



Annual Report



2009

www.sautimoja.org

What's happened?

To-date, your support has helped Sauti Moja provide about 150 vulnerable widows with camels or donkeys and goats, which provide food and a step-up from poverty; enabled 30 child mothers to continue their education or become self-supporting through small business grants; trained almost 500 local Maasai leaders in the 'Community Conversation' approach to fighting HIV/AIDS; funded community-based projects in care for families affected by AIDS; and supported early childhood education in two communities.

Highlights for FY08-09

- Chairman of the Board, Dr. Ernie Fuller, and Treasurer, Joanne Allgoewer, made a monitoring visit to projects in Kenya and Tanzania. They were joined by other donors who initiated great media coverage of our work. Thanks to all of them!



Sauti Moja Board Chairperson, Dr. Fuller, visiting Kenya!

- Sauti Moja continues to function with the principle that 'development work' should contribute to stronger "civil societies". We continue to collaborate with the LOOCIP organization in Tanzania (www.loocip.org), which has grown from a small, unknown community organization with few activities to a well recognized agency conducting many programs with several national and international partners. We're providing similar capacity development among community groups in Kenya and, recently, with a small community agency, PETI, in Logologo, Kenya.

- Thanks to many Canadian sponsors, many new Child Mothers in Kenya and Tanzania are back in school!

- Sauti Moja and LOOCIP recently agreed to partner with Africa Wildlife Fund to deliver technical and management support for HIV/AIDS prevention in several Maasai communities.

- Sauti Moja forged a relationship with a Dutch

organization, SNV, that shares our commitment to Maasai girls' right to education. With this in mind, Sauti Moja and SNV have assisted the development of the Longido Education Advocacy Forum (LEAF), which will conduct lobbying and advocacy activities related to Maasai girls' education.

- We continue to help alleviate poverty for vulnerable women in remote areas, such as the Rendille communities of Logologo and Lontolio where 46 women, mostly widows, were assisted with goats and camels. We are the first development agency to work in Lontolio, a community that is particularly discriminated against.

We've maintained our 10% Target!

What is it?

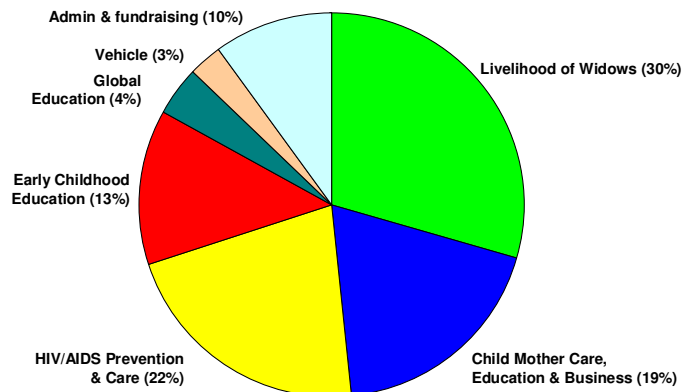
We are committed to maintaining our administrative and fundraising costs in Canada below 10% of our overall expenses.

Why?

One of the biggest detriments to development is that much of the money raised in Canada and other countries doesn't actually get to the intended recipients due to inefficiency, poor stewardship, large wages, and so on...

We're committed to being different!

3-Year Summary of Sauti Moja Spending



In spite of the economic crisis affecting so many Canadian families, Sauti Moja donors remained generous! This year, donations increased 43% to \$106,679. Our support to communities grew likewise! Program expenditures for FY08-09 were as follows: Sustainable Livelihoods, \$21,264; Child Mothers, \$23,531; Community HIV/AIDS, \$22,136; & Early Child Development, \$6,279. Additional detail on income and expenditures is available at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities.

Did You Know?

Pastoralists all over the world are some of the most vulnerable people groups, facing some of the biggest challenges due to global warming, HIV/AIDS, discrimination, and other global issues!

