



# Consolidating reconciliation and reforms processes

Christian Partners Development Agency (CPDA) and *Uraia* are spearheading community participation on reform and reconciliation processes in Narok and Western Province.

Currently, there are up to 15 commissions and taskforces in operation or waiting to be set up by the government. They include the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC), the Interim Independent Boundaries Review Commission, the Committee of Experts on Constitution Review, the taskforce on the Mau Resettlement. Others such as National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Special Tribunal and Interim Constitutional Dispute Resolution Court are expected to be formed.

Despite the formation of these commissions, informed citizen's participation in these commission remains ad hoc and uncoordinated. Regrettably, many of these commissions have caught many Kenyans unawares. Collection of views from Kenyans is characterized by short notices, hurried and done with little consultation with stakeholders. For instance, it now the norm that taking views from a few people for a few hours constitutes a regional position.

Besides, upbeat implementation of the 22 billion, Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) set for completion by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009 has caught many Kenyans off the hook. With so many resources going to constituencies, the capacity of residents must be enhanced to monitor and track implementation of the proposed projects.

The project will empower communities through the establishment *District Reconciliation and Reforms Consensus Groups* for consolidating district and regional positions on reconciliation and reforms. These groups will also support in monitoring and tracking resources sent to constituencies under the Economic Stimulus Programme and other devolved projects.

Further, the project will spur entrepreneurial activities through peer-to-peer mentorship particularly targeting the youth.

A range of strategies including workshops, youth entrepreneurial mentorships, local radio programmes, community theater performances, and focused group discussions will be used.

Ultimately, project dubbed "*Towards Realizing Accord Priorities (TRAP)*" will promote national reconciliation and cohesion; enhance citizens' participation on reforms, monitor and track local development projects, and cultivate a culture of leadership accountability in Kenya. The four month project is expected to end on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

This is a build-up on the *National Response Initiative (NRI)* project that helped to spearhead peacebuilding dialogue, healing, reconciliation, and justice processes in Western province. The project will be implemented concurrently with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Civil Society Democratic Governance (CSDG) Facility emerging issues fund under project dubbed "*Reconciliation times -Nyakati za Marejeano*" in Rift Valley Province (Narok North and Narok South districts); and Western Province (Vihiga, Kakamega and Busia districts).