

## FAILING LEADERSHIP IN KENYA

**Kenya seemed to be moving energetically towards becoming a prosperous democracy. Then, at the beginning of this year, there was a sudden relapse. Dubious election results led to a violent struggle with ethnic overtones between supporters of the opposition and followers of the president. Hivos supports local organisations that work to promote social and economic cohesion. Cohesion is needed in order to put Kenya back on the rails – and to keep it there.**

‘The violence has a deeper origin than the election results, which showed the incumbent president to be the winner’, says Kawive Wambua, coordinator of the local Hivos partner CRE-CO. ‘For decades, the country has suffered from an unequal distribution of power and prosperity. Since the British colonial period, the

Kikuyu tribe, of which the president is a member, has generally been shown favour in comparison with the other tribes.’ Add to this the fact that the political elite – of any and all parties and tribes – takes good care of itself. Because of failing leadership, nowhere in the world are income differences as great as they are in Kenya. ‘To avoid new problems with violence, Kenya really needs a better constitution’, says Wambua. ‘One that offers more guarantees for fairer access to land and other resources.’ CRE-CO, one of the six Kenyan organisations supported by Hivos, has been working to achieve a fair constitution for years.

*To learn more about and/or to get in touch with CRE-CO and other Hivos partners in Kenya, e-mail Hivos officer Tamme Hansma: [t.hansma@hivos.nl](mailto:t.hansma@hivos.nl)*

### HIVOS PARTNER ISIS-WICCE

## ‘FIGHTING NOT DUE TO TRIBAL DIFFERENCES’



» Ruth Oijambo Ochieng

**When the fighting started in Kenya, Ugandan Ruth Oijambo Ochieng’s heart was worried sick for the women in that country. Global research by her international organisation, Hivos partner Isis-WICCE, has shown that, in conflict situations, masses of women become victims of the most horrifying abuse.**

‘Rape, and even wilfully spreading HIV/AIDS, is used all over the world as a strategy in conflicts’, says the Isis-WICCE director. ‘The shame among women; the grief of their male relatives; the fear of becoming infected with HIV and the death of those who are infected: this can tear communities apart.’ Isis-WICCE documents the experiences of women, whose voices are generally less well heard than those of men. It then enables them to share their experiences with others – for example, in video documentaries or stage plays. Anonymously, to prevent stigmatisation. ‘The sharing

encourages the women and those around them to work through their trauma’, says Oijambo Ochieng. ‘And this, in turn, limits the chances of revenge and new violence.’ Isis-WICCE urges politicians worldwide to protect women better. And to involve them in peace processes: because they are responsible for caring for their families, they generally attach greater importance to peace. ‘In our courses on conflict analysis we teach women that armed struggles do not arise from tribal differences, but from poor national government, poor distribution of natural resources and marginalisation of population groups. We bring women from different tribes together, so that they see their similarities. They become friends while their husbands are shooting each other. These friendships brought a faster end to the fighting in Uganda, for example.’

*Would you like to learn more about Isis-WICCE? Visit: [www.isis.or.ug](http://www.isis.or.ug)*

**Note: if your organization has interesting projects or activities to share with other Hivos partners, please contact Kathelijn Fenger at Hivos: [k.fenger@hivos.nl](mailto:k.fenger@hivos.nl)**

## COFFEE COALITION EXPANDS ITS WORK TO TEA AND COCOA

The Coffee Coalition has been in existence for five years. At its anniversary meeting on 18 April in The Hague, it will present its new name: Tropical Commodity Coalition (TCC). Under this name, the coalition will expand its field of work from coffee to include tea and cocoa.



Improving the miserable living and working conditions of coffee pickers in developing countries: this was the objective of the Coffee Coalition, a cooperative alliance of five NGOs – including Hivos – and two trade unions. With successful campaigns and lobbying activities in the Netherlands and in coffee-producing countries, a great deal has been achieved in the coffee chain. The market share of certified coffee has grown considerably. This success has inspired the renewed coalition TCC to

turn its attention to other commodities: tea and cocoa. 'There is still plenty to be done as far as coffee goes, but we are expanding our horizons', says Sjoerd Panhuysen of the Coffee Coalition. 'The tea and cocoa sectors have problems similar to those for the coffee sector, such as child labour and slavery.'

*Would you like to learn more about the Coffee Coalition or the Tropical Commodity Coalition? Send an e-mail to Sjoerd Panhuysen (s.panhuysen@koffiecoalitie.nl) or visit (starting in April) [www.teacoffeecacao.org](http://www.teacoffeecacao.org)*

## ISEAL'S BASIC STANDARD HELPS SMALL PRODUCERS

Small producers in developing countries are completely confused by the proliferation of social and environmental standards in production chains. To find a way out, Hivos and its partner ISEAL Alliance are now developing a single basic standard, one on which other standards can build.

