many countries, decentralisation has meant that important government decision-making and management processes, including elections, and the determination of government spending priorities, now occur at the local level. Building and strengthening organisations at this level can not only help make local governments more accountable, but may also ensure that international or national standards in the area of human rights are not undermined through the interpretations or actions of local bodies. When relevant, Hivos will ensure adequate support to activities at the local level.

Best practice box

Yayasan HAK, Timor Lorosa'e (East Timor)

When a country is released from a long period of violent occupation, and finds itself in a process of nation building, human rights organisations face a multitude of tasks. Such is the experience of Yayasan HAK in Timor Lorosa'e. In the process towards the enactment of East Timor's constitution, the organisation collected inputs from communities and civil society organisations, and successfully lobbied for the inclusion of these recommendations. The recommendations are now recognisable in articles in the constitution regarding press freedom, freedom from torture, education, gender equality and non-discrimination on the basis of language. Yayasan HAK has been successful in improving laws and regulations in areas such as land and legal aid services. The advice of Yayasan HAK is sought by the government on most issues related to lawmaking and justice.

Yayasan HAK uses "People's Houses" as loci for community-based human rights education and civic education, providing human rights training for police and secondary school teachers, co-ordinating human rights monitoring, conducting research on human rights violations perpetrated by the Indonesian military, and holding community meetings aimed at reconciliation between the victims and the perpetrators of minor crimes in the past. Yayasan HAK was closely involved in the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to study models of community reconciliation that would apply to Timor Lorosa'e. Early in 2002, the committee was transformed into the Commission of Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. Yayasan HAK fights impunity by actively campaigning for the establishment of an International Tribunal on East Timor, since the Indonesian government has proven unable to punish the top military officers who masterminded the gross human rights violations perpetrated throughout the 24 years of Indonesian occupation.

5.1.2 Promoting the rights of specific groups of poor/ marginalised people

As stated earlier, Hivos' basic commitment is to poor and marginalised people – and their organisations – in the countries of the global South and East, and Eastern Europe. A sustainable improvement in their situation is the ultimate benchmark for the work and efforts of Hivos. A democratic political system does not guarantee the participation of certain poor/ marginalised groups, or an improvement in their socio-economic position. The violation of the rights and the exclusion of minority groups often requires special attention. For this reason, as in the previous policy period, Hivos will continue to support specific groups of poor/ marginalised people claiming their rights, rights which they consider especially important and instrumental to improving their situation in society. Poor and marginalised people usually make claim to their civil and political rights, as well as to their economic, social and cultural rights. This reflects the indivisibility of human rights.

Support to the participation of poor/ marginalised people in policy- and decision-making processes related to issues that affect their social and economic welfare, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, is a Hivos priority, and the achievement of non-discrimination and equality for these groups is a key objective. Hivos aims to support these groups in their efforts to become visible and to be counted among the "humans" deserving of human rights.

When promoting the rights of specific groups, Hivos' preferred partner organisations will be organisations made up of representatives of the group itself, i.e., membership organisations. Hivos will support the participation of membership organisations or representatives of poor/ marginalised people in policy-making at the local, national and international levels. Hivos will also support intermediary organisations who work for the interests of the poor/ marginalised and especially to build their capacity to participate in official processes. This may take place in the form of organisation-building, through training, and through legal or other types of assistance. Attention will be given to ensure that women and their concerns are represented in the activities of poor/ marginalised groups.

Hivos has identified a number of specific groups for support, as these groups suffer a high level of human rights violations and discrimination. The choice of groups is influenced by Hivos' expertise,

its humanist philosophy and the value it places on pluriformity. The following are the specific groups Hivos has identified as priorities for its human rights work:

Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women, are the poorest and most marginalised people in the countries where they live. Indigenous peoples' organisations will be supported in their struggles to claim their rights to territory and natural resources, to participate and be represented in public affairs and in their struggle for access to information. Reference points for indigenous peoples' rights are the ILO *Treaty C169*, the *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 1989* and the draft *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, as well as relevant national laws.

