

# 1000 Widows Initiative

## ‘Caring for widows, like Mare, in their distress’

Mare, a Rendille widow and her child, Achibo, live in a remote village of the Kaisut Desert in northern Kenya. As a young girl, Mare was given as the second wife to an old man who promised her 100 goats upon his death. However, when he died, his first wife refused, so she returned to her village, where she and her son were surviving on milk begged from her brother and others.



The camel that Mare received from Sauti Moja, two years ago, changed her socio-economic status and provided hope for the future. She has new independence and self-esteem, as she no longer relies on others for her well-being. To the contrary, she is now assisting others with the milk she receives from her camel named “Black Mouth”. She also reports

having new esteem in the community; “Now, when I talk in community meetings, I am listened to. I am a camelkeeper.” (This respect relates to the importance that the Rendille place on camels –“one-half of God”– for survival.)

A donor provided Mare with a hand up. Our local staff attests to the good care that she provides to her camels, so her herd and social status will continue to grow. Now, Mare will be able to afford medical care and schooling for Achibo, and will continue to help others in the village rather than rely on charity. A donor empowered this widow, economically and socially.

**By 2013, Sauti Moja aims to mobilize donor support for 1000 vulnerable women.**



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

## What have we done?

From 2007-2010, Sauti Moja provided 161 widows from pastoralist communities in northern Kenya and Tanzania with livestock, veterinary medicines, and training in livestock care. As well, we supervised the passing-on of the first female offspring of these livestock to other needy women. Soon, 322 vulnerable mothers will have benefited from donors’ initial investment in the well-being of 161 widows.



## Who benefits?

Sauti Moja focuses on helping vulnerable women who face significant hardship due to the challenges of independently caring for their families.

- Single mothers who lost their husbands.
- Abandoned women, locally called ‘white widows’
- Single mothers affected by HIV/AIDS

## How do we help?

In arid areas, Sauti Moja provides camels, as these are the most valued and environmentally-friendly livestock. In semi-arid areas, goats are more suitable, and if women carry water long distances (5-10 km/day is typical), we provide a donkey, too. In a few cases, a grant and loan with small business training is appropriate assistance.

## Our proven approach

- Serve marginalized communities and women that other agencies have not helped
- Engage community leaders in identifying the most needy women of the community
- Use local experts who volunteer to advise and administer the program
- Adjust the program for the local culture, needs, knowledge, and environment
- Assist with a ‘good start’ upon which a woman can further build her herd and assets
- Purchase livestock locally to ensure adaptation and keep money in the community
- Provide veterinary medicines and training
- Make home visits to monitor livestock and their care, and address individual needs
- Monitor pass-on of the first female off-spring to other needy widows

**For \$46/mo for one year, or \$550  
YOU can extend a hand to a widow, today!**

Donate \$550 or monthly payments of \$46 on-line using your credit card at:

[www.sautimoja-usa.org/Donations.html](http://www.sautimoja-usa.org/Donations.html)

OR

Mail a check for \$550 or 12 post-dated checks of \$46 to:

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