

1000 WIDOWS INITIATIVE



Caring for widows, like Mare, in their distress



Mare, a Rendille widow, and her child, Achibo, live in a remote village in northern Kenya. As a young girl, Mare was given as the second wife of an old man who promised her 100 goats upon his death. However, when he died his first wife refused to honor this commitment. Mare returned to her village, where she and her child survived on milk begged from her brother and other villagers.

The camel that Mare received from Sauti Moja two years ago **changed her socio-economic status and provided hope for the future**. She has newfound independence and self-esteem, as she no longer relies on others for her well-being. In fact, Mare is now assisting others with the milk she receives from 'Black Mouth' the camel. Mare also reports enjoying new esteem in the community: *"Now, when I talk in community meetings, I am listened to. I am a camel-keeper."*

A donor provided Mare with a helping hand. Our local staff attests to the good care that she provides to her camels, so her herd and social status will continue to grow. Now she will be able to **afford medical care and schooling for Achibo**. She can help others in the village rather than rely on charity for survival.



From 2007 to 2010, Sauti Moja provided 161 widows from the pastoralist communities of Kenya and Tanzania with livestock, veterinary medicines, and training in livestock care. We have also supervised the passing-on of the first female offspring of these animals to other needy women. Soon, 322 women will have benefited from our donors' initial investment.

By 2013, we aim to mobilize donor support for another 839 vulnerable women.

Who benefits?



Sauti Moja focuses on helping vulnerable women who face significant hardship due to the challenges of independently caring for their families.

- Single mothers who have **lost their husbands**
- **Abandoned women**, locally called 'white widows'
- Single mothers living with **HIV/AIDS**

How do we help?

In arid areas, Sauti Moja provides camels — the most valued and environmentally-friendly livestock available. In semi-arid areas, goats are more suitable. If women carry water long distances (5-10 km/day is typical), we provide a donkey as well. In a few cases, a grant or loan in conjunction with small business training is the most appropriate form of assistance.

Our proven approach

- Serve marginalized communities and women that other agencies have not helped
- Engage community leaders in identifying the most needy women of the community
- Use local volunteer experts to advise and administer the program in their home communities
- Assist with a 'good start', with which a woman can autonomously grow her herd and assets
- Make regular home visits to monitor livestock and their care, and to address individual needs
- Provide veterinary meds and training, and monitor the pass-on of first female offspring to other needy widows

For \$550, or \$46/month for one year, YOU can extend a helping hand to a widow today!

Donate online at:

www.sautimoja.org/Donations.html

Send cheques to:
Sauti Moja, 21 Dill St.
Kitchener, ON, N2G 1L2