

the alternative forum

Issue No. 27, 2010/11



we, the people
of Kenya



European Commission



CPDA

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Christian Partners Development Agency (CPDA) is a non profit, non partisan, organization registered as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under the NGO Coordination Act of (1990) in 1993. Our programmatic focus is in two categories; namely Governance and Democracy, and Integrated Food Security for Sustainable Livelihoods. These programmes are currently implemented in Kenya.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to uplift the living standards of the poor and disadvantaged communities in Kenya and beyond through partnership, capacity building and development programs that empower them to respond more effectively to their needs.

Vision: A world in which communities are empowered to take charge of their own development and destiny.

Our Development Partners: European Commission (EC), Oxfam Novib, FARM -Africa, Church World Services, Ford Foundation, Water Services Trust Fund, UNDP Civil Society Democratic Governance Facility-(*Amkeni Wakenya*), UNIFEM, Kenya's National Civic Education Programme (*Uraia*), African Women Development Fund

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turn up the edition



Kenyan aspirations on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law are beginning to be felt.

We are seeing forces of impunity, corruption and political patronage beginning to panic. The heightened and renewed efforts by the Kenyan Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) are positive signs for a new Kenya.

Naming of suspects of post election violence is sending good signals for politicians who have survived on impunity. We are thrilled with the renewed efforts to get rid of drug barons from our midst.

The ratification of the new Constitution gave Kenyans a sense of optimism and opened opportunities for far-reaching reforms. Kenyans are optimistic that a new culture of governance will emerge. This will happen if we intensify civic education to every part of the country for all Kenyans to understand, participate and track implementation of the new constitution.

As highlighted in this edition, we are one of the key actors in educating Kenyans and establishing platforms for citizens participation in constitution implementation.

As we near 2012, we call upon all the established constitutional institutions to develop key legislations as provided for in the constitution. More delays in providing key legislations particularly on devolution and resource allocation may lead to speculation and polarize Kenyans on ethnic lines.

In this edition, we have provided highlights on how we contributed to a new Kenya. We have also given briefs on our civic education programmes in the country. Further, success stories of Neighbourhood Assemblies as they try to put leaders on check have also been covered.

There are also summaries on key programme issues on governance, sustainable agriculture, Community health, water and sanitation.

We welcome you once again to this informative newsletter. Your feedback and suggestions are highly appreciated.

Alice Kirambi, Executive Director, (CPDA)

readers feedback

Good work CPDA

Congratulations on the good work done! That greatly contributed to the success of the new constitution. I saw the process on TV and I remembered the role that CPDA played. Thanks for playing such an important part. This world needs more people like you!

[Stella Amuge, Project Manager - Leadership Project (AHEAD), Uganda]

Inquiries on dairy goats

I wish to keep these goats for commercial milk production in my small plot on the outskirts of the city of Nairobi. Where can I buy them? Where do I get information on housing requirements, feeding, among others. Is there market for goats milk? *[Ben Karanja, Nairobi]*

I am a resident of Kisumu and has been interested in keeping dairy goats for sometimes. *[Zablon Okumu]*

I was wondering if you could advise our project and/or create a model for our cross-breeding. *[Ramtin Bid, Volunteer, The Aids Support Organization (TASO), Uganda]*

Feedback: Dairy goat farming model, (toggenburgs) in Vihiga is supported by CPDA through technical support from FARM-Africa. We source pure breeds from Meru/Kitui and Mwingi areas. Farmers in Vihiga are likely to start selling their dairy goats early 2012. Goat milk has high demand from hospitals. Read more from our website on a dairy goat farming.

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Additional goats distributed to farmers



By Sammy Bunyali, Field Agriculturist

CPDA has procured an additional 35 dairy goats from Mwingi, Kitui and Meru areas bringing a total of 90 goats distributed to farmers in Vihiga since 2008.

The patch was procured early December 2010 and distributed to farmers from the following Neighbourhood Assemblies as follows:

- Mukingi/ Elwunza NA - 2 Does
- Munoywa NA - 2 Does
- Halombove NA - 3 Does
- Kitulu NA - 2 Does
- Eburngwe NA - 4 Does and 1 Buck
- Hamuyundi NA - 4 Does and 1 Buck
- Chango NA - 4 Does
- Kalwani NA - 4 Does and 1 Buck
- Kedoli NA - 4 Does
- Chavufunya NA - 2 Does

Through support from the European Commission (EC), Oxfam Novib and FARM-Africa, CPDA has been popularizing dairy goat farming in Vihiga.

In Vihiga, farming is limited, because the average household owns less than half a hectare of land, which is not enough to sustain the farming. The number of women-headed households is increasing as men migrate to urban areas in search of employment.

In these difficult circumstances, people are trying to earn enough money to feed their families and afford essentials like healthcare and clothing. Goat keeping is ideal for these areas. Goats need less space than cows, and goats' milk is highly nutritious, so it goes a long way to reducing malnutrition. Through breeding goats and selling the milk, households can quickly increase their income. In addition, this is an activity that women traditionally undertake.

CPDA, through technical support from FARM-Africa, is helping to increase the availability of affordable animal healthcare in the area by training Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), Animal Health Assistants and stocking of vet shops. This contributes to the sustainability of goat rearing as a key source of income to the communities.

Through Neighbourhood Assemblies (NAs), communities are improving their understanding of goat-keeping, breeding and animal healthcare. CPDA continues to receive requests from other regions including Nakuru, Kisumu, Kisii as well as Uganda to replicate similar interventions.

Civic education

CPDA received funding from Uraia to undertake pre and post referendum exercise in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Vihiga, Narok and Trans Nzoia Counties. The following are highlights from some of 30 Community Facilitators based in each of the Constituencies.

Amagoro: Ekapolon Barasa reports that through continuous civic education, young people and women are optimistic that they will take up leadership positions in the constituency.

Budalangi: Willis Sumbah reports that residents have become more empowered to demand for their rights. Youths in Budalangi are putting pressure on leaders over delayed completion of Khajula stadium that was funded by CDF some years ago.

Vihiga: Oscar Moran notes that Women are ready to take up community leadership and they are using Neighbourhood Assemblies as platforms to network and participate in leadership.

Nambale: Micheal Khasindu a established working relationship with religious leaders who were strongly opposed to the new constitution.

Kanduyi: Timina Malala notes that residents testified that it was the first time they had civic education on the constitution.

Kimilil: Wycliffe W. Namaswa notes that as the community gets more empowered, some leaders are panicking. He was called by the top leaders eying Bungoma County leadership and warned against establishment of citizen empowerment platforms.

Kilgoris: As reported by Simon Sarisar residents blocked the Kilgoris-Mara road to demand for repairs. There has been reduced harassment from the police in Kilgoris as both the police and residents are becoming more enlightened on bill of rights.

Cherangany: As reported by Nelson Mwichuli, civic education efforts in the region have helped to create more understanding on land tenure as provided for in the new constitution.

Saboti: Lindah Nelimah reports that residents became aware of their rights and this resulted to increased collaboration among the residents and police officers. No major cases of insecurity have been reported in area since the ratification of the new constitution.

These are some of the success of replicated in constituencies CPDA and Uraia provided civic education.

Despite such achievements, the civic education programme has faced challenges. There are limited resources to effectively meet the diverse needs of people with disabilities including provision of Braille materials, Sign language interpreters among other things. There were delays in formulation of legislations particularly on running of Counties. The fate of the Provincial Administration is still uncertain and some provincial officers are at limbo and reluctant to supportive in education.

There is need to intensify civic education on provisions of the new Constitution for communities to understand, participate in and track its implementation.



Our contributions towards a new Kenya

We, the people of Kenya

PREAMBLE

ACKNOWLEDGING the supremacy of the Almighty God of all creation:

HONOURING those who heroically struggled to bring freedom and justice to our land:

PROUD of our ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and determined to live in peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign nation:

RESPECTFUL of the environment, which is our heritage, and determined to sustain it for the benefit of future generations:

COMMITTED to nurturing and protecting the well-being of the individual, the family, communities and the nation:

RECOGNISING the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law:

EXERCISING our sovereign and inalienable right to determine the form of governance of our country and having participated fully in the making of this Constitution:

ADOPT, ENACT and give this Constitution to ourselves and to our future generations.

GOD BLESS KENYA

Post referendum civic education

CPDA offered civic education in the following constituencies through a network of Community Facilitators:

Vihiga County (Vihiga, Sabatia, Emuhaya, Hamisi); Kakamega County (Ikolomani, Shinyalu, Malava, Lugari, Lurambi, Khwisero, Butere, Matungu, and Mumias constituencies); Bungoma County (Bumula, Kanduyi, Sirisia, Webuye, Kimilili and Mt. Elgon constituencies); Busia County (Funya, Budalangi, Nambale, Butula and Teso constituencies), Narok County (Narok North, Narok South, Kilgoris Constituencies); Trans Nzoia (Saboti, Kwanza and Cherangany constituencies). These Facilitators educated Kenyans on the new constitution through Chief's Barazas, Community forums, Neighbourhood Assemblies and other opportunistic gathering.

CPDA supported the establishment of County Shadow Assemblies in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, and Vihiga Counties. These platforms empowered citizens to understand, participate and monitor the implementation of the new constitution.

