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SARAKASI ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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Foreword

Dear Friends of Sarakasi,

This annual report has been put together by the Sarakasi team to give you a summary and account of our activities, project and programs in 2013.

It has been a year with exciting and new activities. This report will show you how we continue to stand for artist empowerment through our activities.

Our Dome has been very busy with Sarakasi events and client bookings. The Sawa Sawa Festival, free to the public again was held this year at the Nairobi Arboretum and was a huge success. Our acrobats and dancers continue to challenge themselves, resulting in quality productions and more work.

In regards to our cultural exchange program, our involvement in partner networks, our workshops and special projects, we are happy to report that also here we have continued to book results.

Our achievements could not have been possible without the determination and hard work of all involved. First of all I must stress that without the talented acrobats, dancers and musicians and their inspiring input and determination Sarakasi would not be what it has become to date.

I would also like to thank the Trustees for their guidance and the management team and staff for their support and continuous efforts. My gratitude is also extended to our friends, partners, partner networks, donors and sponsors. Together we stand strong as a family!



MANAGING DIRECTOR



**Who
We Are**



Who We Are

The Sarakasi Trust was established In December 2001 in Nairobi, and is an organization for the development of the performing arts, working under the banner of culture for development. It has become one of the leading organizations in its field in East Africa. “Sarakasi” in Kiswahili means circus or acrobatics.

The Sarakasi Trust responds to the need for development and to promote culture, the performing arts and entertainment through acrobatics, dance and music. Its activities strive to empower trainees and contracted artists both creatively and economically by giving them the tools to manage their art, lives and careers more effectively and successfully.

The Trust aims to present the best of Kenyan performing arts to the widest possible audience by organizing events, festivals, cultural exchanges, local and international performance contracts and tours. We also provide social development training, capacity building and cultural awareness programs. We implement numerous special programs: Talanta training involves blind and deaf performing artists; the Hospital Project brings entertainment to children in hospitals, residential homes and remand homes; the Artist Agency Project looks after employment possibilities and

contracts. We also implement our own cultural agenda at the Sarakasi Dome, which includes concerts, dance and circus productions, a monthly Hip Hop event and workshops. The Sarakasi Dome, our office rehearsal and performance venue which spaces we rent out on a commercial basis as an income generating activity, is situated in Ngara, Nairobi Kenya.

Sarakasi is a registered trust. We have a team of 29 full-time staff and reach over 1,000 children and young people through our training outreach programmes, as well as training some 100 artists at the Dome every week.

Through audience-building projects, such as media engagements, the outstanding Sawa Sawa festival and Dome programs, we actually reach thousands of people. In addition, the Sarakasi Trust is a member of eight partner networks and so has an even wider audience. More information is available at www.sarakasi.org



**What
We Do**

What We Do

Sarakasi promotes the positive side of the African continent and people: the beautiful, vibrant, energetic, talented and inspiring men, women and children, the varied culture and the arts as an expression of life, hope and creativity. The Sarakasi focus on culture for development takes in every aspect of life.

We work with the disadvantaged and have to go beyond world class acrobatics, dance and music training and exchange programs to commit ourselves to the social, professional and economic development of our artists. Our aim is to equip them with the skills, information and tools to secure their empowerment and ensure their economic and social well-being and their place in society. The Sarakasi Trust emphasises character, self-worth and professionalism as the attributes that will serve the artists best in their continuing journey away from poverty, in the belief that as well as harnessing talent and controlling the body, it is control of the mind and future that allows such talent to be used for the good of their own world and that of others.

Sarakasi aims to support development among deprived members of society and actively supports performers assume social responsibility within their own communities. The Trust thus encourages performers to take on an ownership of its projects and activities. Sarakasi also supports training at various locations in the urban settlements of Nairobi and actively searches out local talent with the interest and capability for further development and training in related arts.

Sarakasi further promotes acrobatics, dance and music, by inviting trainers and experts from other parts of the world to visit East Africa and provide education and training in these arts. In addition, opportunities are created for performers to travel for training, skills development, exposure and contracts elsewhere.

Our Programs



Our Programs

Sarakasi facilitates capacity building and training, exchange programs, audience building programs, contracts and special projects, providing affiliated artists with significant career opportunities, travel and networking and so creating professionals with a high self esteem.

Our activities are grouped into several main programs.

Training and Capacity Building Program

Training is central to Sarakasi's activities and is at four levels depending on level of skill:

- Outreach training - regular sessions with young people living in low income neighbourhoods, mainly in informal settlements in and around Nairobi, that focuses on basic performance and life skills and aims to give participants a real chance of overcoming the challenges of poverty;
- Performance training - daily training sessions at the Sarakasi Dome and life skills workshops, mostly for young adults;

- Training for professional performers who have completed the initial stages and are deemed ready for local and international exposure through exchanges and contracts;
- Selection and training of professional peer trainers for the Dome and outreach training.

To date, thousands of artists have benefited from the training program. One innovative element of our program is the Talanta training for deaf acrobats and dancers.

International Exchanges and Performance Contracts

Sarakasi facilitates performance opportunities by identifying festivals, and other performance schools and programs with a view to establishing partnerships,



networks and contracts, that serve to improve the performance skills of its artists, increase international visibility, create exposure to a broader world view, and provide performers with earning opportunities. The program also brings to Kenya a wide variety of international performers, instructors, trainers and choreographers who provide training according to their distinctive skills. The Sarakasi artist management agency helps approximately seventy five young artists in this way.

Audience Building Program

The Sarakasi Trust runs several audience building activities. One such is the multidisciplinary annual Sawa Sawa Festival. The festival was initiated by the Trust to be a uniquely African festival appealing to the Kenyan public and reaching out to audiences of all ages, both genders and across mixed cultural and economic backgrounds. The festival is a platform that aims to develop audiences, bring profile and exposure to Sarakasi programs and activities, and affiliated artists and build capacity in cultural entrepreneurship and festival production. Sawa Sawa Festival promotes the performing arts through technical workshops, exchanges between local and international artists, community-building themed activities, jam sessions/studio recordings, media

**Sarakasi
Acrobats**

activations and the multi-stage, multi-day concerts. Highlights of the festival are performances by the Sarakasi All Stars, presenting all that is best in acrobatics and dance. The latest developments of the various Sarakasi projects are presented and fun activities for children help make this a truly family occasion.

Central in Sarakasi's life is the Dome with its office, training, rehearsal and various performance areas – indoor auditorium, a smaller stage at the Sawa Sawa bar, the dance studio, roof top area, foyer and outdoor venue. Apart from client's events, Sarakasi's event management department is in charge of planning and executing the organization's own cultural agenda which includes concerts and circus and dance events. Clients can book the Dome on a weekly, monthly or case to case basis, thus providing income to Sarakasi. The bar and the second floor above the bar have been rented out on a contract lease basis.

In 2013 the marketing campaign was aggressive and effective, particularly the focus on social media, where the Sarakasi Trust face book page grew to over 7,000 followers. Our strategic partnerships with various media houses gave Sarakasi media exposure and airtime to highlight our various events and activities.

Cultural Entrepreneurship

Sarakasi generates income from local and international shows, rental income from the Dome complex, ticket sales, booking fees, parking, and services such as the management of events, projects, artists, auditioning, training, and choreography.

One Face
Mapacha
Jugglers



After dropping out of school, I met this guy called Musa who heard my voice and told me I could sing and invited me to join his band called 'Demas The Band'. It is still a small band though and through them I was introduced to Sarakasi Dome to the Sound in Motion Workshop and was elected the vice chairlady of this activity.

