
HLRN shares with the Habitat International Coalition the vision of a world in which everyone, everywhere enjoys the right to attain and sustain an adequate home and community in which to live in peace and dignity. Dedicated to that vision, HLRN maintains its broad purpose as defined by its mission “to achieve the full realization of human dignity and human development toward respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of the human right to adequate housing and land.” HLRN’s strategy for its regional programs is to promote economic/social/cultural rights (ESCR) culture globally by increasing the opportunities and capacity of HLRN’s Members to be the agents of that process. That service is intended to help Members specialize in activities related to promoting and defending adequate housing and land as a human right.

To do so, the various HLRN Programs, specifically the Global, MENA and SARP, apply the human right to adequate housing (HRAH) criteria developed in international law as an authoritative framework for Program activities, organized under three main mission goals (see below). The Programs seek to expand the legal concept of the human right to adequate housing (HRAH) to include recognition of equitable access to land as a right, which, like adequate housing, is a component of the human right to an adequate standard of living. Hence, the Network and its constituent Members advocate housing and land rights, or “the human right to adequate housing and land” by virtue of their common identity and objectives. In the course of its activities, the HLRN Global Program involves legal and human rights advocacy, training, development and dissemination of monitoring and quantification methods, action research, web-based documentation, database and IT tools development and other methods of problem solving (e.g., strategic planning, social production of habitat, etc.). The Program also promotes the State obligations corresponding to HRAH, including those pertaining to international cooperation—i.e., extraterritorial obligations—as means to address the changing role of the State and the burgeoning ill-housed population.

A human rights dilemma and potential causes of violations arise with that changing role, whereby States deregulate and privatize public goods and services, which typically increases costs, impedes access, degrades living conditions of the impoverished and vulnerable inhabitants, and, thus, derogates rights. Moreover, the privatization process also erodes State sovereignty and authority in significant ways. Upholding the human rights framework—with the State as guarantor—in the divergent context of development and economic liberalization addresses acute needs and challenges globally within the period, particularly the need for indigenous alternatives to such externally driven housing and public-service policies. This manifestly requires an active and informed civil society and full and engaged citizens to meet the challenge of posing constructive alternatives to legislation, policy, programs, budget allocations and jurisprudence consistent with HRAH and the economic, social and cultural (ESC) human rights framework.
The MENA, SARP, and Global Programs of HIC-HLRN form regional components of the HLRN Global Program, and HLRN has operated as a specialized thematic structure comprised of Habitat International Coalition (HIC) member organizations since 1991. An organic relationship between the regional and global HLRN programs and with the general membership and HIC Secretariat (Santiago, Chile) enables all HLRN Programs and their constituent Members to share and adapt successful practices, strategies and relevant information and participate in campaigns inter-regionally. The year 2008 culminated the multinetwerk Housing and Land Rights Campaign, initiated by HIC, under the theme: “In Defense of Place and Livelihood,” and marked the double 60-year anniversaries of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Nakba in Palestine, which latter coincides with a housing and land rights catastrophe that remains in process.

The years of HIC and its Housing and Land Rights Network operations have demonstrated that the Members constitute the main asset and resource of the Coalition. Meanwhile, the diversity and decentralization of the membership’s composition lie at the heart of programming challenges and opportunities. HLRN Programs have evolved since 2000 to reflect those membership qualities, and the Coordination Office in Cairo both responds to member demands, as well as mobilizes and guides constituent Members with activism and advocacy, including cooperation with the UN Human Rights System, as well as models, methodologies and specialized capacity building and knowledge creation through pedagogical activities and opportunities for strategy exchanges with fellow HIC Members and others.

This annual report reflects the implementation of the first year of HLRN’s second three-year strategic plan, developed in consultation with HLRN officers and members, in coordination with the HIC Secretariat. As reflected in the lessons learned during 2007, program implementation over the period has enriched the experience that grounds program designs and programmatic choices for the future. One of the over-riding challenges remains to maintain a balance of efforts on regions and delivering services equitably to a numerous and diverse constituency.

The performance year 2008 also represents the first full year of operation in which to apply the lessons of a HIC-wide internal and external evaluation process in cooperation with MISEREOR. The evaluation concluded in April 2007 with a particular focus on HLRN. The present report also includes reflections on those lessons and their relevance to strategic options and program implementation. Besides memorializing tasks, this Report of Activities and Achievements 2008 provides also a concise analysis of the Network’s operation that is structured around the following themes:

1. Processes and products,
2. The main problems,
3. Adjustments made (and lessons for the future),

This report follows the strategic plan, designed around three basic axes, or “Mission Goals.” That plan represents a consolidation of the preceding HLRN program, integrating activities into mutually complementary clusters, and ensuring greater internal program clarity and consistency, accountability to members and improved management systems.

Accordingly, the report discusses each goal with its corresponding set of tasks, outcomes, lessons and acknowledgments. In addition to this outline, the report concludes with a discussion of the management, administration and finance issues, followed by a financial report.
The **mission** of HLRN and its members remains “to reach the fuller realization of human dignity and human development toward respect, defense, promotion and fulfillment of the human right to adequate housing and land.” Translating this vision and mission into a regional program of interrelated and mutually supporting **goals**, HLRN manages the engaged Members in the Global and Regional areas in activities organized in three manageable clusters (of equal importance and priority). Within each of these three goals, HLRN’s Regional and Global Programs pursues related **objectives** in order to achieve the goals. Reflecting the pursuit of those goals and their corresponding objectives, this report of 2008 programmatic achievements is organized along the same strategic lines, in addition to the administration and program-management activities, reported in the final section. Since the HLRN goal clusters are often mutually supporting, the report also identifies activities that integrate more than one goal, thus, forming the integrated program:

A. **Network, Coalition, and alliance development and maintenance**;
B. **Knowledge creation, empowerment and capacity building to ensure the human right to adequate housing (HRAH)**;
C. **Advocacy at all levels (multilateral, regional, national and local)**.

Accordingly, the report discusses each goal with its corresponding set of tasks, outcomes, lessons and acknowledgments. In addition to this outline, the report concludes with a discussion of the management, administration and finance issues, followed by a financial report.
Mission Goal

Network, Coalition, and alliance development and maintenance

HLRN programs carry out this overarching goal of maintaining relationships at three levels: the Network, the Coalition at large and alliances with others outside the HIC membership. These distinctions relate to HLRN’s various publics and enable clearer strategic choices. This section reports on the fields of constituency management, proceeding from the internal to the external aspects.

IA The Network Level:

Objectives at the Network level:

1. Manage and develop membership in closer communication with constituents
2. Assess needs and assets of members
3. Develop reference points in the regions with specialized skills and expertise that other HLRN Members need
4. Ensure and enhance the participation of interested HIC members in HLRN
5. Induct members to both HLRN and HIC

Processes and products

HLRN and its Coordination Office have continued to pursue a greater provision of services than an organizer of “activities.” This distinction means that HLRN officers seek to provide practical tools for members to develop and perform their work better such that their advocacy incorporates the identification of violations as part of a constructive effort at posing solutions. Such a transformation of capacity and culture has been possible by the further institutionalization of the Network and its consolidation through the coordination office (Cairo) and the MENA and SARP regional programs. While the heart of the HLRN Network always remains in the members themselves, the maintenance of the Network requires anchors of support for members to rely on individually and collectively, and catalyzing initiatives to animate the collective identity and action. Thus, the HLRN coordinating function both leads and follows.

The membership management goal for 2007–09 is to “increase HIC member inscriptions in HLRN by 25 active members, particularly in traditionally less-integrated HIC regions (MENA, Eastern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, North America), and to realize significantly increased engagement in HLRN activities and joint/collective member collaboration by those inscribed as HIC members” The process involved a review of applications to assess and evaluate the organization’s specialization and capacity in addressing the issues related to HRAH and land rights. Individuals applying as “Friends” of HIC” are automatically inscribed as long as they adhere to the HIC Constitution and Principles of Operation. Currently, the HLRN program counted 27 new membership requests globally in 2008 (15 organizational Members and 12 individual Friends of HIC), 11 of which have been approved.

The Network began in 2005 with 128 members and at present has grown to some 350 members. The total HLRN membership now represents more than half of all HIC members.
Case-based research and country assessments under Mission Goal 2 have been effective ways to bring members in closer practical collaboration with the Coordination Office and each other. Networking opportunities in international forums declined in 2008, the first year since 2000 that a World Social Forum did not take place, and with the lack of resources for travel to the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China (November 2008).

The research and publishing effort of HLRN’s MENA Program on the privatization of water, in cooperation with Transnational Institute with support from Oxfam/Novib, resulted in new and productive partnerships with the Association pour un contract mondial de l’eau/Association for a Global Water Contract (ACME), in Morocco, the Association for Health and Environmental Development, in Egypt, researchers in Jordan, Lebanon, Tunis and Palestine, as well as existing Members in Egypt and Iraq. That effort resulted in the joint HLRN/TNI publication of the Arabic-language publication of Reclaiming Public Water (under Mission Goal 2), translated and edited by HLRN’s MENA program officer. The concrete product of that networking effort is the creation of a new regional network: “Right to Water Forum in the Arab Region.”

The regional and local networking activities have increased with important opportunities to consult with Members on their needs and programs, so that the HLRN Program can serve them better. In 2008, those opportunities included (see Annex 1 below for full list) the Regional Preparatory Meeting for High–Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Manama, Bahrain, May 2008), Civil Society Seminar on Independent Accountability Mechanisms: Community Awareness and Accessibility (Gammarrth, Tunisia, June 2008), 2nd ETO Consortium Conference (Heidelberg, Germany, September 2008) and Second Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference 2009 (Geneva, Switzerland, October 2008).