Dalits and scheduled tribes (tribals) in India. There are about 260 million Dalits in India. Dalits live mostly in the rural areas, and form the backbone of the agricultural labour force. Dalits face exploitation at the workplace, violence at the hands of landowners, landlessness, lack of access to education and employment, and illiteracy. The objectives of Hivos' work with Dalits are to support their rights to political participation/ representation, to support their right to just and favourable working conditions, to support their right to access to land, and to improve their access to health and education services.

GLBT people. All people have the right to choose a sexual orientation without being stigmatised. In addition to the right to non-discrimination, specific concerns of GLBT people are the right to health and other social services, to security of person, to freedoms of expression and association, and to participate/ be represented in public affairs. Hivos encourages lobby and advocacy for the rights of GLBT people by general human rights organisations, and supports co-operation between national and international membership organisations. In some countries, partner organisations still have to be identified. Further information is contained in the *Hivos Memorandum on Policy Implementation Gay and Lesbian Emancipation of 1999*.

PLWAs. Violation of the rights of PLWAs remains an important concern for Hivos. These rights include the right to non-discrimination, the right to information, health care, including medical treatment, and the rights to privacy, employment and social security. The right to participate in public affairs is essential to ensure a role for PLWAs in the formulation of policies and programmes meant to prevent the spread of HIV/Aids or provide care for those who are already infected. People who are not infected with HIV have a right to prevention programmes and information. For further information, refer to Hivos' *Policy Document on AIDS and Development Co-operation of 2001*.

Human rights defenders. Human rights defenders (i.e. human rights activists) are individuals who play a leading role in the promotion of human rights in their country. Their activities are often obstructed by repressive governments or other forces within society. In the "*Human Rights Defenders Declaration*" of 1999, governments recognised the special role played by human rights defenders and elaborated on the rights and freedoms they should enjoy in the exercise of their activities. Hivos will support human rights defenders in claiming the rights contained in international human rights instruments and in the "*Human Rights Defenders Declaration*." Hivos aims its support at creating greater space for the work of human rights defenders, and at providing them with protection against efforts to undermine their work.

Best practice box

The Coordinadora Nacional Indígena y Campesina, Guatemala

Poverty in Guatemala is essentially rural, indigenous and peasant in character. The majority of the population consists of indigenous peasant communities with insufficient access to land, and little opportunity to make a decent living. A landed elite controls the most fertile and productive lands. Contrary to most of the other Latin American countries, Guatemala has not known a substantial agrarian reform. Ethnic discrimination and the exclusion of the indigenous population is endemic. The Coordinadora Nacional Indígena y Campesina (CONIC) was formed in 1992. Today, over 250 communities with 75.000 peasants are affiliated to the organisation. Since the beginning, CONIC's strategy has consisted of creating political pressure by occupying lands claimed by peasant communities. Despite constant threats, harassment and violence against its leaders, CONIC has never given up its search for dialogue with the landowners and the government, and in many cases it has succeeded in negotiating peaceful and sustainable solutions. Despite its rapid growth, CONIC has maintained its participatory character through the setting up of decentralised bodies, and by establishing a functional system of democratic representation at the intermediate level. Post-war Guatemalan society is extremely fragmented and social movements face many difficulties in developing coherent and co-ordinated political action. CONIC plays an exemplary role by not only representing its membership in the indigenous movement, but by constantly crossing societal divides and participating in diverse circles and platforms, such as the national Peasants' Platform and the Platform for Rural Development.

5.1.3 Key factors underlying human rights violations

Many factors may underlie the violation of human rights. Hivos has identified three key factors which, if addressed, would lead to a significant improvement in the human rights situation in many countries. These are factors that affect poor/ marginalised people broadly defined, and they underlie violations in a wide variety of cases. Due to their nature and impact, these issues need to be addressed in a structural manner.

Corruption. Hivos works in some of the most corrupt countries in the world. Corruption skews public decision-making in favour of those who have money and influence; it thrives where transparency is absent. Corruption means that governments are not accountable to citizens, it deprives states of resources that could otherwise be used for their populations. Poor and marginalised groups are the main victims of corruption, and in many countries, the poor and marginalised themselves perceive corruption as one of the most important factors undermining their welfare. Most attacks on freedom of expression take place when governments seek to repress efforts to investigate corruption. Hivos supports organisations that tackle corruption by undertaking activities that promote transparency.