It has been of great help because it has given me a platform to express myself, what any youth with a life story like mine or any other would very much need. Here I am understood and given the support to reach my dream of becoming a musician by

exposing us to people who have made it though the industry who talk to us and show us the way. Every advice given to us there I make sure I follow and with Sarakasi it's almost a dream come true.

Recently I got a job at a Club in Huruma where I host Karaoke every Saturday night thanks to Sarakasi's reputation! The owner gave me the job after I mentioned that I work with Sarakasi every 3rd Friday of the Month at the workshop.

Name: Christine Mmbone Ngaya TINA (Work Shop Participant)

Our Departments



Our Departments

In order to implement its programs in an effective way and efficient manner, Sarakasi formed the following crucial departments.

Events Department

The Events team is headed by Kui Macharia, Sarakasi's Facilities and Events Manager. She supervises the Communications and Marketing Officer Jane Mbugua in-charge of Sarakasi Public Relations, James Mwangi the head caretaker / technician / person in charge of all the sound and lighting systems and Jorim, Jane and Vivian who have the responsibility of ensuring the Dome is always spick and span. The events team ensures that all the events in the Dome are run professionally, efficiently and effectively.

In 2013, the Dome continued to become a vibrant space as we implemented a more aggressive campaign to commercialise the space. Our multi-purpose Dome hosted over 60 events including Umoja auditions and shows, Taarab nights, Reggae activations, our very own Furahidays and dance circus fusion shows, concerts, church bookings, workshops, hip hop activations and the Safaricom Live

rehearsals, amongst others. The Choir Masters were in the house shooting the ultimate choir challenge by The Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) and our Saturday mornings have been full of children's activities. Not to be left out were the Special Needs youth from SEP (Special Education Programs) who held their very own regular fun Disco at the Dome in partnership with Sarakasi.

Dome Upgrading

Upgrading of the Dome was finalized towards the end of 2012. The most exciting feature that was added in 2013 was the 'Swinging Pendulum', a three pole swinging structure that was used to train Zamazuka Acrobats before departing to Belgium where they performed their act during a special Circus Show to celebrate the 'Solvent' Company's 150 anniversary. This was the first structure of its kind in the world. The pendulum takes skill and mastering as the user must jump from pole to pole whilst the poles are in motion.

The Hip Hop Hook Up (also known as the TRIPLE H UP)

Hip Hop Hook Up is a talent spotting platform for underground artists to showcase 'tomorrow's best acts and today's best kept secrets'. It was founded by Hip Hop underground and upcoming artists in partnership with Sarakasi. It started in November 2012 and continued throughout 2013.

Held on every 2nd Saturday of the month, the event includes activities such as deejay-ing, emcee-ing, rap battles, spoken word, open mike sessions, discussions, expositions, graffiti, fashion and merchandizing. Impact is also achieved through multiple media channels including TV, radio, online social networks and blogs. TRIPLE H UP does not charge entry fees and takes place in a safe and positive environment at the Sarakasi Dome.

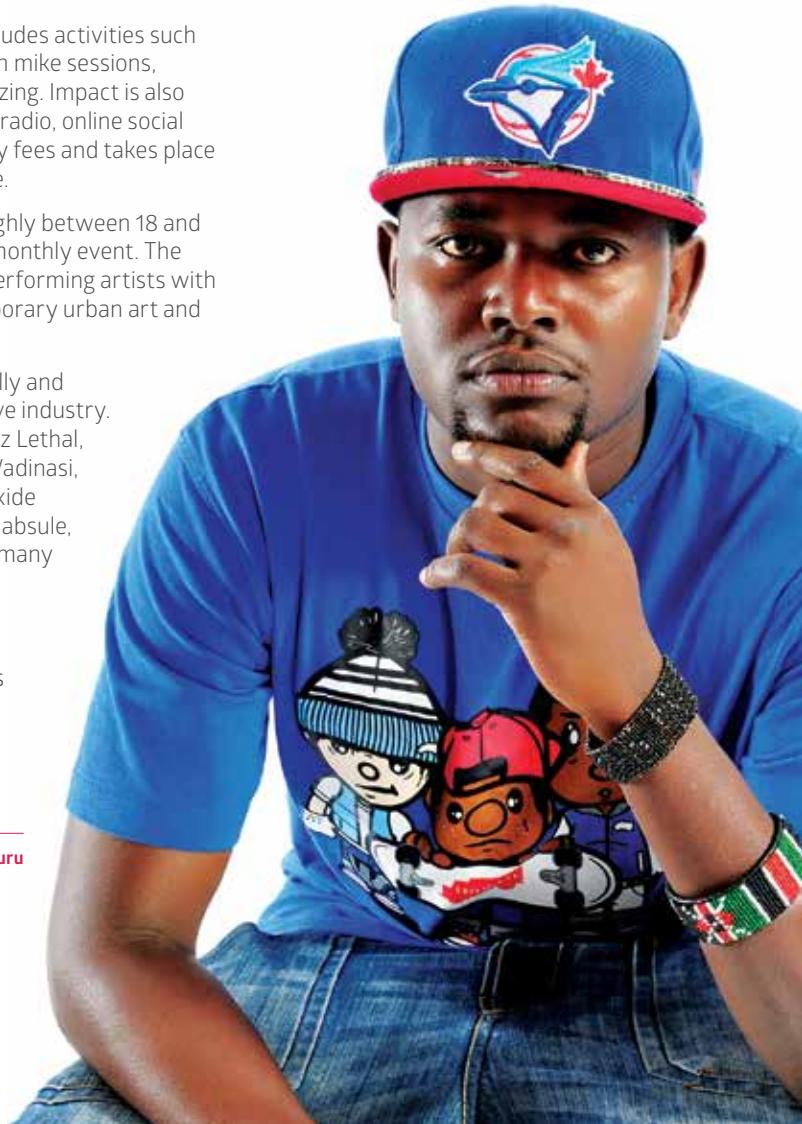
The audience targeted are young urban youth aged roughly between 18 and 25. It aims to reach at least 500 young people at every monthly event. The event is the leading platform connecting young urban performing artists with new audiences, developing new expressions of contemporary urban art and culture.

Its vision is to create a society, in which youths are socially and economically empowered through the arts in the creative industry. During 2013 it has featured artists like Nafsi Huru, Smallz Lethal, Bilari, Marvin B, Man-Njoro, Juda King, D'Mima, MStiq, Wadinasi, CMG, Zakkah, Qama, Kev Mamba Mshamba Mwenza, Oxide Ananda Edward, Buju Razor, Chuom 32, Kimya Miyaki, Babsule, Flamez Mshamba Mwenza, Areff Mwana Wa Mtaa and many more!

Sound In Motion Workshop

On the third Friday of every month, Sarakasi Trust hosts Sound in Motion, a workshop specifically designed for

Nafsi Huru



upcoming artists who have expressed the need for capacity building sessions. It is facilitated by Artists for Artists in which invited deejays, producers, speakers and seasoned artists share their experiences and provide advice and guidance to young affiliated musicians. After the first Sound in Motion workshop at a Sawa Sawa Festival 2012, Sarakasi was asked to continue the initiative on a regular basis – and we continued to offer this platform through 2013.

Year 2013 saw more than 65 artists record their own composition at the Ketebul Recording studio which also brought different collaborations among the artists.

In August 2013 Sarakasi gave me the opportunity to run the monthly Hip Hop Hook Up show which has since grown to become East Africa's largest Hip Hop event. Thanks to this exposure I have been able to develop my career, network and understand the business of music in the Kenyan industry. The platform being the only of its kind in Nairobi gives the youth a positive alternative from the usual social ills and has made me a role model in the Hip Hop world thanks to Sarakasi.