Referendum civic education and campaigns

CPDA was actively involved in the pre-referendum civic education and campaigns. Notable activities during the period were active community sensitizations through the Western Kenya Usawa road shows that circumnavigated the region from Bungoma, Webuye, Malava, Kakamega, Vihiga, Sabatia, and Emuhaya. CPDA also sponsored interactive civic education radio sessions through West FM radio. Such combined strategies helped reach more than 1.5 million Kenyans with messages on the constitution.

Besides, CPDA organised a series of provincial administration forums and workshops in the entire Western region to dispel myths and lies that were peddled by

those opposed to constitution. More than 1200 Chiefs and their Assistants were directly reached and empowered through such forums.

Further, CPDA helped to disseminate more than 50,000 copies of the then Proposed Constitution of Kenya (PCK) which was later ratified.

Setting platforms for citizens participation in reforms

In 2009, CPDA organised a Western Province leaders Annual Forum to provide inputs on the then Harmonized Constitution. More than 500 leaders read, reviewed and provided their memorandum to Committee of Experts.

Educating communities on Agenda 4 Reforms process

In 2009, CPDA held a series of district works in the entire Western Kenya and Narok County to empower communities to understand the agenda 1,2, 3 and 4 as espoused in the National Accord. These forums helped in the establishment of Reforms and Reconciliation Groups in Busia, Mt. Elgon, Teso, Bungoma, Lugari, Butere-Mumias, Kakamega, Vihiga, Narok North, Narok South and Kilgoris. These groups also supported in monitoring and tracking of resource sent to constituencies under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) and other devolved projects.

Peacebuilding and reconciliation among Kenyans

After the signing of the National Accord, CPDA undertook a series of community activities such as road shows, peace caravans, and peace forums to encourage communities to accept each other and co-exist in harmony.

These activities were supported by *Uraia*, and *Amkeni* and the *Usawa* civic education programmes.

Shadow county assemblies established



Shadow County Assemblies have been established in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega and Vihiga for residents to understand participate in and track the implementation of the new constitution.

During their formation, leaders from each of the counties elected Shadow County Governors, Shadow Deputy Governors and County Ward representatives.

The Busia County Shadow Governor, Ashepete Barasa, praised the establishment of such platforms to set the governance and development agenda for running of the counties.

“We have the people’s will to develop leadership integrity benchmarks, county strategies and policies that will propel the county,” Ms Ashepete said.

Unlike the proposed future county governments, shadow assemblies are mock platforms that will help to demystify the management of county governments. “They are not political avenues in preparation for 2012,” said Shabatai James, Deputy Shadow Governor, Bungoma.

Micheal Murunga, elected Shadow Governor, Kakamega County praised the initiative and encouraged other organisations to support the established shadow assemblies.

“We are so humbled by CPDA through the Usawa programme for demystifying leadership and citizens’ participation in managing their Counties,” said Murunga.

“The forum formed a basis of knowledge sharing and increased understanding of the provisions of the new constitution, generally, and in particular the concept of devolved governments and the management of public finance,” said Dan Chitwah Chegenye, Shadow Speaker Vihiga County.

CPDA received funding from Usawa programme to implement civic education activities on the ratified constitution in Busia, Bungoma, Kakamega and Vihiga Counties. Under the programme, CPDA aimed to empower citizens particularly women and youth to understand,



County of Bungoma

Shadow County Governor: Zeth Makokha
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: Shabatai James
 PWD Representative: Benerd W Baraza
 Youth Representative: Solom Kitere
 Women Rep.: Melab Lusweti

County of Busia

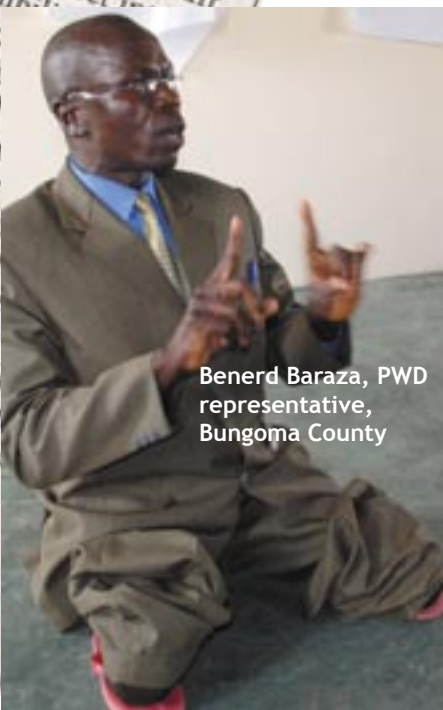
Shadow County Governor: Ashepete Barasa
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: John Kudombi
 People With Disabilities (PWD): Nicholas Juma
 Youth representative: Eric Ochieng
 Women Representative: Fridah Oyugah

County of Kakamega

Shadow County Governor: Michael A. Murunga
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: Ali Otini
 People With Disabilities (PWD): Stephen Mande and Suzzy Busaka
 Youth representative: Edgar Lugalia Senelwa
 Women Representative: Hellen Adede

County of Vihiga

Shadow County Governor: Omboko Milema, Shadow Senator: Boaz Ideche,
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: Oscar Buleemi, Shadow Speaker: Dan Chitwa Chegenye, People with Disabilities (PWD): Muhavi Japheth, Youth representative: Stella Kwatembera, Women Representative: Teresa Lukalo.



Benerd Baraza, PWD representative, Bungoma County



County leaders forum, Bungoma

participate in and track implementation of the new constitution under the banner: *Kuelewa, Kushiriki na Kufuatilia utekelezaji wa Katiba*. This is a follow-up to the Committee of Experts's (CoE)'s JJJ slogan of *Jisomee, Jiamulie, Jichagulie* that sought to educate Kenyans on the constitution.

The objectives of the county leaders meeting were two fold:

1. Increased understanding of the new Constitution among the County residents. This will help to increase knowledge and awareness among the residents of the county on constitution transitions and other key provisions.
2. Established County Platforms to maximize citizens' participation and tracking of the implementation of the new constitution. This will include the establishment of key County structures for youth, women and people with disabilities. Such forums will culminate in the establishment of County Shadow Assemblies, County Strategic Plans, and Leaders Integrity Benchmarks, among other actions.

Each of the forums brought together more than 100 key leaders representing women, youth, teachers, farmers, the business community, professionals, people with disabilities, civic leaders, and government, among other key actors in the county. Because of its size 150 leaders participated in the Kakamega County Leaders Forum. The forums were part of a series of activities that CPDA undertakes to empower citizens through increased understanding of ratified constitution.

1. Bungoma Leaders Forum, Held at Rosswood Hotel Bungoma, 22nd and 23rd November 2010.
2. Busia Leaders Forum, Held at Blue York Hotel, Busia on 24th and 25th November 2010.
3. Kakamega Leaders Forum, Held at KAMADEP Guest House, Kakamega on 26th and 27th November 2010.
4. Vihiga Leaders Forum, Held at Chavakali Friends Church, Vihiga on 15th and 16th December 2010.

Vihiga County Leaders Statement

We more than 100 Vihiga County leaders, gathered at the Chavakali Friends Church on the 15th and 16th December 2010 at a county leader's forum organized by the Christian Partners Development Agency (CPDA) resolve that:

1. We, shall support the full implementation of the new constitution as it is an all inclusive manner with all the requirements of a good constitution.
2. Through the elected shadow county assembly we shall initiate, develop and apply leadership and integrity benchmarks which we shall use to scrutinize leaders of this county.
3. We shall so far as is practicable develop communication channels through which the various groups such as men, women, youth, people with disabilities etc shall enable us keep intouch with the grassroots. There is need to establish an FM radio station and a newspaper/magazine to articulate the issues of the County as well as act as whistle blowers for issues in the county.
4. We shall form grassroots platforms which shall provide a basis for knowledge sharing and increased understanding of the provisions of the constitution generally and in particular the concept of devolved governments and the management of public finance.
5. As leaders of the county of Vihiga, we shall set the development agenda of the county through a gap analysis and SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis conducted at the forum.
6. We will also organize the **LAUNCH** of Vihiga County and thereafter a blueprint on its success will be formulated. We shall develop a **STRATEGIC PLAN** for the County and shall to the greatest extent possible monitor its implementation.
7. The shadow assembly elected today shall forge strategic linkages with like minded organizations and individuals to better operationalize its mandate. The elected assembly will form pro-active groups to towards the implementation of the constitution and the regional bills.
8. We resolve to elect leaders who are people of integrity, accountability and of good character.
9. We, the advocates of the High court of Kenya, represented in this forum resolve to offer pro bono services to the poor people of this county. We also vow to carry on civic education in the County
10. The participants of this forum will be at the fore front of articulating and disseminating the issues discussed here in the rest of the County.

Armed with the power that knowledge gives, the forum established the **VIHIGA COUNTY FORUM** and the **VIHIGA COUNTY PRESSURE GROUPS** as vehicles for maximizing citizen's participation and tracking the implementation of the new constitution.



A fortune was spent to construct this gate!



Proposed Sabatia Stadium, located on an uneven landscape. The project stalled.

Nightmare of devolved funds

By Samwel Oyomo, Governance and Democracy Officer, CPDA

Well managed devolved funds offers unique opportunities for the poor and marginalized to break jinx of poverty. They provide avenues for the active involvement of the poor in matters that have a direct bearing on their destiny.

Devolving funds is not unique to Africa. It has been used in the second world and in the largest growing global economies such as South America and Asia. This has transformed them into high consumer economies and technological savvy nations.

