

## Playing it fair! in Fredericton, New Brunswick

In the summer of 2007, Equitas broadened the implementation of its “Play it Fair!” program which aims to promote human rights values and intercultural harmony through the use of games and activities in summer camps. Based on the successful results generated in Montreal since 2004, the program was expanded to New Brunswick, Vancouver, Toronto and Winnipeg.

One of the dozen local municipalities and community-based organizations that have implemented the program is The Multicultural Association of Fredericton (MCAF), a not-for-profit organization which provides services for newcomers to Canada. MCAF’s mission is “To celebrate strength in diversity by enabling meaningful exchange and full participation among people of all backgrounds and circumstances”. One of the programs offered at MCAF is the Rainbow of Cultures Summer Camp which runs for five weeks every summer.

Most of the children attending the Rainbow of Cultures Summer Camp are newcomers to Canada and some have only limited English or French language skills. Many of these children also come from war-affected countries and have grown up in refugee camps or under other very challenging conditions. Many are also facing isolation, marginalization and discrimination as they integrate into their new lives.

“The games in the “Play it Fair” Toolkit matched very closely with our mission and became extremely helpful. The games are wonderful in promoting and celebrating multiculturalism and diversity. Our belief is that the purpose of summer camps is for having fun and that no one should be excluded. We consider ourselves to be very fortunate in having the Toolkit which has helped us tremendously in resolving conflicts, as well as increased the participation and integration among campers, counsellors and



Children at the Rainbow of Cultures Summer Camp in Fredericton

parents,” stated Baukje Miedema, secretary of the MCAF Board of Directors.

The “Play it Fair” program has equipped camp staff with new skills and tools which helped them to include all campers and to manage issues, or even to prevent them from arising. The children enjoyed the games and requested to play their favourites again and again. As one nine-year-old camper noted, the values promoted by the games were also appreciated; “I like this game; we had to cooperate and learn from each other. It doesn’t matter what colour

*continued on page 4*

## Celebrating Human Rights in Yemen: Having fun and building a culture of human rights

By Iman Al-Tawqi

On January 2, 2008, the Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF), a non-governmental organization in

Sana’a, Yemen organized a human rights market place to celebrate Human Rights Day. The event brought together over a hundred and fifty young people in an effort to raise their awareness of human rights and development issues.

Inspired by the experience of YLDF staff who have attended Equitas’ International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP), the market place consisted of some 13 interactive games and activities, created by youth attending YLDF programs, reflecting different human rights principles. As well, sketches were performed on the rights of orphans, freedom of speech and children’s rights.

YLDF’s mission is to support youth, especially young women and the underprivileged, in voicing their opinions and needs and actively participating in Yemen’s development. It aims to build a Yemen in which skilled and active young women and men play leadership roles in all domains of society.

Since 2004, three YLDF staff members have attended the IHRTTP. This annual training session, now in its 29th year, brings together approximately 130 participants from over 60 countries for three weeks of training in Canada. It provides a unique opportunity for human rights workers to

*continued on page 2*



Human rights jig-saw puzzle at the marketplace

# New Program in Indonesia

On February 15, Equitas launched the inaugural Indonesian Annual Human Rights Training Program in Jakarta. Based on the model of our International

Human Rights Training Program in Montreal, this training, delivered in bahasa Indonesia, was designed to strengthen the capacity of Indonesian

educators and activists to engage in effective human rights education aimed at developing a culture of human rights.

Over 30 Indonesian alumni of Equitas training programs were involved in the design and delivery of this program. Thirty participants, representing a diverse cross-section of civil society from across the archipelago attended. The concept for this training originated from numerous conversations between Equitas and its Indonesian partners dating back to 2004. Many thanks are extended to our implementing partner, Lembaga Studi dan Advokasi Masyarakat (ELSAM) and all of the Indonesian alumni.

*This Program is made possible with the generous support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).*



Participants at the inaugural Indonesian Annual Human Rights Training Program

## *continued from page 1 (Human Rights in Yemen)...*

deepen their understanding of human rights and of the essential role of human rights education in effecting change.

The IHRTP places a strong emphasis on the transfer of learning and on follow-up activities and participants develop an individual plan for putting their learning into action as part of the training.

Alumni were eager to share and promote the market place activity with others in Yemen. YLDF held an experimental Human Rights Market Place in 2006, which was successful and impressive and the very positive feedback encouraged us to repeat the experience in 2007. These events and those planned for the future demonstrate that human rights education (HRE) is much more than a technical subject. It should also be an opportunity to be creative, to celebrate the best of the human spirit and have some fun along the way.

The YLDF also celebrated the graduation of 30 trainees from their Human Rights

Skill Development Project. This one-year program works to build the capacity of the trainees in human rights and democracy using the participatory approach of Equitas' training programs.