Nafsi Huru (Hip Hop Hook Up)

The experience was quite exciting for them since some of them had never been to a studio before.

The workshops saw different facilitators every month from renowned local producers, Radio and TV presenters, popular local and international artists, Kenya artist's organisations like MCSK, PRISK, Kenya Copyright board, NACADA among others. The artists got to learn about their legal rights, self management, branding, publicity, marketing, stage presence, contract writing, lyric writing and composing among others. At the end of 2013 all participants were presented with a toolkit on the above.

Apart from this workshop Sarakasi Trust also organizes an in-house bi-monthly workshop for its artists both dancers and acrobats. Over 60 Sarakasi artists participate in these workshops. Topics include budgeting, self esteem, personal hygiene, entrepreneurship, self management among others. Liverpool VCT also offers its services as most artists willingly want to know their HIV AIDS status.

Forgotten Furahiday Live

This is a monthly live performance event that in 2013 took place every last Friday at the Sarakasi Dome. The event gives a platform for bands to perform for their



fans who cannot afford to watch them during their paid events and has seen both local and international bands perform live to their fans. Some of the bands include Sarabi, Kidum, Juliani, KIU, Iddi Achieng, Owinyo, Chef's special (Netherlands), Atemi and Karen Mukupa (Denmark), Afro Zeze among others.

Other activities during these amazing live nights include DJs like Kriss Darlin, Vdj Space (MOB), Joe Mfalme and Sarakasi's in-house DJ unit All-star Deejays. Sarakasi dancers and acrobats also do what they do best.

Furahiday Highlights:

In February we hosted Netherlands based band Chef'Special who stayed with us for a week. During this week they hosted a sound in motion workshop, recorded a track 'We Are One' and video clip featuring Octopizzo and Eppy and staged a concert at a packed Dome.

Chef'Special with Taffah and Eppy

After school I got much involved with friends who were into robbery business, we used to go to Buruburu, Westlands and other estates to rob the people their phones and sell at a cheaper price (.....) But by good luck a friend by the name Issa a dance choreographer at Sarakasi introduced us to a Sarakasi Trust and that's where me and my brother started dancing and continued singing in 2012. I got involved so much with Sawa Sawa Festival and by good luck we started the Sound in Motion Workshops where I got to meet and share my talent with guys giving us workshops (.....) Me and my group Mababa squad have learned a lot from the workshops at Sarakasi Dome. I can't imagine where I would be at this moment if it was not for the love of art and a place to call a home. Now some of my friends who are still bad boys were gunshot and some are still in jail, while I am using my talent to take care of myself and my family. I am also a photographer and we run an organization in the slums of Mathare by the name Slum Sanaa Art Centre and I am the chairperson.

Kevin Midenyo (Sound in Motion
Workshop Participant)



In November Forgotten Furahiday hosted The Human Rights Tattoo project. This is an art project to create awareness and underline the importance of the Declaration of the Human Rights. Its goal is to tattoo the complete Declaration on individuals, letter by letter. The complete text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains 6773 letters. The idea originated from Sander van Bussel – a visual artist, who takes part of the Tilburg CowBoys in The Netherlands, which is known for their social art projects. The murder of fellow artist Steven 'Nyash' Nygah in Nairobi in

2012 motivated him to pursue this idea. Sarakasi hosted the human Rights Tattoo Project where many people turned out to get a tattoo in support of Human Rights. www.humanrightstattoo.org

During the Tattoo event we also had Omar Arreola from Mexico and Lois Mahalia on the line up, courtesy of Vision Adventure Safaris, it was an unforgettable evening!

Sawa Sawa Festival

The 7th edition of the annual Sawa Sawa Festival was held on 20 December with an opening event in the Dome and on



Sarabi

21st December at the Nairobi Arboretum from 10am to 6pm. Themed around **#WeAreOne- Kenya @50**, the festival staged an exclusive East African line up in order to embrace the spirit of togetherness.

The free concert had one main live stage and two smaller ones. Artists on the main stage included Sarabi (Kenya), Dela (Kenya), Kidum (Burundi), Ras Kayaga (Rwanda), Jacky Chandiru (Uganda) and the Sarakasi All-stars. The official Djs were Vdj Space (MOB), Joe Mfalme (Capital FM), All-star DJs, the Mc's were Anto NeoSoul and Anyiko Owoko.

The 2nd stage had different acts from slum drummers, reggae hour with artists like Baffu Chaffu, Black Omolo, Levy Sill, Meekie Humble, Hut head, Freeman and Jahises/Jahpillar. The hip hop hour, organised by Sarakasi's TRIPLE H UP partner, on the same stage included Nafsi Huru, Flamez and Smallz Lethal of Washamba Wenza. Other artists included Olith, Waterfall, Mutinda, Sam Ondieki as well as our upcoming artists from sound in motion.

The 3rd stage had Dance and Circus fusion shows with the best of our very own Sarakasi dancers and acrobats. Arboretum was turned into a family friendly venue with various catering points and vending areas; a children play area, hosted by the Sarakasi Trust Hospital Project which included art workshops, face painting, animal rides, interactive workshops and bouncing castles.

Sawa Sawa 2013 was sponsored by HIVOS, Stichting DOEN, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Africa Music Festival Network, HOPE artists (USA), Classic 105 FM, Khewza Guest House, MOB DJ's, Windsor Hotel & Golf Club and the Sarakasi Trust Hospital Project.

Interns

Sarakasi welcomed several interns to learn and work with the various projects handled by the Sarakasi team. The interns came from Norway, The Netherlands, Uganda and Kenya and worked as part of the Sarakasi Family. Whilst here, they were able to exchange various ideas with the team and participate in the activations/events held by Sarakasi on a weekly basis.

At the beginning of 2012 Sarakasi Trust introduced weekly shows at the Dome. As dancers we got the opportunity to come up with our pieces and this helped build my creativity and prepare for the next step of my career, which is choreography. Another benefit of these shows to me has been the rare opportunity to practice something else that I really love: Emcee-ing. Sarakasi Trust gave me a chance to do this in some of the shows and the feedback I get from the crowd has enabled me better my skills in this field.

Harold Wilson Odhiambo (Sarakasi Dancer)



Doa Doa

The Sarakasi Team participated in the 2nd edition of DOADOA - the East African Performing Arts Market. The team made presentations and shared their views on 'The Sustainability of Festivals in Africa' creating interesting discussions on various ideas on the topic. DOADOA provides a platform for professional networking and joint learning. It brings together various stakeholders and links people, organizations, businesses, knowledge and technology with a view to create demand, develop a market and unlock the potential for the performing arts in the East African creative industry. DOADOA creates an important opportunity for economic, social and cultural development throughout the region. This exciting performing arts market took place May 6th - 11th, 2013 in Jinja, Uganda.

Sauti Za Busara Internship

Members of the Sarakasi Team joined The Sauti Za Busara Team in Zanzibar to participate in the Sauti za Busara Festival. The Festival, which took place between 14

and 17 February, was termed 'The most friendly festival on the planet'.

Our interns gained immense knowledge in a wide range of topics as they participated in the Movers and Shakers forum that took place each afternoon providing the perfect opportunity for artists, managers, media and related professionals to share information, exchange ideas and network for strengthening, Regional markets.

They were also able to meet and mingle with numerous performing artists some who have graced our own Sawa Sawa Festival stage and others whom we look forward to collaborating with in the near future.

