



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY,

“In both Kenya and Tanzania, we will respond to educators, parents and local leaders to extend the sexual and reproductive health and life skills training, that is offered to girls, to school boys.”

This year, we celebrate completion of the four-year 1000 Widows Project whereby 420 widowed mothers in Marsabit received livestock loans, animal husbandry and family health training, and veterinary support. This was complemented with a peacemaking initiative among women widowed by ethnic conflict. In recognition of the transformation of vulnerable women and communities by our project, CFGB paid for Paul Galmagar and Martha Bone to tour the Prairies, meeting farmer groups and presenting their work in livestock loans, family health education, and peacemaking. Sauti Moja and ERDO also availed Paul and Martha for presentations to our donors in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

A new food security project, again funded by ERDO and CFGB, is being directly implemented by Sauti Moja Marsabit; we will provide management support, as needed, but our goal of seeing a partner agency, that we co-founded, become more independent has been realized. This change will free up our resources to address other challenges in 2017.

Firstly, we will enhance livestock programming in Tanzania; our pilot project in livestock loans to vulnerable women is similar to our Kenya approach, and we will also provide livestock to enhance the food security of families affected by HIV/AIDS. In both Kenya and Tanzania, we will respond to educators, parents and local leaders to extend the sexual and reproductive health and life skills training, that is offered to girls, to school boys. Other priorities include securing family



Martha Bone and Paul Galmagar visited donors in Canada

health funding to scale-up that work in Tanzania and further advocacy in support for land rights for Maasai communities. And, while we celebrate the reduction in ethnic conflict due to the initiative of our peace widows, we will support peacemaking in Marsabit in the face of a big challenge, reducing risk of conflict associated with the Kenya election in 2017.

It is going to be a fulfilling and busy year!

Tim Wright
Founding Director, Sauti Moja

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations in the current financial year were \$131,772, which included a \$16,470 grant from Emergency Relief and Development Organization (ERDO) for family health activities. At year end, Sauti Moja had no liabilities. A summary of program expenditures for FY15-16 follows.

EXPENSES FOR FY14-15

Health (HIV/AIDS, family planning, child health, and sex education in schools)	39%	\$52,867
Child Mothers (counsel, child care, education, etc.) & Deaf Children Education	29%	\$39,495
Early Childhood Development (LECHE)	18%	\$24,598
Livestock for Sustainable Livelihoods ¹	8%	\$10,404
Administration and Fundraising in Canada	4%	\$5,249
Global Education (training, reporting, and hosting interns and field visitors)	3%	\$3,550
TOTAL		\$136,161

¹ **1000 Widows Initiative:** In addition to the finances accounted for in the above table, we managed the livestock-related expenditures of in Year Four \$174,625 (May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016) provided by Canadian Food Grains Bank and its member agency, ERDO, were. These funds went 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



Donkeys relieve Elema's burden of fetching water



Sianga facilitates lifestyle training for school boys

HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION FOR HEALTHY LIVING. For ten years, we have responded to teen pregnancy through our Child Mother program, whereby sponsors support our local partners to help girls from the poorest families access safe delivery of their child, engage a trustworthy caregiver for their baby, and return to school. As indicated previously, local partners developed a proactive approach to addressing girl pregnancy; they provide sexual and reproductive health education and life skills training for primary school girls, as this is a critical stage for establishing behaviours that will enable or hinder academic achievement.

Government, community leaders, and parents are committed in support for girls' education, so after we conducted the pilot project in three Tanzanian schools, the District Community Development Officer, headmasters of the primary schools, traditional male and female leaders, and chairpersons of school committees assessed the project and developed recommendations to address challenges, such as early and forced marriage and behaviours contributing to high risk of pregnancy. They requested that we scale-up this project and include parallel training for boys.

We are pleased with the success of the locally-initiated projects in Kenya and Tanzania. This year, we will be supporting more schools and training boys, too. Many of the same topics are being covered for boys and girls, but there is considerable emphasis on boys' responsibilities and potential liabilities as well as girls' rights.

CELEBRATING LIVESTOCK PROGRAM (PHASE II) SUCCESS.

In the first phase of the livestock program (2007-2010), Sauti Moja provided female livestock, veterinary medicines, and training in livestock care to 161 widows, abandoned women, and other single mothers with young children. In a review of those receiving goats during that time period, we found that most had paid livestock loans and on average have 17 goats, which greatly enhances food security and helps provide for other household needs.

Phase II is the 1000 Widows Initiative (2012-2016) funded by ERDO and CFGB. With these additional resources, we were able to add another 420 beneficiary households – 140 women were loaned a heifer camel and 280 women were loaned a female donkey and four female goats. Now, these women are paying off their loans, so more than 300 additional mothers are receiving livestock from them.