As an umbrella organisation for worldwide labelling organisations (such as Max Havelaar), ISEAL works to improve the position of small producers. But also to make production more socially and environmentally friendly. Whether it is for the fruit, cotton or coffee industry, ISEAL wants to improve cooperation between all the parties in the chain: small-scale farmers and fishermen, packers, sorters, traders and consumers. To achieve this, the alliance has now developed a single simple and user-friendly basic standard. ISEAL members are working to reach agreement on this via a 'harmonisation procedure'. In this well-regulated procedure, all those involved – from producers to consumers – can systematically give their comments on the proposals. An expert committee of stake-

holders then records and aligns the comments. In combination with management training, for which Hivos offers support, the basic standard can ensure that millions of small-scale producers no longer miss out on income. At the moment they do miss out on income because they do not meet certain quality requirements. By using the basic standard, they will show that they are working on quality improvement. As a group that stands for quality, they will have a voice on the world market. And if they let this voice be heard, they will be in a better position to safeguard their income.

*Would you like to learn more about the ISEAL Alliance? Send an e-mail to [sed@hivos.nl](mailto:sed@hivos.nl) or visit [www.isealalliance.org](http://www.isealalliance.org)*

## HIVOS STIMULATES MICRO-FINANCING IN ECUADOR

The Red Financiera Rural (RFR) in Ecuador will continue to receive support from Hivos for the next three years. 'It is a successful network of micro-financing organisations', says Hivos staff member Ben Leussink. 'They have been especially good at lobbying the government. The organisation is truly considered a fully-fledged negotiating partner.'

In 2007, RFR administered a portfolio of 847 million dollars, with which it was able to help 626,000 micro-entrepreneurs and poor families. RFR provides a range of financial services, such as distributing economic information, setting up a training centre for entrepreneurs and negotiating on financial legislation. Hivos became a member organisation of RFR in 2002. Leussink: 'Hivos works to support umbrella organisations. This is a good way to exert influence on developments in a national sector. RFR is an excellent example of this. The organisation has members all over the country and carries out programmes itself – such as training programmes to teach and coach smaller micro-financing institutes so that they can grow.' The support promised by Hivos last November will pay the organisation's operating costs for the coming three years as well as the sponsorship of special projects.

*For more information on RFR: [www.rfr.org.ec](http://www.rfr.org.ec)*

## BOLIVIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK SEES CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT

'It was time for someone else. It is healthy for an organisation to come under new management every few years. It creates room for new ideas.' These are the words of Diana Urioste, until December 2007 executive director of Coordinadora de la Mujer (CoMujer).

Hivos has supported this Bolivian network for women's rights since 1996; not quite a year later, Urioste started as its director. 'From our founding in 1984 we were a network of women's organisations, without a head office, and primarily oriented to La Paz. But with the active support of Hivos, we became an institute with a nationwide scope.' Under Urioste's leadership, demonstrations, lobbying and research helped improve the position of women in Bolivia – for example, in respect of domestic violence or political participation. Chantal Verdonk, Hivos programme officer, says that 'Urioste's biggest accomplishment is that she started a process of self-reflection within CoMujer. This led the organisation to take more active part in the Bolivian women's movement. It entered into coalitions with other social movements, in particular those of indigenous Bolivian women. This gave significant impetus to the proposal drawn up for the Constitutional Revision Meeting, which does justice to the visions of all Bolivian women.' Urioste passed on the baton to another great name in the Bolivian women's movement: Katia Uriona Gamarra. She will continue to be active as an advisor of several organisations.

*Would you like to learn more about CoMujer? Send an e-mail to [drag@hivos.nl](mailto:drag@hivos.nl) or visit [www.coordinadoramujer.org](http://www.coordinadoramujer.org). This website is in Spanish.*

## BIOCOTTON PRODUCTION IN KYRGYZSTAN

Sustainable agriculture as a means to increase the income of small farmers in developing countries. This is an important objective of Hivos, and the work of its Swiss partner Helvetas connects seamlessly to it. For example, in the BioCotton Project in Kyrgyzstan.