Impunity for human rights violations. When a state allows for impunity to occur, it encourages the continuation and may even intensify human rights violations. Hivos supports efforts to bring those responsible for human rights violations to justice. Where possible, the victims themselves will be assisted in obtaining accountability for the violations they have suffered. To fight impunity, Hivos supports efforts to obtain justice at the national, regional and international levels. Focus is on the violation of rights that are the priorities of the Hivos human rights policy, as well as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Lack of human rights awareness. Awareness forms a basis for all further activity in relation to human rights and democracy. Few governments fulfil their obligation to educate their populations about human rights. Lack of awareness of human rights contributes to people not claiming their own rights, and violating the rights of others. Hivos supports human rights education by supporting NGO activities in schools and NGO lobbying for the integration of human rights education into curriculums. In some cases, human rights education may be targeted at actors that are strategically positioned, such as the police or members of parliament, to positively influence the human rights situation. The use of radio and theatre/ drama to promote awareness will be prioritised. Greater general human rights awareness is a Hivos policy objective - besides being an objective in itself, it is also a tool to achieve other human rights policy objectives. Human rights

education is a key means of influencing local attitudes and practices to make them more supportive of human rights. This is sometimes called the promotion of a “human rights culture”. Human rights education should include education on women’s human rights. The reference point for Hivos’ support to activities in this area will be the Plan of Action of the UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004).

Best practice box

Uganda Debt Network, Uganda

The Uganda Debt Network (UDN) was formed in 1996 by a group of NGOs, academic and religious institutions, grassroots groups and individuals. The UDN’s mission is to lobby for reduced and sustainable debt levels, government accountability, and the effective use of national resources for the benefit of all Ugandans. In the area of government accountability and transparency, two programmes of the UDN are particularly important. One is in the area of corruption. According to Transparency International, Uganda has one of the highest levels of corruption in the world. The UDN has undertaken a number of initiatives to combat this problem, including the building up of a grassroots anti-corruption network, public education and mobilisation through mass demonstrations, art exhibits, drama and radio, including phone-in programmes, and support for the national level Anti-Corruption Coalition of Uganda to actively mobilise civil society in the campaign against corruption. Through UDN’s efforts, ordinary people have gained knowledge of the linkage between debt and corruption, the effects of corruption, and the role of government and citizens in fighting corruption. Newspaper columns are now splattered with readers’ letters exposing corruption and demanding action. The electronic media has taken up corruption as a major national issue and Members of Parliament have become emboldened in questioning deals that smell of corruption, even going to the extent of censuring Ministers. Another way in which the UDN promotes government accountability and transparency is by monitoring the spending of funds resulting from debt relief. These funds are supposed to be used for poverty-reduction projects in areas such as health, education and infrastructure at the district level. UDN collects information on the amounts of funds distributed to the districts and the purpose for which they are to be used. It then communicates this information to community-based organisations at the district level, sometimes through the use of ICTs. With this information, local groups in 17 districts check whether the projects are actually carried out and on the quality of implementation. Through its actions, the UDN has made an important contribution to public accountability and transparency in Uganda.

5.2 Human rights in other sectoral policies

Hivos’ work in the area of human rights is carried out not only under its specific human rights sectoral policy, but is also incorporated into the other Hivos sectoral policies. This reflects Hivos’ view of the relevance of human rights for political development, as well as for sustainable economic and social development.

5.2.1 Economy

In the area of economy, Hivos’ objective is to improve income opportunities for poor/ marginalised people, such as small-scale entrepreneurs, local communities, and marginalised labourers, and especially for women. Important strategies are expanding and improving access to markets and improving access to financial services.

Guiding principles in the economic policy are financial viability, and social and environmental quality in economic production processes. Social quality is achieved by ensuring respect for human rights by economic actors, from small producers to large corporations. The economy policy supports the production and trade of products produced in a way that respects human rights. However, there is sometimes a trade-off between respect for human rights standards and financial viability, especially when market prices are low.