These loans and trainings were complemented with all women receiving family health training that included prevention of STDs, family planning, and child health and nutrition, which greatly empowered destitute women. In addition, we incorporated a pilot project in peacemaking by widows of conflict; this was highly-successful and the impact of these women on leaders and other communities continues to be profound contributing significantly to reduced inter-ethnic tension and to reduced livestock raids and killing.

Phase III of the livestock program was initiated in August 2016. It will be funded solely by ERDO and CFGB with SMC Canada providing management and technical support. SMC Canada will continue to fund 'peace women' in their outreach to communities with a history of conflict. And, in recognition of the effectiveness of the livestock program in transforming lives of vulnerable families, Veterinarians International has volunteered multi-year support of training and vet meds for these households.

We encourage members of the Sauti Moja Community to view stories on our blog and on YouTube and to celebrate their contribution to lives that have been transformed through the livestock, health and peace activities. Some of these can be viewed at the following links:

- ▶ **Elema Seven Years Later:**
<http://sautimoja.blogspot.ca/2015/03/elema-seven-years-later.html>
- ▶ **Livestock + Education = Empowerment:**
<http://sautimoja.blogspot.ca/2012/11/livestock-and-family-health.html>
- ▶ **Widows of Conflict: Women for Peace:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOsKObccGIQ>

"...140 women were loaned a heifer camel and 280 women were loaned a female donkey and four female goats. Now, these women are paying off their loans, so more than 300 additional mothers are receiving livestock from them."



Kesia excelled at college and is now a teacher



Saptian was trained as a tailor, and has begun her business



Families affected by HIV / AIDS access food and income from goats

“Sauti Moja sponsors support young women from the time they are identified as vulnerable youth (child mothers and deaf children) to completion of training.”

ACHIEVEMENTS OF VULNERABLE YOUTH: We highlight and congratulate two young women, Kesia and Saptian, for their achievements. Sauti Moja sponsors support young women from the time they are identified as vulnerable youth (child mothers and deaf children) to completion of training. During this time, some sponsors travel to witness a life transformed by their investment and our staffs’ support in helping them reach their potential as educated, confident, respected women who contribute to their communities.

- Kesia showed high academic promise, but her sponsoring organization dropped support when she became pregnant. Her family could not afford to pay for her education. This year, Kesia achieved her dream and graduated from teachers’ college. Soon she will be assigned to a school where she hopes that her passion for teaching will serve a Maasai community. She is proud of her achievement and pleased to now be able to support her daughter, Glory, and help her family.
- Saptian graduated from tailoring at a technical school for the deaf. This remarkable school experience enriched her sign language skills which uplifted her from social isolation experienced by the deaf in remote communities. Upon return to her village, she received a sewing machine plus equipment and supplies, and her reputation as a seamstress is growing. She is excited to earn income for the first time in her life – even save some! Her brother will help build a shop where she can conduct her business. Saptian is the first in her community to demonstrate that a deaf youth can be a successful tradesperson.

GOATS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (PLWHA): In April, Tim and Lyn interviewed the Mairowa peer support group for PLWHA to determine its effectiveness. They confirmed that the group provides emotional support and that community volunteers who provide home-based care as well as SM-TZ support for medical treatment is critical to coping and survival. However, they still struggle with having enough to eat, and sometimes do not take ARVs due to hunger. It is especially difficult for children who have contracted HIV from their

mothers to even attend school. We agreed that a small herd of goats for each family would be key to alleviating household hunger. This will be started, soon, and more will be helped as funds are available.

NEW DIRECTION: ENSURING LAND ACCESS FOR PASTORALISTS:

Most Westerners are supportive of wildlife conservation and enjoy watching wildlife as tourists, but few are aware that the conservation and tourism industries in East Africa increase the conflict between pastoralists and wildlife. For centuries, pastoralists have lived in harmony with wildlife and seldom kill them. Nevertheless, Western interests and money have driven government policies that are unnecessarily excluding pastoralists, sometimes violently, from the land and water resources that are critical to their livelihood and survival.

Corey Wright presented a paper, “Environmental Imperialism and Greening Dispossession” describing this form of colonialism at the 2016 International Rangeland Congress. He concluded with how various indigenous groups are resisting this loss of access to land and working toward fair compensation for allowing hunters and tourists on their communal lands. We are examining ways that we can support communities and civil society organizations in their pursuit of social justice. (You may read the article at <http://sautimoja.org/pdf/Dispossession.pdf>)

Given this threat to land access, SMC Canada and SM-TZ have initiated an advocacy program - Communication for Conservation Action (CCA). Currently, this is led by a former intern, Alicia Mori, who was awarded a fellowship from the Coady International Institute. This project will support traditional land use by Maasai communities who have been coerced by government and international agencies to become part of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). WMAs reflect new opportunities for generating tourism revenue, but also new threats of land dispossession. Alicia’s team will facilitate a community-driven initiative that builds capacity of villagers to influence the powerful wildlife conservation and tourism forces.

