



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



THE CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL WARMING

DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY

Last year, Sauti Moja reported on and celebrated 15 years of achievement through the combined effort of you, the donors; visionary community leaders and partner agencies; and local staff dedicated to serving their communities.

For most, this year was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our collective attention was on health which restricted activities. Our Kenyan and Tanzanian partners had cause for even more concern, as there was limited testing and little ability to be vaccinated. Program activities were reduced, but today, I am writing from Tanzania, after also visiting Kenya programs. I am pleased to report that activities are fully restored, and our partners are enthused to add new projects.

This year's Annual Report focuses on the existential challenge for pastoralists of global warming and related impacts of extreme weather. The International Panel on Climate Change calls the current climate situation a "code red for humanity", but this is not 'news' to pastoralists. They have long been frustrated by changed weather patterns, and in September, the Government of Kenya reported that 2.1 million Kenyans were facing starvation due to a drought.

My 2016 analysis of 70 years of meteorological data for Marsabit, Kenya showed increased probability of crop failure due to drought for agro-pastoralists; communities that formerly exported grain are now dependent on food imports and aid. Of course, recurring drought has also increased frequency of inadequate forage, leading to livestock deaths, less frequent breeding and fewer offspring, so there is less milk and income from animal production. Pastoralist worries about survival and the future for their children are legitimate.

The stories we heard and the beneficiaries we visited on this trip were heart wrenching – so much need for both emergency



Top: Learning first-hand about the challenges of vulnerable households.
Bottom: Pre-schoolers and teachers are happy to attend class, again.

assistance and economic recovery due to direct impacts of global warming on food security and its indirect impacts on increased poverty and ethnic conflict. I hope this report will provide some insight on the impacts of global warming on vulnerable pastoralist communities that you support, and the ways that, together, we are helping address these crises.

Tim Wright
Co-founder and Director, Sauti Moja



Cover photo: During this time of economic challenge, Anne, a single mom, appreciates our temporary, half-ration of food aid to complement the bit of income earned from her stall.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations in this financial year (FY20-21) totaled \$281,314. At year end, Sauti Moja revenue exceeded expenditures by \$143,217. Reduced project activities due to COVID restrictions and increased generosity of donors contributed to the large carry-forward that will enable program scale-up this financial year. A summary of program expenditures for FY20-21 follows.

EXPENSES FOR FY20-21

Vulnerable Youth (child mothers, deaf children, orphans, advocacy, etc.)	21%	\$29,567
Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family health, SRH, food aid, etc.)	17%	\$23,029
Education (peace clubs, adult literacy, and preschools)	32%	\$44,778
Sustainable Livelihoods (livestock and land rights)	24%	\$33,015
Administration and Fundraising in Canada	6%	\$7,708
Global Education (training, literature, hosting interns and field visitors)	0%	\$0
TOTAL		\$138,097

Learn more by visiting Canada Revenue Agency's website: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities

GLOBAL WARMING: HUNGER, POVERTY, AND CONFLICT

CROP FAILURE

For three seasons, there has been little crop harvest due to drought and/or delayed rains. This had a profound impact on those relying on maize and beans for food and income. In desperation, too many farmers are planting the cash crop, miraa (khat) -a drought-hardy shrub that produces leaves chewed as a stimulant and can become addictive. Now, even less land is available for food to address general hunger in the communities. *(In response to hunger, Sauti Moja is distributing emergency food aid to 160 of the most vulnerable households in our programs. When the rains come, we will plow fields and provide seeds for single moms with a small field.)*

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Lisa is a widow with five children, and has only a few goats. Due to extended drought, her goats lost weight and are weak. The kid goats did not survive, and there is no milk. In the past, she could sell a male goat for a good price to buy food, but now the market is flooded with goats being sold off rather than letting them die. The selling price of a goat has dropped to a quarter of usual, so only a small quantity of maize can be bought. *(We are also providing food aid for such moms to help them feed their children and to discourage sale of breeding livestock. Further, we are providing feed supplement and vet meds for those who are recent recipients of goat loans; this will contribute to survival until anticipated rains in November.)*

EMPLOYMENT

The current crisis has reduced cash in the economy and increased poverty. There is little work for casual labourers, including those who would normally work in fields, and stressed many small businesses. Elema's situation is not unusual; previously,

income from her own vegetable stall dropped from about \$6/day to being non-profitable. She closed it, and now sells seven days a week for another woman earning \$1.25/day, which is only enough to cover rent for a one-room home. *(Elema, like several other struggling urban moms is receiving food rations, and will receive a grant to help re-establish her small business, once the local economy improves.)*