Improvements to the HLRN website and HLRN Contacts Database dedicated to HLRN also provided a resource and mechanism for informing fellow members of news and events. Members
regularly received alerts by email of new items mounted on the HLRN’s Global and MENA websites, especially timely and Arabic-language materials not available elsewhere. The website also allows Members to post their own news and reports, such as announcing the upcoming conferences. In 2008, HLRN’s Violation Database in English and Arabic, although primarily a monitoring and knowledge-creation feature of HLRN Programs under Mission Goal 2, it also serves as a tool for keeping Members informed, consulting them on events in their region and serving as a model for their own documentation efforts. In 2008, HLRN used the Violations Database also to produce the first comprehensive data set of house demolitions and evictions in the Naqab, Israel/Palestine, as a service to its Member, the Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages (RCUV). Through most of 2008, the MENA Program worked with RCUV to develop and plan a forthcoming international fact-finding mission (FFM), which joint effort has involved HLRN identifying, recruiting and preparing the international team experts (Mission Goal 1) and the eventual production of the FFM report (Mission Goal 2).

The various HLRN Program websites (www.hic-mena.org, www.hic-sarp.org, and www.hlrn.org ) serve as a networking, research, public information and mobilization tool for Members (and the wider public), especially through the Members Database, now consolidated with the HIC General Secretary’s website. There, Members can search for their HLRN Member counterparts to identify counterparts for swapping skills and experiences. Efforts continued throughout 2008 to harmonize and update Member management in both offices.

While training activities will be elaborated under Goal II, it is worth mentioning that each training activity has involved some degree of networking. The main prerequisite for HLRN to provide training is to organize that service jointly with Members or collectivities of organizations, and not only for single organizations. Training events are also meant (1) to build capacities, but also (2) to create the context to foster new partnerships and develop the ESC rights culture among human rights activists, local inhabitants, technicians and other professionals, (3) to attract new HLRN-HIC members, and (4) to assess the participants’ further needs (as each training event also has a needs assessment built in). Thus, member services and member development go hand in hand, (5) to encourage NGOs in the region to use the UN instruments and mechanisms in protection of Human Rights, and (6) to create links between and among local and regional NGOs and social movements in global civil society. Thus, the element of networking is integral to the other Global Program goals. (Training events reported below.)

I.B. At the Coalition level: Maintain the Structures and Relationships within HIC

1. Serve constructively on HIC Board and contribute to HIC’s reconstruction
2. Integrate the HLR framework across HIC
3. Interact effectively with all HIC structures

Building the Habitat International Coalition has been a cardinal objective of HLRN, rather than establishing an identity and function outside the Coalition. While HLRN members usually specialize in one or more aspects of the human rights in human settlements, that expertise finds its complement in other members of the Coalition with their respective technical, financial, social production, environmental or other skills and experience. HLRN is dedicated to deeper the objective of contributing to the larger Coalition.

HLRN has been integrating and coordinating activities constructively with the HIC Secretariat (in Santiago, Chile, since late 2003). This collaboration is symbolized by the linking of websites and cross-referencing respective materials. The Secretariat’s public-information materials, website
features and membership database have integrated HLRN designs and contents. HLRN’s coordination office has coordinated closely with the HIC Secretariat in membership management, and provided technical support to the HIC General Secretariat in auditing and preparing Member records now consolidated and centralized in the HIC Secretariat membership database that incorporates lessons arising from the HIC 2006–07 evaluations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>PPs</th>
<th>Rel.</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Responsible Member(s)</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Resource Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Publicize victories in confronting evictions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Webpost legal &amp; constitutional developments; Circulate: Foscarinis paper, UN national legislation book</td>
<td>HLRN (AB), KCoit MKane HLRN (AB)</td>
<td>15 Feb</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Community organization against eviction</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Share curricula</td>
<td>Rabial</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ensuring more participation in Urgent Actions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Marketing UA system to Members; Follow-up cases; Cooperate with other active organizations on UAs</td>
<td>HLRN (all) HLRN (AB) HLRN (all)</td>
<td>29/02 (o)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pedagogy for HRAH monitoring</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Training workshops Training of trainers HICademy: call for contribs., collect materials, mount on web</td>
<td>HLRN (all) HIC-AL HRLN JS, DL, LZ, SC, GS, HSEN</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Accountability campaign (UDHR @ 60)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Name duty holders in reports/stmts ETO Consortium</td>
<td>Members (all, Palestine, HLRN) HLRN</td>
<td>29/02, 05/08, thru 2009</td>
<td>$10K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. FFM</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Advertise that service: Peru, Palestine, China (@ WUF?)</td>
<td>GS, HLRN Members (Peru, Palestine, ACHR/LOCOA)</td>
<td>Thru 2008</td>
<td>$45K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 4th World Urban Forum</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>HIC President: Event FFM-like activity, Right to City, Press mobilization Fundraising (UN Habitat) Counter neoliberal (e.g., IHIC)</td>
<td>DL, Na, Ho, GS, Rabial, Mike, HLRN</td>
<td>Lobby 15/02…, Register ?, 10/08</td>
<td>$30K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. UN HR norms &amp; mechanisms</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>US ratification of ICESCR; CERD review of USA; Yemen @ CESCR; OP</td>
<td>MKane MKane HLRN, ABasha</td>
<td>11/08 (o)</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Regional HIC-AL mtg on judicial rights (?)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Explore funding options</td>
<td>Felix, Lorena</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Monitoring/mapping</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>VDB; annual mapping</td>
<td>Members (all), HLR, GS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. WSF 2009</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Integrating HLRN MENA Members and issues with the wider HIC membership was realized in the participation of HIC Members in other regions in response to the Urgent Action appeals raised in the case of evictions and demolitions in Palestine. Other Palestine-centered activities involved HIC Members joining the collective position paper for submission to the UN’s Durban
Review Process, and at least 18 Members of HLRN signing on to the call for a “Green New Deal” to the G-20 Summit in Washington, November 2008.

Culminating the six years of regional consultations by the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing HIC joined forces with Observatori DESC (Barcelona) to organized a conference on “Women and Housing Rights: Building Habitat for Human Dignity,” in Barcelona, 12–14 February. There HLRN Global Program Officer Angie Balata, seven Member representatives participated.

Resulting from the HIC meetings in February 2008 also was a division of labor and commitments from the thematic working group “Human Right to Adequate Housing and Land,” which integrated into the global plan for consolidated HIC efforts defined by specific tasks (below). Significant among these commitments is the creation of the new “HiCademy,” and on-line resource and network of HIC Member trainers to deliver pedagogical materials, curricula and actual sessions for Member capacity building. Much of current inventory includes those modules developed in the MENA Program since 2001 (reported below under Goal II). Following the further elaboration of that proposal with input from the MENA coordinator and HIC president, the on-line aspect is under design in the forthcoming Linux-based website of the HIC Secretariat.

I.C Alliance-building: Maintaining Relationships with Other Networks and Partners

The objectives of maintaining formal and informal relationships with alliances beyond HIC members are twofold, namely to:

1. Promote application of the HLR framework through strategic civic alliances;
2. Collaborate in activities, collective actions and solidarity with alliances toward common ends.

The relationships with other networks and movements are strategic, and do not imply or require mutual membership. They are not based on service delivery, but on mutual benefit in pursuit of a common objective, usually involving advocacy, knowledge creation and/or capacity building. Typically, however, results redound to the benefit of the members of both parties. Among the important multilateral alliances maintained through the MENA Program are in the form of the Human Dignity and Human Rights Caucus within the World Social Forum, and the Extraterritorial (ETO) Consortium.

The continuous efforts of the HDHRC—including FIDH, ICCO, Lutheran World Federation, FIAN and Equal-in-Rights, among others—seek to maintain and develop human rights approaches as a regular subject of the pedagogical work, capacity building and strategy exchange within WSF. In lieu of a centrally organized meeting event, the World Social Forum’s 2008 Global Days of Mobilization created an opportunity to enlist HIC Member participation in the HDHRC competition for small grants for related activity proposals and the winners’ participation in the HDHRC’s parallel event at the World Economic Forum at Davos, January 2008.¹

In 2008, through another alliance with FIAN, La Via Campesina and Amnesty International, HLRN organized its signature HDHRC event with FIAN in the WSF VIII (January 2009): a panel on “Global Human Rights Struggles over Land, Habitat and Environment.” That process was one aspect of an ongoing cooperation with La Via Campesina to develop linkages with partners in MENA.²

² See the event description at: http://www.hlrn.org/english/eventdetails.asp?id=58.
The academic and CSO partners in the ETO Consortium are collaborating to clarify via actual cases the obligations of state to respect, protect and, in some cases, fulfill economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) outside their territorial jurisdiction. The process seeks to instruct jurisprudence and an eventual soft law instrument (General Comment) that would apply such ETO to all states. HLRN is contributing four cases and serving also on the related Working Group on Cases to prepare the 2009 Lancaster University conference and publishable dossier on the subject.

Based on contacts made through the WSF VII with Western Sahara-related organizations and individuals dealing with housing and land rights and displacement issues, a formal resolution of the International Conference of Solidarity with the Sahrawi People sought to engage in comparative analysis between Western Sahara and Palestine (2007) and a new HLRN publication and HIC-MENA webpage (2008) of the Solidarity Network. Part of the HLRN Global Program, but overlapping greatly with the MENA region, the activities and webpage based on the Solidarity Network feature comparative analysis of housing and land-rights issues in the experience of Sahrawis, along with the coverage of Palestinians, Kurds and Tibetans.

HLRN Global Program linked with the UN Millennium Campaign, preceding 2008, with the development of methods for monitoring Millennium Development Goal No. 7 (ensure environmental sustainability) that apply also the indicators for human rights treaty implementation developed in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. HLRN published the presentation of that approach in its brochure نحو معالجة الفجوة الحقوقية في الهدف الاجتماعي (Closing the Human Rights Gap in MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability), published in English at the end of 2007 and, in Arabic, in early 2008. That turned out to be an important networking tool on the subject of the MDGs and practical accompaniment to the HLRN MENA Program’s 2008 publication of Reclaiming Public Water (إسعادة المياه العامة للمواطن).

