



# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



## DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY,

*“I witnessed a profound sense of dignity and hope even in the face of recurring drought and other challenges.”*

**Seigfried Holzhaeuer,**  
CFGB

We are pleased with the past year, and thank all members of the Community – Sauti Moja Tanzania; Sauti Moja Marsabit; donors in Europe, the USA and Canada; and granting agencies, particularly Emergency Relief and Development Organization (ERDO) and Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Each program continues to help free vulnerable households from despair due to poverty, illness and hunger.

In April 2016, we will be wrapping up the 1000 Widows Initiative that is funded by CFGB and ERDO in support of our Livestock for Sustainable Livelihoods Program. By that time, we will be more than two-thirds of the way to our target of providing livestock for food and income to 1000 female-headed households. On-going support from our SM donors for this program is critical to reaching our goal. We are beginning development of a new project that further contributes to addressing poverty and food insecurity in vulnerable female-headed households.

Recurring drought leading to death of livestock and crop failure has contributed to hunger and necessitates food relief for the vulnerable households that we serve. In the last year, CFGB and ERDO provided eight months of food relief for 593 households; this food aid not only alleviates hunger, but also reduces the need to sell breeding stock to buy food.

In the past two years, we had visits by ERDO, CFGB, and Department of Foreign Affairs and Development to monitor our livestock, food relief, and peacemaking projects in Kenya. We are

pleased that they consider our work in pastoralist communities exemplary, as demonstrated by the following quote from Seigfried Holzhaeuer, CFGB.

*“I am impressed with Sauti Moja’s excellent knowledge of the local context, especially the pastoralist livelihood. Dedicated staff works in very close cooperation with the communities and participants of the project. Sauti Moja’s multi-pronged approach to increase Food Security to these most marginalized widows does not just end with beneficiaries receiving livestock and accompanying food-rations, but includes crucial, ongoing support in peace-building and reconciliation, veterinary accompaniment and technical support besides important health and other education. Throughout my visit with project staff, participants and communities, I witnessed a profound sense of dignity and hope even in the face of recurring drought and other challenges.”*

This year we also revised our website and posted a large number of stories about our beneficiaries; these are accessible on Facebook, Sauti Moja blog, and YouTube and are linked to our web pages. We hope that you will access this information, not only because we appreciate your continued support, but we want you to recognize the great contribution that you are making.

Thank you for joining our community and contributing to the rights of vulnerable people.



**Tim Wright**  
Founding Director, Sauti Moja

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

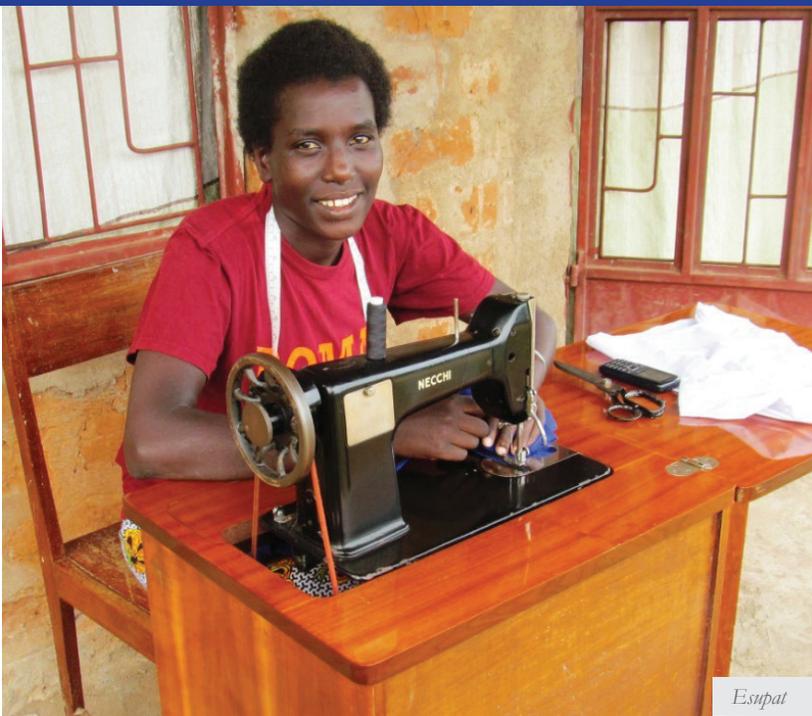
Donations in the current financial year were \$160,298 which included a \$20,818 grant from Emergency Relief and Development Organization (ERDO) for livestock and \$19,470 from ERDO for family health activities. At year end, Sauti Moja had no liabilities. A summary of program expenditures for FY14-15 follows.

