



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM CRISIS RESPONSE TO LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY

## DEAR MEMBERS OF SAUTI MOJA COMMUNITY

The consequences of global warming have been devastating for our beneficiaries with recurring droughts. Oxfam reports that “East Africa is one of the world’s worst-hit regions by climate change.” And yet, the World Meteorological Organization reports that Africa is responsible for less than 10% of global carbon emissions.

Last year, we hoped for good rains and a focus on drought recovery, but in the Horn of Africa, both rainy seasons failed resulting in diminished livestock herds, greater poverty and increased hunger. In response to widespread hunger in both Marsabit County in Kenya and Longido District of Tanzania, Sauti Moja provided food aid to more than 580 vulnerable households (about 2500 persons) – mostly single moms, people affected by HIV/AIDS, elderly and disabled. Community leaders praised our emergency response confirming that so many would have died but for the compassion of our donors.

The immediate need for food aid delayed livelihood recovery, but we can now focus on livestock loans, training and income generation activities, peacemaking, etc. We consider this a realistic expectation with forecast higher than average rainfall in October to December 2023 and continued donor generosity.

In addition to providing food aid, our partners continued and expanded regular programs that were less capital intensive. Many orphans and child mothers graduated to secondary, trade schools and university; adult literacy expanded to two new classrooms; peacemaking activities included new groups; advocacy for internally displaced families was initiated; and



*Tim joined IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) to discuss support they would need to return to their home village destroyed by ethnic conflict.*

HIV/AIDS prevention and care programming was extended to two new locations.

We are truly looking forward to a new year when, together, we can make a significant impact on recovery for our drought-stricken and impoverished friends and communities. Thank you!

**Tim Wright**  
Co-founder and Director, Sauti Moja



*Cover photo: Moms and children were excited with reliable delivery of bi-weekly food aid.*

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donations to Sauti Moja in this financial year (FY22-23) totaled \$293,473. However, expenditures exceeded revenue for a net loss of \$128,339 covered off by carry-forward from previous ‘COVID year’. This net loss was due to widespread hunger and the desperate need for food - the consequence of two more failed rainy seasons and high food prices. A summary of program expenditures for the year follows.

### EXPENSES FOR FY22-23

Food Assistance (people with AIDS, orphans, elderly, peace widows, IDPs, etc.)	57%	\$242,049
Vulnerable Youth (child mothers, deaf children, orphans, disabled, etc.)	13%	\$56,192
Education (preschools, adult literacy, peace clubs, etc.)	13%	\$53,692
Community and Family Health (HIV/AIDS, family health, SRH, etc.)	8%	\$33,654
Sustainable Livelihoods (livestock, small business, land rights, and peacemaking)	7%	\$28,463
Administration and Fundraising in Canada	2%	\$7,764
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$421,813</b>

*Learn more by visiting Canada Revenue Agency’s website: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities)*

# PEACEMAKING

Sauti Moja has supported peace with livestock banking for Widows for Peace, peace messaging in religious institutions and on radio, and in Peace Clubs for school children. Recently, ethnic tensions increased due to effects of global warming and droughts - livestock deaths and poverty, so our partner agency, RETO, is establishing new projects that will contribute to an environment free of fear and conducive to family well-being, including education of children.

## IDPS (INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS) RECONCILE AND MODEL PEACE

For decades, Borana and Gabra pastoralists lived in relative harmony and often intermarried. Occasional ethnic clashes over livestock access to land and water resources were usually resolved by the elders. In recent years, tensions heightened due to government policy formalizing land boundaries as well as other polarizing forces, leading to internal displacement of people to isolated settlements that felt safe. Manyata Daba village was an exception, as the Borana and Gabra remained committed as peaceful neighbours. However, in July 2021, outsiders made ethnically-motivated attacks that fueled conflict among them. At least 40 Borana houses were burned, and most Gabra houses destroyed. Now, the village is destroyed, and former neighbours are IDPs, suffering from land and livestock loss and relying on food aid.

