



*"Rendille widow and Sauti Moja beneficiary", Photo by Eva Rubow*

# Annual Report FY2007-08

[www.sautimoja.org](http://www.sautimoja.org)

# Together, we are making a difference!



Donor support combined with the dedication of Sauti Moja staff and volunteers has contributed to many accomplishments over the past 18 months. We are privileged to work with an incredible team of Kenyans and Tanzanians who are deeply committed to bettering the lives of most vulnerable in their communities.

**Have a look at the following pages for an update of each project!**

## Highlights

- The LOOCIP team in Longido has successfully lobbied the Tanzania government, raising awareness about the plight of child mothers and convincing authorities to re-evaluate the law that prohibits them from returning to school. They have worked closely with the Parliamentary Committee for Community Development, Women, and Children and will present their case to Parliament in November.
- The HIV/AIDS project has received prestigious recognition from the Government of Tanzania, and the LOOCIP team was invited to present their “lessons learned” from our project at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City – a forum of over 20,000 health specialists from around the world!
- To-date, we have provided 98 widows, who are raising children, with 270 goats, 45 donkeys, and 34 camels. This includes two new projects that support self-sufficiency for vulnerable mothers, some of which are living with AIDS.

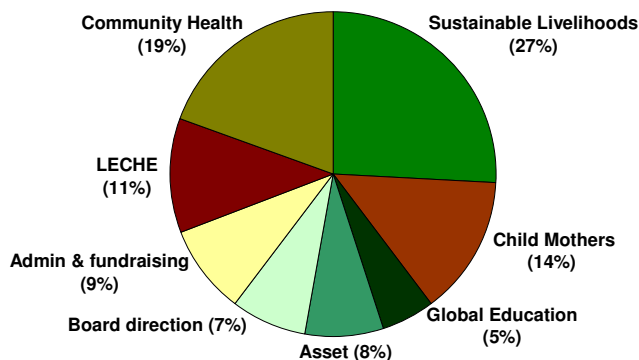


*Africa Program Manager, Corey Wright, with some of the LOOCIP Team in Longido, Tanzania*

## Finances

Total income for FY07-08 was \$74,727.92, which represented 44% growth over Year One. Expenditures were \$69,682.82 – more than double that of our founding year, enabling us to scale-up projects and add two others.

### Expenditures in FY07-08



Costs in Canada (administration, fundraising, and board meetings) were 16.6% - above our target of 10%. This is attributable to the fact that we are sorting out optimal timing of our Annual Board Meeting – we had two meetings this financial year, and that we made changes in our financial management, resulting in unexpected costs in the transition. We remain committed to the 10% goal, and are confident in achieving this, next year.

To reduce costs, we purchased and re-built a used vehicle. Not only has this solved our vehicle access problem, it is cutting our transport costs in half.

Additional detail on Sauti Moja’s income and expenditures is available at [www.sautimoja.org](http://www.sautimoja.org), as well as from Canada Revenue Agency, [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities).

For FY08-09, we are targeting one-third growth in donations; this will fully engage our field teams in activities associated with current projects. We seek committed donors that become more engaged in specific projects, such as the corporate donor, Nevada Learning Series, which gives a share of its sales to LECHE, and the group of Calgary friends that recently committed to funding the PETI project for three years.

**Please help us mobilize support from other compassionate donors!**

# Sustainable Livelihoods



People are beginning to understand the importance of this program. Across the world, there is growing recognition of the impacts of global warming and its contribution to the global food crisis. This is not new to the pastoralists of East Africa, as over the past few decades, they have experienced more frequent and severe drought, which has repeatedly devastated their herds and kept most of them impoverished. Of course, calamity does not equally impact everyone. Women, especially widows who had little to begin with, are usually the most affected. Therefore, Sauti Moja continues to provide livestock to vulnerable pastoralist widows who have been impoverished by droughts, health problems, and marginalization. The livestock assist them to re-build their herds, and helps them provide better nutrition, health care, and education for their children.