The campaign to promote the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, culminating with the OP’s adoption in 2008, has drawn HIC-HLRN together with the Lutheran World Federation, International Commission of Jurists, ESCR-Net and its members, and FIAN, among others. HLRN also remains in close contact with the International Criminal Court (ICC) Coalition, through one of its Members serving also as a regional coordination of the movement to promote ratification of the Rome Statute. As part of its Goal II activities, HLRN is also developing guidance for documenting housing and land rights violations that could come before the ICC, thus, adding practical substance to the networking efforts.

Through its MENA Program, HLRN fostered two regionally specific networking initiative for both knowledge creation and advocacy purposes (discussed under Goals II and III below).

HLRN’s South Asian Regional Programme (SARP) has worked over 2008 to strengthen local and regional partnerships and building alliances to promote economic, social and cultural rights in India to improve partners’ human rights reporting and monitoring skills, including by:

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3 FIAN, Amnesty International, HIC-HLRN, CIEL, FIDH, International Commission on Jurists, COHRE, Rights & Democracy, People’s Health Movement and several law schools, including those at Fordham University, Lancaster University, Maastricht University, Univ. of North Carolina, among others.

4 Veolia/Alstom construction of rail system to settler colonies in occupied Palestinian territory, Israel’s bombing of Jiyah Power Plant in 2006 Lebanon War, Extraterritorial operations of parastatal institutions (WZO/JA, JNF), European Union-Morocco Fisheries Agreement exploiting Western Sahara waters.

5 The HLRN Solidarity Network publication of cases is available on the HLRN Global website, at: http://www.hlrn.org/english/solidarity.asp.
Participation in efforts to strengthen and build the network on women and land rights in India, including with Consult for Women and Land Rights and Indo-global Social Service Society;

Continued support to small and large social movements and campaigns, including the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, Narmada Bachao Andolan, National Alliance of People’s Movements, Beghar Mazdoor Sangharsh Samiti, Association for India’s Development, Peoples’ Watch, Jan Sangharsh Vahini, Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan, Delhi Shramik Sangathan, CHATRI, YUVA, Shahar Vikas Manch, and Housing, Livelihood and Land Network, among others;

Coordinating with HLRN-SARP partners at the session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in Geneva in May 2008;

Bringing HLRN-SARP members to attend a consultation on economic, social and cultural rights in Delhi in July 2008

Facilitating the participation of HLRN-SARP members at a National Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, and indigenous peoples.

Throughout 2008, HLRN officers in MENA have consulted with funders, partner networks and HLRN Members to develop the concept of a region forum on “the human rights of land” (or under a similar title) that will build a needed network on the issues of diverse and comparable issues related to land and human rights in the region, as well as identify the regional research and advocacy agenda. Consultations with local Egyptian organizations, HLRN Members in the region, OXFAM and Brot für die Welt have led to a plan for HLRN organizing such a regional forum in 2009 that would result in the formation of a specialized network and a regional research-and-advocacy agenda.

In 2008, the various alliances have served HLRN Members in various forms and diverse settings. This involved UN lobbying, implementing the Urgent Action system, exchanging information and cases for the Violation Database Project (VDB), and conferring on efforts to monitor and meet the Millennium Development Goals (Goal 7).

The main problems

In the Global Program, Member organizations need a great deal of preparation for networking activities, especially where foreign travel or crossregional agendas are concerned. It is common that local organizations do not always maintain the alliances and relationships forged before and during those forums. Some donors, or their finance departments, tend to perceive travel as an “activity.” From the programming perspective, it is actually a necessary input toward achieving a strategic objective. It remains a challenge to demonstrate the extent to which such investment delivers results, since the follow-up, knowledge creation and new of collaboration that result usually are not immediate or in a form that can be weighted and counted.

Main problems and challenges

HLRN faces challenges to relationship management and maintenance that are similar across time and geography. These include:

The objective of bridging development and human rights work globally remains a priority, but a major challenge lies in the very specialized scope of its mandate. Meanwhile, other networks operating in the region with broader mandates (e.g., reform, democratization, civil and political rights) have a larger pool of partners. Civil society organizations
specialized in housing and land rights, or ESC rights generally, are relatively few and/or their specialization is weak. That poses both a challenge and an opportunity to HLRN.

- As in previous periods, the predominance of the problematic political/security issues across various regions, in particular, affects the priorities of the agenda and activities, especially mobility, of the Members in the region. For instance, HIC-MENA Members in Iraq face many obstacles to travel. Palestinians face other obstacles and added costs of travel.
- Networking culture is very weak throughout the Coalition, and much effort is spent in communication without response or follow up, while linkages between and among constituent organizations remain sporadic.
- Typically, when Members respond to communications about activities, they only to accept a paid invitation to an event, and usually at the last minute.
- Some Member organizations remain doubtful that human rights cannot be effective in addressing deprivation and absence of freedom under occupation, war and conflict. Herein lies an opportunity as well. (See Tools & Techniques under Mission Goal 2 below.)
- The political regimes increasingly violate the rights to organize and freedom of association of NGOs and activist in the region, which also perpetuates the dominance of these political and civil rights and related issues, rather than enabling a problem-solving focus on ESC rights issues.
- Members do not always do their own follow-up to consolidate their relationships and advantages gained from participation in regional and international forums, requiring the catalyzing efforts of HLRN officers.
- Decreasing donor support for participation in large gatherings, including WSF. For instance, only ICCO and, to a lesser extent, MISEREOR provide the support for HLRN members to participate in WSF, stymieing networking efforts toward WSF 2009.
- Some Member organizations have poor internal communication and HIC and HLRN messages and information do not circulate sufficiently among organizations’ personnel and communities.
- Members have reported that the high volume of communications coming from HIC-HLRN makes it difficult to read and absorb it all.
- Paid HIC membership is an inefficient indicator of Member activation, and collection of the symbolic dues remains logistically difficult.
- Although much effort is spent on translation of materials, particularly on the part of the MENA program officer, the demand for more communication and materials in Arabic is increasing with the MENA membership.
- The overwork of staff, especially the coordinator, remains a problem across all Program goals.
- Due to insufficient financial and other resources, collective meeting and planning with all Members is not practical, even though desirable.
Adjustments made (and lessons for the future)

- In order to address the problem of overwork, especially of the coordinator, the division of the tasks into separate program and administrative responsibilities managed by two officers, not one.

- Some donors, or their finance departments, tend to perceive travel as an “activity.” From the programming perspective, it is actually a necessary input toward achieving a strategic objective. It remains a challenge to demonstrate the extent to which such investment delivers results, since the follow-up, knowledge creation and new of collaboration that result usually are not immediate or in a from that can be weighted and counted. Therefore, HLRN seeks travel support from various sources for networking activities and has become more selective in supporting Member travel to such events.

- The membership-management challenges of an ever-larger constituency are a subject of some new thinking under Mission Goal 1. The objective of increasing the Network’s Members does not ensure participation or specialization in HLRN issues. HLRN will pose the option to Board and Members as to whether they would prefer their network so be leaner and more specialized. Resources could be more-efficiently used by more-selective partnerships.

- In order to build a better sense of belonging to the Coalition and HLRN, as well as promoting the reciprocal learning culture within and among Members, HLRN is seeking resources for a regional forum on land rights.

- The abrupt and growing food crisis, along with spreading privatization, makes the issue of land ever more urgent to discuss and identify on the regional level. Therefore, the proposed land rights forum is becoming urgent as well, and HLRN efforts are focusing more toward that event and its follow-up.

- In MENA, HLRN is allocating more resources; time, capacities and support for the issues of Conflict, Occupation and War both in the region and the other focal points in the HIC. (The land dimensions of that effort are becoming clearer as competition and disputes over resources lie at the base of current and emerging conflicts in the region.

- HLRN has emphasized in its preparations and its selection criteria that, as a matter of policy, member/participants in networking and coalition-building opportunities explain their advance plans and evaluate their participation in writing and demonstrate their transformation from spectator to participant.

- HLRN realizes that the investment in networking and coalition building must be a long-term one. It requires patience and guidance, as well as an accumulation effect such that repeated interaction knits the relationships necessary to sustained practical solidarity. For this, mobility is essential. After several activities over the years, HLRN is beginning to see the fruits of that investment in joint member initiatives and the socialization of housing and land rights arguments throughout the Network and beyond. However, many of these practical linkages cannot be predicted.

- HLRN officers face a dilemma in the selection of Member representatives in networking events. Because one of the selection criteria is need, HRLN often supports its smaller and fledgling Members by sending them as participants in those forums. While change of personnel in such Member organizations also can lead to a loss of accumulated experience, this has been a problem in some cases. However, lack of (English) language skill, experience, full-time (employee, as opposed to volunteer) commitment to the Member organization and familiarity with global agendas pose obstacles to reaching optimum
benefit for the participants and the wider movement. At the same time, a lack of experience or exposure should not be a reason to deny the opportunity to gain that experience. Thus, HRLN tries to ensure a variety of skill and experience levels in its networking event delegations, while keeping an eye to the capacity-building dimension.

- Networking with the international efforts and projects taking place in MENA also provides a good occasion for gathering the Members around a common agenda. For instance, the role and ambitions of the Commission of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor, the Global Land Tools Network, UN Millennium Campaign have begun to address the official state-oriented attempts at decreasing poverty, and that framework has motivated HRLN-MENA to disseminate and generate more information about the opportunity to relate to these campaigns in ways compatible with Members’ existing efforts on poverty. To do so also corrects distortions typically generated by external institutions unfamiliar with the region.

- Especially in light of the WSF VII experience and HIC-HLRN’s coordination of the HDHRC theme “Human Rights and Struggles over Habitat, Land and Environment,” the MENA program is building better linkages with FIAN, La Via Campesina, CENESTA and CIMARADE, particularly where urban, rural (agrarian), indigenous peoples and pastoral issues of land and housing rights coincide. Those links involve HLRN introducing prospective MENA partners to those other networks.

