

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**SASA HARAMBEE**  
Now, Let Us All Pull Together!

[SasaHarambee.org](http://SasaHarambee.org)



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# IN THE WORDS OF OUR FOUNDERS

Our 2019 Annual Report seeks to share the major successes of the past year and to also speak of our future plans and ongoing needs. It is not an easy task anywhere to help a person and their family move out of poverty. For these past 12 years, Sasa Harambee has seen the lives of members change and the positive impact of our programs as we promote economic development of individuals and at the community level. Our mission remains the same: “To work hand-in-hand with residents to build human capacity for the future success of individuals and their communities.”

This year our 23 farmer teachers trained 700 new farmers in organic maize and hay production in Sigomere Ward and additional sites throughout Siaya County and neighboring counties. Organic hay has increasingly become an income generating crop for local farmers and we are excited to share with you that 92 farmers are selling hay through a community-based cooperative run by our Kenyan organization called SOAP (Sigomere Organic Agriculture Program). This is a major change for local farmers who never before succeeded in marketing their farm products. Sasa Harambee’s programs provided resources and training for creating the community infrastructure to: get hay to central locations; locate buyers, and through a cooperative structure, close the sale of thousands of bales of hay. **A recent visit to our farmers showed the result of this new income on their families: new clothes, increased food crops, improved attendance of children in schools due to parents’ ability to pay tuition, more latrines, new beds, roof repairs, etc.**



Additionally, Sasa Harambee joined the Subcounty's Ministry of Health and *Together We Succeed* on a demonstration census project last year to identify People Living with Disabilities. Local Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and health clinic intake workers were trained in recognizing disabilities and visited almost 27,000 homes as enumerators. The data collected from this first pilot program of its kind in Kenya is being entered into local Ministry of Health's records and will be used to plan needed public health programs, resources, and services for populations with specific needs.

As we enter 2020, we thank you for sharing our journey to make a difference in the lives of so many families and look forward to your continued support.

Cheers!

*Carol Carper & George Oyeho*



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# INTRODUCTION

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**2019** marked the 12th year of Sasa Harambee's activities in Sigomere Ward, Kenya, and our nonprofit continues to foster hope and change for its residents. Sasa Harambee has always had a strong commitment to honoring the people living in the community by responding to the needs they have identified and helping them craft solutions to address them. So many things have been addressed since 2008, and in 2019, we took important first steps, as we remain steadfast in our focus of teaching farmers how to grow organic crops.