As reference points, Hivos uses the rights contained in existing instruments, such as the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, the fundamental conventions of the ILO, the *ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work* (1998), *Social Accountability 8000*, relevant agreements of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and stated corporate principles and “codes of conduct.” The most relevant rights are the right to just and favourable conditions of work (fair wages, safe and healthy working conditions, etc.), the right to form and join trade unions, the right to organise and bargain collectively, equal pay for equal work (i.e., non-discrimination) and the prohibition of child labour.

By supporting lobby for changes in the production chain of specific major export products, Hivos aims to increase the earnings at the producer level, and thereby improve the economic position of small producers and marginalised labourers. Hivos promotes corporate accountability in the area of human rights through the development and implementation of codes of conduct and systems of product certification, including finding ways to enable small producers to participate in certification programmes.

Micro-finance institutions provide access to credit for the labour-intensive rural and informal sectors. Credit to these sectors contributes to the fulfilment of the right to work. However, the human rights situation in these sectors appears poor, with the prevalence of child labour, discrimination against women, and unfair wages. It is difficult to positively influence this situation. Hivos intends to research possibilities to monitor the human rights dimension of the economic activities financed by micro-finance institutions. As a minimum condition, activities supported should not involve the violation of human rights or a worsening in the human rights situation.

Marginalised/ temporary workers are typical in the informal and rural sectors of the economy of many countries where Hivos is active. Hivos will support organisations of marginalised/ temporary workers, to help them claim better working conditions. This will only occur when it can be shown that meeting such claims is economically viable. Struggles to claim land rights or gain access to land may also be supported where this is an effective way of securing and increasing incomes.

5.2.2 Gender, women and development

The objective of the Hivos Gender, Women and Development policy is to promote the emancipation and empowerment of women to achieve gender equality at all levels of society. The promotion of women’s human rights has been a key focus of women’s organisations, as part of the global women’s movement, throughout the world. For Hivos, gender equality is a principle of human justice and human rights. The individual right to self-determination as laid down in the broad women’s human rights framework is crucial.

Under its Gender, Women and Development policy, Hivos promotes a wide range of women’s rights. Priorities include women’s participation in decision-making processes, sexual and reproductive rights, women’s property and inheritance rights, and combating violence against women. Activities supported include gender-sensitive legal aid; training and civic education; and research, lobby, and advocacy for gender equality, for example through national constitutions, government policies, and international conventions. Hivos supports organisations that monitor women’s human rights violations, and organisations that provide services to women whose rights are violated.

5.2.3 Environment and sustainable development

In this sector, the Hivos policy is to support sustainable development by reinforcing the sustainable management of natural resources, the sustainable management of natural or production system biodiversity, and the productive capacity of ecosystems. At the local level, marginalised groups such as landless people, small fisherfolk, and marginalised communities, are deprived of access/ control/ ownership of natural resources. The main threats to these groups are linked to the global trend towards privatisation and trade liberalisation. Hivos will continue to support social movements and other organisations fighting for the maintenance, restoration, establishment and formal recognition of user/ access/ property rights to natural resources, including access to and control over land resources, the formal recognition of local/ indigenous knowledge and management systems through securing (collective) community rights, equitable benefit sharing and access to genetic resources, the right to information on environmental issues and participation in decision-making, and accountability for environmental damage. These rights are especially relevant for indigenous and tribal peoples.

In April 2000, the UN Commission on Human Rights stated: "Everyone has a right to live in a world free from toxic pollution and environmental degradation." The Hivos Environment and Sustainable Development policy promotes this right by addressing global trends that threaten the living/ working environment of marginalised people. Hivos supports organisations that represent the interests of marginalised people in international decision-making processes and fora concerning the global distribution of natural resources and the benefits of their use.