- HLRN is rethinking its recruitment policy and practices to seek more-specialized and capable organizations in the field of HRAH.

- HLRN has reduced its electronic notices to Members, selecting the most important announcements of items mounted on the website and simplifying information to the extent possible.

- Some alliances that involve additional tasks, such as the production of the book Reclaiming Public Water, can detract from the current production and performance of the core MENA Program. The resulting “mission creep” can be avoided by selective service to allies and by defining the parameters of HLRN and its personnel level of efforts through specific instruments of agreement (services contract, memorandum of understanding, etc.).
Mission Goal

Knowledge creation, empowerment and capacity building to ensure HRAH

A. Create and disseminate knowledge through people’s processes for a critical and effective application of the HRAH framework (“Tools & Techniques”)

B. Develop HRAH monitoring indicators through those social processes such that HLRN members (and others) can apply at all levels

C. Build practical skills for HRAH and land right defense via training, development of training materials and methods

The guiding principal behind this goal is to respond to the members’ assessed needs by developing and imparting the tools (including arguments, methods, survey criteria, housing rights indicators, analytical approaches, information, expertise exchange, etc.) effectively to claim the human right to adequate housing individually and in association with others.

Processes and products

II.A. Create and disseminate knowledge (“Tools & Techniques”) of people’s processes toward a critical and constructive application of the HRAH framework

HLRN, through its Global and regional programs, generates knowledge for use by Members in a variety of ways: distributing factual information about events and developments in applying the human right to adequate housing and other economic, social and cultural rights; supporting new action-oriented research of both a theoretical/comparative nature and practical/case-based studies (including fact-finding mission reports); and regular provision of resources in a variety of forms, from the Coordination Office and the regional in-house resource library. These include UN documentation and popular sources on the human right to adequate housing not found elsewhere. The HLRN Coordination Office distributes indices and select documents electronically, and mounts them on the HLRN Global Program website (www.hlrn.org) for HIC-HLRN Members and the public.

HLRN websites, including the Global, MENA and SARP, are essential references and tools for dissemination of knowledge, is designed as a unique source of information, tools, strategies, Urgent Actions and databases of member information, their strategies and experiences.

On Housing and Land Rights Day (World Habitat Day) 6 October 2008, HLRN presented to Members and the general public the findings of its in-house monitoring through its “Violation Database” (VDB), which applies the HRAH framework and monitoring methods promoted through HLRN training and advocacy.

Monitoring for knowledge creation

The Violation Database documents the world’s most common housing and land rights violations including: (1) forced eviction, (2) demolition, (3) confiscation and (4) violations resulting from the privatization of public goods and services.
The Violations Database enables more-effective advocacy, research, and analysis of housing rights violations worldwide—it also promotes monitoring techniques that can be used by human rights defenders locally. The VDB is designed to be a tool that applies a thorough method for documenting violations, but remains easy to use and accessible to all Members (and others) who would like to use it as their own database of violations without having to invent one for their country or community. In addition to the special effort to maintain comprehensive inclusion of the demolitions ongoing in the Naqab (Israel/Palestine), as noted above, the VDB remains the only source of its kind, containing a database of violations throughout the MENA region.

In conjunction with HIC Secretariat’s production of a four-color world map of the global housing crisis based on the VDB data, on World Habitat Day (6 October 2008), HLRN issued a report of the findings and trends arising from the VDB’s cases. That report incorporated the findings on violations for the period in MENA, for Members to use in their own Housing and Land Rights Day commemorations. That activity forms a regular and continuous practice of HIC for future Housing and Land Rights Days.

At end 2008, HLRN reported the data available, treating MENA in its context with other regions. On the basis of available data, MENA appeared to be the region with the most people affected by eviction. In the 2006–08 period, HLRN documented 690 cases affecting over 100 million people worldwide. By the end of 2008, continued HLRN research and documentation efforts to record especially recent cases have increased the total VDB cases threefold, with XXX cases recorded in 2008, compared with cases entered by end 2007. (See current data in Annex III below.)

**Tool and Techniques Series**

The *Tools and Techniques Series* of HLRN products reflects the development of methodologies for housing and land rights defense. The first product in that series was the HLRN “Toolkit,” which is an encyclopedic reference, in both CD and on-line formats, outlining the steps of monitoring and resolving HRAH violations and providing legal and popular sources of the right, lines of inquiry for case/country assessment, forms and formulae for quantifying the losses and costs of a violation, and a menu of solutions with further links to other tools and more-specialized techniques and manuals. The subsequent products on the *Tools and Techniques Series* have borrowed from that seminal work to apply the same criteria to produce the Urgent Action System and a corresponding manual in four languages.

The *Tools and Techniques Series* is intended to produce practical guidance for HIC-HLRN Members to use the HRAH framework in problem solving, including remedy for violations. The experience within MENA, for example, is essential to those developments. For example, the experience in Palestine served as a model for development of the monitoring method, because of the sheer richness in variety and nature of violations. That, in the contradictory light of the lack of methods there for quantifying violations and consequences over time, gave rise to the HLRN “Loss Matrix,” which became an essential tool in 2007–08 to ensure that the UN Register of Damage from the Wall in the West Bank (UNRoD) captures all eligible costs and losses within a

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reparations framework. That work was ongoing throughout 2008, including providing technical advice to the UNRoD and the Palestinian National Committee on the Register of Damage (PNCRoD).

In 2008, HLRN’s MENA Program produced the Arabic version of the third in the series with نحول فاعلية الإسقافات البنية معالجة الفجوة الحقوقية في الهدف الإنسانى السابع: (Closing the Human Rights Gap in MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability).

Thematic Publications

As part of the effort to promote well-developed and locally articulated ESC rights in the region, the MENA Program also offers guides for applying the housing rights framework to certain situations or particular segments of society. These publications also draw on the expertise and practices of other regions as a basis for comparison and adaptation of new strategies. HLRN continued to distribute its thematic publications at public forums throughout 2008. (A full list of HLRN publications in Annex I to this report)

As mentioned above as a networking function, the MENA Program brought the theme of housing and land rights applied to peoples under occupation/alien domination. This manifested in the Arabic version of the four-part Solidarity Network brochure series in 2006. The publication features the cases of Tibet, Palestine and Kurdistan in a comparative format, focusing on (1) History, Facts and Figures; (2) Land Confiscation; (3) Population Transfer and (4) Property Destruction and Other State Tools. In 2007, this included a new addition to the series of cases to include the Western Sahara, for the first time, within the common housing and land rights framework with the other Solidarity Network cases. In 2008, HLRN’s MENA Program produced and webmounted an Arabic version.

Arising from the networking efforts of the MENA Program Officer, HLRN assumed the task of coordinating expert writers, translating and producing the Arabic-language edition of Reclaiming Public Water. That latest version of the edited work originally published in 2005 by Transnational Institute (TNI), presents the struggles in 17 countries against the privatization of water resources. Jointly with TNI, HIC-HLRN published the Arabic version in Cairo with a new introduction asserting the “right to water,” which was omitted in the earlier editions, and including additional cases from six Arab countries.

National campaigns and policy development:

HLRN’s SARP office has been involved in various national and regional campaigns to promote housing and land rights in South Asia. These campaigns include:

1. **Campaign against Forced Evictions and Development-induced Displacement**

   - Participating in workshops and meetings and engaging in processes related to Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)
   - Participating in joint letter campaigns and direct actions
   - Supporting the campaign for the legalization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi in collaboration with Jan Sangharsh Vahini.
   - Undertaking efforts, including organizing meetings to establish a forum in Delhi to address the growing problem of forced evictions.
   - Meeting with government officials in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai.
1. Writing on key issues related to forced evictions and development-induced displacement in the media, and giving interviews.

2. Campaign on the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement (in collaboration with Amnesty International and YUVA)
   - Playing an active role in further developing and promoting the Campaign.
   - Translation of the UN Guidelines into Hindi.
   - Supporting the translation of the Guidelines into Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.
   - Organized meetings and workshops on forced evictions and the Guidelines.
   - Engaged with government officials, including the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Mumbai, to encourage the use and adoption of the Guidelines in local law and policies.
   - Published a new Handbook on the UN Guidelines.
   - Gave talks on the Guidelines in forums.
   - Distributed the Handbook widely to members, government officials, and other relevant and interested parties.

3. Campaign on Homelessness
   The SARP coordination office continued to play an active role in addressing the crisis of homelessness in India, including the following activities:
   - Organized a meeting on homelessness that brought together diverse actors, including homeless groups, which ultimately led to the creation of a new forum on homelessness in Delhi (Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Liye – Urban Rights Forum: For the Homeless);
   - Playing an active role in the development, leadership and activities of the Shahri Adhikar Manch, including facilitating and participating in weekly meetings, winter campaign for the homeless, press releases, and “night outs”;
   - Continued lobbying and interaction with local government officials and municipalities, addressing the causes of homelessness and improving services for Delhi’s homeless, including setting up more night shelters and shelters for homeless women;
   - Pursued 2006 HLRN complaint filed with the National Human Rights Commission on homelessness;
   - Initiated contact between homeless groups in Delhi and Hyderabad in order to organize an intercity exchange visit later in the year;
   - Commenced planning for a National Consultation on Homelessness to be held in Delhi in April 2009.

4. Campaign on Promoting and Realizing Human Rights in Post-tsunami Rehabilitation
   - Continued engagement with and assistance to local communities and organizations working on their behalf in Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on housing, land and livelihood issues in the post-tsunami context;
- Increased organization, mobilization, and advocacy by survivors and HLRN-SARP, including lobbying with state government officials and direct demands for realization of human rights;
- Worked with the media to publicize key human rights issues, especially housing and land, facing tsunami survivors across the country.