Marketing

2013 saw Sarakasi partner with various media houses which included KTN-E-Curve Show, NTV G9 for the kids show, Standard Newspaper-entertainment stories, Classic FM, KBC Grapevine, Ghetto Radio, One FM, Capital FM. Online we partner with Nairobi Now, Ghafla, Echo Magazine, Pressplay, Soko Analyst among others. Sarakasi's online visibility has



BAYIMBA



**sauti za
busara
ZANZIBAR**



grown over time on social media including website, face book and twitter where we were trending at some point. More people have come to understand what exactly Sarakasi Trust is about through these partnerships since Sarakasi gets a platform to talk about its activities through interviews and editorials.

Creative Department

The Creative Department is made up of a Creative Program Manager Edwin (Edu) Ooro who doubles up as a choreographer, an Administrator Rahim Otieno, 3 choreographers Issa Odera, Sylvester Oduor and Oscar Mwalo, 2 acrobatic trainers John Washika and James Njung'e our part time Field Supervisor. The Department also boasts of a wealth of talent in 53 dancers and 25 acrobats, 6 of who also double up as support event staff. Of special mention are between 8 and 15 deaf artists who come twice a week to train in dance, acrobatics and yoga.

The Creative Department is charged with scouting, developing and managing talent. Every month we audition artists,

train them and subsequently identify job opportunities for them both locally and beyond.

2013 was another year of great strides in the Department with the introduction of Dome Productions, recruitment and the graduation and promotion of even more artists and a very busy calendar of local and international bookings. The artists were commercially booked for some 66 shows locally, 6 shows internationally and 12 charity shows.

Choreographers

For another year our choreographer Edwin (Edu) Ooro was the 'go to' person for the one of the biggest reality TV talent shows in East and Central Africa, Tusker Project Fame (TPF) 6. While Edu's hands were kept busy at TPF 6, one of our senior dancers turned choreographer Oscar Mwalo was picked to produce 5 shows for Niko Na Safaricom Live while Sylvester Oduor choreographed productions for Voyager Resort in Mombasa and for the Permanent Presidential Music Commission.

Sarakasi
Dancers



Public Government Performances

When it was time to swear in Kenya's newly elected president, Uhuru Kenyatta, the Sarakasi Allstars provided entertainment along with other artists at the ceremony. After an amazing performance we were invited yet again to perform during the Madaraka Day celebrations at Nyayo Stadium and later during the Kenya at 50 Celebrations at Kasarani Stadium.

Dome Productions

As part of the Dome Productions initiative between the Creative and Events Departments, our Department put together 5 shows in 2013:

- Dance Meets Circus: A Dance performance assisted by some elements of acrobatics (produced by Edu Ooro)
- World Circus Day: To mark the



annual World Circus Day in April we staged a free performance at the Jeevanjee Gardens Nairobi for the general public (produced by John Washika)

- Circus Meets Dance: A Circus performance assisted by some elements of dance (produced by Edu Ooro)
- Kutoka: A dance and acrobatics production by visiting Mozambican Gabriel Simbine
- Trapped En Suite: A hip hop production by Choreographer Issa Adero

Umoja
Cultural
Flying
Carpet
Show



My journey as an artist started way back in 2011 when I was invited to Sarakasi Trust by another deaf artist called Elvis. I developed interest in their group, auditioned and started training with them in dance and a bit of acrobatics during the same year at the Sarakasi Dome.

I later joined the Yoga Training Program at the Sarakasi Dome which helped improve my dancing skills. James Njunge, one of our trainers, mentored me together with Faith to be more confident with myself and encouraged me to interact with other artist. He also got me more involved in acrobatics and this helped me build up my strength.

I am currently part of the Sarakasi Trust Deaf Team which trains in yoga, acrobatics and dance which I'm very passionate about. I am also able to perform once in a while.

Priscah Waithera (Deaf Artist – Talanta Training)

Exchange Programs & International Contracts

Umoja Cultural Flying Carpet

Umoja CFC is a program that brings artists and cultural institutions together in East Africa, where each representing country puts an Umoja ensemble together of performing artists, with the aim of creating together.

January:

We held internal (national) auditions for the Umoja Kenya Ensemble. 15 artists were picked to make a show that would later tour the country and represent Kenya at the Annual Umoja Cultural Flying Carpet camp in Tanzania after which it embarked on a tour from Tanzania to Kenya to Uganda.

16th August

The ensemble got off to a philanthropic start by the artists going back to the community and giving a free show to the children and community of Korogocho at the St. John's Community Center. The center has been catering for orphans and underprivileged children and youth by offering vocational training, basic education and training in various life skills.

23rd August

One of the requests from the previous ensemble was for the Umoja Show to have a wider reach across the country. So this year the ensemble hit the road to Mombasa as part of a mini tour and put up a moving performance for the children of Wema center. Having performed at Wema Center, the ensemble was invited to entertain guests at Voyager resort on the same night. Sarakasi and Voyager have had a long working relationship with Sarakasi helping to create shows with their Animation Team. This was a unique chance for their patrons to experience a full production comprising of Dance, Music and Acrobatics

29th August

Back in Nairobi, the Umoja ensemble visited another center that Sarakasi



has worked closely with since its inception, Kivuli Center. This center, like St. John's caters for the Kawangware community and Sarakasi has been running outreach training programs with children and youth in the center for some time now. It is also the home of some of Sarakasi's finest talent.

31st August

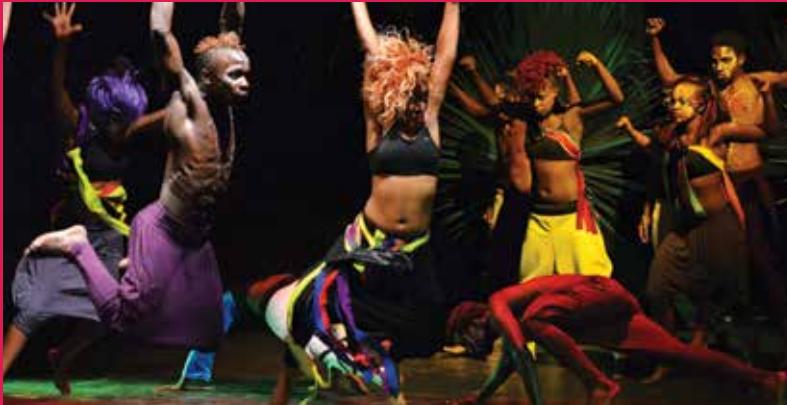
The Show hit the road again and staged a thrilling performance during the Rift Valley Festival by the shores of Lake Naivasha. This time it was by invitation of the Festival organizers who had had the opportunity of watching the Umoja Show in 2012. The ensemble shared the stage with notable great acts like (please insert names) and gave a decent account of themselves

7th & 20th September

The Show finally came home to Sarakasi Dome and gave the home audience an experience worth the wait. The Sarakasi Trust Creative Department took the chance to invite most of our repeat clients to come and witness the possibilities that arise by mixing music, dance and acrobatics.

12th September

Kisumu is a city on the western part of Kenya by Lake Victoria. After receiving numerous requests from its residents who have been following with keen interest Umoja activities on national television (KBC), the tour made the decision to visit the city and stage a performance at the Maseno University which is the biggest higher learning institution in that region. Having given Umoja Kenya two of its ensemble members the previous year, the long wait came to an end as the team gave another memorable performance to the students and staff. They later settled for a group discussion with the audience and explained more about Umoja CFC and Sarakasi Trust's activities.

