

# 2014

**ANNUAL REPORT**



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

*We are more than halfway to our goal of sustainable livelihood and healthy children in 1,000 female-headed households in Kenya.*

## DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY,

It has been a good year thanks to your generous support, the enthusiasm of staff in Sauti Moja Marsabit and Sauti Moja Tanzania, and the collaboration of beneficiary communities.

As of June 2014, we had provided livestock, veterinary health training and vet meds, and family and reproductive health training to more than 500 widows with young children. We are more than halfway to our goal of sustainable livelihood and healthy children in 1,000 female-headed households in Kenya.

Unfortunately, droughts continue to be frequent and severe, undoubtedly due to global warming. Fortunately, a few donors responded to our appeal and ERDO provided additional funds for food aid to the most vulnerable households in the Kenyan communities where we work.

We appreciate donor response to the plight of young mothers; 22 school girls are sponsored and another 7 receive partial support, but more girls await sponsors so that they can return to school. This year, Kenya staff initiated a pilot project on reproductive health and personal empowerment for primary school girls in Borana and Rendille communities; the response has been enthusiastic, so this will be scaled-up. Under this program, we also support eight deaf children who attend boarding school; four have graduated to technical school.

Lyn Bishop and I were invited to the ECHO Symposium for East Africa to present our peace program, which has been so successful that other agencies would like to replicate it. In April, we have initiated another peace livestock bank in a new area where there has been so



*Joanne Allgoewer, our Treasurer, and visitors, Harry and Helen Hope, joined a training on prevention of STDs.*

many deaths due to tribal conflict. This time, the community and government officials are not skeptical but strive to be on board and claim credit for past success, but it was really the widows who made a difference!

Visitors are always welcome and are hosted well by field staff. This year, Gillian Rumney from ERDO visited SMM to monitor the 1,000 Widows, food aid, and family health projects that they help fund. Joanne Allgoewer, our Treasurer, visited both SMM and SMTZ to review our work, and stayed in Tanzania to train staff. It was a great pleasure to host Harry and Helen Hope and for them to witness the peace activity of passing-on/giving of livestock by Rendille widows to Borana widows and vice versa – a true testimony to changed hearts toward former enemies.

As you can see, together, we are making a difference in the lives of marginalized pastoralists in remote locations. Let us know, if you would like a learning tour, too.

*Tim Wright*  
**Founding Director, Sauti Moja**

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations in the current financial year were \$184,290, which included a \$34,000 grant from ERDO for food aid, \$25,000 from ERDO for family health activities, and additional funds from Rotary to complete construction of the Oltepesi preschool in Tanzania. At year end, Sauti Moja had liabilities of \$10,429.75. A summary of program expenditures for FY13-14 follows.

EXPENSES FOR FY13-14		
Child Mothers (education, advocacy, safe birthing, healthy babies, etc.)	27.1%	\$49,909.39
Special project - Food Aid	18.5%	\$34,060.53
Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family planning, child health, etc.) Prevention and Care	17.3%	\$31,830.57
Early Childhood Development (LECHE)	13.9%	\$25,690.06
Special project – Oltepesi Preschool construction <sup>1</sup>	10.8%	\$19,898.13
Livestock for Sustainable Livelihoods <sup>2</sup>	6.8%	\$12,466.75
Administration and Fundraising in Canada	3.7%	\$6,788.05
Global Education (training, literature, and hosting interns and field visitors)	2.0%	\$3,647.18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$184,290.66</b>

<sup>1</sup> Oltepesi Preschool costs plus a \$3,300 robbery of the SM-TZ Finance Officer in an Arusha bank.

<sup>2</sup> **1000 Widows Initiative:** In addition to the finances accounted for in the above table, livestock-related expenditures in Year Two (May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014) of the four-year grant provided by Canadian Food Grains Bank (CIDA funds) and a partner agency, ERDO, were \$133,381. *Though this grant increased the funding for livelihood activities, funds are still needed for on going livestock activities not covered by this grant.*

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)



## GLOBAL EDUCATION

For the past several years, Sauti Moja Tanzania has hosted part of the African field studies program for students from University College of Utrecht, Netherlands. While with SMTZ they receive formal instruction in Maasai culture and the challenges of pastoralism, such as poor education and health services and the conflict of tourism and wildlife conservation with livestock management. Each year, some students have stayed to conduct research, such as the challenges facing child mothers and the environment contributing to high incidence of pregnancy in school girls. Many of the university interns have been so impressed with the program that they have become ongoing sponsors of Sauti Moja.

This year, Alicia Mori from Nelson, BC supported studies related to Maasai livelihoods and wildlife management. We appreciate her research and administrative support, as well as a fundraising challenge that she issued to family and friends. We continue to host interns, particularly graduate students who wish to conduct research related to our programs and the well-being of pastoralists.

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gang rape and murder of a widow with seven children and who was a livestock beneficiary is the biggest tragedy that Sauti Moja has ever encountered among its beneficiaries. This was considered horrific and outside the experience of the Rendille community.

The perpetrators were not caught, perhaps because they were from outside the community, but the crime demanded action from SMM staff. Firstly, we developed an action plan for challenging and guiding the Chief, elders, and County toward a proactive approach to reduce the chance that this would happen again. Next, we developed a plan to enhance women's understanding of their rights, enhance their understanding of what constitutes gender-based violence (GBV), provide a forum for sharing their experience, encourage them to discuss these concerns with their daughters, and inform them of appropriate action, if they are victims of this crime.

SMM conducted two, two-day workshops for the 60+ women of Logologo who were eager to learn about sexual

violence and realized that they are at high risk due to lack of community awareness of what it is and what contributes to it; lack of knowledge of women's rights and that, if abused, they are not at fault; and a combination of lack of awareness of where to get help and reluctance of police and leaders to penalize sex offenders. The women have requested GBV training for village youth.