The YLDF appreciates the help of the many Yemeni IHRTP alumni who assisted in the training of these new young human rights activists, as well as the support provided by Equitas in improving the quality of its HRE work. In the coming year, YLDF will continue to strengthen networks with other Yemeni activists and human rights NGOs, while continuing to educate youth about human rights. YLDF looks forward to continuing its participation in Equitas' Middle East and North Africa Program including the Training of Trainers in Morocco in March that will provide further training in Equitas' HRE methodology and approach.

It is a long way, but YLDF is equipped to continue moving forward with steady steps!

*Iman Al-Tawqi is the Executive Manager of the Youth Leadership Development Foundation and Girls World Communication Center. She attended the International Human Rights Training Program in 2006. Since 2004, 10 Yemeni human rights educators from 7 NGOs and one government agency have attended the IHRTP.*

*The IHRTP is made possible with the generous support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).*



Graduates of YLDF's Human Rights Skill Development Project

## Ishmael Beah, guest speaker at cocktail fundraiser

Over 200 people gathered for Equitas' 3rd annual fundraising cocktail on November 22 where we had the great pleasure of welcoming Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.

All were moved as he spoke of the value and legacy of education and of human rights education. As a child soldier, he felt part of a lost generation, but education gave him hope. Mr. Beah stated simply and eloquently that his education means so much to him because it can never be taken from him by anyone. He emphasized the importance of human rights education. "As a child soldier, your rights are constantly violated," said Beah. "For the sake of these children it is essential to prove that another life is possible."

Also present at the cocktail was the Honourable Jason Kenney, Secretary of State, Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity who spoke of the Canadian government's support to programs to demobilize and reintegrate child soldiers and the government's support of Equitas' work.



Ishmael Beah and Equitas staff

### EQUITAS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONAL DONORS:

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*continued from page 1 (playing it fair)...*



Around the world with a hula-hoop at a Montreal day camp

your skin is, we are all human and we experience the same problems. This game was good because you had to forget you were different and work together.”

Counsellors also expressed their appreciation of the debriefing component which occurs at the end of each game. During the debriefing, the children have the opportunity to share their own experiences with each other and, with the help of their counsellors, to explore potential solutions and positive responses to a number of

common challenges such as bullying, name-calling, isolation or discrimination.

In July and August 2007, 12 local partner organizations implemented the “Play It Fair!” toolkit in over 120 day-camps across Canada. In 2007 alone, over 1,350 individuals were trained and 15,000 – 20,000 children were reached.

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## Program Activities

OCTOBER 2007 TO MARCH 2008

### International Human Rights Training Program (IHRT) IHRT Follow Up

- Indonesia Annual Human Rights Training Program: Curriculum design workshop  
*Jakarta, November 2007*
- Training of Trainers follow-up, funding of local HRE projects in Francophone Africa, *November 2007*
- Publication of Proceedings of International Symposium on Human Rights Education Evaluation, *December 2007*
- Publication of Generic Training of Trainers Manual  
*December 2008*
- Indonesia Annual Human Rights Training Program, two-week training program, *Jakarta, February 2008*
- Training of Trainers, Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
*February 2008*
- Monitoring Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equality in Kazakhstan, Training Workshops, Almaty & Astana  
*February 2008*
- Preparation of 2008 IHRT (ongoing)

### Iraq, Middle East & North Africa

- Regional Working Session  
*Aqaba, Jordan, October 2007*
- Mission to Morocco  
*January 2008*
- Training of Trainers  
*Rabat, Morocco, March 2008*

### National Human Rights Institutions

- Publication of handbook: *National Human Rights Institutions at Work: Equality for Women: A Handbook on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, *March 2008*

### Indonesia

#### Ministry of Law and Human Rights: Strengthening Human Rights Protection in the tsunami-affected Regions of Indonesia

- Evaluation Workshop  
*Jakarta, November 2007*

#### Ministry of Social Affairs

- Meeting to undertake a needs assessment  
*Jakarta, November 2007*

### Canada

#### City of Montreal

- Needs assessment to extend collaboration with City of Montreal to include programming for youth aged 12 to 18
- HRE in Summer Day Camps:
  - Evaluation report finalized and results shared with City of Montreal
  - Planning and implementation workshop with borough employees  
*February 2008*
  - Training of camp counsellor trainers  
*March 2008*

#### National Program – HRE with Canadian Municipalities

- Evaluation reports for pilot projects finalized and circulated to partners
- Preparation of the national edition of the Play it Fair! toolkit
- Missions to Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto and Moncton to present results of pilot projects and discuss next steps
- Participation in the ARAISA Conference (Atlantic Regional Association of Immigrants Serving Agencies)

#### Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide and other Human Rights Violations

- Participation in coordinating committee

#### Human Rights Online Training

- Development of online training with Rights & Democracy for the Rights & Democracy Network

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