



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY,

“It’s been a wonderful year for Sauti Moja and our partners. We’ve been able to scale up projects as our partners in Tanzania and Kenya have increased capacity.”

It’s been a wonderful year for Sauti Moja and our partners. We’ve been able to scale up projects as our partners in Tanzania and Kenya have increased capacity. Additionally, March and April rains have energized pastoralist communities after enduring several seasons of drought. Our partners and the communities they serve are so thankful for the rain which sustains their lives and for your compassionate support of them.

In Kenya, this year, we shifted most of our development activities to the Rural Education and Training Organization (RETO) located in Marsabit County. This partner has the expertise to further develop and implement our programs focusing on Vulnerable Youth (child mothers, deaf children, sexual and reproductive health, and peace club), Adult Literacy for young moms, and the Shepherd School. With their clear vision, as well as strong governance and management capacity, the impact has been tremendous.

In Tanzania, Sauti Moja Tanzania (SM-TZ) initiated a five-year plan for enhanced organizational capacity; this was complemented with greater activity in sexual and reproductive health training in schools, family health training for mothers, and expanding the land rights initiative which supports Maasai pastoralists to assert their right to access traditional grazing territories.

We also welcomed and hosted donors, providing them with an opportunity to see how they have made a difference through their support. They were able to meet the staff, visit the communities to learn about their challenges, observe program implementation, and participate in a goat roast in honour of



Donors met families they have helped, and enjoyed a goat roast with new friends.

their visit. These visits energize our partners and beneficiaries who greatly appreciate those who help make a difference in their communities.

Tim Wright
Founding Director, Sauti Moja



*Cover photo:
Lyn Bishop*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations in the financial year totaled \$172,952. At year end, Sauti Moja had no liabilities, and revenue exceeded expenditures by \$27,771. A summary of program expenditures for FY17-18 follows.

EXPENSES FOR FY16-17

| | | |
|---|-----|------------------|
| Vulnerable Youth (child mothers, deaf children, orphans, advocacy, etc.) | 26% | \$37,456 |
| Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family planning, child health, etc.) | 31% | \$45,373 |
| Education (peace clubs, adult literacy, and LECHE preschools) | 25% | \$37,141 |
| Livestock for Sustainable Livelihoods | 10% | \$14,326 |
| Administration and Fundraising in Canada | 5% | \$6,888 |
| Global Education (training, literature, hosting interns and field visitors) | 3% | \$3,997 |
| TOTAL | | \$145,181 |

Note: The apparent ‘surplus’ in funds was largely due to severe drought and reorganization that contributed to delays in livestock program activities. Those activities have been carried forward into the new financial year.

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



Parents discuss sex ed and life skills curriculum



Young moms attend literacy class six days a week to learn to read and write.



Goat milk reduces child hunger and increases health.

HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTHY DECISION-MAKING FOR YOUTH

For a decade, Sauti Moja has provided counsel, education, technical training and child care support for young mothers who have been expelled from school and/or ostracized by their family and community.

In recent years, we have initiated sexual and reproductive health education as well as life skills training for boys and girls in Tanzanian and Kenyan primary schools. Our focus has shifted to prevention of school girl pregnancy, respectful boy-girl relations, and goal setting and effective decision-making, though we will continue to support girls in dire straits due to unwanted pregnancy. This program is conducted in full consultation with parents, educators and local authorities, including social workers and police. Their testimonies provide sound evidence of how it is valued.

» **“The education has changed the mindset of students who enjoyed the topics...they are now sharing information with others at school and at home about health and diseases.”**

~ School Headmaster

» **“This education is crucial for our children to learn, so that they can share this information with their parents.”**

~ Chairperson of a School Committee.

» **“This education is very important not only for students but also for the parents, so we can be together in health and behavioral change of the students.”** ~ Parent

» **“Risky behavior in the community has been growing because of lack of awareness among youth. This is most important information for all the youth in our community.”**

~ Parent

» As a result of this training, **“The awareness among our students has increased. The program has positively changed behaviour in both boys and girls. They now know how to escape risky behaviour and situations.”** ~ Health Teacher

» **“Before, the police were unable to reach the schools and communities, but now, with the help of Sauti Moja Tanzania, the police are reaching the communities to educate them.”**

~ Gender Officer of Tanzania Police who spoke to parents and students about gender-based violence, forced early marriage of school girls, and female genital mutilation.

FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

Many Rendille girls in remote villages have never attended school. There are various reasons: they are needed to help with home duties, such as fetching water and firewood; they care for younger siblings and livestock; there is no school nearby; there is no money for such items as books and uniforms; education of boys is prioritized. These girls are often married while still primary school age.

The founders of RETO are well-educated men and women who wanted to empower young mothers through functional literacy education. They know that educated moms are able to read about family health, manage personal finances, provide leadership in women’s self-help groups, and better support their children’s education. (“A child born to a mother who can read is 50 percent more likely to survive past the age of 5 than a child born to an illiterate woman.” (UNESCO, *Education Counts*)

Last October, the RETO Team initiated Adult Literacy classes for 70 young moms. They are excited to learn, attending class six afternoons a week, so progress has been amazing. Some are able to read simple Swahili and even English. They can now use a cell phone to read text messages and to see who is calling, now understand simple written documents (see cover photo), and they are beginning to learn recordkeeping. Those excelling are teaching others to read and write. They are very excited to be literate and better able to care for their child!

“They can now use a cell phone to read text messages and to see who is calling, understand simple written documents, and they are beginning to learn recordkeeping.”



Preschool started outdoors.



Parents then built a school.



Sara delivered learning tools.



Teaching in a new school.



School lunch aids learning.



Vision realized – preschoolers excel.

“In 2007, we delivered... tools to Oltepesi village where there was no preschool; classes were conducted under a big tree and writing was in the sand. However, the parents soon recognized the value of this and began building a traditional structure that served as a school.”

LIVESTOCK FOR MAASAI MOMS

Over the years, we have been very successful in providing goat, donkey and camel loans to approximately 650 impoverished, single moms. Though there have been serious setbacks due to drought which reduced livestock survival, particularly of offspring, many of these women have paid their debt by giving female offspring to the next most-vulnerable moms in their village. Their livestock have provided milk for the children and income to meet household needs, such as clothing and school fees.

Previously, most of the livestock program was implemented in Kenya, but now, we are expanding this program in Tanzania. This year, two new Community Livestock Groups of 25 women were established in Longido District; they received four female sheep and/or goats as well as a few male goats for breeding purposes. They too will pay their loans by giving female livestock offspring to another mom, and all beneficiaries participate in monthly family health training. Our strategy is to establish at least one new livestock group in the Maasai communities of Tanzania each year.

‘HONOURING A VISIONARY LEADER’

Sara models the approach to development that Sauti Moja embraces; she is a community member with the capacity and drive to implement her vision for a better future. As she approaches retirement, we wish to recognize what she has accomplished and honour her loving service to Maasai children.

Sara approached Sauti Moja seeking financial support to fulfill her vision for strong pre-school education for Maasai children. She knew that a strong foundation would prepare the children so they could excel in primary school, rather than drop out due to poor preparation. She also envisioned that her preschoolers would proceed through secondary school to

higher levels of education, becoming advocates that effectively represent these marginalized communities as well as provide an example for others.

Though Sara had retired as a teacher in the public system, she was convinced of the value of Montessori education, so became a qualified Montessori teacher and made her own learning tools for classroom use. In 2007, we delivered these tools to Oltepesi village where there was no preschool; classes were conducted under a big tree and writing was in the sand. However, the parents soon recognized the value of this and began building a traditional structure that served as a school.

Recognizing that there is seasonal hunger and health challenges for many young children in remote communities, Sara knew that classroom learning has to be complemented with improved nutrition and medical support. As many children come to school hungry, she soon initiated snacks and lunches as well as growth monitoring, medical check-ups by a local doctor, and supported treatment of health problems in preschoolers.

Over the years, many have been inspired by the Longido Early Childhood Education (LECHE) program and various Kids4Kids donors and agencies, including Retired Teachers of Ontario, contributed to operational support – salaries, lunches, buildings, etc. For Sara and the community, a 2013 highlight was construction of a permanent classroom in Oltepesi that was funded by Rotarians.

The recent graduation at Longido Preschool demonstrated the enthusiasm and appreciation of parents and community leaders for this educational initiative. We heard about the success in secondary school of several of those children who had come through the LECHE program.

With the wonderful support of her colleagues and our donors, Sara has accomplished so much, and is an inspiration to all of us! ♦