In addition, SMM has included GBV in its new reproductive health and empowerment activities for primary school girls. This pilot project is being conducted in two schools – one Borana and one Rendille, where 20 girls are peer leaders. Based on the enthusiastic participation of girls, this will be scaled up.

## OLTEPESI PRESCHOOL

In 2012, we reported that the Rotarians from Southern Ontario had made a commitment to building a preschool for the village of Oltepesi. In October, they returned to find the structure that they had funded near completion, but ready for them to do the finishing work. In addition, Rotary brought a large supply of Montessori materials for the teachers and students. SMTZ staff were amazed at what these 14 volunteers could accomplish in a short time, and the exceptional finished product established a new standard for finishing and equipping a village classroom in northern Tanzania.

Rotarians were able to attend the Grand Opening which was attended by several hundred villagers and featured speeches from the District Commissioner and other dignitaries, dancing and singing by children and local women, ribbon cutting, and a goat roast – the feast of choice for most pastoralists! Before leaving, the Rotarians were able to see preschoolers learning in Osiligi Osipa which in Maa means 'real hope' and is named in honour of Harry and Helen Hope of Georgetown, ON who initiated and championed this construction project.

Subscribers to Kids4Kids, which provides funding for teachers, school lunches, and health care for the Oltepesi preschoolers, are needed. For the \$20/month subscription, you receive bi-monthly stories about Maasai children to share with children that you love.

*Left: Alicia Mori, a UCU intern from Netherlands, challenged friends to honour her birthday with donations to Sauti Moja.*

*Centre: Women are trained about their rights and prevention of gender based violence.*

*Right: Rotarians and the community celebrated opening of Osiligi Osipa (Real Hope) preschool.*

*...we developed a plan to enhance women's understanding of their rights, enhance their understanding of what constitutes gender-based violence, provide a forum for sharing their experience, encourage them to discuss these concerns with their daughters, and inform them of appropriate action, if they are victims of this crime [rape].*



*Left: A small business loan helps a woman provide good care for Dennis, the child of a deaf school girl.*

*Centre: Christine's successful cleft palate surgery is a good reason for mother and child to smile.*

*Right: Tim Wright and Paul Galmagar monitor food distribution to victims of on-going drought.*

*Sauti Moja Marsabit is now providing food aid to five orphan-headed households in the villages where we have programs.*

## RESPONDING TO SPECIAL NEEDS

Staff of our partner agencies, Sauti Moja Marsabit (SMM) and Sauti Moja Tanzania (SMTZ), demonstrate extraordinary compassion in the communities they serve. They identify needs that demand response from the Sauti Moja community but are outside normal programming. The following gives some idea of the scope of these responses, and how you have helped.

● **Milly is an orphaned deaf girl** who was impregnated by a man when she was seeking temporary shelter after her school dormitory burned down. When SMTZ staff heard of her plight, they sought support for her continuing education, and she found a woman who would care for baby, Dennis. Unfortunately, this kind-hearted caregiver has AIDS, and though she is on ARVs, she needs a good diet in order to avoid sickness and have strength to care for Dennis. In an interview, we learned that she has cooked a sold mandazi (a doughnut-like snack), so we provided three-month food aid and a loan to create a viable business. Esupat continues to monitor the well-being of Dennis and the caregiver. And, Milly is relieved of her stress and doing well in a new school for the deaf.

● **In the remote Rendille village of Namarei**, our field staff brought a young mother to us with her year-old child, Christine, who was severely malnourished due to cleft palate and unlikely to survive. Lyn collaborated with SMM staff to identify a charitable agency, Operation Smile, that would do reconstructive surgery for free, but first, she had to become stronger. Sisters of Charity provided three-months rehabilitation for Christine. Our staff provided logistics and accommodation support plus secured the help of a health facilitator to accompany the mother to Nairobi for the surgery. Surgery was successful, and now, Christine has returned home to begin a normal childhood and promising future.

● **Nancy is a Maasai child mother** who was sponsored to study tailoring, and was performing well. However, when Lyn and SMTZ staff visited her child at the grandmother's home, they noted that the child was weak and likely malnourished. A hospital visit confirmed what the caregiver denied; the child had AIDS, and

was given ARVs and plumpy nuts, a high-energy and high-protein supplement. Next, we needed to convince Nancy to get tested for HIV, but for several months, she resisted; when tested, she was HIV-positive AND pregnant, again! Of course, this devastating news demands response, but for now, Nancy continues studies in the hope that it will help her be able to care for herself and her children. Staff continue to monitor her baby and ensure that he is well-cared for. We see Nancy and her children as needing long-term support. Perhaps, with our help, the local community will realize that testing HIV-positive is not a death sentence.

● **A widow who was a livestock beneficiary** with seven children was murdered this year. One child was older and had occasional casual work, but others were too young to work – two had not yet started school. The children were in dire straits, as there was no extended family to provide support. SMM staff wanted to respond to this need, but recognized that there were orphan-headed households in several villages. The challenge was to identify these, assess their level of need and support from others, and determine which ones are priority. SMM is now providing food aid to five orphan-headed households in the villages where we have programs. (Refer to Page 3 for our action related to gender-based violence.)

Our colleagues in Sauti Moja Marsabit and Sauti Moja Tanzania thank our donors for enabling not only regular programming but also their responses to crises that they encounter in villages.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can readily access videos and stories about our programs and beneficiaries by clicking on the **Blog**, **Facebook** and **YouTube** buttons on the bottom of our Home page – [www.sautimoja.org](http://www.sautimoja.org). If you like an article, let your friends know; in this way, you contribute to their understanding of other people, the challenges that pastoralists face, and the difference that they can make, too.