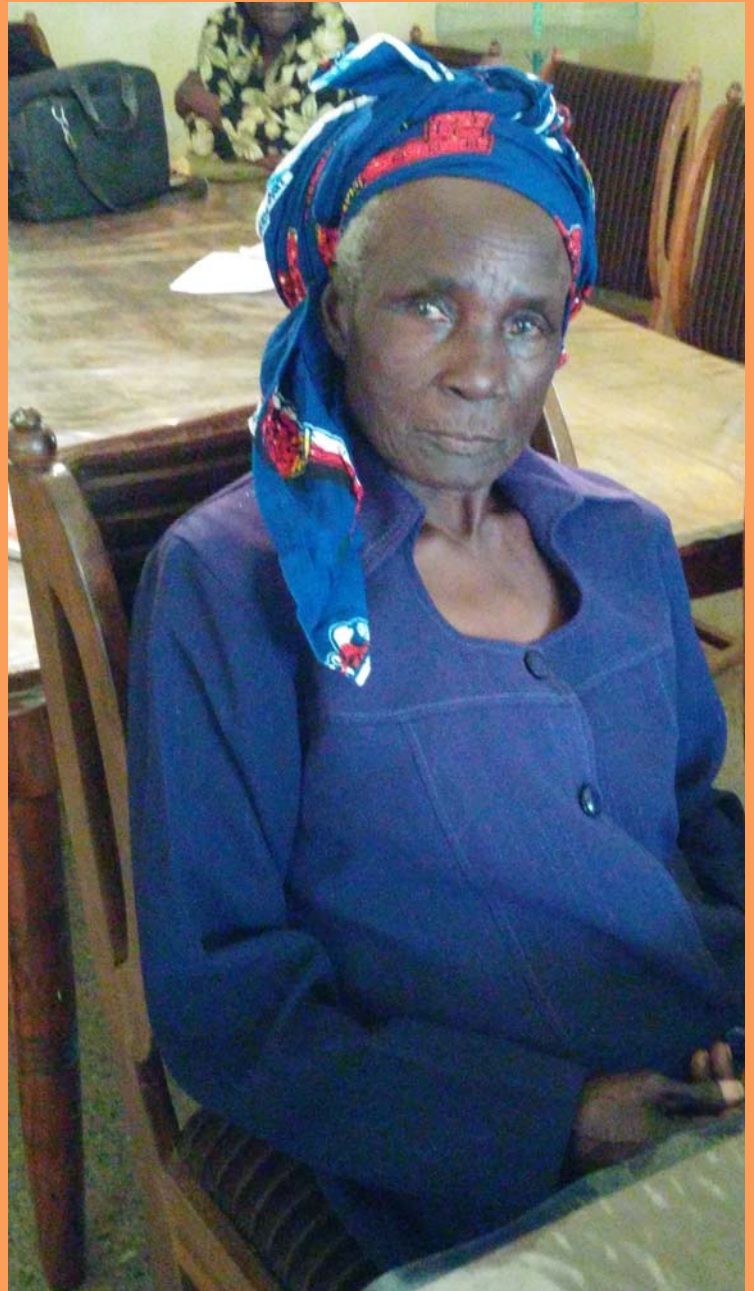
***In 2019, organic farming demonstrated its power to lift individuals and families from poverty and the challenges of subsistence farming toward economic development and self-sufficiency.***

# MEET JOYCE

*Joyce Obiera is a barren widow. When her husband died, the family moved her outside the compound to less than a half an acre of land. Joyce had a mud and dab house with a leaky roof. She cooked outside on a three stone fire. There was only a piece of material over her door. She had one piece of furniture. No mattress or bed. Often Joyce was hungry.*

*She thinks she is 72 years old. She does not read or write.*

*In 2017, Joyce joined the SOAP farming program. She has now harvested bales of hay. First Joyce bought some clothes and food for herself. Then, she had a door built for her house. Now she cooks under a shed. She proudly told us that last time she had guests she could feed them. Through SOAP Joyce looks to a brighter future. She has hope.*



