



2010 annual report

Highlights for FY09-10

This financial year was fraught with challenges. The impact of drought upon our programs and beneficiary communities was immense. The economic downturn limited our capacity to serve vulnerable, struggling pastoralists. Nonetheless, to the credit of dedicated donors, persevering partners, and the resiliency of the people and their communities, there was progress.

- Sauti Moja registered **two new partner agencies** – Sauti Moja Marsabit and Sauti Moja Tanzania. Respectively, these new partnerships will enable scaling-up of programs in Kenya and Tanzania.
- We added **new volunteer staff**, Megan Cogburn and Tom Broughton, in East Africa to help build the capacity of new agencies and provide technical and management support to our teams as we serve more widows and child mothers.
- **Our HIV/AIDS Program was recognized** by the Minister of Health of Tanzania, and recommended as a model for preventing HIV/AIDS in Tanzania. With Rotary support, particularly that of Peter Emery from the Rotary Club of Cambridge (Preston-Hespeler), we added new Maasai communities.
- We have **provided livestock to 161 vulnerable women**. Given the effectiveness of this program, we have set a target of facilitating self-sufficiency for a total of 1000 widows over the next three years!
- **Food aid was delivered to 119 beneficiary households** for six months. Our partial rations complemented food delivery by the government and other agencies, and ensured adequate dietary protein and fat.
- A **pilot project in Sexual and Reproductive Health** was initiated for girls entering secondary school to make them aware of their available choices and to empower them.
- Demand for **child mother support continues to increase**, as girls hear that early pregnancy does not necessarily mean the end of their education. This year, 14 more girls returned to school and 22 new girls received counseling and other support after being dismissed from school.

Financial Summary

Donations received in FY09-10 (\$104,585) were similar to those of FY08-09 (\$106,679). We managed to restrict program cost to only a small increase, though with drought and prevalent hunger among our beneficiaries, this was difficult. The result was that the net income of \$12,213 from FY08-09 was used to offset the net income of -\$12,154 in this financial year.

Expenses for FY09-10

Child Mothers (education, advocacy, healthy babies, etc.)	26.8%	\$31,318.46
Sustainable Livelihoods (mostly livestock)	15.4%	\$17,978.82
Early Childhood Development (LECHE)	14.6%	\$17,059.96
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care	13.4%	\$15,696.69
Food Aid (drought response in this year only)	11.0%	\$12,827.30
Admin and Fundraising in Canada	9.4%	\$11,022.01
Organization and Staff Development ¹	7.1%	\$8,240.89
Global Education (training and literature)	2.2%	\$2,595.64
TOTAL		\$116,739.77

¹ This represents a non-recurring cost of \$3,584.90 associated with registering Sauti Moja Marsabit and Sauti Moja Tanzania and, at the request of a UK donor who designated donations of \$4,655.99, we facilitated post-graduate training for two of our volunteer staff.

We invite you to access further detail on income and expenditures by contacting us (mail@sautimoja.org) or by visiting the Canada Revenue Agency website (www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities).

Community HIV/AIDS Program

After three years of piloting the **Community Conversations** methodology in Mairowa, we are excited by the opportunity to expand the program. Many generous donors, including a few Rotary clubs in Ontario, have enabled us to begin mobilizing and educating the communities of Oltepesi and Eworendeke. While we continue to support community-driven initiatives in prevention and care in Mairowa, our attention is shifting to scale-up.



Africa Program Manager Corey Wright, working with the Oltepesi Chairperson and a youth leader. Their support is paramount to our program success.

Fortunately, the Oltepesi community is remarkably eager to begin addressing their HIV/AIDS challenge. An **AIDS Committee** has been formed by a group of committed members of the community. With support from the Program Team, this Committee has begun weekly meetings to learn together, devise solutions that address their vulnerability, and establish plans for how to care for those infected and affected by the disease.

Our HIV/AIDS Program continues to receive widespread acclaim for its innovation. Others have adopted our approach. Recently, we were invited to present our program approach to the Tanzanian Minister of Health. The Minister praised the work and stated that this model should inform the rest of Tanzania's approach to HIV/AIDS. Our work is cut out for us as we respond to this challenge, as well as extending the program into northern Kenya!