5. **Campaign on Land Rights**
   - Continued playing an advisory and participatory role in the National Campaign on Land and Livelihood (NCLL);
   - Helped to develop work plans and efforts to bring in more members to the NCLL and strengthen land rights alliances in India;
   - Met regularly with and developed plans with FIAN India to work together, including on joint fact-finding missions;
   - Continued working with Ekta Parishad and other organizations to propose policy reform to improve the enjoyment of land rights and land reforms in India;
   - Developed a proposal to undertake a study related to land laws in Indian states;
   - Strengthened partnerships and facilitated information exchange and discussions with organizations and movements working on women’s land rights.

6. **Children’s Right to Adequate Housing**
   - Continued working with Haq Centre for Child Rights and India Alliance on Child Rights on improving the monitoring and implementation of children’s rights to housing in India, including reporting to the Committee on Rights of the Child;
   - Working with Aman Biradari and the Shahri Adhikar Manch to take up issues of children’s right to housing.

7. **Campaign on Adequate Rehabilitation**

HLRN commenced planning with partners to carry out a three-city (Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai) study of resettlement sites using the human rights framework. The study would bring together experts in all three cities to collect findings that, apart from contributing to better documentation and awareness on the issue, also would be used to advocate for strengthening local and national policies on housing and resettlement.

The HLRN SARP office has also contributed to the development of housing and land plans. In consultation with the Indian National Human Rights Commission, SARP prepared a *National Action Plan on Housing and Land Rights* for submission to the Government of India. SARP has also been engaged in lobbying and engaging with key government officials, including MPs, members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and the Prime Minister, to ensure the inclusion of human rights standards in the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy. Other efforts have also included submitting written comments on the *National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill 2008* and the *Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act Bill 2008* to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Rural Development in March 2008. With members and allies, SARP has organized strategy meetings in Delhi and Chennai on human rights standards in disaster management acts and policies at the national and state levels. Further, SARP has participated in the civil society expert committee to draft national legislation against torture in India, with a specific focus on forced evictions as a form of torture.
HLRN Website

The HLRN Global and regional websites, as essential reference and tool for dissemination of knowledge, are designed as a unique source of information, tools, strategies, Urgent Actions and databases of member information, their strategies and experiences. In 2007, HLRN staff launched a revamped website aimed at being more user-friendly and interactive. A principal goal for this project was to guide user-navigation through the key issue pertaining to HRAH and the solution-based essence of HLRN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Avg. Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>8,012</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>6,852</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>7,914</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>7,329</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>7,329</td>
<td>738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>5,203</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>8,063</td>
<td>869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>6,721</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>9,314</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>9,088</td>
<td>641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>7,263</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>87,948</td>
<td>526</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The use of the HLRN Global and regional websites has steadily increased over previous years. The 2008 pattern shows that visitors were spending increasingly more time during their visits (measured in seconds). The 15 most-used pages include, for the first time, Arabic, French and Spanish (cases and support-a-case) features of the Urgent Action system. The record indicates also that many more viewers and visitors spent time in the Violation Database in 2008, although Coordination Office staff have entered all cases entered in 2008. English, French and Spanish news detailed were viewed and visited by around 2,000 times, but users saw and read Arabic News on the HLRN Global site. Most Arabic-language users went to the HLRN’s MENA website.

The HLRN general site provides information covering a global spectrum. Meanwhile, the MENA and SARP-specific sites specialize in News, cases and documentation relevant to their regional specificity. Annual reports of the regional programs provide further detail on their respective website usage patterns.

II.B Develop HRAH monitoring indicators through those social processes such that HLRN members (and others) can apply at all levels

As programmed, 2007 saw the finalization of indicators developed in cooperation with OHCHR for human rights treaty implementation relative to HRAH. HLRN applied those indicators to the
task of restoring human rights obligations to the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 7, Target 11 (now Target 7D): “By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.” In early 2008, HLRN published the Arabic-language version of its methodological guide for monitoring MDG 7 within the human rights framework, consistent with the seminal text of the Millennium Declaration.10

Consistent with the accumulation of experience and events in and around HLRN, the HLRN Operation Plan, 2007–09 called for the development of methods and guides for treatment of gross violations of housing and land rights as crimes, particularly as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The experiences of Operation Murambatsvina (Zimbabwe) and the 2006 war on Lebanon have underscored the need for such treatment. The MENA and Global Programs of HLRN dedicated 2008 to developing such a guide. In doing so, HLRN recruited the assistance of legal researchers, including one Rooftops Canada intern and an American University in Cairo graduate student, to help develop the guide, based on the jurisprudence arising from the Nuremberg Tribunals and afterwards, and applying the International Criminal Court’s procedures and standards of evidence. The result is the draft of a practical handbook that is to be vetted with experts in the field and kindred organizations (e.g., International Center for Transitional Justice) to be published in 2009.

With that accomplishment, HLRN then will turn to the subsequent objectives of the Tools and Techniques Series to develop and proffer methods for (1) raising cases before the compliance mechanisms of the international and regional development banks and investment institutions, and (2) public budget analysis from the perspective of HRAH.

III.C Build practical skills for HRAH/HLRN defense via training, development of training materials and methods

HLRN assists its Members and their partners to build capacity for monitoring and defending their human rights to adequate housing and land as a matter of theory and local application. In MENA, the predominant service involves the development of materials for training, and delivering the curricula in training modules, as well as in published form for HIC-HLRN Members. In 2008, the HIC Board meeting and General Assembly decided to consolidate these products with others produced by HIC Members and structures in the form of an on-line HICademy (as noted above) for central access and Member benefit.

Since 1999, HLRN has developed training modules in English, Arabic and other language versions adapted locally. The subjects and materials have been developed in response to the expressed needs and strategic opportunities to build the Network and Coalition, and to develop the economic, social and cultural rights culture. By end 2006, these modules included:

![HLRN Training (Global & MENA)](image)

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- Regional Human Rights Systems
- Women’s housing and land rights
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Network formation and maintenance
- Advocacy and advocacy opportunities
- The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- National Plans of Action for Human Rights
- Strategic planning for refugee communities
- Introduction to the UN Human Rights System
- ESC rights monitoring for media professionals
- Housing rights of refugees, IDPs and migrants*
- Strategic planning for housing rights defenders
- How to mount and manage Urgent Action appeals
- The right to water: content and monitoring methodology
- The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Land and Housing Rights in International Law and Practice*
- Convention on the Rights of the Child and adequate housing
- HRAH and land in relation to autonomy and self-determination
- Elements of budget analysis from a housing rights perspective
- How to prepare and present a parallel report writing to the UN human rights treaty bodies (with focus on CESCR)
- Methodology for monitoring the human right to adequate housing (with rights to health and education submodules)
- Applying human rights in poverty eradication (adapting and augmenting the OHCHR draft guidelines and Millennium Development Goals).

During 2008, HLRN updated and further developed its curriculum modules, as events, developments and training opportunities have required. This involved also the revision of five modules, rather than producing new subjects as projected (see italicized titles above). HLRN’s MENA Program developed the Arabic-language version of Housing rights of refugees, IDPs and migrants as part of the jointly organized curriculum for refugee-affairs professionals in cooperation with the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program, American University in Cairo. HLRN coordinator served as the senior tutor of the intensive course applying that curriculum at AUC, in January 2008. Both that curriculum and that on Land and Housing Rights in International Law and Practice are curricula in the form of full courses that can be updated and adapted according to demand.

In 2008, HLRN benefitted 347 trainees over a total of 177 actual delivery of training. The nature of the training events over the year called for a more time per participant than in previous years.

The typical HLRN training strategy for MENA countries has related closely to the reporting performance of governments in presenting their reports to the UN treaty bodies. Other training activities are carried out at the request of HIC-HLRN Members as a component of their campaigns or other capacity building needs. The training demand and activities in 2008 coincided with that strategy in the case of training in Jordan, while other sessions were provided in
response to demand from constituents. While training at AUC reflects cooperation between HLRRN and the Forced Migration Studies Program (FMRS), as well as the Africa Middle East Refugee Assistance organization (AMERA). HLRRN continues to face demand from academic circles. The MENA Program continues to provide such pedagogical services on occasion not on a basis of membership, but in service to the local community. The greater number of hours spent in select training events reflect the intention to concentrate efforts more on deeper knowledge creation and skill building than previously. (See table of 2008 MENA training events below.) In reporting conferences as Networking activities, some of those forums involved also a training dimension whereby HLRRN presented methods and skills to participants. (Those occasions are marked with an asterisk in the Networking Events table under Mission Goal I above.) These, too, are not counted in the training event matrix below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Host/Locale</th>
<th>General Subject</th>
<th>Modules</th>
<th># parts.</th>
<th>♂</th>
<th>♀</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-23 Jan</td>
<td>American University in Cairo, FMRS</td>
<td>Rights-based Development for Refugees and Migrants</td>
<td>Message of human rights; Aspects of State obligations and violations; Remedy and reparation rights; Policy formulation</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-28 Feb</td>
<td>HIC-HLRRN</td>
<td>Nuba Mtns. autonomy planning</td>
<td>Autonomy in international law; Strategic planning</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15 April</td>
<td>PAANE-Luanda</td>
<td>ESCR</td>
<td>State Obligations</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-31 Aug</td>
<td>ACHRS, AWS, JSHR, AOHR/ Jordan</td>
<td>ESCR</td>
<td>Parallel Reporting to CESC</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>AMERA</td>
<td>Strategic planning</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>159</strong></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>69</td>
<td><strong>126.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In India, HLRRN’s SARP program has conducted trainings on parallel reporting to UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and use of UN mechanisms to promote human rights in India. Further, SARP has also given human rights education lectures and training for groups working in various sectors, including offering training to business and corporate sector managers on corporate social responsibility and on human standards for resettlement and rehabilitation. SARP, like MENA, has expanded into water rights, most recently offering training on the human right to water for WaterAid and its partners. Educational training has included:

- Working with the School of Planning and Architecture on organizing a seminar on Rehabilitation.
• Working with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) on developing curriculum on the human right to adequate housing.

• Discussions with the NHRC on developing a dossier on the right to adequate housing for school children.

• Initiated discussions with the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University, Ahmedabad on collaborating on human rights education.

