

# Transforming civil society

Finalist — Drivers of Change Civil Society Award:

## **Foundation of Civil Society**

Since its establishment the Foundation of Civil Society — the largest grant-making and capacity-building organisation in Tanzania — has taken great strides in transforming the country's civil society sector.

It has gained national and international recognition as a catalyst in developing effective support mechanisms and capacity-

building initiatives to promote and support poverty reduction activities undertaken by civil society organisations (CSOs).

The judges found that the foundation "has set up a comprehensive model to enable civil society to deliver effectively on their mandate — notably, the adoption of a code of ethics to guide the activities of CSOs to promote good governance and accountability, recognition of best practices and financial support".

Other milestones include a

programme to enable civil society organisations (CSOs) to use ICT to maximum effect by facilitating the development and hosting of websites for these organisations, free of charge.

A directory of CSOs is in the pipeline. It will not only list all the addresses of CSOs in Tanzania, but will contain information on the geographical coverage of their work, sector, vision/mission, key activities and achievements, annual budget and number of employees.

— *Mitzi du Plessis*