Pastoralists live in dry areas and depend on livestock for their existence. They face many challenges in their struggle for survival. The schematic below illustrates some of the serious issues that Sauti Moja confronts in its work with the Maasai of Tanzania, and the Borana, Gabra, Samburu, and Rendille communities in Northern Kenya. It represents just some of the complicated layers that contribute to the vulnerability and challenges that pastoralists, especially the women, face daily. The very existence of these cultures teeters on an unstable collection of the following issues:

- 1. Social-Political Discrimination.** Often, pastoralists, like those we work with, are indigenous peoples. And, like similar groups around the World, they have a long history of discrimination from the government and dominant groups in their respective countries. They maintain language, cultures and ways of living that are quite different from the global norm and different from those living around them. They don't have good political representation, and they're often treated poorly and accused of being "backwards". Consequently, they don't receive the health, education, and financial services or special assistance typical in other communities.
- 2. Global Warming & Civil Conflict.** Everyone has heard about Global Warming. What they don't realize or see is the devastating effect that this is having on communities living in environmentally-vulnerable areas around the World. The pastoralists we work with in northern Kenya and northern Tanzania are on the front line. They are used to droughts – their entire lives revolve around travelling with their livestock far distances to find grazing lands and water sources. Now, the droughts are increasing though and becoming much more serious. This is causing a great loss in the livestock they depend on, which is increasing poverty and hunger. As people are getting more desperate, there is more conflict between groups, as they fight for resources, especially water. To compound their plight, grazing land is often misappropriated and illegally occupied by others!
- 3. HIV/AIDS Epidemic.** The HIV/AIDS epidemic is like a fire on dry grass. While it hasn't greatly impacted many pastoralist communities, yet - often due to geographic isolation, it threatens to do so, terribly. For various reasons ranging from the diverse sexual norms in the community to little access to good education and health services, the HIV/AIDS epidemic will devastate many communities that we work with. It has already started to do so in Northern Tanzania, where we are confronted with more and more stories of death, illness, and orphans left with neither family support nor hope for a future! Who will care for the livestock and the children, if so many are lost due to this disease?
- 4. Gender Inequality.** In all of Sauti Moja's work, we focus on the most vulnerable, which is often the women and girls. This is commonly due to certain cultural values within pastoralist communities, as well as changes over the past Century that have decreased the status that women once held within their society. While not universal, we are witness to women and girls facing less opportunity, sometimes mistreatment, and greater poverty.



All in all, this means that the pastoralist people that we work with, especially the women and girls, are in dire straits. Their well-being depends on people like yourself, who are willing to support them, as they confront the multiple, complex challenges to their survival!

Livelihood Support

To-date, Sauti Moja's strategy has been to mitigate the effects of drought and support vulnerable widows of Rendille and Samburu communities in the Kaisut Desert by providing them with camels; camels are the most drought-tolerant and environmentally-friendly livestock adapted to arid environments. The female camels provide milk, and male offspring reduce the workload of women by carrying supplies. Males also can be sold to meet emergency needs.



A widow in Logologo milks a goat provided by PETI.

Maasai women, living with life-threatening disease and needing support for their children.

An important dimension to this program is that of 'passing-on' the first female offspring of each animal to the next most-needy widow selected by the community. According to livestock and community development specialists, this approach is optimal. In the new financial year, Sauti Moja will collaborate with village leaders to identify additional beneficiaries and supervise passing-on of young donkeys and goats.

PETI Update:

Previously, Sauti Moja conducted a trial project with the leaders of the Pastoralist Education and Training Initiative (PETI), which is based in the desert village of Logologo and led by a group of local, educated and well-respected community members. The trial involved providing livestock for only six widows, and was funded by staff of Stanton Regional Hospital in Yellowknife; the focus was evaluation of the project management skills and financial accountability of PETI. As the trial was very successful, a group in Calgary made a commitment to long-term livelihood support for widows and child mothers in Logologo and area. This year, another thirty widows were provided with goats – five females and one male. Sauti Moja is very encouraged by its partnership. Congratulations PETI!

COPING WITH THE CURRENT DROUGHT!

