

# 2012

## ANNUAL REPORT

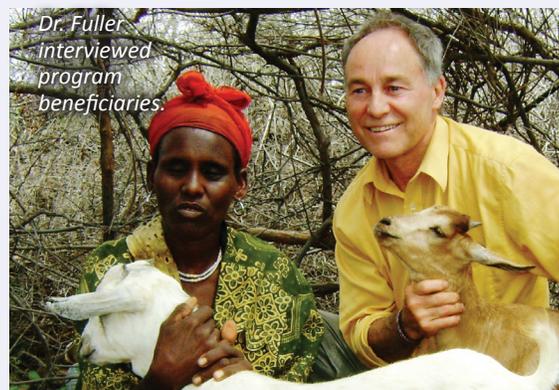


[WWW.SAUTIMOJA.ORG](http://WWW.SAUTIMOJA.ORG)

## Friends of Sauti Moja,

At the September AGM, I once again felt fortunate to participate in and witness the success of Sauti Moja, now celebrating six years of growth. Project reports, laced with touching narratives about the lives of our beneficiaries, transported us over rutted roads to the deserts of northern Kenya and the savannah of Maasailand in Tanzania. We joined our dedicated community health nurses, counselors, teachers, livestock experts, and community leaders who bring tangible help to the most vulnerable women and children.

Imagine our joy and celebration, even tears, to hear of widows telling how their goats, donkeys and camels give them significance and sustenance for their children; to learn that a 15 year old mother whom we helped return to school is now going to college; to visit a class of malnourished preschoolers receiving healthy lunches and instruction; and to participate in 'community conversations' where village women and youth, who have never had a voice, are engineering behaviour change related to family, reproductive health, and HIV prevention. A highlight was hearing about a unique peace-making process led by women widowed by livestock raids and ambushes; there is reason to believe that this approach will save lives and bring peace and safety where fear and death have paralyzed farming, commerce, education and travel.



When you, our sponsors and donors, send gifts, you become partners in the very personal hands-on work done by Sauti Moja. This is not a box of pencils, Walmart shoes, and dolls impersonally tossed off a truck, somewhere. In contrast, our managers - Tim, Lyn, Corey, and Jenaya - and national staff have lived in these communities, share their vision, and lend support to the faithful effort of community leaders and local agencies who bring health, hope and well-being to the most vulnerable. We thank you for joining hands with the Sauti Moja Team to bring tangible, life-changing support to our beneficiaries.

*Dr. Ernie Fuller*  
Chairperson, Sauti Moja

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**On the cover:** This single mother had just given birth to her baby, but came to the meeting to receive her Sauti Moja camel. Her smile conveys the joy of that day. Photo by Kelvin Honsinger, ERDO.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As in each previous year, donations in FY11-12 (\$144,745.65) increased, however income was less than costs for our growing programs. Expenses exceeded income by \$7,955.88. A summary of program expenditures for FY11-12 follows.

| EXPENSES FOR FY11-12  |     |                     |
|---|-----|---------------------|
| Child Mothers (education, advocacy, healthy babies, etc.)           | 31% | \$46,862.90         |
| HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care  | 22% | \$32,997.84         |
| Sustainable Livelihoods <sup>3</sup>                                | 16% | \$24,897.73         |
| Early Childhood Development (LECHE) <sup>1</sup>                    | 17% | \$25,902.55         |
| Organization and Staff Development <sup>2</sup>                     | 3%  | \$3,898.80          |
| Administration and Fundraising in Canada                            | 8%  | \$11,847.86         |
| Global Education (training, literature, and hosting field visitors) | 4%  | \$6,293.85          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |     | <b>\$152,701.53</b> |

You may access further financial detail by visiting Canada Revenue Agency's website: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities)

<sup>3</sup> **1000 Widows Initiative:** In addition to the finances accounted for in the above table, Sauti Moja manages a grant of ~\$535,000 over four years that was provided by **Canadian Food Grains Bank (CIDA funds) and a partner agency, ERDO**. This grant was based on our management capacity and the success of our livestock program. It enables scale-up of activities to an additional 20 communities where we set up community livestock banks. These banks are owned and managed by our beneficiaries - single mothers with young children, but without livestock to provide food and income for the family. This grant has increased the funding for our livestock work, but less comes through our Canadian accounts. Nevertheless, **funds are still needed for some livestock activities not covered by the CFGB/ERDO grant.**

<sup>1</sup> This includes \$3,179.05 transferred to Sauti Moja - Tanzania toward construction of Oltepesi classroom and waterline.

<sup>2</sup> These are capacity-building costs of our partner agencies - Sauti Moja Marsabit and SautiMoja - Tanzania.



**Left:** Knowledge about family planning helps single mothers prevent unplanned pregnancy.

**Centre:** Girls in training on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention

**Right:** Ngayok, a community advocate for HIV/AIDS testing, tells her story to visiting donor, Kathy Platt.

## FAMILY HEALTH

Sauti Moja supports increased food security by providing livestock to female-headed households, but this is sometimes stymied by the unplanned birth of babies. This increases household food requirement and the workload of women. Inadequate food combined with lack of knowledge about disease prevention and good diet contribute to child malnutrition and mortality. HIV/AIDS also contributes to food insecurity, as affected people have less capacity for work and require more calories, especially if they are taking ARVs. Training and provision of services to help women prevent unplanned pregnancy, reduce risk of disease, and provide proper nutrition to children are considered integral to achieving household food and nutrition security.