5.2.4 Arts and culture

The objective of the Hivos Arts and Culture policy is to foster and contribute to the development of democratic and pluriform societies by supporting initiatives in culture and the arts; initiatives that reinforce the pluriformity of visions and critical reflection on society, the notions of identity and self-esteem of a society, and (inter)cultural communication and exchange. Supported are independent and innovative initiatives in film, literature, the performing arts and the visual arts. Hivos' programme supports a key aspect of freedom of expression: freedom of artistic and cultural expression. Social engagement - especially the contribution to democratisation, diversity and the respect for human rights - is one of the criteria for support, in addition to artistic quality, accessibility, and degree of innovation. In the past, Hivos has supported artists dealing with themes such as rights of GLBT people, corruption, and impunity. Support for these types of activities will continue.

6. CORE ACTIVITIES

As previously mentioned, in addition to funding, Hivos' activities include linking and networking, lobbying, and knowledge-sharing.

6.1 Funding

Hivos provides financial resources to organisations world-wide to enable them to carry out their activities and, in so doing, achieve their own objectives as well as the objectives of Hivos. The success of funding as a strategy is directly related to Hivos' ability to identify and select its partner organisations. In the area of human rights, a detailed knowledge of the context and a pro-active approach to partner identification is often essential. The requirements of Hivos' funding rules and procedures have sometimes been beyond the capacities of membership organisations of poor/marginalised groups. In some cases, Hivos support is provided through intermediary organisations.

6.2 Linking and networking

Hivos promotes and supports networking and exchanges between organisations world-wide, activities which are essential for some organisations to break out of isolation, to share experiences and for mutual support, thereby increasing and strengthening social organisation and movements. Awareness of human rights standards has spread through international NGO networking and exchange that international human rights standards. International action brought about through the activities of regional and global networks has often been crucial in bringing about improvements in specific countries. Hivos will support regional and international networks where these have a clear added value, especially in relation to national-level networks, and where there is meaningful participation of the member organisations. Hivos' experience is that one-issue networks can be the most effective, and that networks are most effective when the member organisations themselves are sufficiently developed.

6.3 Lobbying

Hivos carries out its own lobby and advocacy on human rights issues, and seeks collaboration with other human rights organisations, both within the Netherlands and internationally. Hivos' lobby strategies are based on the views and lobby activities of its partners. Objectives of lobby and advocacy work are to achieve the adoption and implementation by important international actors of policies that will bring improvements in human rights, and to achieve accountability of international actors for their impact on the human rights situation in developing countries. It is important that international actors respect human rights, and that their activities strengthen rather than undermine human rights. These actors include the Dutch Government, the EU, regional organisations, international human rights organisations, multilateral organisations, the United Nations, and multinational corporations. Relevant policies include those related to (aid) conditionality, sanctions, dialogue, investment decisions, and other instruments to promote human rights and democracy. Hivos may also lobby for the democratisation of international structures and processes that have an important impact on poor and marginalised groups. In specific countries where the basic democratic framework is not functioning, Hivos lobbies for policies and practices of international actors to increase the protection of human rights defenders, and Hivos partners in particular.

6.4 Knowledge sharing

Knowledge sharing is essential, as access to and exchange of information can offer opportunities for self-determined development to people who are normally excluded. The effective exchange of information within and between organisations improves their performance, as they learn about "best practices." It may also prevent the repetition of failures. Increasing access to information for poor/marginalised groups is a Hivos human rights policy priority. Hivos has committed itself to initiating knowledge sharing in relation to a limited number of lobby issues. Within the human rights policy, knowledge sharing will take place towards increasing the protection for human rights defenders.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The implementation of the human rights policy will be monitored and evaluated at different levels. At the activity and organisation level, partner organisations will carry out their own monitoring and evaluation. Activities and organisations will also be evaluated by external evaluators. The monitoring and evaluation of activities will be improved through the strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation systems of partner organisations, and through the improvement of proposals on aspects such as the provision of baseline information, properly defined objectives, and measurable indicators of achievement. Evaluations will give greater emphasis to the results of the activities for poor/ marginalised people and to lessons learned with respect to methodologies and intervention strategies that do and do not work. As part of a wider effort to improve the measurement of its results, Hivos will work together with partner organisations in the development of indicators and improved methodologies to measure the impact of human rights activities. Programme evaluations carried out in the context of the Dutch Government's Co-Financing Programme will continue to be a crucial source of learning and guidance in the development of Hivos' human rights policy.