The main problems and challenges

• The principal challenges to the goal of capacity building are the shortage of time and other resources to meet the training demands from members and the wider community.

• While some training in the field of ESCR takes place across the region, methodological approaches are still needed. Therefore, HLRN spends untold time and effort providing advice, encouraging Members and others to use pedagogical methods and providing curriculum materials.

• Both a problem and an opportunity collude in the lack of regional awareness and the ability to predict the hazards of privatization and decentralization as they affect the poor. Civil society actors have a keen interest to learn the experiences of those in other regions who have gone before them. Thus, tools such as the HLRN Violation Database and Reclaiming Public Water are essential services to learning about comparable cases elsewhere.

• At the same time, HLRN relies on feedback from Members as to how these tools are being used. The 2006–07 HIC evaluation suggested that, for some Members, HLRN tools need to be further simplified in order to be used. Meanwhile, some Members (e.g., in India, Yemen, Palestine and Morocco) report their use of HLRN training materials and monitoring methodology in their local research, monitoring and public information efforts on housing and land rights. However, much civil society work in the field remains methodologically weak for lack of capacity and will to carry out disciplined monitoring and problem-solving, with a proclivity to conduct awareness-raising activities instead.

Adjustments made (and lessons for the future)

• HLRN products, including website materials, are being simplified through new changes. As a comprehensive methodology to serve many potential situations, the “Toolkit” is complex. However, each subsequent method developed in the Tools and Techniques Series downloads a part of that comprehensive resource and applies it to a specific situation for practical and reasonable application.

• In all training opportunities, the intention is to ensure that the participants have enough guidance and materials to replicate the sessions with their communities in the future. Therefore, it has been a conscious effort to inject some pedagogical advice into the curriculum as it is delivered. However, HLRN has not formally introduced a training-of-trainers component, particularly since time has been very short.

• It is important to convey to Members that HLRN’s service is capacity building, not capacity replacement. While HLRN seeks to strengthen its constituent parts, at no time does the Coordination Office seek to supplant the work of members in their own country. Nonetheless, it becomes necessary occasionally for HLRN to initiate research when such is needed as a catalyst for critical problem solving, or when local initiatives are lacking. Many Members do not have the capacity, specialization or methodology to carry out such needed studies.
- Coincident with more cooperation with allied civil organizations concerned with water, HLRN sought a common monitoring framework, especially to identify partners for an eventual forum on human rights and land in MENA. Such a conceptual framework also happened to fit within the targets of MDG 7. Thus, the indicators proffered in HLRN’s *Closing the Human Rights Gap in MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability* included access to water and sanitation. That and the CESC General Comment No. 15 “the right to water” ground the new training module on the right to water.

- Going beyond the strict criterion of serving Members with training, HLRN also cooperates with the community in which the Program office resides. This has absorbed a great deal of the coordinator’s time, and will take on such events selectively in future, time permitting.
Mission Goal

3 Advocacy at all levels

A.1. United Nations: Political Bodies
- Promote and support political will to uphold the human rights legal regime
- Develop legal specificity of HRAH standards, including the right to land
- Influence multilateral decisions and commitment accordingly

A.2. United Nations: Legal Bodies
- Uphold and further develop international minimum standards on HRAH
- Develop soft law and jurisprudence to advance and specify HRAH
- Improve State duty holders’ performance to respect, protect, promote and fulfill HRAH

- Cooperate with urgent actions/complaint mechanisms
- Contribute to country-specific assessments of HRAH
- Cooperation with thematic ESC rights and country-specific Special Rapporteurs, especially the SR on adequate housing
- Monitor multilateral agreements on specific groups (e.g., indigenous peoples, refugees)

A.4 United Nations: Implementation Bodies
- Promote integration of the human rights framework in development projects in the field
- Monitor programs and projects with HRAH methodology and criteria
- Cooperate in activities and campaigns conditionally within HRAH principles

A.5 Multilateral Financial Institutions
- Assert the primacy of the HR regime
- Monitor and analyze policies/agreements affecting HRAH (land, water, energy, privatization of goods and services, sanitation, resettlement, population transfer, migration, etc.)
- Support preventive and remedial struggles for ESCR claims, as appropriate.

Processes and products

HLRN develop the housing rights framework’s arguments, monitoring tools, methodologies and legal authority as a standard for advocacy in forums where HIC Members engage with governments and State power to contribute to policy-related decisions. The training, information, strategy exchanges and monitoring tools are all intended to assist the Members to ensure their more-effective self-representation. Thus, the outcomes of Mission Goals I and II contribute to advocacy, self-expression, participation and political transformation at various levels. Each level has specific objectives, desired outcomes and tasks.
In previous years, the principal focus of HLRN advocacy has been with local actors linking their country-specific advocacy to international instruments and criteria shared across the region. Advocacy focused on the new and emerging opportunities to promote HRAH, including through the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council, the compliance mechanisms of the international and regional development banks and financial institutions, and the Durban Review Process, in which States are supposed to evaluate the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001).

Political mechanisms:
Much of the human rights policy making at the international level has been focused on the transitional UN Human Rights Council (HRC). Meeting more frequently than the predecessor Commission on Human Rights, the HRC spent much of 2007 developing its procedures and making preparations for its new Universal Peer Review (UPR). However, most HLRN remained variously isolated from those developments. In the absence of a full-time representation at Geneva, HLRN has had to manage the engagement of Members in the HRC processes from afar. In 2008, for example, HLRN promoted the developments with schedules, reports from the International Service for Human Rights and OHCHR, and distributing outcome documents (e.g., from the reviews of Algeria and Bahrain). The Global and MENA Program collaborated with a group of Palestinian civil society organizations to develop a collective submission to the UPR process on Israel.\(^\text{11}\) The content of that submission was faithfully summarized in the OHCHR submission for the process,\(^\text{12}\) and reflected in the outcome document with several States posing questions and recommendations related to Palestinian housing and land rights deprivation.

Durban Review
The start of the MENA Program coincided with the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at Durban (2001). The current review period coincides with the UN Durban Review Process, in which states and civil society take stock of efforts and developments to combat racism and its consequences. Discrimination in the Middle East/North Africa was a focus of HIC and HLRN alliances at Durban, including but limited to the case of Israel/Palestine. Efforts then and now seek to address the multiple forms of discrimination in every region that affect housing and land rights. In all regions, notorious cases of discrimination also manifest in housing and land rights deprivation in the colonization, occupation and alien domination cases of Israel/Palestine, Cyprus, Western Sahara, Ahwaz, Darfur, Nuba Mountains (Sudan) and Kurdistan.

In 2008, HLRN participated in the Durban Review prepcom, mostly networking and lobbying on the case of Palestine. HIC-HLRN also contributed to and endorsed the Palestinian civil society submission to the Durban Review Process. However, other efforts focused more broadly on forms of discrimination affecting housing and land rights globally. The 2009 HIC submission to the Durban Review Process uniquely reviews and analyse that phenomenon. In addition, HIC-

\(^{11}\) BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, the Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, the Arab Human Rights Association (HRA), the Association for the Defense of the Rights of the Internally Displaced (ADRID), the Housing and Land Rights Network-Habitat International Coalition and Zochrot in cooperation with Ittijah – Union of Arab Community-based Associations, “Ongoing Forced Displacement of the Palestinian Population on Both Sides of the “Green Line”: Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,” submitted July 2008

HLRN has participated in the planning of a forum on the Palestine question just in advance of the Durban Review conference in April 2009.

**Legal Mechanisms**

HLRN, both Global and MENA Programs, participated in the ETO Consortium, mentioned above under Mission Goals 1 and 2, contributed to the development of the norms as they relate to four cases in the MENA region. The cumulative efforts of the ETO Consortium seek a result in the legal mechanisms of the UN Human Rights System: the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights’ adoption of a General Comment on extraterritorial obligations and international cooperation.

In South Asia, HLRN coordinated the parallel reporting process with civil society partners on housing and land rights in India and presented the joint parallel report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) at its session in May 2008. HLRN participated actively role at the Committee meeting for NGOs session and other informal consultations in Geneva, and worked closely with Committee members on preparing questions for the Indian State party, especially the ones related to housing, land, evictions, livelihood, and the post tsunami reconstruction.

In addition, SARP facilitated the visit of a CESCR member to Delhi and assisting with the organization of two national consultations with her. That included meetings with the Parliamentary Forum on Human Rights to spread awareness on and encourage adoption of the UN CESCR Concluding Observations on India.

**Factual Mechanisms:**

*Special Rapporteur on adequate housing*

HLRN considers advocacy through the factual UN mechanism of the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteurs to be an important partnership for civil society monitoring and problem solving. HLRN has enjoyed a close working relationship with the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on adequate housing throughout 2008. The following case involved HLRN office support and collaboration with the Special Rapporteur in MENA.

The year 2008 was one of change, in that the SRs on adequate housing, the right to food, the rights of indigenous peoples and on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories changed. The new term for the SR on adequate housing saw three finalist candidates, two of whom arose from civil society. The good outcome in 2008 was the appointment of Raquel Rolnik (Brazil). The other positive development is that the MENA Programs cooperation with its Member, the Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages in the Naqab/Negev (RCUV), has resulted in the plans for a fact-finding mission in Israel (planned for March 2009), including it the international team two of the emeritus SRs from 2008: Rodolfo Stavenhagen, former SR on the rights of indigenous peoples, and Miloon Kothari, former SR on adequate housing. The occasion of that mission is to provide an alternative to the recommendations of the official Goldberg Commission for the “regulation” of the Bedouin communities in the Naqab/Negev. Part of the related MENA Program advocacy effort involved an HLRN submission to the Commission during its consultations with all interested and cooperative parties during 2008.13 This relates also to the

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cooperation with the SRs on adequate housing and indigenous peoples on the demolition of Naqab villages through 2006–07, resulting in his intervention and communications with the Israeli government.