These successes are anchored on the bedrock of good democratic practices, prudent governance, sound economic policies and integrity of leadership. They are also attributed to well established institutions that are charged with fighting corruption and administration and handling public affairs.

Kenya has been caught in the fever of devolution with almost 20 types of devolved funds, yet the performance of these funds is so abysmal and laughable though the nation dreams to be a second

world economy by 2030. A local civil society dealing with social audit in its report released in 2010 at pointed malpractices in the management of CDF. The report indicted Members of Parliament and the committees charged with implementation of CDF has having misappropriated more than 100 million shillings since 2003 when the fund was initiated through an Act of Parliament.

More than Kshs.14 billion was allocated to constituencies in 2010 but some MPs appointed cronies and relatives to manage the funds resulting in poor project implementation.

At the last quarter of 2010, there was renewed effort by the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) to fight graft. Despite the efforts, Kenyans still worship corrupt public officials who have perfected the art of evoking tribal sympathy and ethnic animosity, yet when they commit graft they do it for personal and parochial interests.

Planning and Vision 2030 Minister Wycliffe Oparanya forwarded names of MPs who had misused CDF to KACC and soon some legislators will be arrested.

Impunity as a norm

Vihiga County is an exact replica of the national scenario when it comes to use of the devolved funds to engender development and prosperity for this nation. There are a number of projects which have been used to line the pockets of politicians and their scion. Cases of mismanagement are replete in the County as hapless citizens who need these services watch and wallow in a miasma of fear and despondency.

One such example is the Sabatia Stadium project in Chavakali Location, Madegwa Village. The ground breaking ceremony was officiated by immediate former Vice President Moody Awori and witnessed by key political leaders in the area. This project was abandoned after about Kshs. 4 million has been wasted. The terrain of the land itself does not make it feasible and economically viable for such a project.

Another example is the Chavakali Market which was funded by European Commission at a cost of Kshs 48 million when complete. The project is being implemented through the Kenya Urban Development Program under the Ministry of Local Government. The workmanship on this project is deplorable as the constructor tampered with the original

design, thus compromising the structural integrity only to attempt to erect reinforcement beams after the ground, first and second floors were purportedly completed. A fully grown man cannot stand on the second floor as the ceilings are too low.

At Solongo Polytechnic in Chavakali Location, a mechanical garage and gate which is purported to cost Kshs 800,000 and Kshs 84,000 respectively leave a lot to be desired. It is a mockery of intelligence to insinuate that such amounts could have been expended. The immediate former Principal and District Youth Officers who have both been transferred were alleged to have colluded with the polytechnic committee to defraud the institution of unknown amounts of money.

The other project whose implementation is fishy is the Vihiga Municipal Hall under construction. So far 19 million has been spent according to the town clerk. A close inspection shows the ground floor is full of cracks.

The Chavakali Market and the Vihiga County Halls are disasters in waiting and supervising engineers from Ministry of Public Works should condemn such structures before human lives are lost at the expense of creed.

Community attempts to extract justice
Through the efforts of Neighbourhood Assemblies which are local forums responsible for community social audit of public projects, the Chavakali Market issues was pursued up to the Parliamentary Select Committee on local government. This led to the halting of this project. On the stadium issue, the community did a documentary which they planned to share with National CDF Management Committee, but the tape disappeared in mysterious circumstances thanks to the local leadership culpable in the scam.

Conclusion

The new constitution and rejuvenated Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) offer opportunities to fight graft. For this to be actualized, Kenyans must be extra vigilant and embrace the principles of constitutionalism to reap the benefits and gains ingrained in the letter and spirit of the new constitution. Otherwise, the self-serving political class will tamper with the constitution just like the independent constitution which was amended to assuage and massage egos of those who were in power then.

Petitions Case studies: Elwambilo Neighbourhood Assembly

Elwambilo Neighbourhood Assembly, Maseno, petitioned KACC over the alleged misappropriation of Kshs.800 000 allocated to both Ebussamba Primary and Secondary Schools.

Primary section: only one class was shoddily constructed. The floor had many cracks. The primary school received Kshs.400,000 for the work.

Secondary section: Similarly, there were substandard constructions of two class rooms. The floor had many cracks yet the school received Kshs. 400,000 from CDF to do quality work.

Esinamutu Bridge: The NA established that in that Kshs.600, 000 was allocated for the construction of the bridge. But according to investigation and the work on the ground less than Kshs.20,000 could have done a better job.

“We strongly believe that public resources on implementation of the mentioned projects had been misused,” said Barrack Okwiri, Convener of the Assembly.

Maseno Police Station, the NA also petitioned the Provincial Officer, Nyanza over police harassment and corruption at the station. The Police Officers were demanding between Kshs.3000 to Kshs. 5000 from people arrested on petty crimes and threatened to charge them with robbery if they did not pay. The Police were accused of dishonest, and harassment of poor citizens.

The petitions were forwarded to KACC, Hon. Wilbur Otichilo, MP Emuhaya Constituency, National CDF Secretary, District Commissioner Emuhaya, Councillor Mukhalakhala Ward, and the Headteachers of both Ebussamba Primary and Secondary schools.

Neighbourhood Assembly officials lead by Mr Okwiri, Phillip Ojok and Jeridah Mango are optimistic that the culprits will be arrested and charged.

Chanda Neighbourhood Assembly, social audits

In November 2010, Chanda NA begun social audits for infrastructure. Among the schools that were lined for the audit included: Chambiti Primary and Secondary Schools, Chanda ADC Primary School, and Lwang’ele Primary School.

On rural roads, the Assembly proposed to audit Onzere Bridge, Lwang’ele Bridge, Hedwe Bridge, Onzere/Endeli Road, Chavugami/Visiru Road, Chambiti/Visuru Road, Iduku/Magina Magere road, Iduku/Mbale Road, and Mpaka.

Other projects aligned for the audit included: Vihiga Municipal Council (LATF and LASDAP) funds, Vihiga Constituency Fund (CDF), and the Economic Stimulus Programme.

The NA officials lead by Joseph Libeya, Secretary, and John Juma, Convener, were enthusiastic that leaders of the proposed project will cooperate and provide relevant documents for the audits.

Large Vihiga Reconciliation and reform consensus Group

The group petitioned Vihiga Children’s Office on a case involving Oliver Ngoitsi the alleged the alleged pregnancy of a minor at Moi Girls Vokoli High School. The accused was summoned by the children office to no avail.

The group chairman, Samuel Esemere Obondo, is following up the case to ensure that the community protects the rights of children.

Usawa enhances women leadership

CPDA has contributed to enhanced women's participation in governance and decision-making processes at national and local levels. It has also actively lobbied for women's issues in Emuhaya, Hamisi, Vihiga, Kakamega South and the Trans Nzoia Districts.

Petitions

1: Insecurity in Emurembe location, Emuhaya: The community petitioned the provincial administration against the rising insecurity in the area when, a woman was robbed of her mobile phone, raped and killed. Another woman was raped on her way to the funeral of the first victim. The community petitioned the area chief and through support from the police, the culprits were arrested and aligned in court-in Vihiga.

2: Violence against HIV positive woman, Ebusakami, Emuhaya: The brother to a HIV positive widow was arrested after assaulting and accusing the lady of causing his brother's death. She was almost stabbed were it not for the intervention of the community. The culprit is now serving a sentence for attempted murder.

3: Ebusakami community petitioned against the Maseno University for ethnicity and favoritism in the employment of support staff.

4: Esianda Women Group petitioned and took legal action against an officer of an organisation providing micro finance. They conned the women group Kshs. 19,000.

These actions have enhanced gender equity and equality among community members to ensure that both women and men have a level playing field on issues pertaining to leadership and decision-making. *Usawa* lifted the veil of sexual and gender based violence and generated debate, discussions and action around it.

Some of the strategies that were used to included: consultative forums, interactive radio sessions in local FM stations, capacity building workshops, road shows, school debates, focus group discussions and development of IEC materials among others. The following is a summary of project outputs.

First, *Usawa* strengthened women's capacity in leadership and decision making processes at community level. Through the project interventions there is a remarkable increase of women taking up leadership roles as clan elders, Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Community development officers and Neighbourhood Assembly leaders among others. There is enthusiasm among women to vie for competitive politics in 2012.

Second, the project strengthened women's movement to lobby on gender concerns. At least one active gender lobby body was established per district. These lobby women groups have been vocal in advocating for women issues. A number of petitions were received and acted upon by the relevant agencies through the lobby groups.

Third, there is a remarkable increase in awareness on rights of women and state responsibilities both for state (duty bearer) and women (right holders). At least all officials of public institutions including local committees are aware

of gender concerns. This was possible through a combination of strategies including use of local radio stations such as West FM, roadshows, and Focus Group Discussions helped to commutate attitudes and perceptions on gender.

Fourth, there is improved community acceptance and perception about women and enhanced awareness on gender concerns. For instance, Tiriki community, one of the sub tribes of Luhya, is highly conservative, with low perception of women in leadership. Women are excluded from circumcision ceremonies of their sons. All initiates take an oath never to reveal the secrets of *idumi* even if offered a fortune or threatened with death. These secrecy and powers bestowed upon men inhibits the equality between men and women in the Tiriki Community. To break the barriers, Tiriki women demanded to be fully involved in the whole circumcision rites of their sons. Mr. Sumbah promised to share the concerns with the Tiriki Union, a high revered decision making organ of the community. For a start, women will be kept informed on status of their sons during circumcision in the forest.