ⁱ The following three programme evaluation reports are of relevance:

Beijer, W. *et al.*, *Programme Evaluation-70, Hivos and Institutional Development. Pastoralists in Tanzania, Land Issues in South Africa*, February 1998, Hivos-DGIS

Biekart, K. and A.M. Gamboa, *The Contribution of the Dutch Co-financing Agencies to Civil Society Building in Nicaragua, Synthesis Report*, June 2001, Steering Committee for the Evaluation of the Netherlands' Co-financing Programme

De Graaf, M. and R. Srivastava, *The Contribution of Dutch Co-financing Organizations to Civil Society Building in India, Synthesis Report*, Volume 1, March 2001, Steering Committee for the Evaluation of the Netherlands' Co-financing Programme



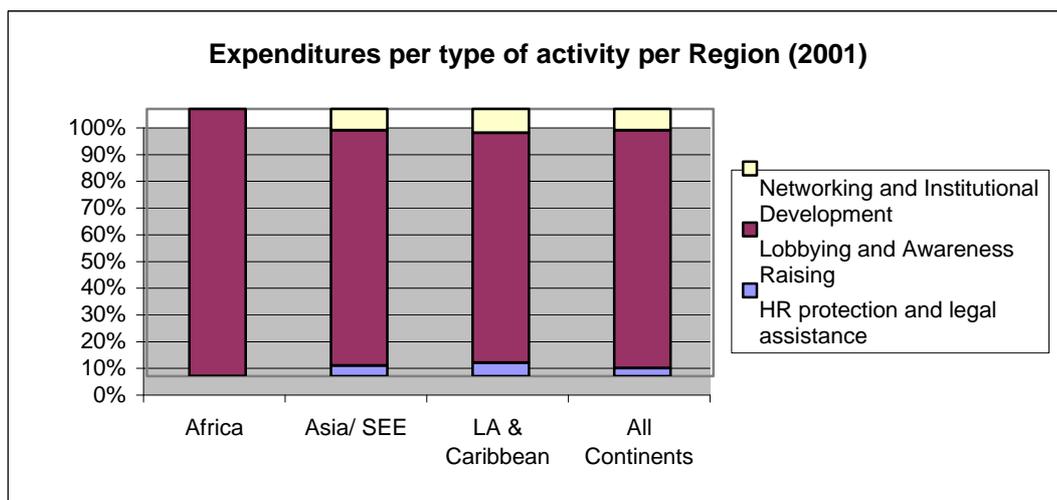
Annex 1: Expenditures in the Human Rights and AIDS sector
x1000 Euro

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Projects	Expenditures	Projects	Expenditures	Projects	Expenditures	Projects	Expenditures	Projects	Expenditures
<i>Orgs. with HR as main activity*:</i>										
HR protection and legal assistance	38	n/a	52	n/a	56	n/a	12	721	8	185
Lobby, research and Awareness R.	13	n/a	22	n/a	18	n/a	74	3.657	243	5.891
Org. Dvpt/ target group mobilisation**	34	n/a	59	n/a	51	n/a	-	-	-	-
Networking and Institutional Dvpt	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	772	22	515
Other**	30	n/a	8	n/a	6	n/a	-	-	-	-
Total	115		141		131		131		273	
<i>All HR organisations</i>										
Africa	65	1.984	78	2.370	85	2.031	62	3.565	84	5.803
Asia	76	2.232	78	2.275	87	3.047	79	4.849	88	4.158
Latin America	52	1.157	72	1.612	74	3.047	59	2.567	71	3.495
South-East Europe***	12	1.157	17	2.275	3	2.934	6	1.569	7	455
World-wide	-	-	-	-	14	2.031	17	2.139	24	588
Total	205	8.265	245	9.481	263	11.284	223	14.260	274	14.499
of which on AIDS:		1.964		1.836		2.023		2.105		2.503

