



2011 annual report

Friends of Sauti Moja,

The past year was an incredible challenge for pastoralist communities in East Africa. The humanitarian disaster started many months prior to Western media coverage and will continue long after Western donors have lost interest. As a small, flexible agency, Sauti Moja was able to divert resources to meet critical needs as they arose, but this compounded our challenges in maintaining long-term programming for the most vulnerable.

Our programs continue to effectively address critical needs of the most vulnerable. As our support becomes well-known, we have encountered a growing number of people and communities who seek assistance. Although we are grateful for the faithful support of donors, the demand from vulnerable people exceeded our financial capacity for this year. Some real progress is expected through our new partnerships with ERDO, CFGB, and SM-USA. Nonetheless, telling others about the opportunities here to make real changes in the lives of the most vulnerable would be a welcome and valued contribution.

Though financial capacity has been a challenge, organizational capacity has grown. Sauti Moja Marsabit became fully operational in Kenya, managing the Child Mother and Sustainable Livelihoods programs there. Later in the year, we shifted our Child Mother, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care, and Early Childhood programs to Sauti Moja Tanzania. And Sauti Moja USA (www.sautimoja-usa.org) was formally registered; this initiative is expected to broaden our donor base and help us meet the growing need and demand for relevant programs. In the coming year, we expect that Sauti Moja UK will also be registered.

I trust that you will find this report interesting and informative.

Tim Wright

Founding Director

Financial Summary

Donations received in FY10-11 (\$130,761) were 25% higher than for FY09-10 (\$104,585). However, our budget was aggressive, so expenditures exceeded income by \$6,406. A summary of program expenditures for FY10-11 follows.

Expenses for FY10-11

Child Mothers (education, advocacy, healthy babies, etc.)	24%	\$32,898
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care	21.2%	\$29,137
Sustainable Livelihoods (mostly livestock)	19.9%	\$27,295
Early Childhood Development (LECHE)	14.3%	\$19,690
Organization and Staff Development ¹	11.1%	\$15,213
Admin and Fundraising in Canada	7.7%	\$10,510
Global Education (training and literature)	1.8%	\$2,424
TOTAL		\$137,167

¹ This represents costs associated with initiating programs through our new partner agencies — Sauti Moja Marsabit and Sauti Moja Tanzania — as well as training for two former staff, who recently rejoined Sauti Moja Tanzania in leadership roles.

We invite you to access further detail on income and expenditures by contacting us (mail@sautimoja.org) or by visiting the website of the Canada Revenue Agency (www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities).

Community HIV / AIDS Program

There are various indicators for success in an HIV / AIDS program. Ultimately, the key indicator is reduced rates of infection, but measurement of success takes years. In the short-term, a key indicator of success is changing attitudes toward those infected, self-identification by those suffering from the disease, and uninfected persons providing care for those who are affected. We are pleased with the progress that our communities have made. Each year, several more people join the support group for those affected by AIDS. Another indicator of our success is that other agencies are adopting the **Community Conversations** approach to raising awareness and mobilizing communities to address this disease and other social issues.



Ngayai is a courageous Maasai elder who leads the care group for people living with AIDS.

Based upon our success within the Maasai communities in the Longido District of Tanzania, **Sauti Moja is initiating a pilot project in Northern Kenya using the same methodology.** In December, Agnes and Monica from Logologo traveled to Tanzania to learn about community action planning and the micro-projects being implemented by villagers. They were particularly impressed with the peer support group, as they had never before met someone who willingly disclosed that they were HIV-positive.

Agnes and Monica returned to Kenya with great enthusiasm for a community-based approach to generating community support for HIV / AIDS prevention. Stories of their experiences in Tanzania are circulating through the community, and they met with the chief and elders to highlight the strategic importance and timeliness of this project in their village. They are especially concerned about a new highway being built from Nairobi to Ethiopia, which will contribute to increased mobility of both local people and outsiders, thereby increasing exposure to HIV. With the blessing and support of the chief and elders, Agnes and Monica initiated Community Conversations in the local Committee. In the current financial year, **Sauti Moja will provide further training, as well as financial support, for the micro-projects they identify in their Action Plan.**

Famine Survival & Recovery

The terrible famine in the Horn of Africa is a consequence of recurring and severe drought aggravated by conflict and failures in governance. Large emergency relief operations are required to relieve the suffering of vulnerable pastoralists, most of whom have already lost most of the livestock they rely on for survival.