### EXPENSES FOR FY14-15

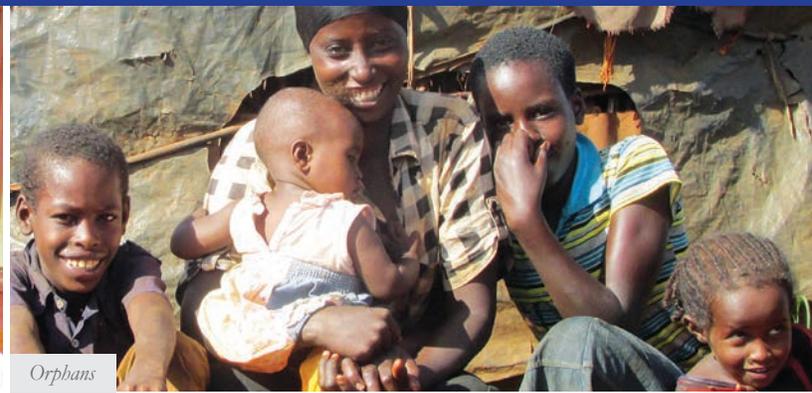
|   |     |                  |
|---|-----|------------------|
| Child Mothers (education, advocacy, safe birthing, healthy babies, etc.)    | 35% | \$50,057         |
| Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family planning, child health, etc.) | 22% | \$30,994         |
| Livestock for Sustainable Livelihoods <sup>1</sup>                          | 20% | \$28,240         |
| Early Childhood Development (LECHE)   | 16% | \$23,448         |
| Administration and Fundraising in Canada                                    | 4%  | \$6,122          |
| Education (training, literature, and hosting interns and field visitors)    | 2%  | \$3,545          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |     | <b>\$142,406</b> |

<sup>1</sup> **1000 Widows Initiative:** In addition to the finances accounted for in the above table, livestock-related expenditures in Year Three (May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015) of the four-year grant provided by Canadian Food Grains Bank and its member agency, ERDO, were \$167,293. These funds go directly to our partner agency, Sauti Moja Marsabit, so are not recorded in the above table. Though this grant increased the funding for livelihood activities, including peacemaking, 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)



Esupat



Orphans



Health clinic

## HIGHLIGHTS

**BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOANS.** Not all of our child mothers complete secondary school and proceed to post-secondary education. For many young mothers, trade training is the preferred route to becoming financially independent and able to care for their children. This year, eleven girls studied hair dressing, tailoring, and animal health. Like Esupat, these girls will receive a grant for capital equipment, like a sewing machine and table, and a business loan for operations.

**FOOD AID FOR ORPHANS.** Sauti Moja Marsabit staff have identified and sought support for orphan-headed households that have inadequate food. We have begun a small project of food aid for the most vulnerable children, and we complement that food aid with support (fees, uniform, shoes, etc.) for primary education. As schools provide lunch, attendance is important to not only learning but to having adequate food and avoiding exploitation as child labourers.

**CLASSROOMS FOR PRESCHOOLERS.** We appreciate that our friends in TEMBO, another Canadian charity, provided a new classroom for preschoolers from Longido village. And, finally, the primary school in Oltepesi has opened; this enables the preschool graduates, who were too small to walk to town, to continue schooling.

**VILLAGE HEALTH EDUCATORS.** Each week, Koko and Nasula volunteer at the Mairowa Health Clinic to train mothers about HIV/AIDS prevention. This partnership in health education helps extend the messages about healthy living to other villages served by this clinic.

This HIV/AIDS project is sustainable due to committed, empowered leaders.

**DEAF CHILDREN.** The deaf children that we sponsor receive special education at boarding school, but some struggle and need tutoring. We thank Kuro, a previously-sponsored deaf boy who recently graduated from carpentry school, for tutoring deaf children during the school break. (Kuro was recently employed by a local carpentry shop where he will be recognized for his skills, thereby slowly reducing the stigma toward deaf people in Marsabit.)