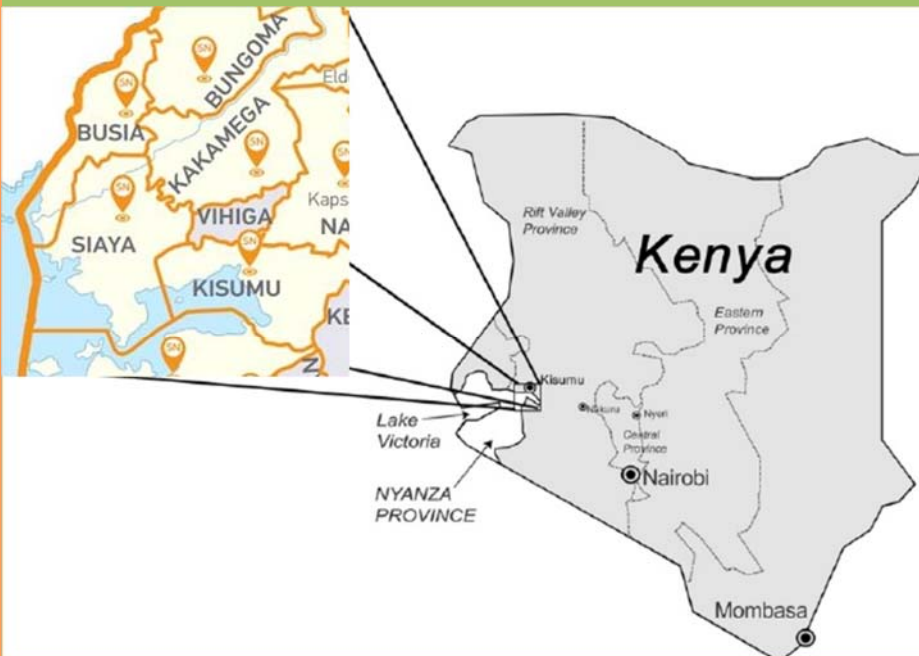
# OUR FOCUS

2019 was an important year at Sasa Harambee as we established a blueprint for the future and focused on:

- Creating food sustainability of farmers
- Community economic growth through production/sale of commercial hay
- Strengthening medical and societal supports inclusive of People Living with Disabilities.



In 2019, Sasa Harambee and SOAP trained 700 farmers in Push/Pull technology. The program that began in Sigomere Ward has expanded its reach to cover all of Siaya County. We now train farmers in parts of two more counties (Kakamega and Busia).



## OUR FOOTPRINT

# MEET RICKADIUSE

*Rickadiuse Agolla is married and has four grown daughters who have all graduated from the university. He was a mechanic/driver for the Kenyan Department of Forestry, when a 2014 motorcycle collision left him permanently disabled, requiring crutches to walk. Overcoming his disability, he has become an accomplished farmer and true leader.*

*In 2017, Rickadiuse joined the Sigomere Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) starting with a Push/Pull plot. By 2018, he had become a farmer teacher, working with many individual farmers and started two farmer groups. He is the treasurer of a local 14-member self-help group for People Living with Disabilities and under his leadership, they harvested and sold their first 90 bales of hay in 2019. Rickadiuse also has a group of 14 youth farming together who recently cut and sold 45 bales.*



*Thanks to SOAP, Rickadiuse says, his neighbors see him as a successful farmer and the members of the disabled group look up to him. He enjoys his new role in the community and income from hay sales allows him to travel for medication and treatment to the hospital – about \$110 dollars, every two months. He looks forward to very active and productive future years.*



# MEET ROSELIDA

*Roselida Otin Arango is a subsistence farmer with the hope of walking out of poverty. A widow since 2011, she helps care for 9 children and 7 grandchildren. In 2018 she planted a push/pull plot and a hay field. The first hay cutting granted her the ability to pay for school fees for one of her grandchildren. Through her new skills in maize farming she is able to feed her family for the entire year.*



*Roselida serves her community as a Community Health Volunteer (CHV) and attended the recent Together We Succeed training around recognizing disabilities and training in palliative care of Persons Living with Disabilities.*

*She wishes to share that Sasa Harambee has brought into her life clean water and an understanding of the importance of hygiene of both herself and her compound.*

*Roselida's son has embraced the farming concepts taught by Sasa Harambee. As a youth he finds ready cash through cutting and baling hay for others. The family is saving money to lease more land allowing them to raise more fodder crops. Roselida and her son Pascal have hope for a bright future.*

# OUR NUMBERS

IN 2019:



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75%

OF THE FARMERS IN  
OUR PROGRAM GREW  
SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR  
THEIR OWN NEEDS.

92

FARMERS SOLD HAY  
FOR INCOME

80

FARMERS EARNED  
\$500,000 KSH FROM  
SALES OF ORGANIC  
HAY

# MEET NANCY

*Nancy Auma is a 29 year old mother of three. She has been a Youth Farmer Teacher since 2018. She works with farmers to ensure that technology and farming ideas reach them appropriately since 'knowing how to do' is what farmers need to progress. She is a champion in promoting the hay business, setting an example with her own farming, and helping farmers put in plots. She cultivates her hay plot and sells her bales to make money. The proceeds from her hard work enable her to pay for school fees and cater to the needs of her 8-year old daughter, Anne, who is in 2nd grade. Nancy is now working to group farmers in advisory circles, where they can share their knowledge and experiences in farming.*