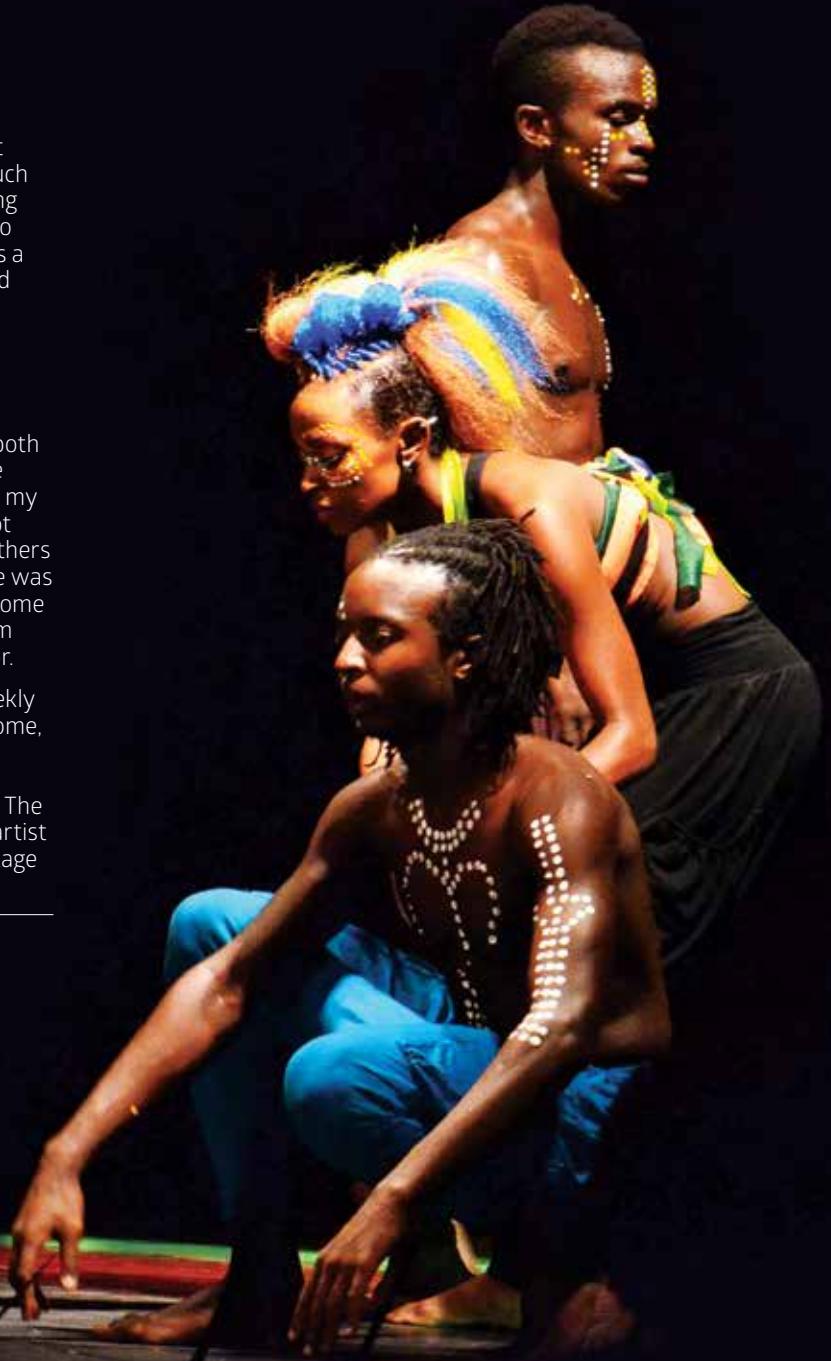


With my mum's blessings I joined Sarakasi Trust in 2010 which was one of the highlights of my career. At Sarakasi I found that things were much more organized especially the training program. We also got an allowance to come for training at least three times a week. I finally believed that with hard work and determination anything is possible.

With Sarakasi I have been able to perform at very high profile events both locally and abroad. This in turn made me a much better artist which led to my promotion as a trainer so now I'm not only able to perform but also train others and nurture upcoming talent as mine was nurtured. As I now have a steady income as a trainer I am able to help my mum and sister whose school fees I pay for.

Since 2012 we have been having weekly and monthly performances at our home, the Sarakasi Dome. Apart from the income it is a great sense of pride to perform in front of the home crowd. The regular performances also help the artist to build up on skill, confidence and stage presence.

Mohamed Mwakidudu (Sarakasi Acrobat)



Fredrik Korpset (FK) – Norway

FK is a Norwegian based organization that fosters cultural exchanges across between countries and organizations. Since joining the network, Sarakasi Trust has sent and received creative trainers in a three way exchange with Norway and Mozambique and 2012 was no different:

- Acrobat Trainer James Njunge went to Norway for a 12 month program with FK. While there Njunge trained various students on the elements of Circus and yoga.
- Dance Trainer Sammy Gian went to Mozambique for a 12 month program to teach dance and elements of acrobatics
- Dance Trainer Gabriel Simbine came to Sarakasi Trust's Creative Department to teach Southern African influences of dance while taking acrobatic lessons.

Pale Juu Next project

Vertical Circus provides social circus opportunities to impoverished young people so that they may break their cycle of poverty through earning an income in the circus arts or other industries, utilising skills they have learnt as part of participating in Vertical Circus' programs.

The Australian based organization in partnership with the Sarakasi Trust hosted the very successful "Pale Juu

Next" project. Thirty acrobats were involved in the project and performed aerial acrobats such as trapeze, hoop and rope. Contemporary circus creations were also included that fused dance, theatre and drumming. The project kicked off with a 2 month training camp at The Sarakasi Dome that was to culminate in a performance at The Dome and other venues in 2013. Below is a summary of their activities in 2013:

- Opening night of the "Safari Njema (safe journey) Circus Show" on the 31st of January at the Sarakasi Dome to a sold out crowd of 180 people, was a huge success. This show was focused on community building and assisting networking opportunities in the Nairobi arts scene. Mighty Jambo's Circus Academy attended, along with choreographers and directors from Ghetto Exposed as well as members of Nafsi acrobats, Kenya. Visiting Danish artists also viewed the show and we have held promising talks of working together in the future. Parents and friends of the participants were well represented in the audience, the sponsors of our three younger cast members were most impressed with their performance and had no idea that these talented young men were capable of what and how they performed that night.



- On the 2nd of January, eight of the Pale Juu cast members performed at the postponed Australia Day BBQ for the Australian High Commission, Nairobi.
- On the 3rd of January we performed at the Breaburn Theatre in Nairobi to an audience of 409, turning away 60 disappointed people and placing a sign on the car park gate "SOLD OUT". So popular was the show that the German Primary School booked us for their "Carnival" celebrations on the 12th of February. Rigged from a beautiful big tree, The "Safari Njema Circus Show" performed to 170 children and 40 adults in the grounds of the German School, Nairobi. Personally, I felt the performers really shone on this day. They were so entertaining that even the 4 year old children remained attentive for our shortened 45 minute show.

- The last performance was an audition context for the Butlins hotel chain in the UK, at the request of Sarakasi Trust's Managing Director.

Trip en
Masse

Trip en Masse

A musical production spearheaded by Dansgroup Amsterdam and that was supported financially by the Netherlands Embassy and Tejcheve Foundation. The production highlighted the ills of the post election violence that rocked the country in 2008 cautioning against the recurrence of the same. The production was premiered in 2012 at the Dome and consequently in 2013 with the support obtained from the Netherlands Embassy they toured several parts of the country which included **Kisumu, Eldoret, Mombasa, Naivasha** and **Kilifi**.

Kids training

The Creative Department introduced the Kids Training program to cater for

children between the ages of 5 and 12. The program runs each Saturday at the Sarakasi Dome between 8.30 and 12.30 and teaches acrobatics, dance and drumming with around 40 children in attendance.

Tero Saarinen Workshops and Performance

Between 9th and 16th November 2013 Sarakasi Trust had the opportunity of hosting world renowned dancer and choreographer Tero Saarinen from Finland with the support of the Finland Embassy in Nairobi and the Tero Saarinen Company.

