



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY,

“With new opportunities and changes emerging we are eager and excited to be entering the new financial year with revised programming which will enable Sauti Moja to support the community-service visions of new partners.”

This past year saw many changes for Sauti Moja. Evolving dynamics with our partners, new projects and relationships with other organizations, and drought exacerbated by our changing climate all contributed to a year filled with challenges.

Our relationship with Sauti Moja Marsabit has transitioned to one in which they have become more independent. We helped them establish new donor relations and secure project funding, and their organizational model evolved to accommodate new partners and secure more grants. We will continue to collaborate, as appropriate, in support of the vulnerable households and communities that we have served, together.

At the same time, we are renewing our partnership with Rural Education and Training Organization (RETO), formerly known as PETI. We are excited to be again working with these long-time friends and development workers. This year, we will be running two new projects. First, a Shepherd School that enables older youth to study in the evenings and gain primary equivalency. Second, an Adult Literacy class targeting young moms with basic literacy and financial skills as well as family health training.

Extensive drought has forced our program priorities to shift, as plant growth and livestock have been devastated. Our beneficiaries have struggled to survive and care for their children during the past year. In response, we emphasized lobbying for and providing food aid to the most vulnerable households – single moms, orphan-headed families, and people affected by AIDS.

The Maasai communities consider our livestock loans to be extremely important for vulnerable female-headed households. Our current challenge is to secure funds for livestock purchases in



Monitoring projects is very fulfilling for Tim and Lyn.

order to replace those that died in drought and to respond to the high demand of these communities. (The cover photo shows some of the happy livestock beneficiaries in Tingatinga, Tanzania.)

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Tim Wright
Founding Director, Sauti Moja

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations in the current financial year were \$154,207, which included a \$13,320 grant from Emergency Relief and Development Organization (ERDO) for family health and \$7,500 for food aid for orphan-headed households. At year end, Sauti Moja had no liabilities, and there was a surplus of revenue over expenditures of \$18,821 for the year. A summary of program expenditures for FY16-17 follows.

EXPENSES FOR FY16-17

Vulnerable Youth (education, advocacy, early childhood development, business loans, etc.)	32%	\$42,818
Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family planning, child health, etc.) ¹	31%	\$41,821
Early Childhood Development (LECHE)	19%	\$25,568
Livestock for Sustainable Livelihoods	14%	\$19,124
Administration and Fundraising in Canada	3%	\$4,529
Global Education (training, literature, and hosting interns and field visitors)	1%	\$1,526
TOTAL		\$135,386

¹ Due to the severe drought in East Africa, this included food aid for 19 families affected by HIV/AIDS and for 36 orphan-headed households.

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



More frequent drought is increasing crop failures and hunger.



Even in drought, camels can produce milk.



Families affected by AIDS needed food aid.

HIGHLIGHTS

DROUGHT

» **The impact of climate change.** While pastoralists are accustomed to short hunger periods, as there are dry periods between the “short rains” of October to December and the “long rains” from March to June, climate change is bringing about an entirely new dynamic. Typically, during these dry periods, most livestock other than camels and goats do not produce much milk. Households that have additional income sources or livestock that can be sold are able to purchase food. But with climate change affecting rainfall, increased variability or back-to-back seasons of low rainfall is particularly devastating and traditional coping methods are challenged.

Climate models now indicate these parts of East Africa will be more frequently affected by drought. Over the past 6 decades, we have seen a 22% reduction in rainfall. And recent years have been worse. With decreased crop production and limited foraging opportunities resulting in the death of livestock, hunger has increased, especially in the poorest households. Food aid is frequently needed.

As dire as this appears, pastoralists have a history of adaptation to difficult climates, and with the right support, their traditional coping strategies can mitigate the worst effects of climate change. This includes improved communications and roads, better livestock marketing, increased vocational training, and decentralization of government, all of which contribute to new livelihood opportunities.