# MEET JACKLINE

*SOAP farmer teacher, Jackline Achieng', grows hay in her small 0.1 acre plot. After joining SOAP in 2018, she believes the SOAP program has positive impact on lives of community members. She has a passion for teaching and working with farmers. This has enhanced her strong relationship with them.*

*New income generation brings lifestyle changes to farmers and Jackline decided to upgrade her home from using firewood for cooking to using a gas cooker. This was her first time using her own gas cooker and she is delighted to own one. Additionally, she uses the money she earns to pay for her children's school fees, buy clothing, pay for medical bills and other needs that may arise.*



*Jackline has plans to continue to improve her family's life in 2020 and plant more hay.*

## FARMING SUCSESSES

# EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS

- 23 farmer teachers trained in the Push-Pull method of grain production and hay cultivation
- Farmer teachers trained over 700 new farmers
- Push/Pull trained farmers grew from 80 to 780 farmers
- Formed the SOAP (Sigomere Organic Agriculture Program) hay cooperative
- Farmers actively marketing commercial hay went from five producers selling at their farms to 92 members now selling through their cooperative
- Established marketing infrastructure with a distribution site for selling hay to dairy farmers
- Used social media to attract buyers of hay produced through the cooperative
- Through Sasa Harambee and SOAP, farmers sold over 3,000 bales of hay at \$2.50 - \$3.00 USD, equivalent to \$250 - \$300 Ksh per bale
- Over \$5,000 USD (**\$500,000 Ksh**) was paid to farmers for their hay in 2019

# PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

PLDs

In 2019, we:

- Trained over 200 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in identification of disabilities and home-based palliative care.
- Conducted a PLDs census of almost 27,000 households.
- Identified almost 1,600 People Living with Disabilities in Ujunga subcounty (population: 130,000).
- Created the first Kenyan PLDs database.
- Provided direct assessment and referrals to medical and social resources for 1,000 People Living with Disabilities.
- 14 People Living with Disabilities and caregivers formed a farming group. On  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre, the cooperative group harvested and sold over 210 bales of income-generating hay.



# SCALABILITY & THE NEED

Siaya County\* has almost 1,000,000 residents. Poverty is an ever persistent reality for its general population of subsistence farmers. Most local families of five or more live on less than \$2USD (\$200 Ksh) a day.

(\* ) A geographical division similar to a U.S. state.

## What does poverty mean in this region?

- Over 50% of women have had one child or more die before age five.
- Children in Siaya can expect to live a mere 40 years .<sup>1</sup>
- School is often interrupted because of an inability to pay fees.
- Thousands of people here live below the government's rural poverty line of less than \$15 a month. <sup>2</sup>
- The majority are employed in agriculture, and many live in thatched-roof homes – a simple indicator of poverty in the region. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research (2004).

<sup>2</sup> World Economic Forum. (2019).



# OUR IMPACT

Sasa Harambee continues to transform lives in the communities we serve. After a six months of participation in the SOAP training program in 2019, participants begin to believe there is a better future ahead. As farmers experience economic development, the region is also benefitting from having increased availability of high quality hay that results in improved dairy production.

For 2020, thirty-two advisory circles have been formed to support each other, save together, practice governance, and plan life outcomes. Our impact is extending across an ever-growing footprint in Western Kenya.





# SMALL HOME

Sasa Harambee has a supportive role at Small Home, a local boarding facility for children with physical disabilities, where they receive therapy and can attend school. In 2018, students at Fitzsimmons Middle School in Bailey, Colorado raised money for a playground for these kids to use. Conifer High School (Colorado) students came from that state and put the finishing touches on the playground. In May, 2019, six American volunteers visited the facility and spent time with the children.

Sasa Harambee continues its collaboration with Small Home by fostering the growth of a market for homemade bread and crafts made by adults in a sheltered workshop.





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