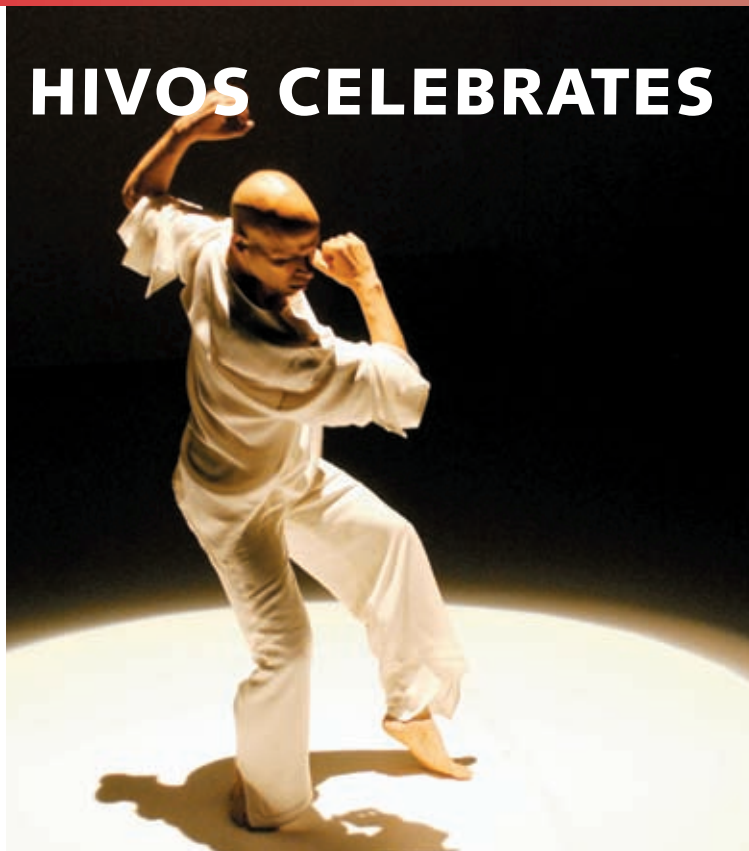
Here producers learn to cultivate cotton organically. This means, for example, that farmers rotate crops each year, so as not to deplete the soil. Thanks to this sustainable agriculture, the soil productivity increases. This yields a bigger crop, resulting in higher earnings. What is more, Helvetas has set up a system of internal controls. To guarantee organically produced cotton, cotton producers undergo inspections to make sure they are working organically. They must also keep records of all processes they carry out on the land, such as the use of manure or fertiliser. These records are used to determine whether they adhere to the standard rules of organic farming. Together

with the farmers, the Swiss partner has also set up a farmers' organisation and a commercial organisation that provides services. Both of these are to have become self-sufficient by the end of 2010, so that the farmers can carry out their own commercial activities, such as purchasing seeds, arranging transport and sales. Right now Helvetas takes care of these aspects. The BioCotton Project is so successful that expansion will follow in other regions and in Tadjikistan.

*Would you like to learn more about Helvetas? Send an e-mail to [sed@hivos.nl](mailto:sed@hivos.nl) or visit: [www.helvetas.ch](http://www.helvetas.ch)*



## HIVOS CELEBRATES



## 40 YEARS

On 19 June Hivos will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a big event in the Dutch capital of Amsterdam.

Festivities will start in the afternoon with 'The Power of Diversity': a symposium for invited guests, including Hivos partners, on human rights, freedom of opinion and pluralism. Hivos will continue its birthday party in the evening with a cultural programme, treating the public to divergent performances such as poems from Zimbabwe, a Kenyan one-woman show, a visually compelling performance by the Indian dance group (and Hivos partner) Attakkalari, and an appearance by the Colombian salsa band La 33.

Wanted: correspondents for worldwide media network Metropolis! Do you know video journalists or film makers who enjoy reporting on both major and minor events in their life? Ask them to get in touch with Alex Klippel via [metropolis@vpro.nl](mailto:metropolis@vpro.nl)

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTS ON TELEVISION AND INTERNET

'Metropolis TV' is the name of a new television programme by Hivos and Dutch broadcasting company VPRO. The programme, consisting of

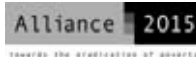
short international items, will be broadcast on Dutch television once a week starting from 4 April. The films can be viewed all over the world on the Metropolis website: [www.metropolistv.nl](http://www.metropolistv.nl).

The videos will show events -large and small- around the world: from New York to Kinshasa and from Tokyo to

Calcutta. The choice of subject varies widely: from 'obesity' to '15-year-old girls' and from 'driving lessons' to 'death'. The object of the programme is to show how globalisation affects daily life differently in different parts of the world. The reports are made by correspondents from all corners of the world and have a personal slant. In a readily accessible, non-academic manner, the programme will highlight the differences as well as the similarities between countries and cultures. Metropolis TV shares the Hivos belief in allowing alternative and critical voices to be heard from societies, based on the view that greater variation in the information supply leads to diversity, discussion and a more open society.



Hivos is a development organisation which stands for emancipation, democratisation and poverty alleviation in developing countries. For this purpose financial and political support is given to more than 800 local private organisations in 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The seven policy spearheads of Hivos are financial services and enterprise development; socially and ecologically sustainable production; human rights and democratisation; HIV/Aids; arts and culture; gender, women and development; ICT and media. Part of the work has been decentralised to four regional offices in Zimbabwe, India, Indonesia and Costa Rica.



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