Donors are aware that Sauti Moja's mandate is to provide support for vulnerable women. As such, we provide widows with livestock to support a sustainable livelihood — food and income for themselves and their children. Though drought is terrible, all the women involved in our livestock program are faring better than their community counterparts who have no animals; the widows we have helped will be able to recover from the drought better than those without.

However, **goats do not provide milk during drought**, so we have provided short-term food relief to bridge the hunger period between household food supplies running out and the delivery of aid packages by the World Food Program and the Government of Kenya. Another Sauti Moja complementary initiative involves keeping livestock alive with veterinary medicine and feed, which maintains our investment, reduces the amount of food that women must share with livestock, and contributes to child health.

Though we have been able to help about more than 180 widows over the past few years, hundreds more will be even more vulnerable once the large aid agencies discontinue food relief. In partnership with another agency, we plan to scale-up our livestock support to widows, but we will need an additional \$30,000 / year to help 400 more vulnerable households recover from famine.

We need your help for famine recovery! Please designate a donation for the 1000 Widows project.

www.sautimoja.org/Donations.html

Education of Child Mothers



Sauti Moja desperately needs more donors like Megan, who sponsors Sara.

The exciting news for this year is that three of our Child Mothers completed secondary school. Dido is now enrolled in a three-year accounting course in a technical school. Kosi has been engaged by an international NGO, and is receiving on-the-job training in community development. They have come a long way from where we first met them; Dido was in deep depression in a mental health ward, and Kosi had been living as a social outcast in her village. **Now they hold their heads high in confidence that they will be able to care for themselves and their children.** This is our goal for every child mother that comes for help and has other means of support.

In Tanzania, we have provided more than 60 girls with pregnancy counseling, life skills training, family mediation, safe delivery support, and the opportunity to continue their education. Currently 22 child mothers are in school. Other agencies provide most of the education and support costs for 12 of these mothers. However, we have reached the limit of education support that we can expect from external agencies.

One disappointment this year was learning that **the President of Tanzania rejected pleas to change the existing law that prohibits pregnant girls from returning to public schools.** This was a setback to the advocacy efforts of Sauti Moja and other civil society groups. The immediate consequence is that more girls will rely on Sauti Moja to get them back to school. As more girls in remote areas hear about the second chance offered by Sauti Moja, demand for support increases, while our capacity to respond is not increasing enough.

In Kenya, our program is progressing well. We are supporting the education of 15 girls in primary, secondary and technical schools, as well as caring for the health of their children. Six more children are ready to enter the program, though, again, their opportunities will depend on availability of funds.

Without increased financial support for child mothers, we will need to limit the number of Kenyan and Tanzanian girls who can continue their education. If the plight of these girls is of concern to you, please consider sponsoring one!

www.sautimoja.org/pdf/Sponsorship.pdf

Early Childhood Development

We are excited to welcome back Sererwa and Elimbora, who previously worked as teacher aids, as fully-qualified Montessori teachers. The day after completing their two-year training program, which was co-funded by Sauti Moja and Pangea Foundation, they immediately moved to become teachers — one in Longido and the other in Oltepesi. They remain enthusiastic in their multiple roles, serving as teacher, growth monitor, parent and community mobilizer, and coordinator of school lunches.

This year, Sara gained support from the local doctor for quarterly health monitoring of the children. **These health check-ups, combined with nutritious lunches and regular growth monitoring, ensure that pre-schoolers receive adequate care.** This is particularly important during the current drought, when there is less access to food at home.

Sauti Moja is excited about **Kids4Kids** (www.sautimoja.org/pdf/Kids4Kids.pdf), which is a new, cost-effective initiative that supports the healthy development of African children. In addition, we will provide sponsoring individuals and schools with learning material that helps to educate children about the challenges faced by other children around the world. This cross-cultural initiative will enable us to extend the program to a new village, TingaTinga, as well as to cover all educational and health costs for a child to attend 2-3 years of pre-school and receive a nutritious meal each day.



One of our happy, healthy preschoolers.