

2013

ANNUAL REPORT



WWW.SAUTIMOJA.ORG

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FRIENDS OF SAUTI MOJA,

In the past seven years, Sauti Moja’s programming has grown from about \$30,000 in annual expenses to almost \$183,000 plus \$115,000 of grant money that we manage in Kenya. This large growth reflects on-going support from the Trustees and management team, the charity of our friends, the dedication and competence of Sauti Moja staff in Kenya and Tanzania, and the confidence that granting agencies have in our program quality. We appreciate all members of the Sauti Moja community!

This year, we placed a major emphasis on developing social media tools that provide donors with better understanding of the incredible difference that they make. We have much to celebrate, and the stories of transformation are found on our blog (www.sautimojablogspot.ca), on Facebook, and on YouTube. All of these are accessible from the Home page of our website – www.sautimoja.org.

However, we are also under strain, as demand from and expectations of pastoralist communities greatly exceed our current capacity to respond. In order to enhance our ability to respond, we



Tim and Lucia, Sauti Moja's Family Health Coordinator

recognize a need to focus on building stronger partner agencies – Sauti Moja Marsabit and Sauti Moja-Tanzania. We are seeking additional grants from other agencies. And, we hope that you will join us by continuing your financial support and letting others know of the opportunities that we provide to impact the lives of a few. Together, we can do so much more!

Tim Wright
Founding Director, Sauti Moja

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations in the current financial year were \$183, 441.54, which included \$25,535 contributed for a special project, construction of a preschool in Tanzania, and \$24,000 for food aid. At year end, Sauti Moja had liabilities of \$20,826.54, which we are struggling to pay-off in FY13-14. A summary of program expenditures for FY12-13 follows.

EXPENSES FOR FY11-12		
Child Mothers (education, advocacy, safe birthing, healthy babies, etc.)	30.0%	\$54,857.80
Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family planning, child health, etc.) Prevention and Care	18.1%	\$33,066.31
Special project - Food Aid	13.6%	\$24,788.30
Early Childhood Development (LECHE)	12.7%	\$23,254.86
Sustainable Livelihoods ¹	8.7%	\$15,921.95
Special project – Preschool construction	6.6%	\$11,987.81
Administration and Fundraising in Canada	5.2%	\$9,423.68
Global Education (training, literature, and hosting field visitors)	2.7%	\$4,874.79
Organization and Staff Development ²	2.6%	\$4,727.49
TOTAL		\$182,902.99

¹1000 Widows Initiative: In addition to the finances accounted for in the above table, Sauti Moja managed livestock-related expenditures of \$114,970.26 for August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013. This accounting period approximates Year One of a four-year grant provided by Canadian Food Grains Bank (CIDA funds) and a partner agency, ERDO, in support of sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable widows and single mothers with young children. This grant has increased the funding for our on-going livelihood activities. **Funds are still needed for livestock activities not covered by this grant.**

²These are capacity-building costs of our partner agencies – Sauti Moja Marsabit and Sauti Moja - Tanzania.

You may access further financial detail by visiting Canada Revenue Agency’s website: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities



COMMUNITY LIVESTOCK BANKS (CLB)

For seven years, Sauti Moja has provided livelihood support to widows and single mothers with young children. They receive livestock and veterinary medicines, as well as training in animal husbandry and marketing. To-date, **300** female-headed households have received livestock to provide food and reduce women’s workload. With a recent grant from Canadian Food Grains Bank and ERDO, Sauti Moja has enhanced this activity.

Selection of beneficiary communities is based upon whether other agencies are providing livelihood support to vulnerable women, number of vulnerable women, and support by chief and elders. When criteria are met, a new CLB is established - livestock are the asset, beneficiaries own and manage this asset, and livestock are loaned to the beneficiaries. As well, beneficiaries select new beneficiaries who are eligible for livestock loans once the initial ones are paid off with the female offspring. Women are empowered, as they rather than the elders have control. We now have nine CLBs.

In each CLB, beneficiary women have nominated and we have hired a Community Facilitator to support them. This person collects livestock data on each household, including reproduction and dispersal of animals; visits homes to ensure good care of livestock; monitors child health; and arranges trainings for livestock management and family health. We consider the CLBs to be a viable community asset that will support other vulnerable women, even after this project ends.

WIDOWS OF CONFLICT: WOMEN FOR PEACE

Sauti Moja established a Community Livestock Bank with widows from communities in conflict. These women had lost their husband and livestock due to raids from the other tribe, and now, they are in a process of healing and reconciliation. The final act of reconciliation is giving livestock, their most-prized possession, to a widow from the ‘enemy’ – a

member of the tribe that killed her husband and stole her livestock.