Dancer-choreographer **Tero Saarinen** began his career as a dancer at the Finnish National Ballet in 1985. His solo career took off in 1988, after he won first prize in the contemporary section of the acclaimed Concours International de Danse de Paris in France. As a dancer, Saarinen has worked with several internationally renowned choreographers and is still considered one of the world's most significant contemporary dancers of his generation. Tero Saarinen Company's core activities include running an international teaching programme, as well as Saarinen's licensing and creating works for other prominent dance international companies.

Commissioned by the Venice Biennale in 2002, dancer-choreographer **Tero Saarinen's** HUNT has become one of the

most significant reinterpretations of iconic Russian composer **Igor Stravinsky's** (1882-1971) perhaps best-known work, The Rite of Spring.

In the final stages of the creative process, Saarinen found the 'external force' he had been looking for to stand up to Stravinsky's music, alongside the choreography and the overall visual form of the work through the collaboration with multimedia artist **Marita**.

The Tero Saarinen Company travelled with a team of technical and managerial support who gave 2 day workshops on technical set up/ production and Arts Management respectively as Tero gave one of his own on technique and production. All the above activities were conducted at the Sarakasi Dome with participants from Sarakasi Trust, Ghetto Exposed and various arts and events companies.

All the participants and other artist were treated to a rare performance by Tero at Alliance Francaise on Thursday 14th November and later discussed various aspects of the performance with the choreographer/ dancer.

Tero then gave a very emotional last performance of HUNT on Friday 15th November to the audience of 300 or so who were lucky enough to snatch up the limited tickets. This brought down the curtain on a performance that had run for 13 years!



The Hospital Project

The Sarakasi Trust Hospital Project (STHP) was initiated in 2006 as a special project under Sarakasi's wings. The edutainment program runs in various hospitals and children's rehabilitation facilities in Nairobi and Maai Mahiu in the Rift Valley, as a contribution to the healing and rehabilitation process. Children can have fun and learn even while in hospital. A visit from a clown, a box of crayons, a story, a hug and a smile go a long way towards reducing the anxiety caused by a long stay in hospital.

The pilot phase in 2006/2007 was for children in the Mater Hospital and proved to be very successful. In 2007 the project expanded to Kenyatta National Hospital and Mbagathi District Hospital. These government hospitals have many children from underprivileged backgrounds and they are often alone and unvisited by their families for long periods of time. In 2009, the project extended to non-hospital environments, reaching out to 600 children/youths in nine locations every

week: the sick, those with special needs, and vulnerable children/youths within the juvenile justice system.

The project founder, Ferny Verwiel became the field manager during 2012 ably assisted by eleven gifted creative assistants and a special needs teacher, and supported by an administrative team - a finance officer Kevin Omollo and project manager Kenneth Wendo.

True to STHP's plans, 2013 was a year of firsts! STHP held its first Charity Auction attended by supporters from different industries all of whom purchased a product or two, donated by more than 30 different corporate organizations.

Toyota Kenya extended a donation in a yet powerful and engaging partnership. More than 70 Toyota Kenya staff members were involved in creating smiles every month. Thanks to Sarakasi Trusts volunteer and now Sarakasi Trust's Hospital Project's ambassador, Thijs van Dijck, Een Aarde Netherlands also joined the list of supporting partners. As a result

STHP extended its program in two girls' rehabilitation institutions: Kirigiti Girls Rehabilitation Girls School and Dagoretti Girls Rehabilitation School. The total number of locations we work in also rose from 9 to 11.

Exchanges

Clowns without Borders (CWB) Sweden, South Africa and Germany, respectively, joined STHP to present special performance to create smiles for sick children at Kenyatta National Hospital. Additionally STHP and CWB Sweden and South Africa continues to together to support Hand in Hand International (HiH) by empowering their Business Relationship Officers with tools to deliver entrepreneurship workshops to women in the Kenyan grassroots. Our team also made a key presentation during the Regional Scientific Conference by Infection Prevention network (IPNET) and Infection prevention African network (ICAN) in Mombasa on November 2013 courtesy of our partner Kenyatta National Hospital.

Outreach

We participated in the Remote Parenting initiative by our partner, Youth Correctional and Training Centre, Kamiti Prison. This event provided an opportunity for parents to see the new skills and abilities learned by their children who are in prison. STHP plays a major role in teaching skills in art and acrobatics (as well as providing forums for discussions) which the young inmates showcased. We

also celebrated the day of the African child in different institutions including the Nairobi Children's' Remand Home and the Kirigiti Girls Rehabilitation School. Special Education Professionals and STHP also engaged a variety of campaigns in Huruma, Kariobangi, Kawangware and Mukuru slums towards advocacy and awareness on disability issues like autism. SKIZA project pilot initiated by one of the project Creative Assistants was also introduced to teach basic sign language through fun methods at Nairobi Children's Remand Home, Dagoretti Girls Rehabilitation School and Youth Correctional and Training Centre, Kamiti Prison. This project also intended to involve artists with hearing and speech impairment in the projects work.

Funding

Toyota Kenya donated KES 950,000 (approx € 8,200) towards creating a positive healing environment for children at Kenyatta National Hospital level 3. Stichting Een Aarde donated €2,972.64. Through our foreign collection account Friends of the Hospital Project received a total of €7,724. These include companies like UFO Supplies BV and other special individual friends of the hospital project who have sponsored the project in cash and kind. Terre des Hommes continues to be our major donor to the project to date while Tejchevé Foundation has supported STHP with a grant towards further professionalization of the project.



Institution Building

Sarakasi continues to evolve and learn as it implements its strategic plan 2012-2014. Core funding provides the necessary means to ensure good results in the key areas of institutional development, finance, programs and partnerships and in its development into the strong institution that it is today, that attracts funding and partners for major arts and culture-related projects.

The Sarakasi Trust has a well-trying financial system with inbuilt checks and balances, including a yearly financial audit and a Code of Conduct that has ensured accountability to all stakeholders particularly donors, with the result that the organization is trusted within the donor community.

During 2013 a new Human Resource Manual and Finance Manual was adopted and implemented.

In 2012, Sarakasi embarked on an ambitious project to establish an endowment fund with clear policies on aspects such as investment, withdrawal, and usage, as a long term strategy to assure financial sustainability for the Trust. The endowment fund project is premised on the need to achieve adequate, reliable and sustainable financial resources. The operation of the endowment fund is a rather complex concept that would require additional human resource capacity constituted of financial experts. In 2013, we were privileged to have a financial expert from the Netherlands courtesy of Tejchevé Foundation to offer advisory services regarding the best way forward for the organization with respect to maximization of revenue generation for the Trust and the feasibility of the endowment fund.

**Hip Hop
Hook Up
Crew**

Our Partners



Our Partners

Since 2007, the Sarakasi Trust has been a partner in several networks that fund many of the cultural and skill exchanges that enable our artists learn and to travel overseas. These include:



The Umoja Cultural Flying Carpet

A program working for peace and societal development through international cultural collaboration that aims to develop a worldwide network of programs, institutions and individuals. Participating countries include South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Norway in the Southern Flying Carpet and Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Norway in the Eastern Flying Carpet.



The United Cultures for Development Network

(UCDN) developed in 2007 from organisations working with Mundial Productions Netherlands, and promotes worldwide advocacy for the power of culture and its important contribution to entrepreneurial development. In 2012, UCDN gained independent legal status and during 2013 move its secretariat from the Sarakasi Dome to South Africa. Sarakasi is one of 13 partners drawn from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe and involved in activities such as capacity building, fostering cultural entrepreneurship, exchanges, lobbying and advocacy.