In May, RETO hosted meetings of these IDPs who desired to return home and model peace and reconciliation for others. Elders selected a brave group of Borana and Gabra men and women who want to return home and initiate peace actions. In March, RETO plowed two large fields where these farmers collaborated in growing maize and beans

as witness to reconciliation. (In October 2023, several more fields will be planted, as more farmers want to return home. The remaining, formidable challenge is securing financial support for resettlement.)

## WOMEN ADDRESS HATE AND REVENGE

There are two new initiatives for women: (1) a pilot project with village women desiring and capable of leadership in peacemaking and (2) peacemaking as part of the training for young moms in the four Adult Literacy training centers. As moms have different roles, perspectives and challenges from children, the Peace Club curriculum needed revision for training and enabling these groups to effect local change in attitudes and behaviour. A few women leaders joined RETO staff to modify the curriculum to enhance relevance. Further, in recognition that real change comes from 'the heart', the program will begin with moms reflecting on and discussing their roles in peace and conflict, how they could contribute to a safer future for their children and loved ones, and finally, develop their action plan for community outreach and advocacy.

## HERDSMEN MITIGATE CONFLICT

Traditionally, young pastoralist men served their community as herds-men and as protectors from others. Too often, especially due to land and water conflict as well as poverty, they've engaged in livestock raids that may include killing the enemy thereby contributing to inter-ethnic conflict.

RETO has taken various steps to lead community mitigation of this risk. Through a series of meetings at various levels, our partners have facilitated agreements that have helped stop raids and ensure stolen livestock are returned to rightful owners.



*In spite of their village being destroyed, many Borana and Gabra wish to return home to secure, peaceful relations as herders and farmers.*



*Local women leaders helped revise the Peace Curriculum to address women's perspectives.*



*Moga challenged village elders to mitigate conflict by stopping raids by their young herds-men.*

# BECOMING FOOD SECURE, AGAIN



*Food security for moms affected by HIV/AIDS is a priority; they need good nutrition to take the ARVs that ensure their survival and ability to care for their children.*



*Martha interviewed Marian to monitor impact of our small business loan on her family.*



*Having her own goat herd ensures that a mom will have the food and income needed to raise healthy children.*

## LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY

Though appreciated as life-giving, our beneficiaries and community leaders do not want to depend on external food aid. They want to get ‘back on their feet’ and return to self-sufficiency. Due to El Nino, good rains are expected in October to December. In Kenya, we are hoping to raise funds for plowing 26 fields and crop inputs to 42 households, goat loans to 86 households, and small business grants to 82 households. In Tanzania, given lack of other opportunities to earn income, most beneficiaries are only capable of livestock keeping, so goat loans for new livestock banks will be provided to 20 households in each of three villages, and another 31 households affected by HIV/AIDS will receive crop inputs.

## SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

Martha (woman on left) and I met Marian when she was too ill to continue the heavy work of carrying firewood from the forest and was unable to feed her four children in school. Marian told us of her despair when called by the school to come get her child who had fainted due to hunger. Rather than having to rely on food aid, Marian was confident that she could manage a small kiosk to sell snacks, vegetables and homemade soap to customers, so RETO provided an income generating loan and enrolled her in a peer support group. Business has picked up, and

she is happy, saying “I am now able to provide for my children’s school requirements. We no longer sleep hungry, so my stress is reduced, I have joined neighborhood women who contribute to savings and support each other. Thanks be to God, and thank you RETO for the crutch that enabled me to stand”.

## PRESCHOOL LUNCHES AND GOAT LOANS

The LECHE preschools and goat loans provide complementary support to vulnerable moms and their children. During times of drought, some preschoolers return from school break malnourished, but within a month back at school, have increased weight and energy for play and learning. This pattern of faltering and gain indicates that some mothers are unable to provide enough food for the family. Fortunately, lunches in preschool provide the supplementary food (calories and protein) for healthy child development. To address this hunger cycle, our Tanzanian partner, SMTZ, has provided goat loans to 20 of the most vulnerable moms in Oltepesi village. This has increased their ability to feed their children better by providing milk and additional food with income earned from sale of male offspring. (With pass-on of first female offspring to pay off their goat loan, there are now 40 moms with increased household food security.)