During 2008, HLRN’s SARP Programme also cooperated with UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women Yakın Erturk by organizing meetings with her in India on the linkage between violence against women and the rights to adequate housing, land, property and inheritance.

While 2008 saw the end of Miloon Kothari’s highly productive term service as Special Rapporteur, it also culminated seven and one-half years of close cooperation with HIC-HLRN and with the OHCHR offices supporting the mandate. HLRN also supported the work of the SR in the material sense, as he doubled as coordinator of the HLRN South Asian Regional Programme throughout that period. In that double sense, HLRN also served the many and diverse global beneficiaries of that UN HRC special procedure on adequate housing.

Goal III: A.6. Transnational Corporations (TNCs):
- Promote human rights guidelines/obligations
- Expose HRAH violations.

Goal III: B. At the regional level:
- Regional Development Banks: Monitoring projects
- Human Rights Commissions: obtain African Union, Inter-American, Arab League, EU status for HIC
- Trade blocs: Monitoring, assessing impacts, and preventing new blocs.

Goal III: C. The “Glocal” Level: Urgent Actions
- Rally practical solidarity and support for victims
- Bond Members into mutual and reciprocal support activities
- Denounce violations
- Proffer alternative solutions
- Institutionalize reciprocal alliances with other supportive networks

A long-standing HLRN objective has been to advocate HRAH, land rights and better solutions for resettlement and rehabilitation under regional development bank-funded projects. Contributing to the normative content of that objective has been the SR’s “Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement.” However, until 2008, HLRN has not had the capacity to support its Members in mounting proper advocacy in the regional development banks. With the HLRN coordinator’s participation in the Civil Society Seminar on Independent Accountability Mechanisms (Tunisia, June 2008), that objective has become closer. The compilation of guidance on use of the compliance mechanisms with a focus on actual adjudicated cases and future prospects will be the subject of a guide for Members in 2009, with the added assistance of the current Rooftops Canada intern.

Goal III: D. National-level Support
- Law reform/legislation (legislative power)
- Monitoring policies, programs, budgets, projects, and implementation instruments (executives)

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- Litigation/case law
- Policy and law reform
- Monitoring international cooperation and country positions at multilateral levels
- Advocacy campaigns

As a matter of principle, HLRN does not take on any national advocacy activity separate from that initiated by a HIC Member. The Network and/or its offices do not seek to replace, contradict or compete with its Members on national matters. However, the forms of support for local work can be instrumental in getting local Members’ joint advocacy effort off to a sound start with techniques, arguments and/or small grants for specific activities. In 2008, HLRN technical and material support has made possible Members and partners presentation of the 2008 parallel on India to CESCR, as well as support for Moroccan affiliates (ACME-Maroc, AMDH, Espace Associatif) to cooperate in the campaign to restore public water and implement to right to water.

“Glocal” mechanisms: Urgent Actions

The Urgent Action system is an activity of the HLRN Global Program, dedicated to catalyzing practical solidarity among HIC Members and allies in defense of housing and land rights. In most cases, these are in response to a potential or actual violation, such as a forced eviction. When these violations form a pattern of long standing or require addressing policy, the response takes the form of an “open letter” to the duty holders, urging implementation of human rights obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the human right to adequate housing.

In all cases of urgent actions and open letters, the HLRN officers consult with members and other involved parties to ensure strategic value, relevance and accuracy. All urgent actions and open letters are found on the HLRN website: [http://www.hlrn.org/cases.php](http://www.hlrn.org/cases.php)

### Open Urgent Action Cases, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt: House Removal and Forced Eviction in Barmil Village- Helwan (Arabic)</td>
<td>4 November 2008</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA: Cameroon: 5,000 Evicted, 250 Homes Destroyed</td>
<td>14 August 2008</td>
<td>CAM-FEDN 140808 fr.d CAM-FEDN 140808 en.d</td>
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<td>UA (support): Brazil, Increasing Criminalization of the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST)</td>
<td>14 July 2008</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA (support): Japan, Nike Park Threatens Local Community</td>
<td>7 July 2008</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA(support): Philippines, Support Manila Urban Poor</td>
<td>18 June 2008</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq: An expected Tsunami under the occupation and corruption (Arabic)</td>
<td>26 May 2008</td>
<td>...</td>
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<tr>
<td>UA (support): Indonesia, Thousands to be Evicted and Left Homeless</td>
<td>25 May 2008</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA (support): Haiti, Forced Evictions of Peasants in Airbonite</td>
<td>19 May 2008</td>
<td>...</td>
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</table>

On the cases of forced eviction that took place in the region, HLRN’s MENA coordination office worked with HIC-HLRN Member and nonmember organizations in the preparation and management of two urgent action appeals based on actions with the constituents organizations
and the affected people: in Egypt, HLRN collaborated with its Member, Egyptian Center for Housing Rights (Cairo), and a non-Member organization, al-Mirsad (Cairo), on the case of Qal‘at al-Kabsh; and with HIC-HLRN Member, Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages, on the demolitions and evictions of the Palestinian “unrecognized villages,” in Naqab, Israel.

As a national-level activity, HLRN’ MENA Program organized and sponsored a multimedia event with the local community in Cairo to commemorate the 60 years of al-Nakba (Palestinian catastrophe). The event, entitled “Between the Walls,” consisted of a Townhouse Gallery exhibit of photos by two local artists/photographers, with cultural events at the opening and closing of the ten-day duration. That unanticipated event resulted from cooperation with students and civil society organizations, and served as an awareness-raising service to the wider community with good public turn-out. The opening saw the largest attendance in Townhouse Gallery’s history to date.

The main problems and challenges

- With the tremendous social capital currently and potentially at the Network’s disposal, a shortage of resources and, consequently, an internal scarcity consciousness has constrained HLRN from doing more advocacy. The lost advocacy opportunities and rising demands on the Network suggest that HLRN and the MENA Program are at a crossroads. To seize the fleeting opportunities will require further strategizing with donors, as well as more labor division and engaging additional staff, including a full-time advocacy coordinator in Geneva.

- Based on the internal evaluation of the HLRN Urgent Action system over its previous five years of operation, HLRN recognized the consistent pattern of little engagement of the general membership of HIC-HLRN, with the most-active and consistent users of the system remain a small nucleus of HIC Members and officers. The effort invested in the UAs has not resulted in mass action on the part of the membership, despite the repeated demand over the years for such a system.

Adjustments made (and lessons for the future)

- The elements of an integrated HIC-HLRN advocacy strategy have become clearest in the MENA Program. The MENA staff has begun to devise specific advocacy strategies for countries in the region that combine all three aspects of HLRN goals/services. These now exist—at varying stages of development and implementation—for Palestine, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, Sudan and Jordan. New members in Bahrain and Sudan have encouraged that process, and HLRN is negotiating future cooperation with Yemeni Members in advance of their country’s CERD and CESCR reviews.

- That facility is presently unstaffed; however, increased volume of HLRN activity there and the need for further division of labor will make it necessary for HLRN to engage a full-time staff person at Geneva to provide logistical, communication and administrative support, and this will help HIC-HLRN to create links between NGOs in the region and UN bodies.

- In 2008, HLRN has further discussed with FIAN the prospects of cooperating to establish full-time representation in the UN Liaison office through a burden-sharing arrangement. A scenario for cooperation is currently under consideration.

- Originally begun as a Member initiative in 2005 to create a HIC Conflict Occupation and War Task Force, the efforts of the MENA Program of HLRN have compensated for lack of Member follow-up, networking, creating knowledge and conducting advocacy on housing and land rights violations that constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The events of 2006–
08 in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon (as well as Zimbabwe, 2005) have made that focus ever more urgent. (Thus, the manual for raising such cases falls under Mission Goal 2, mentioned above.)

- HLRN’s initially ambitious plans to coordinate various activities in commemoration of the 60 years of the Nakba became scaled back, due to apparent pressure on local partners from State Security to desist from public activities at that time (April–May 2008). The result was the organization of a single four-day multimedia event that enjoyed good public participation.

- The Urgent Action system has been a source of important lessons, reflecting the Network’s strengths and weaknesses. HRLN has based this service on a historical commitment, its self-description and a belief in the moral weight of popular indignation. However, it remains underutilized. More organizational-level networking and capacity building may be needed with members for them to see the advantage in regularly engaging in such practical and mutually supportive solidarity actions. Nonetheless, it stands as a solid record of the violations and proposed solutions. Those few cases that are resolved—such as the improvement of methodology for the UN Register of Damages from the Israeli Wall (see Open Letter developments above)—are encouraging, as long as they augur remedies and the potential improvement of living conditions. Other cases, especially in the MENA region, need further follow-up to make them effective.
General and Administration

- Effective and efficient communication and information management
- Improved capacity in finance and resource mobilization and management
- Formalized personnel policy and management system, adaptable to HLRN regional operations.

Resource Management

The HLRN financial year runs from January to December. The MENA Program finalizes its annual budgets by the preceding September each year.

The integration of the financial and accounting systems of HLRN’s regional Programs have been the subject of retooling in 2008. The main achievement is the development of customized software for financial tracking. The logistics of joint reporting remain complicated by the geographical reach of the Geneva, Cairo and New Delhi offices and still-needed capacity.

HLRN Programs make use of a general fund, now made possible by revenues received through the coordinator’s training honoraria, publication sales and consultancy fees received in the course of operation. The general fund will be used in future to support HLRN Programs’ rapid-response or programmed activities that are otherwise unfunded. These revenues and expenditures are accounted for in the regular Global Program financial reports, as well as any interest income.

Throughout 2008, the HLRN IT specialist Yasser Abdelkader was particularly supportive of administration in developing the accounting system, including assisting in the recruitment of personnel and system design. At the end of 2008, the MENA Program began piloting the new customized accounting system for end-of-year reporting and all future financial tracking.