Fifth, the project increased opportunities and resources for women to engage in viable economic ventures. At least 5 women groups' accessed resources to start small enterprises, and improve their activities. Among the groups that started entrepreneurial ventures included: *Inua ni Kuniue* women group in Emuhaya who started kitchen gardening. They also started tents and chair hire business.

Through the project, proposals and business plans for women groups were developed. The group was also linked to other micro finance institutions such as Family Bank.

Despite the notable progress of the project, concerted efforts from a diverse range of stakeholders should be harnessed to promote women's participation in governance and decision-making processes at National and local levels and actively lobby for women's issues. An inclusive approach involving all the key actors in the community-women, men, clan elders, youth, religious leaders, civic leaders, government officials, among others should be enhanced.

Leaders networking forum, Trans Nzoia



Gender mainstreaming and leadership



Women leaders in Vihiga sharing their lessons with their peers.

There is remarkable increase of women in leadership positions and roles at organizations and in communities. This follows numerous interventions CPDA has been undertaking.

Organizational and program assessments on gender mainstreaming which were undertaken in July 2009 affirms this. CPDA had conformed with prerequisite gender mainstreaming requirements internally and in communities served. This was attributed to training of key project staff and laying of effective strategies to address the identified gaps.

Further, CPDA reviewed her Gender Policy, HIV&AIDS workplace policy, and the strategic plan to confirm with the gender requirements. During the assessment, it was recommended that the organisation reviews her key governance and strategic documents to be in line with gender mainstreaming criterion.

“We have helped a number of women to take up leadership and decision-making roles in their communities. In our programme reporting, we adopted a gender approach with the participation of men, women, the elderly, and youth,” said Alice Kirambi, CPDA Executive Director.

Part of the actions was the development of gender information sharing system within the organisation. A gender desk was rejuvenated with updates on gender concerns. Additional or emerging information on gender was shared among all staff.

Other actions included fundraising to address some of the gender concerns at the community level. Through such efforts, CPDA received funding the *Usawa* basket fund to enhance women’s participation in governance and decision-making processes at national and local levels and actively lobby for women’s issues in Emuhaya, Hamisi, Vihiga, Kakamega South and Trans Nzoia Districts. Additional resources helped to empower citizens, particularly women and youth to understand, participate in and track implementation of the new constitution in Busia, Bungoma, Kakamega and Vihiga Counties.

As reported elsewhere, the organisation, contributed greatly to gender equality in the communities they serve. However, such efforts need to be sustained and replicated to realize an equal society for both men and women.

Gender Mainstreaming and Leadership Trajectory (GMLT)

Oxfam Novib started the GMLT in 2008. GMLT aims to create evidence-based change towards more gender justice sensitivity and practice at the organizational level of Oxfam partners and in their programs and the target communities, as well as internally at Oxfam Novib itself as follows:

1. Partners’ and Oxfam Novib’s programs and organizations to reflect proper gender mainstreaming.
2. Partners involved in the GMLT and Oxfam Novib to fulfill the Gender Traffic Light requirements.
3. Partners report about women in leadership and decision-making roles in their communities.

The results anticipated in 2010 were: Clear changes in priorities and strategies of programs supported, based on a gender analysis with the participation of men, women, elderly, youth at community level.

According to Oxfam Novib all partners have a green gender traffic light.

Organisations with green light have more women in leadership positions and roles (at organizations and in communities).

Partners and Oxfam Novib have also learned from each other as shown in outputs and outcomes.

In the meantime, more than 100 partners, mostly of Oxfam Novib, but also of other Oxfams, are participating in the trajectory. Many of them have done the organizational and program assessments on gender mainstreaming and have made action plans to improve them.

Inter schools gender equality debates



School debates finals at Keveye Girls High School. Musingi Boys High School emerged the winners of the competition.



The Usawa trophy

By Alternative Team

Western Kenya inter schools gender equality debates were held on 24th July 2010, marking a climax of informative gender discussions among 16 schools from Emuhaya, Hamisi, Vihiga, Kakamega and Trans Nzoia. Musingu Boys High School emerged the winners, followed by Vihiga Boys High School, Bunyore Girls High School and Keveye Girls High School, in that order.

The best speaker was Brian Mutila of Vihiga Boys High School, followed by Stephen Ochieng, and Phillip Mutin.

The winning school received a trophy, certificates and assorted supplies of motivation books from East Africa Oxford University Press. The best speaker received a certificate, textbooks and a cash reward of Kshs.5,000.

District preliminaries were held on June and early July in Hamisi, Vihiga, Emuhaya, Kakamega South, and Trans Nzoai Districts. The competitions reached 20 schools, 400 students and 52 teachers with gender equality messages directly. Cumulatively an estimated 5000 students

were reached indirectly through the approach.

While closing the school debates competition, Ms Alice Kirambi, CPDA executive Director urged students to embrace gender equality to achieve sustainable development.

“As an organisation, we are excited working through schools to create a future generation that appreciates roles of both men and women in development. We hope to expand the debates to cover other areas,” said Kirambi.

The teachers and students who participated in the debates expressed optimism that the approach will demystify gender equality and change societal attitudes that are discriminatory. They added that such competitions not only provided avenues for learning and sharing, but also contributed to students’ development in languages.

“Through the competitions, our girls and boys have gained confidence in articulating gender issues. We are happy that both teachers and students now

appreciate the use of gender sensitive language,” said Mr. Rao, teacher, Keveye Girls.

When CPDA began the competition, both teachers and students had minimal information about gender issues. But as the competitions progressed, they got enlightened and were eager to learn more.

The debaters for one had no idea about gender sensitive language. Women were constantly referred to as prostitutes, but after much sensitization it was realized that one could debate effectively without necessarily being abusive to another sex. Students became wary of using discriminatory language.

At the beginning most of the students’ language and grammar was wanting. Teachers used the opportunity to mentor and advice on identified grammatical weaknesses. The result was improved command of language and confidence among the debaters during the finals. Students debating skills and knowledge on gender improved tremendously.

“We are so grateful to CPDA through *Usawa* for supporting such initiative. We are looking forward to great opportunities to improve students’ language and understanding of gender,” said Mr. Kulali, a teacher at Vihiga Boys High School. “Such programmes should be held on annual basis and expanded to cover all parts of Kenya.”

Furthermore, dormant debating clubs in most schools were revived as a result of the gender equality debates. Similarly, debating clubs were established in other schools and there was overwhelming interest shown by the students in these new outfits.

CPDA received funding from the Gender and Governance Programme (GPP) umbrella fund to enhance women’s participation in governance and decision-making processes at national and local levels and actively lobby for women’s issues.

CPDA works through schools to raise awareness on gender equality and governance and women participation in decision making processes. School debates help to demystify skewed societal and cultural perceptions on gender and women empowerment. They also serve as a platform for networking and learning among different schools in the region.



Best Speaker, Brian Mutila, Vihiga Boys



Musingu Boys High School, won the competitions

Student speak: participating in gender equality debates

By Moraa Mellen, Keveye Girls High School

A larger part of a student’s life revolves around academic work. Often, there is little time spent in co-curriculum activities that help to mould an all round individual. However, I got a chance to break the monotony of academic work and participate in gender equality debates.

CPDA brought forth such a chance through organizing inter-schools gender equality debates and competitions. I took part in the competitions and emerged among the best debaters. I have learnt to pay attention to leadership, gender equality and women empowerment.

Since time immemorial, society always embraced gender stereotypes due to ignorance and patriarchal nature of society. The role of men and boys has always been directed towards achieving leadership while women perform chores that are discriminatory and shy from taking on leadership. However, this is changing greatly. Non governmental organizations and institutions have come out to emancipate women.

Questions like “Why should men only be leaders? why can’t a girl inherit her father’s property?” will arise no more. The small innocent boy will never wonder why he is told never to shed tears simply because is a man. The young girl in Wajir and Turkana will never wonder why she seldom goes to school like her twin brother. Boys and girls will have equal chances to be their parent’s heirs.

The girls from Kuria, Kisii, Pokot, Samburu and Maasai will never suffer the ogre of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This dream will come true if all Kenyans learn to appreciate the work of human rights organizations and capitalize on opportunities provided by the new constitution that has laid a clear framework for gender equality.

At last I can see light at the end of the tunnel. I have great hope in our country. I have a dream of peace, of an equitable and just society. This has just just began. It will never be a bed of roses but always an uphill climb to reach the desired destination. I see such a dream coming true through the noble interventions of CPDA.

Congratulations for taking the bull by its horns. As you soldier on, may you find prosperity and victory in attaining you goals. I pray for CPDA to continue empowering communities.

Water reforms ongoing but a lot remains to be done

A report by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) shows general improvement in sector performance.

The water services sub-sector, in recent years, has seen progress made with water coverage rising mainly in urban areas from 37% in 2007 to 45% in 2009. There is also a good indication of improved water and sanitation services in urban areas.

From the scores in the overall ranking of year 2008/9, Nyeri emerged as the best performing Water Service Provider (WSP), followed by Meru. Embu ranked third, followed by Malindi and Muranga in the 4th and 5th positions respectively. The five overall least performing WSP for the period 2008/9 were Upper Chania, Kwale, Rumuruti, Embe and Vihiga.

The performance of Water Services Board (WSBs) was in general disappointing. WASREB accused the WSBs of submitting little information on rural water supply and sanitation, investments undertaken, and subsidies received in the sector.