Our findings and consultations confirmed that Sauti Moja should contribute to adaptation in this livestock-based economy by continuing to support the shift to more drought-hardy livestock, like the camels and goats we help provide. We will increase support for education and technical training leading to employment for vulnerable youth, provide family health training (family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and child health and nutrition), and mitigate conflict by facilitating inter-ethnic peacemaking.

» **Lobbying for food aid.** An important element of our response to drought has been lobbying for food aid. The long rains ending in June 2016 were very poor, by mid-November

we began our lobbying efforts. In January, we were asked to draft a proposal for submission to Global Affairs Canada seeking approval for food aid for our beneficiaries, totalling 750 vulnerable female-headed households. The Government approved this, so Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGFB) and Emergency Relief and Development Overseas (ERDO) provided food for 4000 people. This has ensured that beneficiaries do not have to sell any breeding stock in order to buy food and are able to stay home to care for their children. They are very thankful for such support, but more will be needed.

» **Food aid for People Living with HIV/AIDS.** As noted in the 2016 Annual Report, we were able to provide goats to 19 Maasai families in Tanzania that are affected by HIV/AIDS. However, the drought, though not quite as serious as in Kenya, reduced access to food in these households weakened by disease. Given that good nutrition is needed for taking the antiretroviral medications that are critical to survival of infected parents, we responded with food aid for these households. This support continues until the end of the short rains – December 2017.

PEACEMAKING

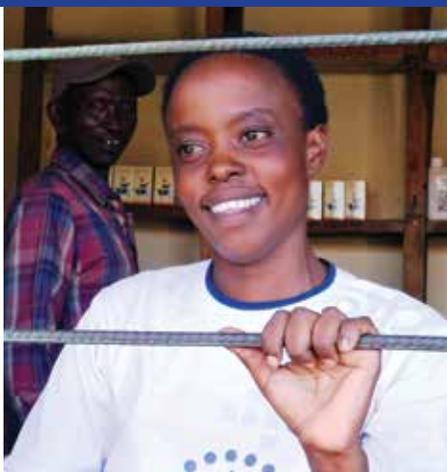
» **Drought and elections.** During drought, land and water conflicts between pastoralists of differing ethnic groups is common – pastoralists often need to bring their herds together in order to access a limited supply of forage and water. As survival and wealth are livestock dependent, it is not surprising that there would be resource struggles. Further, this year was the lead up to county and national elections; five years ago, this contributed to inter-ethnic conflict, as voting is usually along ethnic lines and often the politicians instigate conflict. The Sauti Moja Team took steps to mitigate these two forces that could destroy the fragile inter-ethnic peace that had been achieved in partnership with community women and leaders. These steps included action planning with elders, radio broadcasts, inter-faith prayers, community and school outreach to mitigate violence.

» **Resource conflict.** The Peace Team has established a sound reputation for facilitating restorative justice. Previously, livestock raiders were praised for bravery and increasing the wealth and food security of their community. Now leaders are ensuring that livestock are returned and a penalty paid by offenders.

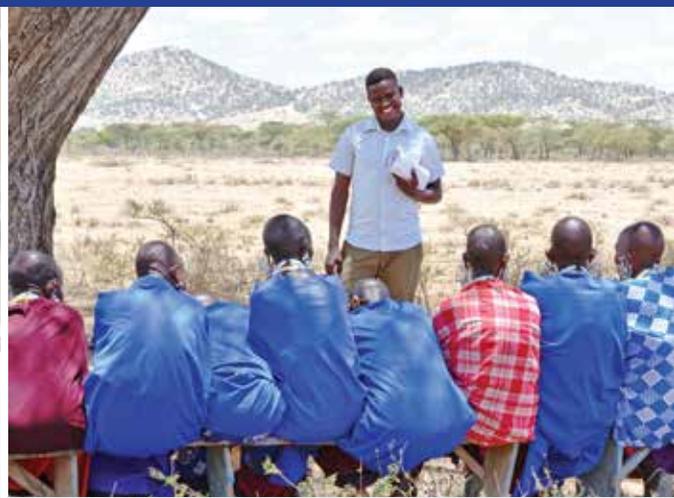
“... pastoralists have a history of adaptation to difficult climates, and with the right support, their traditional coping strategies can mitigate the worst effects of climate change.”