Jeunes Musicales International

was founded in 1945 in Brussels, Belgium with the mission to “enable young people to develop through music across all boundaries”; it is now the largest nongovernmental organisation concentrating on youth and music in the world. Sarakasi helps it to lobby for artists rights, to hold training workshops and give performance opportunities.



Fredkorpset (FK)

Sarakasi is also a partner of Fredkorpset (FK), the Norwegian Peace Corps that assists cultural institutions of various countries, in Sarakasi’s case Mozambique, Kenya and Norway to exchange knowledge about performance.

AFRICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL NETWORK

Africa Music Festival Network (AMFN)

In 2013, Sarakasi as one of the lead festivals, with the Bayimba Festival of Uganda and Sauti za Busara of Zanzibar, successfully applied for funding from the Africa Music Festival Network (AMFN) for Music on the Move which involved the movement of music performers from the participating countries to the partner festivals. This way we were able to send Anto Neo Soul to participate at Bayimba Festival in Uganda and Ricky na Marafiki to Sauti za Busara. The same grant covered the expenses for Ugandan Jacky Chandiru and Rwandan Ras Kayaga to be on our Sawa Sawa Festival Line up. Director Marion van Dijck and Communications Officer Jane Mbugua attended Bayimba Festival in Uganda.

In addition Sarakasi hosted the regional AMFN meeting in December 2013 at the Sarakasi Dome. AMFN is supported by Danida and the Danish Centre for Culture and Development (DCCD) and works with some eighteen African festivals, funding collaborative activities and capacity building to help develop the creative industries.

East African Performing Arts Circuit

Sarakasi is also a member of the East African Performing Arts Circuit (EAPAC), a network including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, whose objective is to increase visibility and touring opportunities for local, regional and international artists through regional partnerships.



Afrifestnet

Sarakasi was invited to join Afrifestnet, a festival network launched in Ghana, in April 2012, and facilitated by the British Council, that aims to promote African arts festivals as key platforms to nurture, celebrate and project excellent and emerging African artists nationally, regionally and internationally.



British Council (BC)

In October 2013 our managing Director Marion van Dijck got the opportunity by the Nairobi British Council (BC) to visit WOMEX (World Music Expo) in Cardiff, Wales with the objective to learn and get ideas how the music industry in Kenya can benefit. In 2014 this will be followed up by BC.

Finance



Finance

Financial management is critical to the success of any organization in the world. This responsibility is vested on the finance department which plays a very significant role at Sarakasi.

The robustness of any organization is in tandem with its financial well being which in turn is a function of a well functioning financial department constituted of qualified financial professionals.

The finance team at Sarakasi comprises of James Munga who is the Finance and Operations Manager, Eric Gitau who is the company accountant and Kevin Omondi, the Hospital project accountant.

Sarakasi Trust has been in existence since the year 2001 during which period it has experienced phenomenal growth in all its activity and/or program areas. This growth has been fuelled by innovativeness, passion, creativity, risk taking, availability of resources and proper management of resources.

The finance and administration department has played a very pivotal role in ensuring accountability, effective use of financial resources, and provision of

timely and accurate financial management and information necessary for decision making.

At Sarakasi, the financial department, among other things plays the following roles;

- Ensuring proper administration of finances according to the laid down financial guidelines, policies and procedures.
- Preparing financial and management reports for consumption by the Board of Trustees and the Management team necessary for them to make key strategic decisions.
- Assisting in the preparation and monitoring of budgets and forecasts in order to ensure the organization is kept in perspective where expenditures are concerned.



- To contribute to the management and improvement of the operations by measuring and reporting regularly on key numbers crucial to the success of the organization.
- Proper management of donor funds according to donor specifications
- Ensuring the organization complies with all the statutory requirements including tax compliances, city by laws compliance, government licensing requirements etc

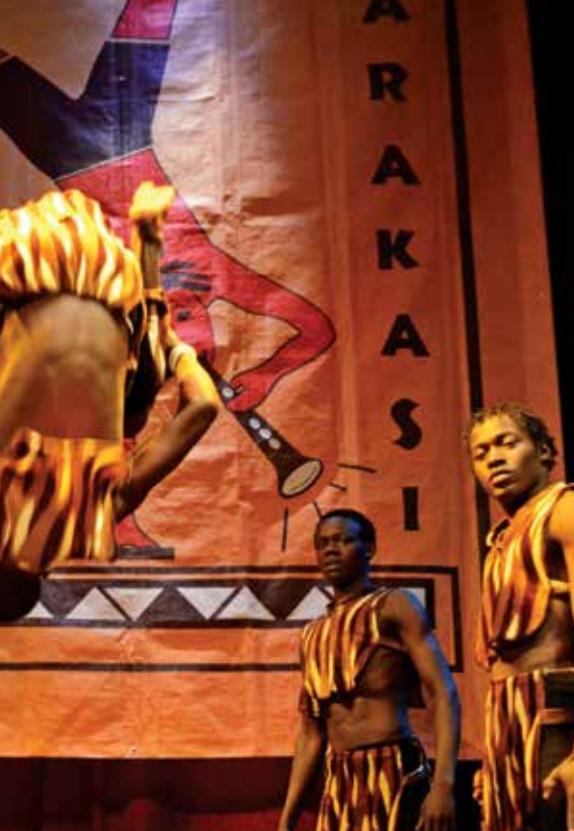
- Risk management. Serve as primary liaison to legal counsel in addressing legal issues e.g. copyright, antitrust, governing instruments,

The income for the year 2013 amounted to **Kshs. 58,211,825** and it was drawn from various sources as indicated below. The fund balance brought forward from the previous year 2012 amounted to Kshs. 25,124,271.

Balance Brought forward 1st January 2013	25,124,271
Income for the year 2013	
Grants from Donors	
Netherlands Embassy	10,253,626
Stichting DOEN – Netherlands	5,022,280
HIVOS East Africa	5,811,000
Terre des Hommes	5,707,974
Tejchevé Foundation	2,900,000
Sub – Total	29,694,880
Dome commercialization	
Rent/Dome Income	6,181,127
Sub-Total	6,181,127
Cultural entrepreneurship / Artists Agency	
Local Shows	6,337,282
Shows Tickets Sales	102,200
International Shows	4,757,399
Sub- Total	11,196,881
Partners Contribution	
FK Norway	1,453,571
Umoja CFC- Norway	3,153,124
AMFN	2,003,666
Sub – Total	6,610,361
Others	
Hospital Project Auction Income	744,300
Friends of Hospital Project	1,736,515
Friends of Sarakasi	1,789,933
Interest Income	107,825
Danish Culture Fund	150,000
Sub Total	4,528,573
Total Income	83,336,093



Sarakasi
Acrobats



Income Synopsis

We are immensely grateful to our donors whose contribution amounted to 51% of the total income of the organization. Special thanks to the Netherlands Embassy which supports a major portion of the core operational costs. It therefore provides Sarakasi with a sound base upon which all the other projects are premised.

Our cultural agenda has flourished courtesy of HIVOS East Africa and Stichting DOEN Netherlands.

Therefore we would like to extend a very big and heartfelt THANK YOU to HIVOS and Stichting DOEN for their relentless

trust and continued support towards Sarakasi.

The Hospital Project was founded in the year 2006. We sincerely thank Terre des Hommes that has funded the project from the very onset until it has become the now mega project that has an enormous impact as illustrated in the previous chapters of this report.