Further, sanitation coverage decreased by 3%, due to continued neglect and the tendency to disregard it as a household issue.

For the period 2008/9, it was established that limited investment and prioritization of sewerage affected its coverage to 8%.

Memories of severe water shortages in 2009 due prolonged drought are still fresh in many Kenyans. Water tankers were introduced by some Water Services Providers (WSPs) as a stop gap measure to get water to the urban population. However, most Kenyans in urban areas were left with no option but to rely on services provided by cartels and informal structures with the associated risk of source and quality problems.

The government implemented a borehole drilling programme that helped to construct 250 boreholes across the country. Additional 30 large dams were constructed for rain water harvesting.

As the 2011 drought become visible, the water sector will still be at the receiving end. This is compounded by lack of clear data on water access in rural areas.

In 2002, The Water Act led to the creation of institutions such as Water Service Providers (WSPs) and Water Service Boards (WSBs) under the ministry of Water and Irrigation – to ensure consumers have access to clean, efficient, adequate, and affordable water.

WASREB, a non-commercial State Corporation was established in March 2003 as part of the comprehensive reforms in the water sector. The mandate of the institution is to oversee the implementation of policies and strategies relating to provision of water and sewerage services. WASREB sets rules and enforces standards that guide the sector towards ensuring that consumers are protected and have access to efficient, adequate, affordable and sustainable services.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the water sector was only allocated Sh2 billion, a sharp contrast to the present funding of Sh15 billion. According to WASREB, the water reforms have also been undermined by resistance from councils and rural communities, lack of transparency among staff of water services boards, and expectations by water consumers that water should be free.

We hope the government and the stakeholders will address key challenges facing the sector including: sustainability, corporate governance, uncompleted staff transfers and transfer of assets, rural and water and sanitation, sanitation/sewerage services.

As provided for by the Water Act every citizen has a responsibility to improve sector performance and access to safe water and sanitation.

Best and worst performing Water Services Providers (WSPs)

Top Ten Best Performers		Ten Worst Performers	
WSP	Rank	WSP	Rank
Nyeri	1	Upper Chania	77
Meru	2	Kwale	76
Embu	3	Rumuruti	75
Malindi	4	Embe	74
Muranga	5	Vihiga	73
Nairobi	6	Kapsabet Nandi	72
Nanyuki	7	Kitui	71
Nakuru	8	Ndaragwa	70
Isiolo	9	Uasin Gishu	69
Kericho	10	Gusii	68

Source: IMPACT: A performance Report of Kenya's Water Services Sub-Sector, WASREB.

Water Act: An Act of Parliament to provide for the management, conservation, use and control of water resources and for acquisition and regulation of rights to use water; to provide for the regulation and management of water supply and sewerage services; to repeal the Water Act (Cap.372) and certain provisions of the Local Government Act; and for related purposes.

Vihiga Watersprings contaminated

By Joash Lagoswa, Health and Sanitation Officer, CPDA

Water from almost all water springs in Vihiga County is contaminated according to quality monitoring reports carried out by the Water Resources Management Authority through financial support from CPDA.

In the second phase of water quality monitoring, samples were taken on August 2009 and reports received on April 2010, from the Lake Victoria North Catchment Area (LVNCA).

According to Rose Ogara, Water Quality Officer, LVNCA, almost all samples from 25 springs had some form of contamination and it was recommended

that consumers treat their water before consumption.

Since early 2009, CPDA has undertaken water quality analysis for 50 water springs in Vihiga County. All reports were circulated to all concerned ministries, local authorities and concerned stakeholders. However, to date, there is limited government intervention to avert the situation.

Watersprings monitoring results

1. Wasara Water Spring: Slightly low pH and pollution. The water requires treatment before consumption.
2. Windiazi Water Project: Low pH and slight contamination. The water requires treatment before consumption.
3. Vagina Water Spring: The water is slightly contaminated. Treat it before consumption.
4. Wakadanda Water Spring: Establish the cause of very low pH and rectify for consumption to continue.
5. Wakayiya Water Spring: Raise the pH to the WHO values.
6. Warazaro Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
7. Wamango Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
8. Waivozero Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
9. Fudumi Water Spring: Contaminated water bacteriologically. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
10. Wilamoya Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
11. Wodanga Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
12. Walugai Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
13. Wamugoha Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
14. Womumarabu Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
15. Wigado Water Spring: Contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
16. Wangaira Water Spring: Highly contaminated water bacteriologically. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water well before consumption.
17. Wangwehona Water Spring: Highly contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
18. Igavuliva Water Spring: Contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
19. Wasilingi Water Spring: Contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
20. Wamuseve Water Spring: The water is contaminated. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
21. Maji Baridi Water Spring: Contaminated water, treat the water before consumption.
22. Wamayingo Water Spring: Contaminated water, boil before consumption.
23. Kegondi Water Spring: The water is contaminated. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
24. Wilivili Water Spring: Contaminated water. Establish the cause of pollution, eliminate it and treat the water before consumption.
25. Iheri Water Spring: Slightly contaminated water, treat the water before consumption.

“The results were disseminated to concerted water management committees for each water spring. We have seen some positive actions to prevent further contamination from a few water springs committees. Limited interventions from the government and concerned stakeholders are worrying,” said Alice Kirambi, Executive Director, CPDA.

The World Health Organization (WHO), set up some guidelines for drinking-water quality which are the international reference point for standards setting and drinking-water safety.

Water is essential to sustain life, and satisfactory (adequate, safe and accessible) supply must be available to all.

Improving access to safe drinking-water can result in tangible benefits to health. Every effort should be made to achieve the drinking-water quality for safety of consumers.

Those at greatest risk of waterborne disease are infants and young children, people who are debilitated or living under unsanitary conditions and the elderly.

Many of the water-related health problems result from microbial (bacteriological, viral, protozoan or other biological) contamination. Nevertheless, an appreciable number of serious health concerns may occur as a result of the chemical contamination of drinking-water.

The onus now remains with the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Local Authorities, Water Boards in the region, and Community Water Management committees, to ensure that residents have access to safe quality drinking water.

International HIV Highs, 2010

By PlusNews,

2010 was an exciting year for the fight against HIV, with dramatic developments in biomedical HIV prevention and a record five million people receiving life-prolonging treatment. It was year fraught with funding difficulties and the continued discrimination against people living with HIV&AIDS and other marginalized groups.

Microbicide breakthrough: After years of disappointing results, this year saw the first clinical evidence that a vaginal gel - known as a microbicide - could help to prevent sexual transmission of HIV. Such a preventative tool in the hands of women would radically reduce the level of new infections, analysts say.

ARVs for prevention: A new study found that daily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) - the use of ARVs to prevent HIV in high-risk groups - reduced HIV infection risk among participants who took the ARV Truvada by an average 43.8 percent.

Two-hour TB test: In December, the UN World Health Organization endorsed a new rapid test for TB that could potentially save millions of lives through earlier diagnosis.

Treatment 2.0: In July 2010, UNAIDS launched a new approach to HIV treatment aimed at simultaneously achieving two holy grails of the AIDS response: drastic reductions in AIDS-related deaths and new HIV infections. "Treatment 2.0" aims to drastically scale up testing and treatment using current best practices and future innovations in antiretroviral (ARV) drugs and diagnostics, with the aim of averting 10 million deaths by 2025, and reducing new infections by one-third.

Patent pool's first licence: In October 2010, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) became the first patent holder to join the recently created Medicines Patent Pool. By licensing the ARV Darunavir to the patent pool, it made the technology to produce it available for the benefit of low- and middle-income countries. UNITAID, the international health financing agency that established the pool, is optimistic many of the large

pharmaceutical companies will soon follow the NIH by licensing their own patented ARVs.

Easier travel: New rules allowing HIV-positive people to travel freely to the US came into effect early in 2010, ending a 22-year-old ban that had been widely criticized by AIDS activists as discriminatory and stigmatizing. China and Namibia also lifted HIV-related travel restrictions in 2010, but another 51 countries still have restrictions in place.

Universal Access: At the 2006 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS, world leaders expanded their commitment to include universal access to prevention, care and support and agreed to set national targets by the end of 2010. While a few African countries achieved universal access to treatment - Swaziland, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana and Rwanda - most did not. UNAIDS's new vision is: "Zero new infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths."

Funding crisis: The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria reported a US\$1 billion funding shortfall over the next three years. This upsets plans to dramatically increase HIV treatment numbers and puts people already on treatment at risk of drug resistance should funding affect the supply of their medicines.

Anti-MSM sentiment: Crackdowns on African MSM increased in 2010, leading AIDS activists to urge tolerance. Uganda continued to pursue its anti-gay bill, while Malawi arrested a gay couple who got engaged and Kenya's Prime Minister Raila Odinga called for the arrest of gays. Fears of legal action or public outrage often lead MSM to avoid health facilities where they could receive treatment and care and prevent governments from including MSM programming in their national strategies.

Threats to India's generics industry: India, widely thought of as the pharmacy of the developing world, has stood firm against attempts by large pharmaceutical firms to insist on patents on ARVs, allowing the country to continue manufacturing cheap generics. In 2010, however, activists warned of multiple threats to the nation's generics industry, including "Special 301", an annual review process led by the Office of the US Trade Representative, which

has placed India on a "priority watch list" for failure to properly enforce intellectual property rights, and a Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union. Activists claim the EU is using it to circumvent India's public health protections and boost its own pharmaceutical industry, putting millions of HIV-positive people's lives at risk.