In Oltepesi, good progress has been made. Our Program Team conducted a situation analysis, based on the input from separate discussion groups of women, men, and youth. This helped the team to build relations in the community, understand existing levels of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, determine to what degree the disease has already impacted the community, and identify what is being done, if anything, to confront the epidemic. In a nutshell, we learned that very few people have a good understanding of the disease: The number infected is escalating and, sadly, there has been little done in the community thus far to stop the spread of the disease!

Living with HIV/AIDS

As recently as a year ago, some elders in Mairowa considered anyone with AIDS a danger to other villagers, decreeing that they should be chased from the village.

However, after years of private counsel and support from several People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), some have publicly disclosed their positive status and formed a support group. Given the stigma, this was an incredibly brave thing to do, and is an example for others who test positive.

Now members get support from one another, other agencies, and the government. Other people living with the disease are encouraged to join. Some members attend the health clinic to counsel others who learn they have the disease. This pro-active group strikes a strong blow to the stigma generally faced by PLWHA!



Tim and Corey with PLWHA group — a remarkable step forward!

Sustainable Livelihoods Program: A Drought Report

The drought of 2009 that extended throughout the Horn of Africa was one of the worst ever, confirming that global warming contributes to more severe and more frequent droughts in this fragile ecosystem. The UN reports that 23 million people were affected — livestock died, household items were sold to get cash for food, and people were hungry and in poor health. Of course, Sauti Moja's **Sustainable Livelihoods Program** was affected, as we intentionally target the most vulnerable people in communities that are at highest risk of drought and hunger. In the following report, we relate how people coped with the drought, and how Sauti Moja is working with communities to recover.

Livestock Survival



Drought killed most of the cows.

Pastoralists love their livestock. This affection and appreciation characterizes ceremonies and customs. It is demonstrated in the sadness etched on their faces when animals die. Livestock are critical to their survival. The stories from widows who receive support from Sauti Moja were moving: They told us countless stories of their struggle to keep their livestock alive.

Our surveys indicated that only a few lost goats and donkeys could be attributed to poor animal husbandry. With limited local foraging, many widows told of walking far into the desert to look for roots they could dig up to haul home for the goats. Others took sticks and tried to knock the pods off acacia trees for the animals to eat. Several told

stories of sharing their already-inadequate food rations with their animals, which resulted in goats following them around the home constantly bleating for food. One woman wept as she recounted taking her malnourished child to the hospital, **only to return to find that a hyena had killed her donkey**. But when government veterinarians provided vaccinations and medicine for ticks, almost every widow had their animals treated. As with the rest of the community, many widows lost half their livestock despite remarkable diligence.

Sauti Moja directly contributed to livestock survival by providing hay for the start of rainy season, as one of the most vulnerable times for hungry livestock is at the end of the drought season. When the rains come, animals in a weakened state are likely to die. They need extra food energy to keep them alive for a few days until new grass and tree shoots emerge. This timely provision of supplementary feed was appreciated by the widows, who confirmed that it was very helpful at this critical time.

Food Aid

Targeting only *some* community members (the neediest widows) with food aid is a difficult intervention when almost everyone in the community is hungry. During good times, better-off community members often provide the poorest with a small amount of food; this has been critical to the survival of many of our beneficiary widows. In cases of recurring, severe droughts, this traditional community support network has inadequate capacity for the magnitude of the problem.

For those widows in the most vulnerable communities in Marsabit District, as well as caregivers responsible for the babies for our child mothers, Sauti Moja provided \$12,800 in food relief. Sauti Moja provided additional energy and protein from beans, oil, and cornmeal in order to ensure that international standards for food relief were met.

Unfortunately, food contributed by other agencies was much less than expected, and it was delivered on an irregular basis. Due to limited funds, Sauti Moja was unable to enhance its food rations. Most widows and children are still very thin. Fortunately, there have been no deaths in any of the 169 households that received our food aid!



A Rendille widow receiving food aid.

Re-stocking

One of the dilemmas faced by Sauti Moja was what to do about the animals that died. We wanted to provide additional support and enable full recovery for all widows who had sacrificed so much. This was contentious; in order to retain solidarity within our beneficiary communities, we recognized the need for public discussion on replacement of animals. The women met and developed what they considered a fair strategy for replacing some of the lost livestock.



Logologo women discuss the loss of their animals.

