

### **CPDA Awarded funds to implement UNDP's democratic governance facility**

Christian Partners Development Agency (CPDA) has been awarded funds (USD.50, 000) to implement the UNDP Civil Society Democratic Governance (CSDG) Facility emerging issues fund 2008/9.

The award was received during the fund's induction workshop and launch held on March 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Merica Hotel, Nakuru.

Under the initiative CPDA will implement a project dubbed "*Reconciliation times -Nyakati za marejeano*" in Rift Valley Province (Narok North and Narok South districts); and Western Province (Vihiga, Kakamega and Busia districts).

Through the project CPDA plans to enhance community participation in national dialogue and reconciliation processes. It is hoped that the six month project will result to enhanced capacities for community participation in the national dialogue and reconciliation processes; and the constitutional review processes. It will also lead to improved political and ideological tolerance among communities to peacefully co-exist in Narok North, Narok South, Vihiga, Busia, & Kakamega districts.

Among the planned activities for the project include: conducting of a study to assess the impact of the post election conflict on women and girls and advocacy activities on justice for women, People Living with HIV (PLHIV), People with Disabilities (PWD) among other vulnerable groups in Narok North & South, Vihiga, Busia, and Kakamega districts. The project will also build capacity of community representatives, women and vulnerable groups from each district to enhance their participation in the truth, justice and reconciliation processes; and the constitutional review processes. It will also help to maximize people's voices through collection of views from 1000 people in Narok North, Narok South, Vihiga, Busia, and Kakamega districts for presentation to the TJRC and other Commissions. A report dubbed "*A thousand voices: The peoples voices on National Dialogue and Reconciliation*" will be published and disseminated. In addition, civic dialogues and reconciliation processes will be conducted through focus group discussions, theatre performance and district workshops. Further, the project will seek to strengthen local and traditional mechanisms for peace building such as "peace committees".

Overall objectives of the CSDG Facility to enable citizens to benefit politically, socially and economically from a more accountable, just, transparent and democratic society that upholds respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Second objective is to support civic engagement which empowers all people to influence public policies through CSOs, voluntary associations, trade unions, political parties, private sector organisations and citizens' audits.

It is an initiative supported by a number of development partners that intends to focus, in the initial, on the priority areas targeted by the Governance, Justice, Law and Order Sector (GJLOS) reform programme. To date, four (4) donors have contributed to the Facility. These are The Royal Netherlands Embassy, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Royal Norwegian Embassy (Norway) and UNDP. While the main focus will be the GJLOS reform areas, the facility is not formally linked to GJLOS or the government.

The project builds on the lessons learnt while implementing the Uraia's National Response Initiative (NRI) which CPDA was spearheading in 2008 for peacebuilding dialogue, healing, reconciliation, and justice processes in the Western province. It sought to provide immediate

and long term interventions to facilitate good neighbourhood, conflict prevention, peace building, and reconciliation in Butere -Mumias, Busia, Lugari, Teso, Mount Elgon, Bungoma, Kakamega and Vihiga districts of Western Province.

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