Source: PlusNews,

In Kenya

Total War Against AIDS (TOWA) funding: NACC continued providing funding to Community Based Organisations through a call for proposal to respond to challenges related to HIV&AIDS. The TOWA round 4 targeted about 147 CBOs at constituency and district levels. The project is funded through a Kshs.6.6 billion credit from the World Bank.

The Kenya national AIDS Council Bill (KNAC) 2010: seeks to increase autonomy to NACC as a national coordination authority for HIV&AIDS in Kenya and to provide strategic and policy directions for comprehensive and integrated prevention and control programmes in the country.

Mass testing: approximately 50% of Kenyans have been tested for HIV at least once. This was attributed to intensified mass testing campaigns during the 2010 FIFA world cup where more than 1 million people were tested according to NASCOP.

Male circumcision: approximately 160,000 males were circumcised in Luo Nyanza, Turkana and Teso areas.
Universal Access: About 380,000 people in Kenya who are HIV positive were receiving treatment.

Vihiga, CPDA interventions
MARPS: CPDA initiated programmes to deliver HIV and AIDS Interventions to Most at Risk Populations (MARPS)-like sex workers, truck drivers, amongst others through provision of counselling, testing and referral services.

HIV counselling and Testing: More than 1000 people were tested through stand alone VCT centre and community outreaches.

Support groups: Established and strengthened 10 support groups to initiate income generating projects and encourage each other to live positively.

AIDS interventions targets PWD

By Mercy Awoundo, VCT Counselor

CPDA initiated counselling and testing services for people with disabilities in Vihiga.

“We received requests from representatives of PWD who complained that they were neglected,” said Rachel Yator, VCT Counsellor.

As a team we initiated PWD outreach at Kilingili Church and the responses have been impressive.

The team educated the PWD groups on various aspects of behaviour change and how to prevent themselves from HIV and live positively if infected. Through such actions more than 100 members of different groups received HIV testing and counselling.

“Our communication was facilitated by one of our staff who is both a VCT counselor and sign language interpreter,” added Rachel.

One of the groups later established Awake Kilingili Neighbourhood Assembly to serve as a platform for agitating for PWDs rights.

Since 2009, CPDA has been active in carrying out VCT community outreaches targeted at Neighbourhood Assemblies (NAs), market centres, bars and restaurants, churches and other opportunistic gatherings. More than 2,000 people have been Counseled and tested through such interventions.

A global survey on HIV and AIDS and disability conducted by the World Bank and Yale University found that people with disabilities (PWDs) were not yet factored in the HIV sector, despite being vulnerable to a variety of known risk factors.

Similarly, the authoritative medical journal, *The Lancet*, has reported that PWDs generally have limited access to health services and that care can be expensive and physically inaccessible. Barriers include restrictive cultural norms, lack of mobility aids, lack of communication skills by service staff, marginalisation in the community, illiteracy, lack of education and gender inequality.

Illiteracy makes communicating HIV messages more difficult. Sex-education programmes for PWDs are rare, and few HIV and AIDS campaigns target (or include) disabled populations.

Electronic media campaigns further marginalize the hearing-impaired and the visually-impaired, respectively. The need to design messages with all kinds of disabilities in mind is paramount.

Research reveals that the negative attitudes PWDs often face within healthcare facilities discourages them from seeking help about their sexual health. Cost-effective technologies to enhance PWDs' access to information on HIV, including the production of materials in Braille and the repackaging of existing materials to target PWDs is needed.

Although this represents a significant segment of the population, the relationship between HIV and disability has not received due attention to date. Moreover, a growing number of people with HIV are also living with new impairments as a result of HIV-related illnesses and the side-effects

of medications. Additionally, persons with disabilities are part and parcel of the community and also experience the same, if not more, HIV risks as others in the community. Therefore, there is an urgent need to further investigate the vulnerability of people with disabilities to HIV infection.

Clearly, needs to mainstream HIV and AIDS among PWDs from communities into national policies for effective handling are urgent. Governments and donors should seek to support innovative projects initiated by PWDs that address their specific needs.

In Kenya such interventions are ad hoc and often constrained by resources and lack of prioritization by the policy makers.

supporting community health

CPDA is contributing to the government's community health strategy through training of Community Health Workers and Home Based Care Providers. This has enhanced community involvement in planning and organizing for health care improvement in Vihiga.

To date, CPDA had trained 50 Community Health Workers and 98 Community Based Care Providers to scale-up community-based interventions and link with the referral health system.

The actions of these resource persons have at a low level contributed to improved quality care, reduced health costs, and contributed to broader community development. They have facilitated social mediation between the community and health facilities, provided informal counselling and social support to the marginalized members of the community. Their expertise is based on their understanding of communities rather than informal education.

The National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2005-2010 (NHSSP II) intended to reverse the decline in the health status of Kenyans. NHSSP II lays out a series of supporting measures ranging from community involvement, human resources and financial management, to monitoring and evaluation, infrastructure, and institutional reforms.

As per 2007 estimates, Kenya needs a total of 255,000 CHW/HBCs (50 per sub-location for 5,100 sub-locations), to be trained, supervised and supported by 5,100 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs).

Concerted efforts are needed to address the challenging facing HBC and CHWS such as regular retraining, providing incentives for their work, and providing them with resources such as drug kits, mobile phones and bicycles.

Case study: tea reforms



Digital tea buying: Viyalo Tea Buying Centre

Part of tea reforms are already being felt among small scale tea farmers and these efforts should be appreciated and sustained. As signs of good management and transparency in the sector beckons, so the urgency grows of putting into action compressive tea reforms. It is clear that the road in reforming the sub sector requires fundamental changes from farmers, buying centres, factors, brokers, auctioneers, retailers and other actors.

Tea buying now digital, Viyalo Tea Buying Centre, Mudete factory

Tom Olendo, chairman of Viyalo tea buying centre, has for the past few months seen improved changes in weighing of green tea leaves. As the chairman he has witnessed minimal complains from farmers since the digital weighing dubbed "*Smart Weighing System*" was introduced in October 2010.

Such reforms did not just take a day. It took years of agitation and persistence to achieve such as success.

"We never gave up. We kept reminding factory managers of the need of such a system to ensure transparency and minimize falsification of weights," said Olendo. "We are still agitating for the introduction of weightless bags."

"Everything is now clear and transparent. We are able to see how our kilos are tabulated with minimal interference from the clerks," said Martha Mideva.

Overall, the factory has become more responsive to farmers needs and the incomes have begun improving. He pointed out that most bags used for collection were new as opposed to old

and tattered ones. The new fleet of trucks replaced old trucks in tea collection.

Similarly, the bonus has been steadily increasing. In 2010, farmers received an annual bonus of Kshs.25 per kilo up from Kshs. 19 in 2009 and Kshs.9 in 2008. It was clear that the farmers were so motivated on the returns and hoped that future prices will even be better.

"It was all smiles this year. Some farmers who leased tea from other farmers earned up to Kshs.500,000," added Olendo.

Similar sentiments were affirmed by Wilson Simango whose tea income rose to Kshs.23,000 from Kshs.9000 in 2010.

Efficiency in production

Mudete tea factory has been implementing strategies to minimize production costs through adoption of new production technologies, adaptation of ICT, improved technologies, mechanization and use of alternative sources of energy such bargase from surrounding sugar industries.

"Since the introduction of new rollers and other new machines, the factory minimized the cost of production a great deal. Work that was done by 40 workers is now managed by 2 workers," said Evan Luvaga, Senior Mechanic at the factory.

Not just there

But the farmers are not just there. There are still complains of delays in tea collection, and weaknesses of tea buying committees to provide effective leadership.

For instance, at Keveye Tea Buying centre, gloomy and tired faces of farmers and tea pickers linger. One of the tea pickers, Timina Mugaba, noted that they sacrifice so much to get their pay of Kshs.80 per day.

"I have not eaten since morning. It is now 2.30pm and we are likely to wait until 7.00pm for our tea to be collected," added Timina. "It will be terrible if the clerk rejects my tea. I will not be paid for the day."

There is need to empower farmers, and leaders at the tea buying level to enhance efficiency and motivate more farmers to tea farming.

a bitter cup

A recent report dubbed “*A Bitter Cup*”, affirms that very little of the profits included in the retail price of a box of tea goes to the tea-producing country. Whilst multinational corporations reap large rewards, tea workers and small holder farmers are condemned to a life of penury. A small holder tea farmer makes just (1 %), factories (7%) for each £1.60 box of tea bags sold in foreign markets. The big gainers of tea markets are multinational retailers mainly supermarkets (53%), and blenders (33%).

Despite a booming tea global business and massive revenues tea sales generate, workers who pick and pack the leaves face horrendous conditions and earn far below a living wage. In Kenya, the report notes that tea pickers are employed on a day-to-day basis so they can be easily laid off when their labour is not required. This forces them to seek new employment each day, making their lives extremely precarious. They wake up not knowing how far they will have to walk to find work, or if there is any work to be found. They have no benefits at all, and missing a day’s work for illness or any other reason often means they cannot afford to eat that day. It is a terrible shame to all multinationals in the industry.

