



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY



In this Maasai community, women asked for and were excited to receive loans for sheep.

As I reflect on the past year, three items stand out – the long-term challenge of global warming on pastoralist communities, our maturing partnership with Rural Education and Training Organization (RETO), and the faithfulness of long-term donors.

As I write this, Global Climate Strikes are drawing attention to the **severe effects of global warming**. Our beneficiaries are more aware of the urgency than most Westerners; they experience increasingly frequent and severe droughts that destroy their economy and cause suffering. Last ‘rainy season’, the rains again failed; cows

are dying, crops failed, and people are hungry. Though we provided food aid for some, there is no assistance from the big relief agencies that we lobbied.

However, RETO is maturing; **there is a bigger vision with increasing energy for greater impact**. Another village has requested adult literacy training; they will provide facilities, and we will fund teachers and supplies. Local leaders in another community have asked for support for marginalized young moms who are struggling to feed their children; we will provide temporary food aid, goat loans, family health and life skills training, and on-going counsel for their peer support group. The RETO Team is also initiating peacemaking between neighbouring communities in ethnic conflict due to limited water and land access plus retributive killings and fear fuelled by some political leaders. Finally, they are also conducting land protection training for local leaders, as private investors are buying up the communal grazing areas that are critical to survival of pastoralism. Fortunately, our staff have good experience in these endeavours.

Our humanitarian work could not continue without you, **our faithful donors!** So many have supported us for a decade or more, and others have joined the Sauti Moja Community more recently. You are all important, and we – our partner agencies and the beneficiary communities – rely on your gifts that offer a hand-up and hope for a better life.

Tim Wright
Founding Director, Sauti Moja

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations in the financial year totaled \$180,173. At year end, Sauti Moja revenue exceeded expenditures by \$5,277. A summary of program expenditures for FY18-19 follows.

EXPENSES FOR FY18-19

Vulnerable Youth (child mothers, deaf children, orphans, advocacy, etc.)	23%	\$39,710
Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family planning, child health, etc.)	21%	\$36,542
Education (peace clubs, adult literacy, and preschools)	29%	\$51,051
Sustainable Livelihoods (livestock and land rights)	22%	\$38,670
Administration and Fundraising in Canada	4%	\$7,101
Global Education (training, literature, hosting interns and field visitors)	1%	\$1,823
TOTAL		\$174,896

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

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



Millicent, a deaf, young mother, completed tailoring and is supported with equipment and loans for her new business.



Esupat was being forced into marriage, but a sponsor enabled her to return to school. She is completing Educational Administration in University.



Rendille and Borana widows of conflict reconciled and joined to lead peacemaking and eliminate ethnic conflict and livestock raids between villages.

As a rights-based organization, gender inequality is a concern for Sauti Moja, both at home and abroad. As in Canadian society, the pastoralist communities where we work can be characterized as male dominated. The exceptions to this are increasing, as women are increasingly empowered as education levels of men and women increase and as more women find employment. However, there are still many impoverished women (widows, single moms, orphans, deaf, etc.) who have not had and will not have opportunity for formal education; there are too few initiatives contributing to their social and financial empowerment. These women are the major focus of Sauti Moja, so we reviewed our development activities to document our contribution to social justice and empowerment of women.

EDUCATING CHILD MOTHERS

Traditionally, the education of boys took priority over that of girls. As in Western society, the men typically have greater job opportunity and earning capacity, and women are responsible for families and home duties. The Vulnerable Youth Program provides teen mothers with an opportunity to continue with their education through secondary school and into college. Others have chosen to attend technical school and receive business loans and grants. When married, they demonstrate greater influence on the family and often continue in employment.

FORCED EARLY MARRIAGE

Though it is illegal in both Kenya and Tanzania, parents will sometimes force young girls to marry – often to a man that is not the girl’s choice. Through the Sexual and Reproductive Health Program, girls are taught their rights, including for an education; boys and girls receive

sex education, life skills training, and boys’ responsibility to protect girls from pregnancy; and police and child officers meet with parents and students to discuss the law and consequences for marrying off children. Headmasters and education officers are reporting that now fewer girls are leaving school due to pregnancy and/or forced marriage, and are asking for this program to be extended to all primary schools.

PEACEMAKING

Over the past few decades conflict between ethnic groups living in neighbouring communities has increased. This is due to increase drought caused by global warming and conflict over land and water resources for livestock as well as increasing distrust and fear fueled by political leaders. Various agencies have initiated peace meetings, but these have been almost exclusively man-led. Sauti Moja and its partners have focused on impoverished

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Maasai moms pay their livestock loans by giving the first female goat and sheep offspring to another needy mom in the village.



Mama Dan trains all livestock beneficiaries about family health; these women share their new learning with other village moms.



Local teachers are excited to help unschooled young moms become empowered with literacy, numeracy and family health education.

widows of conflict becoming ambassadors of peace. This has been accomplished through training and regular interaction between these groups. They have learned to advocate for peace and challenge village leaders to engage in peace agreements and practice restorative justice. Their success has been recognized throughout the county and nationally as they make presentations and do radio broadcasts of their testimony.

LIVESTOCK LOANS

Most rural mothers have little source of income, and many struggle to feed their children. Though the economy is livestock-based, married women seldom own livestock and have little say on sale or butchering of them for food or household income. Widows and single moms usually have no livestock, so struggle the most. They rely on others for favours, such as going house-to-house to ask for milk, fetching water and firewood for those with more money, and doing casual work during harvest in exchange for some grain. Livestock loans for camels, goats and donkeys provide a major change in their lives. They have milk, meat, and opportunity to earn income for family needs, including education of children; they are viewed as contributors to the well-being of the community; and immediately become a ‘somebody’ who is listened to in village meetings.

FAMILY HEALTH TRAINING

Those living in remote villages seldom have easy access to a health clinic and community health training is rare.

Health care is only accessed in emergencies. In each community where we establish livestock projects, our community health nurses deliver a 12-course training program for our beneficiaries; training covers child health and nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, family planning, women’s rights and gender-based violence. As well, health of preschoolers is monitored. This knowledge and child support not only contribute to healthier families, but the trainees become newly-respected knowledge holders with others coming after class to ask what these women have learned.

ADULT LITERACY

Over the past two years, we have been amazed at the great demand from young married women for primary school equivalency. They have felt quite inferior to those who have attended school, but now, have greatly improved self-confidence and status in the village and family. They tell us how they can now read messages on their phones, understand report cards to better support their children’s learning, and advise illiterate neighbours. Inclusion of simple recordkeeping as part of functional literacy means that some husbands are now including their wives in financial decision-making.

Sauti Moja and its partners (Sauti Moja Tanzania and the Rural Education and Training Organization in Kenya) are confident that our donor support is contributing to more equitable societies in addition to addressing the pressing needs of marginalized girls and women. ♦