Sauti Moja has initiated Family Health training for livestock beneficiaries. The focus is family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and child health and nutrition.

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

Over the past six years, Sauti Moja has counseled more than 100 young girls with unwanted pregnancy, as well as found sponsors for about one-third, ie. those child mothers who have the ability and desire to return to school. Now, we are complementing that work with training girls on reproductive health – prevention of pregnancy and STIs, including HIV/AIDS. This is complemented with life skills training - long-term perspectives and good decision-making, self-esteem, effective communication, and resisting peer-pressure. Kenyan and Tanzanian girls attend these trainings during their school breaks.

This year, partial funding for reproductive health education is being provided by the Libra Foundation. Jenaya, our Africa Program Manager who has a Masters in Public Health, collaborated with Lucia and Martha, our Community Health nurses, to develop culturally-appropriate training materials.

## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY FOR HIV/AIDS TESTING

Among Maasai communities, there is a myth that, based on appearance, one can tell whether or not a person has HIV/AIDS. Of course, that is not true, especially if the infected person has been taking ARVs for an extended period and has good nutrition. Nevertheless, popular misconceptions persist where local evidence contradicting this is lacking.

Nookitoip Ngayok is a courageous woman from Mairowa who considers herself fortunate in that she receives treatment for her disease, participates in a peer support group, and has been provided, by Sauti Moja, with a donkey to carry water for the family. She looks healthy and is able to care for her family and blind husband well, though she suffers some community discrimination due to publicly disclosing that she is HIV positive.

Nevertheless, Ngayok attends meetings in other villages where she challenges people to guess whether or not she has the disease. They are astounded when they learn that this vibrant, energetic woman is infected by HIV. Credible, courageous women like Ngayok are invaluable partners in shattering myths, encouraging people to get tested for HIV, and if they are infected, secure life-giving treatment!

*Training and provision of services to help women prevent unplanned pregnancy, reduce risk of disease, and provide proper nutrition to children are considered integral to achieving household food and nutrition security.*

**Left:** Amina, a sponsored girl who received full Government scholarship to study engineering, is shown with Martha, her Sauti Moja counselor and mentor.

**Centre:** Grace, a Borana girl sponsored by Sauti Moja, studied peace-making, and provided an inspirational message to widows at Peace Day.

**Right:** Parents laying waterline for construction of the new preschool in Oltepesi.



## A CHILD MOTHER STUDIES ENGINEERING

Dr. Jane Wilkinson is an ObGyne Specialist and mother of four girls. As Jane cares deeply about women and child rights, she notified Sauti Moja of her interest in sponsoring a vulnerable girl. Amina, a depressed and impoverished girl who had been out-of-school for four years and had two children, was the fortunate beneficiary of Jane's compassion. This year, Amina completed secondary school. Due to her hard work and good marks, competence in math and physics, and financial need, the Kenyan Government awarded Amina a full scholarship to study power engineering. She is a model of hope to other child mothers in despair and demonstrates the importance of empowering young women through education.

Martha, our Program Manager, is delighted that another girl has responded so well to dedicated counsel and care; as one child mother said, "Martha loves us more than our own mothers!"

## WIDOWS FOR PEACE

The people of Badasa (Borana tribe) and those of Songa (Rendille tribe) lived in harmony for decades. However, in recent years, there has been an increase in violence that originated in conflict over access to limited water resources and grazing land. This has been further fueled by politicians, business men and small arms dealers who benefit from conflict. Hundreds have been killed, leaving both communities with impoverished widows who lost their husbands and the livestock needed for survival. Many agencies have conducted peace meetings with community leaders, but these have generally ignored women and victims of conflict.

This year, Sauti Moja initiated a livestock program that brings 10 widows from each of the two villages together. In spite of local criticism for 'meeting with the enemy', these courageous widows gather to engage in peace-making activities, as well as learn about care for the

livestock that we have given them and about family health.

Already, some women have stayed overnight with their new friends in the 'enemy community', and most have joined in establishing a small 'peace garden' located between their villages. We expect widows to fulfill their pledge for peace by giving a female offspring to a widow of the other tribe - the ultimate sign of a changed heart for those who place high value on livestock for survival!

## ROTARIANS VISIT LONGIDO

Twenty-four Rotarians came from Ontario, Canada to learn about the community-based HIV/AIDS prevention and care program which they had generously donated to. They visited other programs, too, and had opportunities to gain insight into Maasai culture and the socio-economic challenges facing pastoralists.

One of the highlights was their visit to the Oltepesi preschool, where they saw enthusiastic and competent teaching, as well as children receiving nutritious lunches. After observing deteriorating state of the traditional classroom made of mud and sticks, several **Rotarians made a commitment to help finance a new classroom for Oltepesi**. In addition, they committed to securing **40 subscribers for Kids4Kids** – [www.sautimoja.org/Kids4Kids.pdf](http://www.sautimoja.org/Kids4Kids.pdf) – which will help provide operating costs for the Oltepesi preschool. In addition, they committed to securing 40 subscribers for Kids4Kids which will provide operating costs for the Oltepesi preschool.

In 2013, another 20 Rotarians will come to Tanzania to participate in construction of the preschool. Community members have already installed the waterline in preparation for the new classroom.

*In spite of local criticism for 'meeting with the enemy', these courageous widows gather to engage in peace-making activities, as well as learn about care for the livestock that we have given them and about family health.*