Widows of conflict broadcast their message of peace.



After college and with a loan, Naomi set up an animal health shop.



Maasai women learn about their land rights.

During the current drought, the Government requested our staff to visit a volatile site where livestock from several ethnic groups were located. Agreement among leaders on watering and grazing protocol was achieved, and peace was maintained.

» **Radio broadcasts.** The inter-community and inter-ethnic peace arising from the initiatives by our peace widows has become known throughout the county. However, people in remote locations wanted to actually hear these women's testimonies rather than just the rumours. Therefore, several radio broadcasts were presented by Borana, Gabra, Rendille and Samburu women; each broadcast had two women – one from each ethnic group that had been in conflict – give her personal testimony. A phone-in session followed, and callers were astounded by the news and great praise was lavished on the women and our Peace Team.

» **Peace Clubs.** We were pleased that an enthusiastic teacher, Mariam, approached Sauti Moja seeking support for establishing Peace Clubs in Marsabit schools. Supporting this was consistent with our goal of partnering with local visionaries and an important complementary activity to our peace work with women. Fortunately, we had already accessed a peace curriculum used by the Mennonites in eleven countries of Africa, so Miriam and our staff adapted this curriculum to the local situation. The current pilot project is being implemented in three primary schools, and membership includes both genders, ethnic and religious diversity, and representatives of Classes 4 to 8. This project contributes to improved family and community relations, inter-ethnic friendships, and peaceful relations among communities with a history of violent conflict. Already, some students participated in a peace march in support of non-violent national and county elections. It will be scaled up in the coming years.

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VULNERABLE YOUTH

Four ‘child mothers’ from Maasai communities graduated from Livestock College where they were trained as Veterinary Assistants. They chose this vocation, as they could return to their home community to be with their child and establish their own business in a livestock-based economy. We have provided these young mothers with a loan to purchase veterinary medicine, business advice and supervision, and five female goats to begin their own herd. Since livestock are normally owned and managed

by men, an agreement was made by the girl, her father, village leaders and Sauti Moja, that these goats and the offspring will remain her property. Naomi is one of these, and like others, is excited with being able to care for herself and her child.

LAND RIGHTS INITIATIVE

In 2016, we reported on our intention to support Maasai communities who have been coerced into joining Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Suffice it to say that WMAs provide some opportunity for tourism revenue from high-end photographic tourism operators and trophy hunters but also threaten traditional grazing systems. As tourism business interests become privileged over community interests, the Maasai face more and more loss of traditional territory. Unfortunately, most community members are quite uninformed about WMAs and the threat they carry for their livelihoods.

This year, public meetings were held to educate Longido residents about the WMA policies, regulations, infrastructure, and management strategies. The aim of this project was to mobilize them to politically engage in various village decision-making forums. We hoped that such mobilization would ensure that their livelihood needs and interests are well-heard and prioritized. We want to see WMA governance become more transparent and that village and other government leaders become more accountable.

Remarkably, WMA officials have recently reported that they were impressed by how effectively the project participants engaged WMA meetings and how well they understood the WMA system. They had never before experienced such levels of civic engagement. Another assessment from the University College Utrecht (Netherlands) reported that the differences between the villages, in terms of awareness and political engagement, were obvious; in villages where meetings were not conducted, “no one really knew anything about the WMA or why it may be a threat to their grazing systems”. In those villages where meetings were conducted, residents, including women, asked questions, raised their concerns and demanded more accountability. These results are encouraging Sauti Moja to further support these indigenous livestock-keeping communities - maintaining access to their traditional lands is a growing priority. ♦