Human Resources and Staffing

The Cairo office of the Global Program engages the HLRN General Coordinator Joseph Scheckla at a half-time effort, while he also serves half time as the Global Program coordinator. The full-time Global Program Officer Angie Balata maintains communications and relations with the Global Members and is active in all aspects of the program. Supporting the program are Leena Essam as administrator and Yasser Abd al-Qader as IT specialist, both serving global and regional aspects of HLRN. In the final quarter of 2006, the HLRN team was joined in the Coordination Office by Vani Govindarajan, an intern participant in the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Strategy (YES), funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and implemented through HIC-HLRN Member Rooftops Canada/Abri International. Her support to the Violation Database and general operations also benefited the Global Program.

The SARP Programme of HLRN saw some changes also in 2008. Miloon Kothari returned to full-time service as coordinator, following his long double duty as UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing. Fazal Rehman replaced the long-serving Vishal Thakre as administrator, while Shivani Chaudry continued in her fifth year as SARP Programme Officer.
The main problems and challenges

- The sheer weight of multiple tasks and frequent travel missions for the coordinator remain a principal challenge. A greater division of labor is needed, including a dedicated level of effort at financial management and fundraising to support the coordinator and permit him to focus more on program management.

- The end of 2007 and 2008 were periods hit by tremendous fluctuations in currency values and inflation for basic commodities in Egypt, as elsewhere. The purchasing power and, consequently, real wages dropped for Cairo-based personnel.

- The administrator position underwent unusual turnover in 2008, increasing cost and training effort. However, the rest of the personnel team has remained stable.

Adjustments made (and lessons for the future)

- The previous financial and accounting services are inadequate. The accountant contracted by HLRN has been slow and unresponsive at critical junctures, resulting in delayed reporting. The HLRN team engaged new accounting and auditing services, as well as a consultant for the programming of the financial-tracking system.

- In order to respond to the reality of dropping real values of salaries, HLRN’S Global and MENA programs adjusted salaries commensurate to the losses in currency exchange paid out in salaries, thus causing a slight increase in spending over the anticipated budget for salaries.
Conclusion

The Network’s principal objective—to help develop local, regional and global ESC rights culture and practical methods—is aided, constrained or otherwise challenged by the external environment of civil society work on ESC rights. Since HLRN’s previous three-year plan in 2006, lessons for the future are guided by both emerging positive and negative factors such as:

- Adoption of the ICESR Optional Protocol (2008);
- Alliances with civil organizations and networks working on the right to food/food security, including the new international consortium and publication Food Watch;
- An emerging focus on the right to water as a challenge to the privatization of public goods;
- Cancellation of the UN Habitat “Secure Housing and Land Tenure” and “Good Urban Governance” campaigns and their replacement with a “Sustainable Urbanization” campaign;
- Combining “rights-based” and “needs-based” approaches to development;
- “Convergence” of urban and other social movements toward collective positions and actions to develop a global “human rights habitat,” including emerging solidarity of urban and rural social movements in other regions with the people and nascent social movements on ESC rights in newly emerging regions;
- Establishment and functioning of the UN Register of Damage arising from the Wall in the West Bank, Palestine;
- Greater attention to the human rights dimensions of land through deliberation among activists and scholars within and across regions;
- Growing numbers of refugees and displacement persons across and into particular regions due to housing and land rights violations, among other causes;
- HIC’s international Campaign for Housing and Land Rights 2007-08, “in Defense of Place and Livelihood” by visiting http://campaign.hic-net.org;
- Human Dignity and Human Rights Caucus in WSF members’ campaign on “accountability” as follow-up to the 60th anniversary of UDHR;
- Increased HIC-HLRN membership;
- Increasing wanton destruction of civilian public and private property in internal and cross-border conflict situations, affecting housing rights and productive access to land, as well as forced displacement and “population transfer”;
- “Mainstreaming” of the “right to the city” concept;
- Partners’ recognition of the need to develop and apply human rights methodologies and tools to achieve success in monitoring, critically addressing and posing solutions to violations;
- Reform and expansion of the UN Human Rights System;
- The global climate change crisis;
- The global financial crisis;
- The global food crisis.
Through 2008, HLRN and its Members have related variously to all of these emerging situations, which instruct future programming and implementation. With these developments, HLRN’s essential accomplishment is the development of specialized social capital to advance the culture of ESCR-based development across the HIC regions. This represents a process often difficult to quantify, but palpably growing and stretching present HLRN capacities.

The HLRN offices have been obvious focal points of that process, both catalyzing Members and responding to their needs and demands. Any network should represent a community effort, and HLRN strives to that ideal by addressing the problems arising from violations of housing and land rights. HLRN networking has brought like-minded new members and supporters together through HIC membership and temporary alliances, especially in SARP and the MENA regions.

Closer cooperation of HLRN Members within HIC structures in 2008 also has produced new results that promise to develop ESCR culture and greater application capacity for those who take part. The consolidation of HIC Member pedagogical efforts and products soon available the new on-line “HICademy” is one example of the available diversity in learning tools and techniques for civil society crystallizing in a new, more-organized and accessible form.

Supporters have provided resources for HLRN Global and regional operations; whereas HLRN can and does span the presumed divide between human rights and development, the so-called “needs approach” and the putatively distinct “rights approach” to poverty eradication and development. Those supporters have demonstrated their willingness to assist programs and projects that contribute to the necessary convergence of these supposedly divergent methodologies.

The principal HLRN regional program funding partners, Ford Foundation and ICCO, have made the capacity-building component possible through their support since the regional program’s inception. In 2008, the Tata Foundation became a new institutional supporter of the SARP Programme. Support from MISEREOR also has enabled HLRN Global Program operations.

In the conduct of advocacy, HLRN’s Global Program has benefited from exemplary cooperation of the UN treaty bodies, their expert members and secretariats at OHCHR (Geneva), as well as UN Special Rapporteurs and other special procedures of the UN Human Rights System. HLRN appreciates the willingness of other like-minded but non-Member organizations (e.g., COHRE) to collaborate and address these mechanisms jointly. The collective advocacy of, and with HIC has featured substantive coordination from the HIC General Secretariat, but also the active engagement of some HIC Board members and members in North America and Europe, where HIC membership and presence are less developed in the human rights debate. However, in all cases, the rights discourse has limits, even when successful; for other, technical solutions are still needed to realize rights to adequate housing and land. The collaboration of diverse partners inside and outside HIC promote the collective responses represented in the positive achievements and efforts to address the negative developments listed above.

Thus, the useful connections and productive collaboration resulting from the work of HIC-HLRN are as valuable as the products and outcomes cataloged in this annual report. Each strategic alliance, HIC Member affiliation, or other form of participation in shared activities creates a value greater than the sum of its parts, which is vested in emerging ESCR culture. This culminates in the realization of HIC-HLRN vision and its mission: to achieve the full realization of human dignity and human development toward respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of the human right to adequate housing and land.

ANNEX I

35
## Networking Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Title of Event</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3–4 April</td>
<td>Poverty and Human Rights in International Development Cooperation</td>
<td>Freidrich–Ebert–Stiftung, VENRO, Justitia et Pax, Misereor, UNHCHR, EED, AI</td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>26–27 May</td>
<td>Regional Preparatory Meeting for High–Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness</td>
<td>Bahraini Association for Human Rights, CIDA, Reality of Aid Network, ANND, League of Arab States</td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>HIC–MENA</td>
<td>Manama, Bahrain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 May–1 Jun</td>
<td>Canadian Law and Society Association and Law and Society Association joint meetings</td>
<td>CLSA, LSA</td>
<td>Networking, Knowledge Creation</td>
<td>Global &amp; HIC_MENA</td>
<td>Montreal, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>8–13 Jun</td>
<td>International Study Visit to the ZukunftsfWerkStadt Leinefelde Project</td>
<td>BSHF</td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Leinefelde, Germany</td>
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<td>21–25 Jun</td>
<td>International Conference on Peasant Rights</td>
<td>Via Campesina</td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>“Escuela por el Derecho a la Vivienda”</td>
<td>Faculty of Architecture and Urbanization, University of Chile</td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Chile</td>
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<td>26–27 Sep</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; ETO Consortium Conference</td>
<td>FIAN International</td>
<td>Networking, Knowledge Creation</td>
<td>Global &amp; HIC–MENA</td>
<td>Heidelberg, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>Concluding Conference for Building the Capacity of Local Communities Project</td>
<td>Development Support Center</td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>HIC–MENA</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
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<td>18 Nov</td>
<td>Book Launch: Reclaiming Public Water (AR edition)</td>
<td>HLRN, TNI, CADTM, AHED</td>
<td>Networking, Knowledge Creation</td>
<td>HIC–MENA</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
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<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>ESCR–Net’s Second General Assembly</td>
<td>ESCR–Net</td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Global &amp; HIC–MENA</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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Annex II

HIC-HLRN Publications

Thematic Publications

Handbook on UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement [copublication with YUVA and Amnesty International – India] (New Delhi: HLRN SARP, January 2009);

Housing and Land Rights Crisis! 2008: Violations Escalating around the World (Cairo: HLRN, 2008);

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In cooperation with Sajha Manch, New Delhi

In collaboration with Human Rights Monitoring Group (HURIMOG)
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19 Defence for Children International (Palestine), LAW Society for the Protection of Human Rights (Jerusalem), Al Mezan Center for Human Rights.

20 Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; Association of Forty (Israel); Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residence and Refugee Rights (Bethlehem); Boston University Civil Litigation Program (USA); LAW Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (Jerusalem); Palestinian Center for Human Rights (Gaza); World Organization against Torture (Geneva, Switzerland)
## ANNEX III

**Global Violations Map: Data for 2008**

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<th></th>
<th>Country</th>
<th># Victims</th>
<th>Privatization</th>
<th>Natural Disaster</th>
<th>Internal Conflict/War/Occupation</th>
<th>Victim Range</th>
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Legend

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Victim Range:

A 1 to tens (1-99),
B hundreds (100–999),
C thousands (1,000–9,999),
D tens of thousands (10,000–99,000),
E hundreds of thousands (100,000–999,999)
F millions