Tejchevé Foundation has helped Sarakasi to further professionalize the operations of the Hospital Project and we wish to say that with every smile of a child touched by the activities of the hospital Project, great appreciation goes to Tejchevé Foundation. In addition to supporting the Hospital project, Tejchevé Foundation also sponsored a financial expert from the Netherlands, who provided expert financial advice regarding the maximization of revenue generation and reduction of donor dependency for the organization. The musical production dubbed 'Trip en masse' was also partly supported by Tejchevé Foundation. The support is greatly appreciated.

Secondly, we wish to reiterate that one of the key objectives of the strategic plan, 2012 – 2014 was to achieve adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources and to gradually minimize dependence on donor aid while increasing our influence in the field of arts and culture. As demonstrated by the above statement, we are glad to point out that Dome commercialization contributed 10.6 % of the total income. This is a significant amount that is able to cover some aspects of general operational costs.

Cultural entrepreneurship is one of our key objectives and in the third category of income above, it is clear that in the year 2013, we had a very vibrant cultural entrepreneurship arm of Sarakasi. In total, the turnover in this category was, Kshs. 11,196,881 which represents 19 % of the total income. Sarakasi is about arts and culture whose ambassadors are the artists themselves. One of our key pillars is to empower our artists both socially and economically. In this category we are glad to point out that a big percentage of the income in this category goes towards uplifting the living standards of our artists through paid performances. Sarakasi only retains 25% management fee while the rest goes to the artists most of whom would otherwise be living below the poverty line and in deplorable circumstances.

Thank you our treasured partners for your continued partnership with Sarakasi. Your trust and financial support towards joint projects have greatly enhanced the course of arts and culture beyond our national boundaries. Integration and collaborations among artists from different nationalities has been made possible through the partnership initiatives.

Thank you to Friends, Partners and Networks! - amongst whom:

- **United Culture for Development Network** for facilitating networking between Sarakasi and other members of the network;
- **Steve Cousins**, for raising funds to maintain our acrobatics, dance and

special deaf artist outreach at the Dome and in Nairobi's slums;

- **Africa Music Festival Network (AMFN)** for giving us the opportunity to network with other pan African festivals and for making funds available for training and performance touring;
 - **Umoja CFC, Norway** for continuing to be our partner and giving our artists exposure to those of other countries and the chance to establish the Umoja ensemble;
 - **Fredskorpset (FK)** Norway for the exchange programme that has had such beneficial results on our capacity;
 - **Toyota Kenya** for providing corporate sponsorship for the Hospital project
 - **Friends of the Hospital Project** for helping to bridge the funding gap and ensure the project's success.
 - **Friends of Sarakasi** including Waringa Njonjo, Dubbelleuk Netherlands, Hennessy, Tero Saarinen, Vision Adventure Safaris, Finish Embassy, Manu Chandaria, Vyans, Chase Bank, and AAR.
- In all, partners and friends contributed Kshs. 11,138,934 in 2013. Well done and a big, big **THANK YOU!**

Finally, we must not forget the corporate clients who commission our artists and book space at the Dome: **THANK YOU** for your trust and for giving us very welcome and much-needed business!

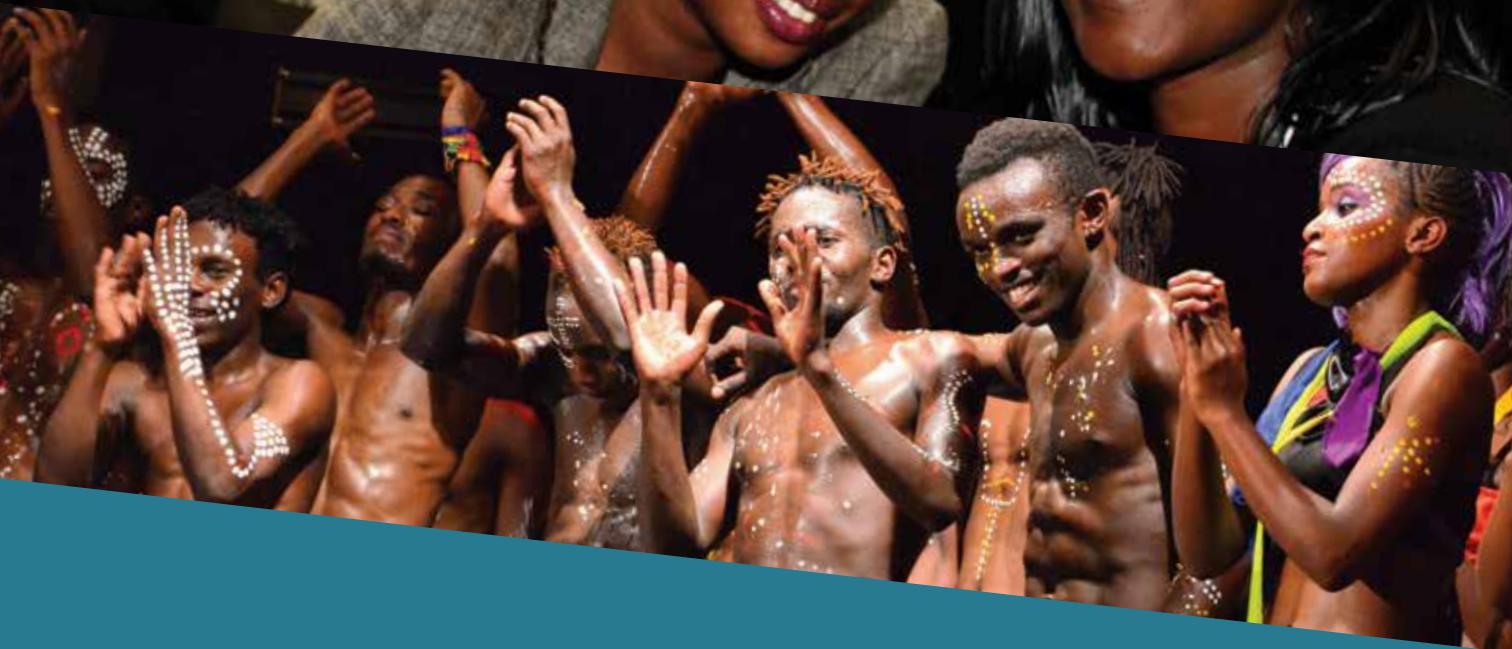


Expenditure Section

The absorption of the above income into expenses and activities is as shown below.

Sarakasi
Acrobats
Balancing
Act

Category	Expenditure (KSHS)
Personnel Component	24,188,449
Cultural Exchanges/Shows/Special Project	33,785,623
Premises and Equipment	7,045,397
Communication and Promotion	1,114,064
Miscellaneous Component	1,856,364
Total Expenditure	67,989,897
The fund balance outstanding as at 31st December 2013 is works out to Total Income less Total expenditure which is,	
Total Income for 2013 (incl. Brought forward from 2012)	83,336,096
Less Total Expenditure	67,989,897
Fund Balance as at 31 December 2013	15,346,199





**The
Future**

The Future

In 2014 Sarakasi will continue with the implementation of its projects and programs as outlined in this report. We are planning to stage more dance and circus shows and collaborations with like minded artists on a more regular basis. We will also strive to further intensify and diversify working and sharing with our partners and, this way, hopefully come up with new projects and activities.

As fundraising is an ever ongoing exercise we will continue on the path towards financial independence and sustainability through donor diversification and by maximising on our commercial activities and fundraising strategies.

In 2014 we will look for more international engagements for our artists as we plan to build our name with the ultimate goal of being a recognised brand locally and internationally with new clients, friends and sponsors.

We cannot stress enough that without our dedicated team and artists there would be no Sarakasi.

I hope you have appreciated this report and will be tempted to come and visit us at the Sarakasi Dome, ***Karibu!***