Recently, more frequent and severe drought has hampered progress on our livestock program. As most of the livestock is struggling to survive, they are not reproducing, and therefore, there is no milk production. Under these extreme conditions brought on by global warming, our program is not contributing to better nutrition among our beneficiaries. In order to preserve the livestock, many widows have sent their donkey and goats with other livestock herds to pasture areas far away. In addition, Sauti Moja has provided classes in animal care and provided veterinary medicines to counter the parasites that further debilitate livestock weakened by lack of forage. Nevertheless, our beneficiaries are deeply grieved by the losses that they have and will incur due to the current drought. Currently, we are suspending provision of new livestock until the drought ends, and there is adequate forage; for now, our focus is helping widows survive the crisis and maintain herds.

Among the Borana communities around Marsabit Mountain, which is semi-arid, vulnerable widows are provided with donkeys to carry water from wells up to 10 km away, and goats to provide milk for the children.

Selling goat kids meets education, health, clothing and other needs of the household. Livestock provide not only economic assistance but also enhance each widow's social status and empowers her, as she is able to care for her children better and more respected. The program also provides goats to

The last three rainy seasons have failed in northern Kenya. The UN believes this is the start of a crisis that will become a lot worse without international support.

"Life has never been easy for the poor in Kenya, but right now conditions are more desperate than they have been for a decade. Red lights are flashing across the country."

***Bukard Oberle,
World Food Program, Country Director, Kenya.***

Community HIV/AIDS Program

Sauti Moja's Community HIV/AIDS Program continues to grow, as the need that we observe in the community escalates. The simplest way to summarize this past year is "overwhelming and heartbreaking". In the past several months, every visit to the rural communities we work with includes more reports of the devastating impacts of the epidemic. Every visit, we meet more and more people, often women, who have tested positive for HIV/AIDS and, among other things, are desperate to know what to do, where to go for help, and how to ensure a secure future for their children!



Students conducting a drama concerning HIV/AIDS.

arose from the Community Conversations methodology in pilot communities of Mairowa, Ngoswak and Sinonik. With our support, community members continue to conduct activities, such as counseling at the local clinic, providing home-based care, promoting condom use by young men, helping the sick access treatment, providing education in the local schools, conducting educational dramas, and most recently, starting a small resource and counseling centre that focuses on changing behavior among male youth.



Rotary Club representatives visiting Longido.

with upcoming support from Rotary clubs in Canada (especially the Preston-Hespeler Club) and Tanzania (Rotary Club of Arusha-Mount Meru), Sauti Moja will be able to scale up its Community HIV/AIDS Program in two more communities!

We have also worked with Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to help them train leaders in six other districts of Tanzania. After hearing about our success using Community Conversations in Longido, AWF asked us to help them address the growing HIV/AIDS problem, which is complicating their wildlife conservation efforts in the areas where they work. We were happy to help out and see our work impact more communities!

While overwhelming, it represents important progress and is a true credit to the program, as it has assisted the communities in confronting the reality of HIV/AIDS, and more importantly, program leaders have built the necessary trust to allow people to disclose their status and seek help.

This past year, Sauti Moja has continued to facilitate and provide support to the community micro-projects that

Due to the success of the pilot program, Sauti Moja initiated a similar project in Oltepesi, which has been identified by a local hospital as a severely-impacted communities. In July, community leaders approached Sauti Moja and its partner, LOOCIP, to begin helping them to understand and confront the disease.

Other highlights have been our on-going fundraising with Rotary. We are optimistic that

What do you do when you're confronted with a young woman saying,

"I've tested positive. I'm the third wife of my husband. One of my co-wives has died. I think it was due to AIDS. My husband is continually sick and he's unable to work. I think he has HIV. I'm struggling to care for my own three children, but now the four orphans are relying on me also. Please help me."?

We're responding by mobilizing communities to take action!

Early Childhood Development

Sauti Moja continues to support the Longido Early Childhood Education (LECHE) program. In December, Sauti Moja successfully competed for a grant from a US organization, Pangea. The grant funded two years of Montessori training for two of our classroom assistants in Moshi, Tanzania. Sererwa and Elimbora are excelling in their Montessori Training! Their communities are proud of them and eagerly await their continued support to help their children develop and achieve better. More trained teachers are critical to scale-up of the LECHE Program.



Student intern, Katrijn, helping weigh children in Oltepesi

One of the key accomplishments this year has been our efforts to scale-up child nutrition activities. On-going growth assessments (height and weight measurements every three months) reveal a daunting challenge. Over half the children in the classrooms are malnourished – some of them severely. We're responding by enhancing the school feeding activity and following up with the families of malnourished children to identify and resolve the roots of the problem – sometimes the solution is as simple as treating intestinal parasites!

