

## **CIDA update for KAIROS Supporters**

### **October 21, 2011**

KAIROS recently received a response to its CIDA proposal of March 2010. In a letter dated Sept. 22, 2011, CIDA states that the application is being rejected because it would not be “good value for money.”

This was the second proposal, submitted by KAIROS in March of 2010, following the November 30, [2009 rejection of KAIROS’ original partnership renewal](#). This second proposal demonstrated how the work of our partners clearly fit within CIDA’s new stated priorities. This is the proposal that has, once again, been explicitly rejected.

“Value for money” normally refers to an inexpensive consumer product of good quality. But, international development is not a product. It is a Canadian obligation and commitment which since 2008 has been framed by the [ODA Accountability Act](#). This law sets three conditions for our foreign aid, namely that it: “contributes to poverty reduction”, “takes into account the perspectives of the poor” and is “consistent with international human rights standards.”

Cost effectiveness is an aspect of accountability and KAIROS has consistently demonstrated this benchmark to [CIDA auditors and independent evaluators](#). However, the key criteria to which international development proposals must adhere are these three legislative standards. We believe KAIROS proposals—with their focus on working with poor and marginalized communities to build human rights capacity (including capacity on economic rights)—have exceeded expectations in aligning to Canada’s core international development criteria. \*See CCIC’s recent [briefing paper](#) for a discussion of the Government of Canada’s Report to Parliament on the ODAA Act.

Chantal Bilulu, a KAIROS partner from the Democratic Republic of the Congo currently in Canada for our [Living Courage Tour](#), is just one of many partners saving lives, building peace, renewing livelihoods and building capacity for their countries’ long term transformation. Chantal accompanies rape victims, works to provide legal support to women, transforms school curricula towards peace education and helps to introduce legislation to end impunity around sexual violence. Canadians would be proud to support this work of such great value.

The real question is not value for money but how we and [our partners](#) live out our values of human rights and ecological sustainability, values that are important to Canadians. Canadian development funding has a proud history of supporting transformative work by many diverse organizations. Now that history is being changed into a bottom line approach that will hinder rather than promote development.

We recognize the value of immediate humanitarian aid in times of crisis. The provision of food and emergency supplies is often required, but so too is the commitment to address structural issues such as violations of dignity, rights and ecological health.

KAIROS helps people who are changing current structures that allow hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and human rights abuses to occur. We are proud of our vibrant, relevant, engaging program and the long-term partnership relationships that enliven our collective work.

We are concerned, as are many in the international development community, with the way that's CIDA's new competitive process is disrupting the work and impact of Canadian NGOs and their Southern partners. We are likely to see more strong Canadian organizations, with long histories of best practice in transformative development, lose funding.

With your help, KAIROS has more than just survived CIDA cuts. We are not going away.

We continue to be sustained by the encouragement of our global partners who have borne the brunt of the cuts. It is their witness and example of strength in the face of terrible odds that has inspired us to carry on together.

Thanks to the advocacy and generous support of KAIROS' [member churches](#), local networks and new supporters who donated gifts of time and money, remembered KAIROS in prayer, met with Members of Parliament, and wrote letters to their local papers, the CIDA funding cut, though painful, was not fatal. KAIROS continues to move forward with a dynamic program working for human rights and ecological sustainability.

KAIROS thanks all of its wide network of supporters for your inspiration and encouragement throughout many years and especially during the CIDA crisis.

At this time, KAIROS calls on our supporters to:

#### ACT

- Engage with our current program of human rights and ecological sustainability. Join in the KAIROS campaign, ["Truth, Reconciliation and Equity: They matter to us!"](#)
- If you feel called, re-engage with your Member of Parliament on this latest development. We do not expect a renewal of funding to come from your advocacy, however we do think it is important that MPs (with whom so many of you developed a relationship) hear the results of this process, and your ongoing concerns for the future of transformative international development. Please let us know how your meeting goes by contacting Caroline Foster at [cfoster@kairoscanada.org](mailto:cfoster@kairoscanada.org).

## PRAY

- Please hold KAIROS, our partners and our work in your prayers.

## GIVE

- Consider becoming a [KAIROS Companion](#) (or if you are a group, a [KAIROS Community](#)); this is a gift of time and relationship that we would greatly value as we move forward as a vibrant, faithful social justice organization.
- Consider a [donation to KAIROS](#)