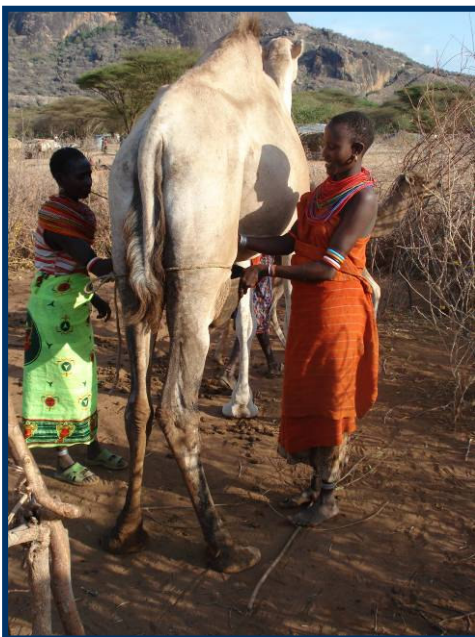
*Goat recipients in Longido, Tanzania*

In Tanzania, Sauti Moja expanded its livestock activities to include a few Maasai women who are facing health problems, particularly the impact of HIV/AIDS, which threatens their survival and their children's well-being. They were excited to receive these female goats. The milk is critical to improving nutrition, and is especially important for those receiving drug therapy. Sale of surplus milk and male offspring will boost family income, and provide for other household needs.



*Borana boy with newborn kid*

Sauti Moja monitors livestock given to beneficiaries and provides some veterinary medicines. On a recent household visit, this Borana boy proudly showed us the first female kid from the goats that we provided a year ago. Once this kid is weaned, it will be 'passed on' to another needy household in his community, thereby multiplying the number of families that benefit from the initial donation. Community leaders will select the next beneficiaries using criteria similar to the original selection. (This protocol is also used for camels.)



*Morning milking for Rendille women*

This year, a remote and impoverished Samburu community, Lonjorin, was added to the three communities that had previously received camels from Sauti Moja. Our program received praise from the elders; one remarked that it is unique in that the widows and abandoned women are receiving livestock. Often, the only way for someone to get new livestock is through livestock raids, and any young warrior who risks his life in a raid is not going to give the animals to a poor woman! Further, Sauti Moja assists those who are unable to benefit from programs that require a financial contribution; often, the poorest survive on food relief and handouts from compassionate neighbours, so do not have the down payment required for a loan or supplementary grant from other agencies.

# HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care



In a review of AIDS prevention programs worldwide, Panos research found that, in spite of the futility of most top-down approaches, there is hope for success: “Our central conclusion is that the most effective responses to HIV/AIDS are those which emerge from *within* societies.” Sauti Moja continues its pilot project in a Longido community, using ‘Community Conversations’ - a methodology that is based in the community being ‘agents’ of change rather than ‘objects’ of change. The project facilitates community discussions about the epidemic and supports development and implementation of strategies that are developed and implemented by the community themselves.



*Koko, a respected woman, contributes to the community's HIV/AIDS strategy.*

Sauti Moja and its Tanzania partner, LOOCIP, received international regard for the Community Conversations project. Representatives were invited to share the details of the project and their lessons learned to an international audience at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico, City. This invitation has further confirmed the value of this project and its cutting-edge methodology. The international HIV/AIDS community is watching and listening to innovative programs like this – eager to learn more progressive ways to mobilize communities!

Over the past year, considerable progress has been made. All sectors of the community have critically evaluated and debated policies and practices that contribute to HIV/AIDS. Community leaders have developed action plans and begun implementing activities that contribute to prevention, testing, and care for those affected by the disease. Government leaders have announced new policies that reduce women’s vulnerability, as well as enhanced health services, including distribution of condoms and HIV testing at the local clinic. Progress has also been made to reduce mother-to-child transmission. Lastly, and most importantly, anecdotal evidence suggests that community members are changing sexual practices.

The most important achievement of the project is the level of mobilization and action observed in the community. Community leaders have initiated several micro-projects with technical and financial support from Sauti Moja. The following highlights a few:

1. Six community members have been trained and now assist local schools to implement an educational program in HIV/AIDS prevention.
2. Young traditional leaders are meeting with peers to promote and distribute condoms. They target the highest risk groups, such as the young men who migrate to high-prevalence cities for work.
3. A respected woman has been selected and trained to counsel people seeking HIV testing, especially pregnant women, at the local clinic;
4. Impoverished people living with HIV/AIDS, but who can not afford transport costs, are financially assisted to access testing facilities and anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment in an urban center.
5. Several community members have been training in Home-Based Care activities and conduct weekly visits to people living with HIV/AIDS
6. Community leaders from Mairowa have begun to mobilize leaders from other communities. They have fostered a growing demand for programs like Community Conversations and have become models for other leaders.