Similar trends are affecting livelihoods of 500,000 small-scale tea farmers in Kenya. The returns to the small-scale farmers have historically remained lower than that of plantations and other big producers. This is attributed to high management fees charged by factories, many taxes imposed on small-scale tea farming, high cost of production, long and inefficient supply chain and general mismanagement. The situation is made worse by negating voices of small-scale farmers have who have remained at the bottom of the hierarchy in terms of participation, influence and contribution to decision making in the sector.

In 2007, a Tea Industry Taskforce was established to make recommendations on the challenges facing the Tea Industry. Despite some progress in implementation of the recommendation, the proposed government Bill to amend the Tea Act, (Chapter 343 of the Laws of Kenya) is an ideal to introduce necessary reforms in the tea sub-sector and to harmonize the Act with the current policy changes in order to promote a vibrant, competitive and prosperous tea industry.

Contacts with small scale farmers, tea pickers, key stakeholders in the sector, and some legislators from tea growing areas helped to come up with recommendations that were shared to key policy makers in the sector.

First, minimize the number of actors in tea value chain to maximize profits for small scale tea farmers and increase wages for tea pickers. This can be done through further liberation of the sector to allow factories to undertake value addition to their produced tea and have direct links to foreign markets.

Second, curtail introduction of suspicious levies that will further dwindle returns. The proposed amendments seek to provide for a value- based financing model from a volume-based model for the Tea Board, by removing the *manufacture cess* as the source of funds and introducing an *ad valorem levy* on all made tea to be charged at the point of import and export. Instead, *manufacture’s cess* be retained and amended to provide additional support in development of small scale farmer associations to enhance their capacity in agitating for farmer’s rights.

Third, curtail highhandedness and arrogance among the key institutions in the sector. A comprehensive review should be undertaken to ascertain the impact of sector liberations on lives of small scale farmers. There are numerous accusations of malpractices, highhandedness, wastage and lack of efficiency in the value chain.

Fourth, recognize the implementation of regulations and requirements on environment, labour, food safety and hygiene. Compliance with ethical and social practices in the tea industry such as Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP, Fairtrade Labeling Organization UK (FLO), SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard (RFA-SA), UTZ Certified Tea Code of Conduct and Chain of Custody, GlobalG.A.P. (EUREGAP) Tea, among other international standards.

Fifth, the government should provide subsidies to tea farmers to cushion them against the increasing fertilizers prices.

If such reforms will not be undertaken, the next option is to mobilize global rejection of Kenya tea to put pressure on the tea actors to accord decent returns to farmers and tea pickers.



Only 1% goes to small scale farmers and tea pickers. Source : A bitter cup, published by War on Want, 2010

Tea reforms project

CPDA received funding from SOMO to empower small scale tea farmers to effectively participate in governance and management of the tea sector in Kenya. The project, titled *Empowerment of Small Holder Tea Producers in Kenya*, seeks to facilitate existence of an established network of informed small holder tea farmers who can demand and advocate for effective leadership, and farmer-conscious management of the tea sub sector.

A series of national and county consultative meetings and trainings on tea reforms were held during the year. CPDA petitions on the proposed amendments on the Tea Amendment Act 2010 were appreciated by policy makers.

Ultimately, the project will respond to problematic issues of smallholders including: low farm green prices, poor extension services, limited market channels, poor access to credit and low level of farmer organisation.

The project seeks to achieve the following results: a) improved service provision to farmers especially- payments, tea collection, and provision of extension to improve yields; b) Improved relation between the farmers and factories through effective information flow; c) increased representation of farmers in factories; d) Enhanced linkages and networks among farmers, extension providers, research institutions, micro-financing institutions and other stakeholders.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Young Women in Development

By Christine Akoth, Children and Youth Project Officer

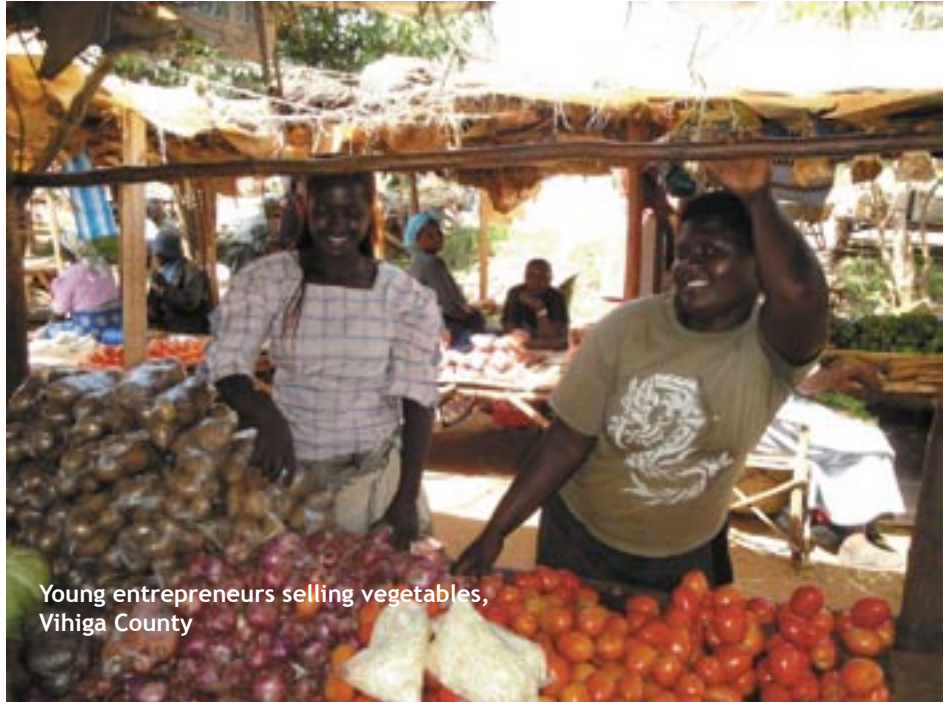
A pool of empowered young women on governance, leadership, human rights, entrepreneurship has been created in Vihiga County. This follows successful CPDA interventions that built capacity of young women to take up leadership and engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The following are a few of young women whose success is greatly influencing others.

Susan Madera, Wangasa Youth Group
She is one of the Community Outreach Trainers who formed the Mwangaza and Umoja Youth Groups. These two groups are registered as Community Based Organizations.

Umoja Youth Group, where Susan is a member, has a mini bakery that produces *mandazi* and *chapatis* that they sell through schools. The group also makes baby comforters and plant napier grass for sale. They do table banking and merry-go-round to boost their individual businesses. They received a

Below: Representatives from AWDF during project monitoring visit with CPDA Executive Director, Alice Kirambi (Second from left) and Christine Akoth, Youth and Children Project Officer, extreme right.



Young entrepreneurs selling vegetables, Vihiga County

loan of Kshs. 50,000 from the *youth fund* through the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The group is composed of 15 young people 4 men 11 women.

Susan also sells groceries. From the proceeds she bought a dairy cow. She confesses that she is experiencing peace in her marriage because she does not solely depend on her husband to provide for her and the family financially.

Jackline Kigungu

Jackline was an employee at a Wines and Spirits shop and saved money with Post Bank to start a shop business. She then started baking and selling *Mandazi* and *Chapatis* both at wholesale and retail. She joined a young women's group and got a loan to boost her business. She also

bought a plot and has started constructing it. She is now comfortable in her house. Jackline has 3 employees.

Jackline Ajema

Ajema is a 33-years old widow with 3 children. She was not employed previously when her husband was alive. After his demise, she accessed the YWD trainings through a Neighbourhood Assembly near her. From the training on entrepreneurship, she started tea business through a soft loan. She also sells second hand clothes. When her husband died, her house was grass thatched and was leaking. Through a women group merry go round, she bought 35 iron sheets and built a semi permanent house. Ajema also does farming; she grows indigenous vegetables for sale.



Young women in development project
In October 2009, CPDA received funding from the African Women Development Fund (AWDF) to implement a one year project in Vihiga District, Inzava North and South Locations. The project builds on successes of the Youth Empowerment on Development and Leadership Skills - YEDLS that CPDA implemented in Vihiga District, Chavakali and West Maragoli Locations. A few years down the line, YEDLS impact changed many youths not only within the project areas but also from surrounding locations. There are several success stories of young people who are now receiving steady incomes after trainings and mentorship through the project. Further, other young people established youth groups which are providing positive community interventions.

Supporting women entrepreneurs

A report by the International Finance Corporation and The World Bank established that women entrepreneurs in Kenya were contributing significantly to employment and economic growth.

The report dubbed *Voices of Women Entrepreneurs in Kenya* noted that women-owned businesses were making a significant contribution to the Kenyan economy. Their businesses account for about one-half (48 percent) of all micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which contribute around 20 percent to Kenya's GDP. Of the 462,000 jobs created annually since 2000 in Kenya, 445,000 jobs have come from the informal sector, where 85 percent of women's businesses are found.

However, there are certain barriers that still impede the growth of women enterprises. One of the most important barriers is women's unequal access to property and land. In Kenya, only 1 percent of land titles are owned by women, with 5 to 6 percent held in joint names.

Second, taxes and customs are a particular challenge. Over 60 percent of women perceived taxes and customs as constraints to their business growth, compared to only 40 percent of men.

"It's difficult for someone who is starting a new business. The VAT tax is very cumbersome," says Jane Kibati, Topaz Tea Packers.

The report summarizes key issues facing women entrepreneurs including access to land, property rights and finance as well as access to the formal sector. The report looks at the difficulty that women face in enforcing a contract and the impact of international trade. It includes profiles of successful Kenyan businesswomen who are role models and whose stories provide inspiration for young women to start entrepreneurial activities.