* all organisations after 2000

** category used until 1999

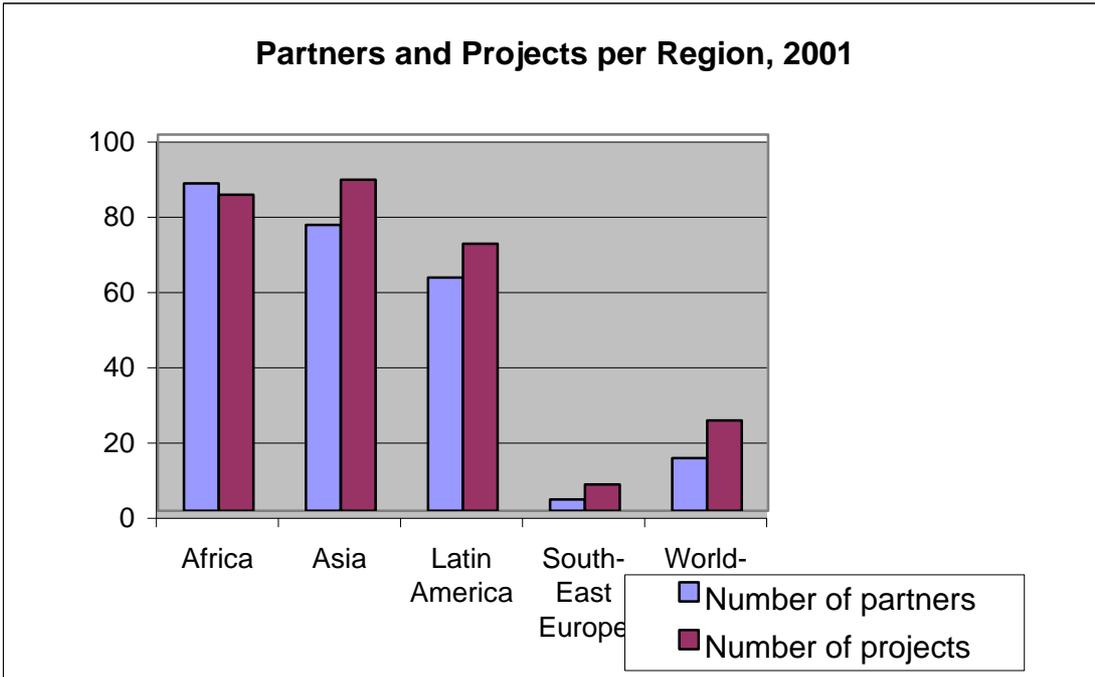
*** until 1998 together with world-wide



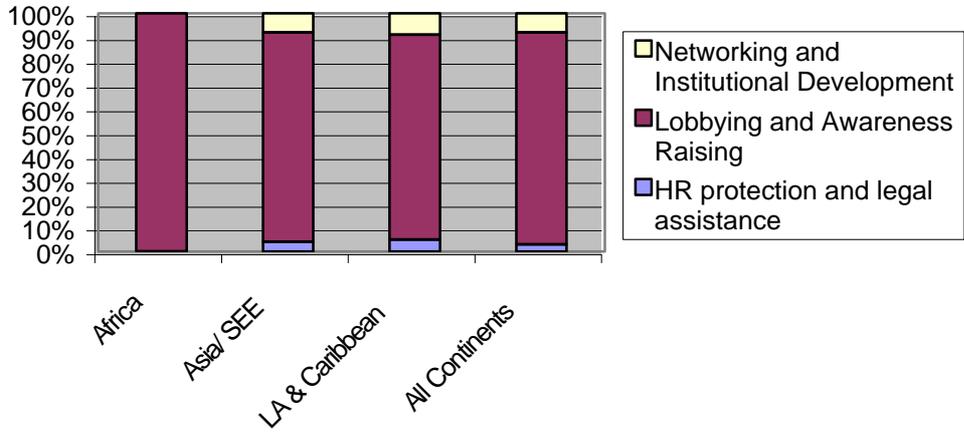
Activites in the Human Rights and AIDS sector