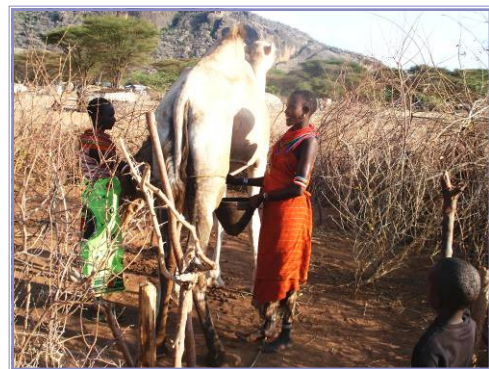
Two meetings to address our dilemma were held — one among the Borana women of Kachacha and the other among the Rendille women of Logologo. In both meetings, consensus among the women was reached: Sauti Moja would replace the original stock of breeding female goats to one less than the original number provided. Among the Borana widows, there was agreement that they could acquire a replacement donkey by providing Sauti Moja with three young female goats that were ready for breeding. At today's prices, they are paying the equivalent of roughly 60% the replacement cost for a donkey. **We have replaced 84 goats, and will replace 21 donkeys** once in-kind payment is received.

We feel confident that, as a result of Sauti Moja intervention, the outcome of the drought was not as severe as it could have been, but

we recognize that most of our beneficiaries have had a serious setback. All herds were negatively impacted, pass-on of livestock to new beneficiaries has been delayed, and hunger is still prevalent. Eventually, there was enough rain to provide good grazing for those animals that survived, but not enough for the maize and bean crops, which was to provide food for those still strong enough to do casual labour in farmers' fields.

Camels

In the more arid areas of Marsabit District, Sauti Moja has provided camels to widows. During the drought, we surveyed these beneficiaries. We were delighted to find that no camels died of drought. The few that *did* die were brought down by infection from nearby herds, or lack of access to drugs and timely treatment. Overall, the camel program is a resounding success. As Silamban, a beneficiary widow in Olturot, told us: "Drought is never too hard for me due to my camel. I even donate milk to others who do not have milk for their children."



Mothers share milk for hungry children.

Lessons Learned

- 1 Sauti Moja would like to provide camels to all of the widows we help. Unfortunately, many of widows are from less arid communities, and the people there do not have traditional skill in raising camels. We shall continue to provide livestock that is culturally-appropriate and adapted.
- 2 We shall place more focus on providing widows with veterinary medicines and new information on livestock health until herd growth is well-established and pass-on of offspring is completed.
- 3 Beneficiary widows are demonstrably better-off than those whom we have not yet supported. The livestock program will be scaled up through the 1000 Widows Initiative.

Child Mothers and Girls' Education

In Kenya

In Kenya, Sauti Moja is celebrating the success of our **Two Graces**. Four years ago, Clara and Martha, our public health volunteers, convinced the Headmistress of Moi Girl's Secondary School to admit two child mothers, both named Grace. The Headmistress was reluctant as, culturally, they would be viewed as a bad influence on other students.

What she did not understand was that these girls were determined to take this rare opportunity to overcome sexual exploitation, unwanted pregnancy, and community condemnation. They established such a high standard of academic and personal performance that the school has accepted many other child mothers sponsored by Sauti Moja and from the greater community. We congratulate Grace and Grace, and are proud of what they have accomplished with our support for them and their children. Now we are counseling them on post-secondary education and seeking support so that they can become self-sufficient and continue to be an example of hope for other oppressed child mothers.



Four years ago: Fearfully returning to school.



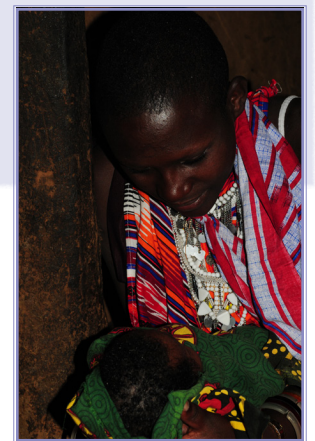
Now: Graduating and with healthy children.

In Tanzania

In Tanzania, the **Child Mother Program** continues to see increased numbers of girls enrolling. Over 20 girls who were expelled from schools in Longido District due to early pregnancy entered our program this year. Our Program Coordinator, Upendo Ndoros, provides these girls with incredible support while they face the challenges of early pregnancy, school expulsion, and family pressures. This year, Upendo counseled 22 child mothers and, with her help, 14 girls returned to school in January.