These women are becoming very influential agents for peace in their communities, as elders and government recognize their potential. Some examples demonstrate their positive impact. When there was a fire in Borana rangeland, the Rendille widows organized men in their community to go fight the fire to help the Borana; the next day, the Borana men invited the Rendille men to a goat roast to show appreciation. Also, when a young Rendille warrior stole Borana goats, a Rendille widow told the man’s mother that he must return the goats or she would report him to the police; his mother forced him to return the goats! Further, as children learn from a young age about ‘the enemy’, our beneficiaries have developed drama presentations about peace and reconciliation for school children; now, other communities have asked for them to come to make presentations in community meetings. To view the ‘Peace-Making in Marsabit’ video, go to www.sautimoja.org, and click on YouTube.

EMERGENCY FOOD

Again, drought has taken a severe toll on the poor. They cannot afford the high prices for food, and there has been little opportunity for casual farm labour that normally provided some income or food for vulnerable women. Further, as only a few of the goats and camels provided had given birth, there was still no increase in household food security for our beneficiaries.

Sauti Moja sought funding from ERDO to help our beneficiaries bridge the period of food shortage which will end when their livestock start giving birth. For four months, we provided food aid (maize, beans and oil) to 125 beneficiary households plus additional food for sharing with neighbours. (In contrast to our individualistic society, it is important that people in a communal society share food in order to not isolate themselves from their neighbours.)

Left: Elders discuss a new CLB for widows in their community.

Centre: Paul, our Peace Coordinator, facilitates discussion among women for peace.

Right: A beneficiary happily shares her relief food with a neighbour.

To view the ‘Peace-Making in Marsabit’ video, go to www.sautimoja.org, and click on YouTube.



Left: We thank Jenaya Rockman for her technical and management support to Sauti Moja Tanzania.



Centre: Lucia training in family planning.



Right: Kuro's deafness does not hinder with training in carpentry.

... many rural women and youth have requested testing for HIV, and the Ministry of Health has provided Lucia, our Family Health Coordinator, with supplies for providing this service.

FAMILY HEALTH IMPACTS

In the past year, Sauti Moja completed its pilot project in Family Health training for women who received livestock under the 1000 Widows Initiative funded in partnership with ERDO and Canadian Food Grains Bank. More than 200 women participated in 10-sessions of Family Health training which included family planning; prevention of STI's, including HIV/AIDS; prevention and management of diseases common to children; and proper feeding practices for infants and children. These trainings equipped beneficiaries to become a valuable information resource in their remote villages where there is inadequate health care and no public health outreach. Now, they can care for themselves and their children better.

Women without livestock are the 'invisible' poor, but when provided with livestock and family health education, the tables have turned. These women are empowered and social status is enhanced, as they are sought out for their knowledge. Read more about this transformation at <http://sautimoja.blogspot.ca> and select 'Livestock + Education = Empowerment'.

Recently, young warriors and girls have also asked for training due to the frequency of STIs among them; the number attending continues to increase. As well, many rural women and youth have requested testing for HIV, and the Ministry of Health has provided Lucia, our Family Health Coordinator, with supplies for providing this service. Those testing positive are being provided with follow-up medical support and counseling.

CHALLENGING STIGMA OF DEAFNESS

Deaf children and their families are stigmatized in some cultures, as people do not understand the cause of deafness nor the potential of deaf persons. Kuro is one who will help to change attitudes toward deafness in his Borana and other communities.

Kuro's mother is one of the older widows that we have helped with livestock. On a visit, we learned that her only child could no longer attend school due to lack of money, so was destined to ostracized life in their village. She was in tears, having determined to sell the donkey that relieved her of so much work. She said, "I would rather die than have my son denied an education."

In response to a loving mother's plea, one of our staff provided a year of education support. When Kuro completed secondary school, Sauti Moja continued to support him in a technical school for the deaf. Kuro is now studying carpentry and learning business management. Both Kuro and his mother are happy, he has a bright future with all the new construction in Marsabit area, and his mother's sacrifices will be rewarded by support from a devoted, loving son.

FOOD SECURITY FOR PLWHA

People living with HIV/AIDS are highly-vulnerable to terminal illness. Anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) are life-saving but often make a person feel ill, if they have inadequate nutrition. It is critical that parents with this disease not only receive ARVs, but also have adequate food for their own survival and for them to be able care for their children. As many people are now self-identifying as HIV-positive but in a weakened state, Sauti Moja initiated a food security project for them.

During the past rainy season, we assisted 10 households with free ploughing of a field, training in improved crop production methods, and assistance for weeding and planting. We loaned them improved maize and bean seed and fertilizer for increased yield. We consider our support for medical treatment, counseling, and household food security to be a cost-effective way of ensuring that parents with life-threatening disease are able to raise their own children in a loving, supportive home.