

Monica Mutuku
Chief Executive Officer
Kenya Community Development Foundation

Kenya Community Development Foundation evolved out of more than two years' discussions and analysis, drawing inspiration from the community foundation movements abroad and similar institutions in developing countries. With impetus and funding from the Ford Foundation, KCDF began in 1997 as a project of the Aga Khan Foundation. Since its inception, the organization has not only established itself as a credible grantmaker, but has also learned, matured, and, recently, gained independence as a registered Kenyan organization. More recently KCDF has made inroads into endowment building and is now set to raise the US \$ 650,000 in time for the September 2003 deadline.

With a vision of "All Kenyans giving and working together with permanent resources for equitable development", KCDF aims to "effectively mobilize resources for building permanent funds for grantmaking towards the development of communities." The organization balances two main functions of asset development and grantmaking, ensuring transparency, accountability and Kenyan ownership through sound management, structure and governance. KCDF, earlier operating under the custodianship of the Aga Khan Foundation, was registered in August, 2001. It is governed by a board of directors to whom the chief executive officer reports. Key achievements over the past five years include set up of office, hiring of staff, formation and functioning of a board of directors, disbursal and grant commitments of U\$ 568,487, and establishment of an endowment fund.

Monica Mutuku is the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Community Development Foundation. Her specialty is in overall leadership and management of the organization, grantmaking for community and organizational development and fundraising. Ms. Mutuku has made a significant positive impact within a short span of four years. Several goals were completed, including the creation of a fully operational office, successful recruitment of high calibre staff, and the formulation of a grantmaking program, in which grantees were identified and given grants of more than Ksh. 25 million. An effective monitoring system has ensured integrity in financial management of the funds, including the receipt of audited accounts from the grantees. Communications and asset development strategies were designed. Other achievements included the formulation of an Endowment Challenge program, strengthening of the Management Committee (Board) that is now properly functioning with annual retreats and Board Development workshops, and a fundraising program in full operation.

Ms. Mutuku has over thirty years in the development field with extensive and intensive involvement in planning and design of a wide range of development programs. She has played a major implementation role in projects involving varieties of

communities/localities, and at all key operational levels with widely varied employers and experiences. This very successful career has enabled her to acquire a wide range of skills: human and financial management in governmental, UN and currently the Civil Society sector; public policy advocacy and development; leadership; institutional/organizational development; strategic planning and financial management; training and facilitation; fund-raising; capacity building of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based organization (CBOs); and most importantly, people management skills and invaluable expertise in the field of community development.

She earned her MSc from the University College London – Urban Development Planning – (The DPU) in 1986, and a diploma from the University College Swansea – Social Development and Administration in 1973. Awards have included WOMAN OF THE YEAR: Selected for Year 2000 by American Biographical Institute, and EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN OF THE 21st CENTURY – Nomination received from American Biographical Institute.