Further anecdotal evidence from *Support for Growth-oriented women entrepreneurs in Kenya* published by the Africa Development Bank, notes that women entrepreneurs falls in three segments. Women in each segment differ slightly from those in others in terms of their demographic profile, extent of previous business experience, capacity, needs, access to resources (credit, premises, and BDS), and orientation towards growth. The first segment is that of the Jua Kali micro-enterpriser. The women who own these enterprises, often unregistered and in the informal economy, have little education (less than secondary level), and are constrained by their lack of entrepreneurial and business know how, access to credit, and awareness of markets and market opportunities.

The second segment is comprised of women with very small (6-10 employees) and small enterprises (over 10 employees) who have a minimum of secondary education, previous experience as employees in a public or private sector enterprise, and supportive husband who may be directly or indirectly involved in the business. Their businesses are generally registered and operate from legitimate business premises. Although these women are more likely to access

Recommendations

- Enhance access to land and property rights as provided in the new constitution
- Develop and implement policies that access to finance and collateral.
- Review the Registration of Business Names Act so as to have a streamlined regime that complies with international best practice.
- Access to justice: Ensure proposed national legal aid system adequately addresses gender issues, and strengthens community based justice.
- International trade: Promote gender awareness and social responsibility through appropriate engagement with the private sector.
- Strengthen the developing Private Sector Development Strategy (PSDS).
- Work to strengthen women's businesses associations to better advocate for needed change.

business development services (BIDS), training and micro-finance, they are still constrained by access to financing. The third segment is made up of women with university education, who came from entrepreneurial family backgrounds, have experience in managerial positions in the corporate world, access to financial means and supportive husbands. They own the medium and large enterprises that thrive and are widely recognized in the country.

All women entrepreneurs whichever their segment will greatly benefit from a supportive environment that encourages women to "go for it." There is lack of social and cultural support for the role of women as entrepreneurs; women are subject to stereotypes.

There is need to develop and implement an integrated approach for supporting the start-up and growth of women-owned, enterprises in Kenya. The framework entails policy/programme coordination and leadership, promotion, access to credit, entrepreneurship training, business support and information, association, network and research.



A woman selling vegetables, Chavakali market, Vihiga County.

Uganda: launch of the civil society accountability principles and practices toolkit

By Alice Kirambi, CPDA Executive Director

Ugandan CSOs launched an accountability toolkit to improve their performance and image.

The event held on 12th on April 2010 at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala was a culmination of series of learning and consultations among the CSOs in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

Mr Seth Lartey, Governance and Democracy Programme Manager, Commonwealth Foundation, was encouraged with the initiative and promised to replicate similar initiatives in other countries such as Kenya.

Ugandan CSOs have been developing various instruments to generate awareness and commitment to values and principles of accountability beyond the usual codes of conduct.

The journey towards CSO self regulation started in 2004 with a group of CSOs that formed the “CSO Think Tank” to confront the issues of accountability in Uganda. The output and outcomes of that group had a far reaching effect on the sector. First it led to the development of the 2006 CSO Minimum Agenda which later informed the development of the Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism (QuAM) in 2006 and later the 2009 CSO Accountability Toolkit which was developed with professional assistance from the One World Trust.

The advantages of CSO self regulation are many. They enhance self regulation if adhered to it can help in raising the profile of CSOs, enhance credibility, legitimacy, autonomy and protection as well as better cohesion and good governance amongst CSOs.

The Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA) developed the toolkit to improve performance and image of the CSO sector so as to restore public trust. The toolkit will provide another opportunity for the sector to reflect internally on the topic of accountability and strengthen practice.



Kenyans celebrate ratification of the new constitution. Kenyan CSOs played a critical in agitating for the new constitution

The concept of CSO Accountability as defined by the One World Trust includes “the processes through which an organisation makes a commitment to respond to and balance the needs of stakeholders in its decision making processes and activities, and delivers against this commitment,” (One World Trust, 2007). It is important to note that the focus of CSO accountability should not be looked at in isolation because it is a sub set of a broader crave about accountability from everyone in a position of power at all levels including governments providing accountability to their citizens; the private sector to their stakeholders; politicians to their constituencies; civil society to their stakeholders as well as parents to their families and friends (Newell et al, 2006).

More specifically, all CSOs should put in place basic measures and processes that are aimed at facilitating accountability principles and practices. These include the Constitution, Codes of Conduct, Vision, Mission, Values, Target Groups, Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes as well as systems and structures for ensuring that there are efforts in place to ensure programme and financial responsibility. Unfortunately, for many in the CSO sector, these have become more trendy and not a motivating factor for the organisation’s operations.

CSOs need to take responsibility and focus more on ‘accountability from within’ and stop paper accountability, as well as upward accountability to donors. Importantly, they need to invest more resources towards achieving downward accountability. In so doing, there is need to interrogate the sector’s functioning by looking at questions to do with integrity, effectiveness, credibility, transparency and accountability. Primary focus should be on financial, programme or performance accountability as well as an inbuilt improvement system because accountability is a process and not an end in itself.

The launch was attended by Government, NGOs, CBOs and FBOs representatives. Seth Lartey represented Commonwealth Foundation, UK that funded the development of the toolkit. Alice Kirambi, of Christian Partners Development Agency gave the Kenyan perspective of CSO Self-regulation. Zaa of Tanzania National Council for NGOs presented highlights from Tanzania. Bonnie Kiconco Mutungi provided an overview of Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism (QuAM) in respect to Uganda. The official launch was conducted by a representative of The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government.

INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

Staff briefs: Christine Njeru

Christine Njeru joined CPDA team early 2010 as a Gender Programme Officer.

Christine was instrumental in implementation of gender and governance programmes in CPDA.

She successfully coordinated the inter-schools gender equality debates that brought together more than 20 schools and more than 500 students. The officer was also instrumental in gender equality, leadership and mentorship trainings and forums that CPDA organised in Vihiga and Trans Nzoia Counties.

She was also instrumental in pre and post referendum civic education activities including organizing the Western Kenya Usawa road show, coordinating West FM in interactive radio session and managing a network of Community Facilitators.

Christine holds a degree in Law from the University of Nairobi. She is well versed on gender and governance programmes in the country.



Strategy developed, plans for launch

CPDA has finalised developing her strategic plan and is gearing for its launch in the cause of the year.

The 10 year strategic plan covering the period 2011 to 2020 seeks to progressively propel CPDA's operations to 16 Counties across the country.

Since 2009, CPDA has been reviewing and focusing her intervention to reflect the future aspirations. A series of strategic planning meeting were held to shape the plan.

The overall goal of the plan is to partner in development for the advancement of equitable communities in Kenya and beyond through research, advocacy, capacity building and developmental programme that empower them to respond more effectively to their needs.

The strategic plan will guide our governance and democracy, sustainable agriculture, climate change and environmental protection, community health and sanitation interventions.

“We are now looking ahead beyond Kenya and the East Africa community Common Market protocol offers great opportunities to expand our interventions to other countries in the region,” said Emmy Sumbeiywo, Chairperson, CPDA Board of Directors.

The onus now remains fundraising for the implementation. CPDA hopes to seek partnerships with private companies, government and donor agencies to realize its implementation.

“Our plan is ambitious and can be realized by increased commitment from ourselves, development partners, government sector and private companies. Let us now, and in the years ahead, join together to ensure that the plan is translated into concrete, focused and sustained action and results,” adds Alice Kirambi.

Workplace support

Many organisations strive to maximise returns from their human resources.

Various researches on management and leadership affirm that creating an environment in which staff can become passionate about organisation's vision leads to prosperity. If staff are passionate and consistent, reinforcing consistent messages, then people we serve will quickly understand and have affinity to services.

The challenge is to make their human resources resonate with the organization vision and aspirations. Why is this so?

We should be reminded of Dale Carnegie's quote, “When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but creatures of emotion.”

Fortune magazine established that staff was more motivated by the sincerity of the relationships at work. Passionate employees described their work culture as an extension of home, or like being with the family. They spoke enthusiastically of their colleagues as being supportive. They said that their managers were genuinely caring; every single employee really matters. These employees looked forward to going to work - a place to maximise their talent with like-minded people.

Successful institutions are built on high calibre relationships which in turn reflect on the way employees treat their customers. As Richard Branson was quoted, “If you look after your internal customers, you don't have to worry about the external customers.”

Organisations strives to motivate staff by;

- Providing opportunities for training and development
- Operating an ‘open door’ policy in which service leaders and managers are approachable
- Leading by example and displaying consistent and genuine behaviour which also translates into leaving your personal problems at home;
- Having respect for a good work-life balance - e.g. offering the opportunity for flexible working;
- Fairness at work, including promoting equality and diversity;
- Proactive and regular communication, and regular staff meetings;
- Regular appraisals with positive feedback - restating service objectives and recognising staff contribution;
- Encouraging teams to be innovative, via staff suggestion schemes;
- Empowering staff to own community problems and ‘Go the Extra Mile’ for them;
- Gaining staff feedback on how employees feel about their roles;
- Offering employees the chance to socialise with colleagues at organised events, team building events, talent shows,
- Recognising and rewarding employees for exceptional performance and innovative ideas to improve the customer experience.

Mr Yap, from Singapore Airlines stated: “Because when we look after our staff well, our staff look after our customers well. It is a very simple statement, but also a very powerful statement.”



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