The most exciting new program component is **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education**. Last year, a US-based agency, Pangea Foundation, provided funds to pilot a program to educate secondary school girls about sexual and reproductive health. This is an important complement to the original program, which focused on assisting school girls with pregnancy. Many of these pregnancies are related to girls not knowing how conception occurs, carrying incredible misconceptions about pregnancy, and/or not having the self-confidence to avoid it.

Though the need for this education is immense, last year we managed to conduct workshops in every secondary school in Longido District, educating up to two hundred girls. In the coming year, we will shift to a peer-education model to foster better learning environments, reach more students, and ultimately, reduce the number of childhood pregnancies.



Sara with her new-born baby.

Looking to the Future

This year, Sauti Moja had to make critical decisions related to future programming. Would we continue with programming at the current size, or would we try to expand in order to meet more of the immense need that we witness? After considerable deliberation, we decided to take the risk and scale-up programs that support widows, child mothers, and communities in their battle against HIV/AIDS. In order to achieve this in a cost-effective manner, we recognized the need for new organizational opportunities, enhanced management and technical capacity, and additional financial support.

New Partner Agencies

This past year, Sauti Moja has supported groups of people in Tanzania and Kenya in registering two non-governmental organizations. The organizations adopted the name Sauti Moja. Now, Sauti Moja Canada has the opportunity to work with a total of four organizations: **Sauti Moja Marsabit** and **PETI** in northern Kenya, and **LOOCIP** and **Sauti Moja Tanzania** in Tanzania.

Each organization is founded by indigenous groups with the goal of serving their communities, and represents an important contribution by us to civil society development in northern Kenya and Tanzania (one of Sauti Moja Canada's goals). The two new agencies have been established with constitutions that reflect the values and objectives of Sauti Moja Canada. Their respective Boards are comprised of local and respected experts, who will provide sound counsel on programs. Managers of Sauti Moja Canada are members of the Executive Committee of each of the new organizations, which provides us a special opportunity to collaborate closely. Our goal is to help build the capacity of these organizations and see them flourish as they secure support from national and international funding agencies.

Other good news is that Sauti Moja Canada affiliates in the United Kingdom and the USA have decided to register Sauti Moja charities in their respective countries. This is an important step in Sauti Moja's growth, allowing us to inform citizens from these countries of the challenges faced by pastoralists, and to mobilize UK and USA support.

Team Expansion & Changes

In order to facilitate scale-up of programs and build the capacity of our new partner agencies, we hired two well-qualified staff — **Megan Cogburn**, a graduate in International Development, and **Tom Broughton**, a graduate in Animal Science.

Megan interned in Longido and developed the Sexual and Reproductive Health curriculum for the schools where we work. She will provide leadership in Tanzania.

Tom has worked among the Maasai for the past two years with another agency; his livestock expertise will be particularly valuable to the Kenya programs.

Previous Program Manager **Corey Wright** has begun his PhD at McGill University. He will retain the role of Africa Program Advisor during his studies, which will focus on Maasai land rights in Longido.

Money, Money, Money...

An obvious outcome of our decision to expand assistance and increase capacity is the challenge of raising enough support. The Board approved a budget of \$200,000 for the upcoming year, which is almost double what we raised last year!

We're going to need every penny, so we plan to reach out to more people through a comprehensive communication and fundraising strategy.

The 1000 Widows Initiative is an example of a new approach, where we focus fundraising on a single program.

And we expect that our new UK and USA partners will provide needed support.

More than ever, we need each of our current donors to make others aware of the plight of the vulnerable people and communities that we support!



Corey Wright with founders of Sauti Moja Marsabit.



Megan and Tom at Oltepesi Pre-School.

Early Childhood Development

The Longido Early Childhood Education project (LECHE) continues to progress well. The Founder and Coordinator, Sara Illmolelian, demonstrates her incredible heart daily with the children and her commitment to the community. This year two community members, Serewa and Elimbora, who were supported by Sauti Moja and Pangea Foundation to obtain their **Montessori Teaching Certificates**, will complete their course. The community is excited by this unprecedented contribution to Maasai children's education!



Children learn and develop using Montessori tools.



Community discussions help identify problems and develop strategies.



Children are weighed to identify those who are malnourished.



Nutritious porridge supplements limited food at home.



Community members gain capacity in pre-school education.



Local leaders provide direction and essential support.