*Nashipai and Karoli discuss condom use with young, ‘at risk’ Maasai men who migrate to Arusha city for work.*

# Support to Child-Mothers



Regardless of differing sexual mores in pastoralist communities, early, unplanned pregnancy devastates girls' lives, shattering their hopes and dreams. Sauti Moja conducts two projects that address the differing needs of child mothers in Kenya and Tanzania.

## KENYA

Due to extremely conservative values, pregnant Borana and Gabra girls are often chased from school, home and village. After delivery, these girls are forced to support themselves and their children, but few options are available to them,



*Amy & Paul – New Hope & Future!*

leaving them impoverished and vulnerable. Sauti Moja has assisted some child mothers to begin small income generation activities. While we have seen marginal success for a few girls in these businesses, our focus is helping those who will to return to school. Experience indicates that is the best hope for themselves and their children, and the best hope for preventing inter-generational poverty.

Amy is eldest of seven children raised by a widow earning \$20/month. The family has no livestock or field, though sometimes receives relief food. At 14, Amy was sexually-exploited by an older man and gave birth to her son, Paul. Amy's dreams have been shattered, and even if her mother could care for Paul, there is too much stigma for her to return home and go to school. Due to social stigma, future marriage to someone supportive and respectful is highly unlikely. Sauti Moja has offered Amy new hope for a secure future by providing counseling, securing legal aid for her, securing school placement, and assisting with childcare support.

***The Tanzania Parliamentary Committee on Women and Girls recently named the Child-Mother Project the “best project in Arusha Region and instrumental to helping the Maasai community”. Thanks to LOOCIP’s advocacy work, the Committee is committed to changing the existing laws that prohibit girls from returning to school!***

## TANZANIA

Though, for the Maasai, child pregnancy does not constitute a social stigma, it is nonetheless a traumatic predicament for girls. By Tanzanian law, they are immediately expelled from school and prohibited from returning. Upon returning home, they often face the prospect of an early marriage, further diminishing their future opportunities. This year, an anonymous private donor and her friends enabled Sauti Moja to initiate a project that helps young girls experience healthy pregnancy and delivery, avoid early marriage, and maintain educational opportunities. Project components include short-term accommodation at the LOOCIP Centre, counseling, family mediation, peer support, life skills and reproductive health education, and advocacy with schools and government to ensure that child mothers are permitted to return to school.



*Faith with her proud mother and healthy newborn*

Faith (photo on right) and her widowed mother were devastated by her pregnancy. Her mother had saved for years to provide the education that would lead to Faith's employment which would alleviate their poverty. Not only her mother, but her five siblings were depending on Faith to succeed in school. Her pregnancy was devastating to the family and its future. When Faith came to the LOOCIP Centre in Longido, she cried for hours. She had no hope! Now, hope has returned; she has a healthy baby girl, and she's excited to return to a non-governmental school in January. She wants to be a teacher in her community. We will be with her every step of the way!

# Longido Early Childhood Education



The Longido Early Childhood Education (LECHE) project is an example of an effective partnership that Sauti Moja would like to replicate in more communities and all of its projects. It represents a genuinely community-driven initiative. The following highlights some of the important elements of the project:

- Sara Mollelian, Founder and Director of LECHE, had a vision for initiating early childhood education, as indigenous children from rural communities are often disadvantaged upon entering the school system, leading to poor performance and early dropout. She approached Sauti Moja for assistance after initiating a pilot project in Longido.
- Sauti Moja's partner organization in Tanzania, LOOCIP, took on this project in recognition that it could help reverse the cycle of marginalization that afflicts Maasai communities; too few Maasai are qualified for positions of power that affect government services, such as health, education and agriculture, to their communities.
- The Oltepesi community, a rural Maasai community, took their own initiative to begin a classroom like the pilot one in Longido. They mobilized to form a parent's committee that is made up of men and women who cooperated to construct a traditional structure that serves as a the pre-school classroom. They also met with LOOCIP and Sauti Moja to address educational issues, including further development of the classroom.
- Sauti Moja facilitated development of LECHE by providing technical and management support, as well as securing funding for the project.
- Generous Canadians donated the funding to finance this project. We wish to acknowledge the support of Nevada Learning Series, a Canadian company that produces educational materials, which provides a share of its sales to this project. Other donors that contributed significantly are the Retired Teachers of Ontario, and large private donors such as the Teolis Family and the Knox Family. We are grateful to them all for their philanthropy.