The project has gained recognition across the World. A founder and Director of a Montessori school in the USA, Andrea Plath Scott, learned about the program on the internet and came all the way to Tanzania to see our incredible accomplishments. She is now supporting the program and planning a conference in Longido next year. In addition, a group of children at the Montessori Children's House in North Bay, Ontario have been raising awareness about the plight of Maasai children in

Tanzania; they have raised \$2500 to help out the classrooms in Longido. A group of women in a Quilting Guild in Ontario is also supporting this program. *Nevada Learning Series* continues to provide the core funding for LECHE.

Global Education Initiative

Sauti Moja continues in its goal of raising global awareness of the challenges facing the communities it supports. The pastoral people of East Africa, like the Maasai in Tanzania or the Samburu in Kenya, are very vulnerable indigenous communities often facing the worst of global climate change, globalization, and prejudice. Their well-being relies, in part, on a global community that cares and is willing to cooperate. Informed partners can greatly influence their future!



Students from University College Utrecht learned about Maasai culture and challenges in Longido.

This past year has kept us busy. In addition to our usual efforts to educate Canadians via our communications material, we've hosted and participated in international field studies programs, supervised six international student internships, hosted four Tanzanian student interns, conducted presentations, and hosted several visits in Tanzania and Kenya from international organizations and Canadian supporters.

One of the highlights was hosting a group of 25 students and professors from the University College Utrecht, Netherlands. Sauti Moja and local partner, LOOCIP, hosted and coordinated the group in Longido for six days, whereby they met with community representatives and leaders to learn about the challenges facing the Maasai in Tanzania. Many students' lives were changed as a result of their experience. In several cases, students have re-directed their academic careers to focus on international development and global change!

Child Mother & Girls' Education

KENYA

In Kenya, Sauti Moja initiated a sponsorship program for child mothers who have been cast from home and school, and persecuted by their community due to pregnancy. The ostracism often drives them to desperate situations in their struggle for personal survival and to care for their babies. Six new child mothers were sponsored, this year. *Many more sponsors are needed!*



A Child Mother with her baby in Kenya – renewed hope!

Imagine the story of Nancy. She's a very bright 16 year old Rendille girl from a remote village, who was pressured into a sexual relationship and became pregnant while in primary school. Sauti Moja became aware of Nancy when a teacher contacted our volunteer indicating that this girl is a promising student who would merit our assistance. Her father had sold many livestock to support her schooling, but when she became pregnant, he cut off all assistance to her and her baby, Felista. Without his support, she was destined to marry an older man, likely as the second or third wife.

With Sauti Moja's support, Nancy is back to school and doing well academically. We monitor Nancy's well-being and the health of Felista. Now that there is serious drought, we are also assisting Nancy's mother with food aid to ensure that all three generations stay healthy. With

on-going support of sponsors, Nancy may even reach her goal – becoming a doctor to her people. We thank visionary sponsors for providing her with that possibility!

"Before Sauti Moja helped me, I had lost all hope. I was expelled from school and told I could never return! My dad is not alive. My mom used her savings to get me to school. I was her and my whole family's hope. Now, I've been given another chance. I will reach my dreams!" – a Child Mother in Tanzania

TANZANIA

In Tanzania, our program has really grown and expanded. Up to 30 new girls, who have been expelled from government school and prohibited to return, have come to Longido seeking help. Our partners in Longido provide a safe place to stay, counseling, health support, meeting with the girls' family to discourage early marriage, and most importantly, seek scholarships so that they can enter private schools that are sympathetic to their situations.

We have also stepped up our lobbying activities. With support from a Netherlands organization, SNV, we have helped start the Longido Education Advocacy Forum (LEAF). LEAF brings together many organizations who similarly want to fight for pastoralist girls' rights, especially relating to better education and the right to return to government-funded schools following delivery of their baby.



Happy to be back at school!

Progress has been made and change may be near: a provision to the law is before Tanzania Parliament that, if passed, will permit pregnant girls to return to government school!

