



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



A YEAR OF RELIEF, RENEWAL, AND RESILIENCE

DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY

As many Canadian farmers know, success or failure 'is all about the weather'. The same is true for the pastoralists in East Africa. Fortunately, the good rains in October to December 2023 provided considerable relief with good crops for those who could afford to plant, and abundant forage for livestock that had survived drought. However, return to 'normal' is a long process, so we continued some food assistance while ramping up livestock loans, planting assistance, and small business support to hasten recovery of stressed families.

Other good news is that ethnic conflict in Marsabit has subsided due to the rains, general recognition of the futility of conflict, improved security by Government, emergency food aid, and peace activities done by agencies like Sauti Moja. Together, the rains and peaceful relations were highly energizing for us and our partners. We were able to gradually shift focus from the hunger emergency to livelihood recovery.

It was rewarding to learn that our focus on building sustainable local agencies contributed to RETO-AP being recognized by AMREF, an international agency serving Africa, as a top agency for organizational capacity in Marsabit County.

In Tanzania, SMTZ is responding to clan leaders wishing to address alcohol abuse that is destroying many families by establishing a project in collaboration with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center University College (KCMCUCo)-Institute of Public Health.



Lyn Bishop's humanitarian experience in several countries and agencies plus expertise in organizational development, peacemaking, and gender equality contributes much to the success of Sauti Moja's partner agencies.

And, in another collaboration with KCMCUCo, SMTZ will initiate a pilot project with Village Health Workers trained and placed in three villages with inadequate health services.

Expecting a great year!

Tim Wright

Co-founder and Director, Sauti Moja



Cover photo: Medical checkups by the local doctor help ensure healthy development of preschoolers.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations to Sauti Moja in financial year (FY23-24) totaled \$316,508. Total expenses were \$278,834, giving a surplus of \$37,674 which helped in maintaining momentum for livelihood recovery.

EXPENSES FOR FY23-24

EDUCATION: preschools, vulnerable youth (child mothers, orphans, deaf children, and young herders), adult literacy classes, and school clubs (sexual and reproductive health, peace, and environment).	41.6%	\$116,089
LIVELIHOOD: land resource security and management, food security (livestock, crops, and small business), and community peacemaking.	21.2%	\$59,040
HEALTH: family health (child care, family planning, women and child rights, etc.) education, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, and emergency medical assistance	8.6%	\$24,018
FOOD ASSISTANCE: Priority was investment in livelihood recovery, but food was needed, until these initiatives provided additional food and income.	26.0%	\$72,594
ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDRAISING IN CANADA	2.6%	\$7,093
		TOTAL \$278,834

Learn more by visiting Canada Revenue Agency's website: www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/information-about-a-charity.html

RECOVERING FROM HUNGER

For pastoralist moms who depend on others' help and/or have too few sheep and goats, Sauti Moja has been supporting loans of young breeding stock. However, though forage is now abundant, the time for restocking, gestation, and production is long and some families still need food assistance.

We helped agri-pastoralists (those in semi-arid environments and have small fields) by plowing their fields and providing maize and bean seed. Generally, this alleviated hunger, so ongoing food assistance was only needed by those without the physical capacity to grow a crop.

For those without land access or livestock, such as the urban poor moms and some IDPs, we provided small business training and grants. They are excited to become self-sufficient in the improving local economy, so no longer depend on food assistance.

Sauti Moja is helping a group of young men without livestock. Struggling to care for their families, some of them had resorted to livestock raiding and petty crime. When we joined them in a peace meeting, they asked for livelihood assistance. This year, our pilot project assisted a group of 20 determined to become food secure.

RESTORING PEACEFUL RELATIONS

After several years of displacement and loss of livelihood (fields and livestock) due to ethnic conflict, RETO-AP supported some brave men and women to visit their fields and plant crops. Now, fear of attack is less, so some families built traditional houses. They are an example to others of reconciliation, and more are moving 'home'.

Now, RETO-AP staff are using their peace curriculum revised by and for pastoralist women to establish an inter-ethnic group for reconciliation, and are now reaching out as community peacemakers and lobbying elders to reconcile and commit to peace. People are moving freely, and again, parents safely send children to school.

The challenge in the lowlands is addressing livestock raids and related killing, not internal displacement. There, our partners have initiated a women's peace group, and they are not only learning about peace-making but developing plans to foster reconciliation.

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1 Karoli leads the HIV/AIDS project that includes food security for families. The peer support group members were assisted with plowing and crop inputs. 2 Adan and Elema organized training and gave inputs to young fathers, so they could grow crops and produce honey for food and family income. 3 Small business training and grants enabled this IDP mom to set up a roadside kiosk selling fruit and vegetables to support her family. 4 After lives and homes were destroyed, Gabra and Borana women returned, reconciled, and now advocate for peace in their communities. 5 Four years after being driven from home, some Konso Banchele villagers returned to plant crops. The Headman thanked us and RETO-AP for support. 6 Women leaders from Loglogo study peacemaking and are mobilizing to address attitudes that fuel conflict within and with other communities.

EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD

EDUCATION PROGRAM



Parents value Montessori education provided to their preschoolers. On Parents' Day, they were impressed by the map and puzzle skills plus ability to name each District of Tanzania.



Young wives in our four adult literacy classes are excited to read. Learning about woman and child rights, life skills, and family health empowers them and provides new opportunities.



Sexual reproductive health education for boys and girls includes goal setting and life skills. Here, the Police Gender Officer teaches about gender-based violence and forced early marriage.

HEALTH PROGRAM



For serious medical issues referred to a specialist, Esupat, SMTZ's Education Coordinator, goes with parents and preschoolers, interprets for them, and ensures SMTZ financing of treatment.



Adult literacy learners, like Sara, are able to contribute more to their villages. She advises moms on family health, provides first aid support, and monitors child growth in the clinic.



Grace provides family health training to all moms who receive goats. This session was about nutrition, so Tim added an object lesson on three food groups that form a balanced diet.

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM



Martha supports urban, single moms with counsel, small business training, grants, forming peer support groups, and establishing savings and credit associations to reduce insecurity.



Sauti Moja continues to focus on single moms with no livestock, field, or regular source of income. This year, we provided goat loans to 74 moms who will help 74 others with goat kids.



Due to mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Lillian has been marginalized. SMTZ supported beauty school and equipping a salon. Her community sees that HIV is not a death sentence.