*Drawing in sand under a tree in 2007*

A year ago, the Oltepesi project started with children learning under a tree with a part-time teacher and one assistant, twigs for drawing, and stones for counting. Today, there is a classroom, full-time teacher with two assistants, and Montessori tools for early childhood learning.



*Full classroom with supplies in 2008*

***“We’re grateful for this initiative. Our community remains disadvantaged in comparison to others in Tanzania, because we haven’t valued education sometimes, and other times, we haven’t had the same opportunities provided to us. We are thankful for LECHE, as this will help us achieve more in education and strengthen our community.”*** An Oltepesi elder.



*Learning good hygiene.*

Pre-school children are introduced to Swahili, counting, writing, etc., as well as taught the importance of personal hygiene. Further, their growth is monitored, and the children are provided a nutritious porridge during their half-day of school.



*Enhancing health with school lunch*

# New Initiatives



*PETI Chairwoman,  
Susan Esimirdana*

## PETI Partnership in Logologo

For Christmas last year, staff of Stanton Regional Hospital, Yellowknife, NWT raised funds for a pilot project in Logologo, Kenya. A local NGO, the Pastoralist Education and Training Initiative (PETI) administered this project well. Now, after reviewing their accountability and progress, we will scale up our assistance to pastoralist widows and child mothers in Logologo.

Sauti Moja foresees multi-year collaboration with PETI, as it seeks to (1) improve the livelihoods and living standards in order to increase the resilience of people in the arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya, and (2) enhance cooperation among local development actors in order to reduce the poverty and suffering of the most vulnerable, especially widows, child mothers and children. Susan Esimirdana, who is a Rendille leader and resident of Logologo, as well as PETI Chairwoman, is passionate about assisting the women in her community through the work of PETI and the support of Sauti Moja and its Calgary donors. We are privileged to work with such dedicated, inspiring people!

## Global Education Initiative

While our projects contribute to immediate well-being of families and communities, long-term change in the World requires a critical mass of people who understand the plight of marginalized people and are willing to take action. Sauti Moja is committed to enhancing public understanding of other cultures and issues related to their development, and hope that a growing number of people will pursue lives that contribute to change and the well-being of impoverished communities. Activities include meaningful engagement of supporters, raising awareness, advocating for social justice, and facilitating opportunities for cultural immersion and educational experiences in East Africa.



*The UCU field study group in Oltepesi,  
learning about the plight of the Maasai.*

This year, we facilitated McGill University's Canadian Field Studies in Africa (CFSA) program, as well as another from the University College Utrecht (Netherlands). Corey Wright, our Africa Project Manager, facilitated cultural immersion and student dialogue with community representatives about Maasai culture and contemporary challenges. He also supervised interns from UCU and a Master's student from Catholic University, Leuven; students learn while contributing to research initiatives and programs in Longido.



*A happy, transformed Gail (left)*

## Child Mother Sponsorship

Sauti Moja is seeking donors who wish to provide on-going support for a child mother. Our public health volunteers provide support for child mothers by lobbying schools to accept them and ensure that other girls have the same opportunity; managing payment of school fees, transport costs, and support costs for them and their child; facilitating counseling and peer support from other child mothers; and ensuring good childcare by regular monitoring and encouraging the guardian. For more information, visit our website [www.sautimoja.org/ChildMother.html](http://www.sautimoja.org/ChildMother.html)

Gail (photo right) is a good example of how a donor can transform the life of a child mother. She was impregnated at 15 years of age by an older male. She suffered greatly, nearly losing her life due to pregnancy complications and depression. In 2006, she was discovered by Sauti Moja volunteers living a destitute life in Marsabit. Now, she has a healthy baby, she's completing her education, and has recently been given an award for her academic achievement! Thanks to one Canadian woman's donation of \$80 per month, Gail and her child have a new, promising future!

# Sauti Moja and Friends



*Sauti Moja managers (Joanne, Tim and Corey) receiving the quarterly donation from Nevada Learning Series (Brett and Roxanne) for LECHE*



*Some of the PETI executive – Steve Timbor, a public health nurse, Samuel Seki, an education officer, and Pastor Moga, a relief worker*



*Corey and Sara Molellian meeting with Parent Committee in Oltepesi*



*Masters student, Katrijn Asselberg, assisting with nutritional assessment at the LECHE classroom*



*Tim (left) and Corey (right) planning with Trustees, Larry Loewen-Rudgers & Ernie Fuller*



*Charles Lesingran and Paul Galmagar explain the Camel Project to elders in Lontolio, Kenya*