Partners and Projects in 2001

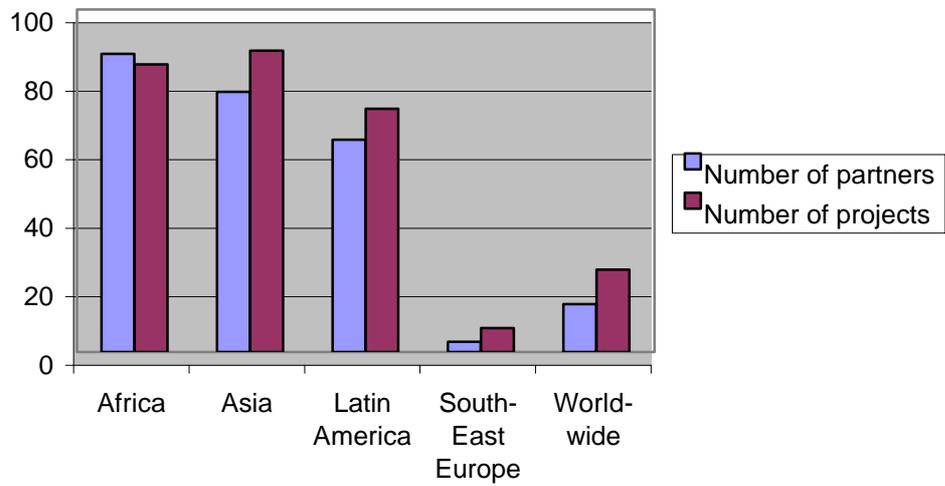
	Africa	Asia	Latin America	South-East Europe	World-wide	Total
Number of partners	87	76	62	3	14	242
Number of projects	84	88	71	7	24	274



Expenditures per Region (2001)

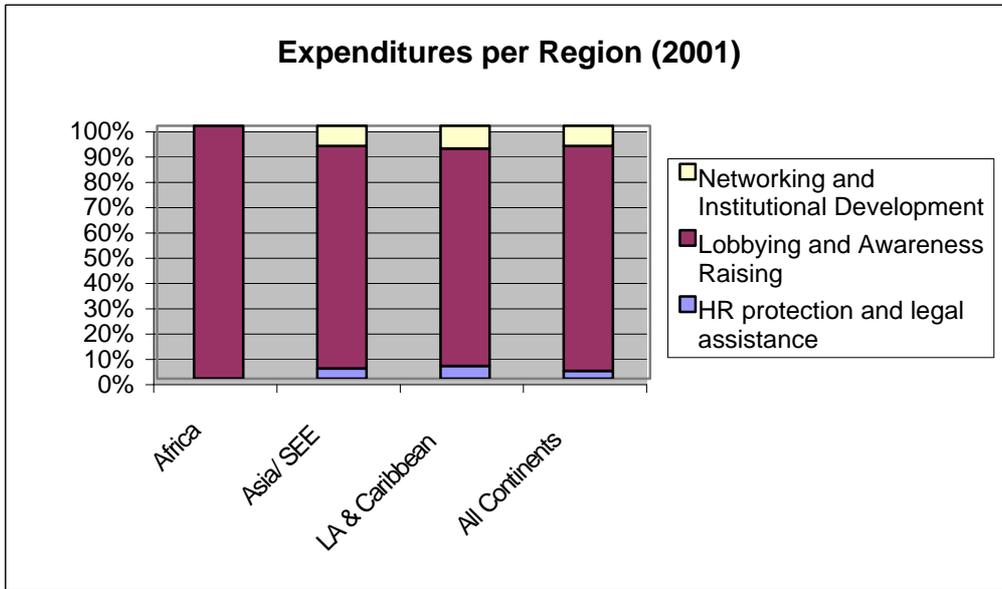


Partners and Projects per Region, 2001



Expenditures per Area (figures 2001)

	HR protection	Lobbying and Awareness Ra	Networking and Institutional Development
Africa	0,5%	99%	0,5%
Asia/ SEE	4%	88%	8%
LA & Caribbean	5%	86%	9%
All Continents	3%	89%	8%



Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,
Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,
Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,
Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,
Now, therefore,
The General Assembly,
Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

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