Since September 2008, Amnesty International has been implementing the Africa Human Rights Education (AHRE) Project with the financial support from UKAID/DFID GTF and in partnership with 21 organisations. This four year project is working directly with 146 Human rights activists from civil society organisations in 10 countries across East and West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.

Local partners are successfully implementing 89 innovative human rights education micro projects utilising theatre, community durbars, door-to-door sensitization, radio stations and existing local governance structures to mobilize rights-holders around their human rights needs and concerns in order to hold duty-bearers and perpetrators accountable. After one year during which emphasis was placed on building capacities of communities involved, the second phase of the micro projects has not only allowed to deepen the communities understanding of human rights violations but also showing them recourses available and how to seek redress.

In Burkina Faso for example, a CBO has supported a woman deprived of succession of her late husband’s property to win a court case against her in-laws. This woman approached the CBO after taking part in one of their sensitization activity on violence against women.

If last year the project has reached out to 50,280 people, this year covering the period from April 2011 to March 2012 has been even more successful with nearly 125,000 people reached. This figure is made up of 31,879 women, 31,826 men, 59,480 youth/students, 486 teachers, 713 elders and community leaders, 249 people living with disabilities and 16 journalists from more than 250 communities who better understand their basic rights and have started to claim them whenever they are violated. These figures do not include radio programme listeners and theatre spectators and are far beyond the 22,500 people targeted in the project’s proposal.