LIVESTOCK RAIDS

With increased poverty, raids on herds of rivals competing for scarce land and water resources is increasing. Now, even thievery within peri-urban communities is prevalent. For example, in September, Salo's husband heard a commotion outside their house; when he opened the door, he was shot by thieves who took their few goats. Salo is now alone, struggling to feed and educate five children. *(We are unable to address the problem of general theft, but in October, we met with youth leaders and village elders to determine what may be done. The young men said that they raid because they have no income from fields, livestock, or jobs, so worry about hungry wives and children. Our partners will continue these peace meetings, and hope to complement these with income generating projects, such as beekeeping and rehabilitation of water points.)*

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPS)

There is increased focus by each ethnic group on securing grazing and farm land by legal means. Now, in some cases, there's concerted effort by the majority to cleanse 'their' locations of 'others', leaving several villages decimated and homes destroyed. Most IDPs have fled to town, leaving their fields and livestock, and others fled to remote locations where they are safe among those of their ►



① Due to drought and its impact on her goats, Lisa despairs for her future, yet is grateful for food aid to carry her family through. ② Though her own business failed due to widespread poverty, Elema is so happy to have some food assistance for herself and her child. ③ Young fathers have expressed frustration with inability to provide for the family, so wish for a peaceful way to feed their families.



1 The Peace Widows celebrated their peace, are re-energized as Ambassadors for Peace, and will challenge communities in conflict. 2 Martha counsels Galgallo after he has recovered from life-threatening gunshots. 3 Gumatu lost her home; nevertheless, she was very thankful for a tarpaulin to keep the rain out of her new house. 4 Young boys enjoy learning about living in peace, and are expected to make peaceful choices in adulthood, too. 5 Our partners erected crosses on roads where there have been killings. This reminder of ethnic violence has a dove with 'peace' in three local languages.

► ethnicity. We recently met Gumatu, a widow with three children, who told us of fleeing her home when shooting started in her village, losing her livestock and job cooking at the local school. She now lives in a desert village, where she and her children are dependent on others. She despairs about the future. *(Sauti Moja is providing 40 IDP households with food aid, as well as providing tarpaulins to cover their houses to protect them from the rains that are expected soon. She will also receive goats or a grant for a small project that will help her feed the children.)*

ORPHANS

Many children have been orphaned by revenge killings and in ethnic cleansing. Galgallo, his widowed mother and four siblings were attacked in their home; his mother and brother were killed, and Galgallo was shot three times in the chest and back. He has recovered after several months in hospital, and now, the orphans are cared for by their grandmother. His sister, who recognized the attackers, has fled to another village to save her life. *(With land/ethnic conflict, more children are being enrolled and monitored in our orphan project. Orphan households receive food aid and their education is supported – tuition, fees, books, shoes and uniforms.)*

PEACEMAKING IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT

PEACE CLUBS

Our partners target multi-ethnic communities with Peace Clubs, as in communities with low education and literacy levels, school children are often a respected source of information for parents. Not only do children have a peace education role in families, but they are also an example of inter-ethnic friendship. Students are sometimes invited to meetings of elders to speak about what they have learned and to challenge leaders to choose a secure, peaceful future for the children.

KARANTINA PEACE WIDOWS

Eight years ago, we established an inter-ethnic community livestock bank that included Borana and Gabra women who had been widowed and had lost their livestock to raiders from those of the other ethnicity. At that time, they forgave one another and came together as ambassadors for peace. In spite of increased conflict between their communities, these women remain committed; they are excited to go as an inter-ethnic group to give testimonies of forgiveness and reconciliation and to offer a peaceful way forward.

CIVIC EDUCATION

In northern Kenya, national elections and associated campaigning has been a major contributor to ethnic conflict. Unfortunately, constituencies are often aligned with ethnicity, and politicians exploit rivalries with extreme promises of ethnic benefit. We are supporting our partners to conduct civic education meetings in rural villages to encourage non-violence related to the elections in August 2022. Trainings will include their right and how to vote, the importance of a secret ballot, warning against bribery by politicians, and encourage voting for candidates who will work for peace.

ADVOCACY

Our partner staff have a multi-prong approach, advocating for peace by joining and supporting many Government initiatives, as well as participating in inter-faith (Muslim, Catholic, and Protestant) peace committees. Our partners also initiate and conduct meetings among leaders of communities in conflict, sometimes including Peace Widows and students from Peace Clubs to reinforce peace messages.