**LAND POLICY.** Colonialists dispossessed the original owners of much of the prime land of East Africa. Those losing access to land critical to livestock production included the Maasai of Tanzania. In spite of livestock and wildlife coexisting on these lands for centuries, conservationism and capitalism have converged, spawning increased international conservation and wildlife tourism; as a result, new land restrictions under the guise of community-based conservation further contribute to loss of access to grazing land. Though this community conservation is presented as compensating pastoralists, in most cases, the net effect to communities is increased poverty. Sauti Moja is initiating a new project that aims to ensure pastoralists' rights remain front and center in conservation debates and policies. As a supporting partner of McGill University's 'Institutional Canopy of Conservation Partnership', which is part of SSHRC/IDRC's program, International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies, we seek a better balance between biodiversity conservation, global tourism, and pastoralist communities.

*This year, eleven girls studied hair dressing, tailoring, and animal health. Like Esupat, these girls will receive a grant for capital equipment, like a sewing machine and table, and a business loan for operations.*



Warriors in health training



Elema before and after



Sharing food



Dudu spraying

## WHAT BENEFICIARIES SAY ABOUT YOUR SUPPORT

*“Before, it was painful to see the other tribe. Now, we even give food or sleep in each other’s homes.... God is giving us strength. We will not turn back.”*

**LIVESTOCK FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS:** In March, Elema from Gororukesa talked about what her livestock loan. “Receiving livestock was a big psychological boost, and at that point, my problems were left behind. This was a new start for me and my children. Before, no one liked me, as I was a burden; I was not even strong enough to get work weeding fields. Now, I have milk to sustain me and my children; I am a respected community member; and my son is able to go to school. God has blessed us.”

**FAMILY HEALTH:** “Now we have real information and that has improved our child spacing, breast feeding techniques, improved child health, and improved decision making. Before, we even feared using condoms due to the superstitions we heard.” Ntito, a livestock beneficiary in Namarei. “When health is lost, all is lost. Health is more than everything; health is richness. Thank you, Sauti Moja, for teaching us to be rich.” Bokayo, a livestock beneficiary from Garqasa.

**HEALTH TRAINING FOR MORANS:** As well, Sauti Moja trained morans (young men) in sexual and reproductive health. They asked for more training, saying “We do not want the fire started by Sauti Moja to go out, but instead, keep adding wood to keep the fire on.” The Chief commented, “No other agency or Government personnel have ever addressed this important part of human being. On behalf of these young people, please pass my heartfelt regards to the persons who gave us this assistance”

**WIDOWS TAKE PEACEMAKING TO OTHER VILLAGES:** Peacemakers are taking the following testimonies of peace to other communities in conflict. Salo said, “Fear kept us as prisoners, but now we are free to walk along the road; we are all sisters.”

Gumatho reflected upon the change in the widows of conflict, saying, “Before, it was painful to see the other tribe. Now, we even give food or sleep in each other’s homes.”, and then added, “God is giving us strength. We will not turn back.”

**FOOD AID:** Food aid delivered in the current drought was intended to relieve hunger and discourage sale of breeding stock to buy food. In a ‘peace’ livestock bank, Rendille widows shared food aid with Borana widows, and vice versa. This is a testimony to their forgiveness and reconciliation as well as a powerful tool for peace - You cannot kill someone who has fed you! Adi of Karantina said, “We lived in fear of each other, but now, we attend weddings, births and give gifts. In sickness and death, we comfort one another. This never happened when we were enemies.”

**DUDU (INSECT) SPRAYING:** In East Africa, just as in Canada, bedbug infestation can cause sleepless nights for families. In addition, villagers there suffer from jiggers, which are a sand flea that lays eggs in feet and are a major source of irritation and infection. In a pilot project, all households of our beneficiaries were sprayed to control these pests. Ware, a single mother from Manyatta Ginda, tried several methods to control the infestations that were causing sores and sleepless nights, and said, “The insects were like the owners of the house.” Now, she says, “Our skin sores are healed, and the children sleep well. We no longer have to try to sleep outside to get some rest.”

