

Sarakasi Trust

A: Sarakasi Dome, Opposite Ngara Post Office, Ngara
P.O. Box 33339, 00600 Ngara - Nairobi, Kenya

T: +254 20 2694026/7

C: +254 722 814133

E: info@sarakasi.org

W: www.sarakasi.org

Facebook: [SarakasiTrust](#) | [Amani.Lazima](#) | [Sarakasi Trust Hospital Project](#) | [Triple H Up](#)

Twitter: [SarakasiTrust](#)



Sarakasi Trust Annual Report 2012



Report written by:
Sarakasi Team

Photographers:
Allan Mabwa | Anitah Mbugua | Ferny Verwiel | Julia | Karla Hoffman | Kevin Sabuni | Marion van Dijck
c/o Pale Juu | c/o UCD Network | Velu

Designer:
Baraka Amunga (Barella Ltd)

Content

Foreword	1
Standing proud	4
Why and How	6
Our Programmes	8
Training and Capacity Building Programme	9
International Exchanges and Performance Contracts	9
Audience Building Programme	9
Cultural Entrepreneurship	10
Our Departments	12
Events Department	13
Creative Department	16
The Hospital Project	22
The Dome	26
Institution Building	30
Our Partners	32
Finances	36
The Future	40
Annex 1. Consolidated Account Statement for 2012	42

I MUST STRESS THAT WITHOUT THE
TALENTED ACROBATS, DANCERS AND
MUSICIANS SARAKASI WOULD HAVE
NEVER BECOME WHAT IT IS TODAY.
YOU ARE SARAKASI!



Dear Friends of Sarakasi,

This annual report is a summary account of Sarakasi Trust's activities and achievements in 2012.

What a year it has been! The cultural agenda at the Dome has really expanded, it included creating platforms and performance opportunities for many young people, such as the weekly Forgotten Furahidays, monthly open mike sessions, quarterly dance and circus productions and the annual Sawa Sawa Festival. We consolidated our programmes overall and gave a whole new meaning to the training and capacity building programme by

initiating peer to peer education and organizing management workshops for musicians. Our acrobats and dancers have excelled themselves, combining skills and techniques in beautiful high quality productions. We are delighted and proud that our client data base has expanded with the result that we have continue to secure local and international contracts for our artists. There were also some interesting developments in the cultural exchange activities during the year.

Then, of course, there is the Dome - the most iconic and inspirational building that I have ever set foot in! We have been fortunate in being able to carry out



further upgrading on the Dome during the year, to the benefit not only of our artists and audiences, but also of those who hire the premises.

These achievements have only been possible thanks to the determination and hard work of all involved and thus I would like to thank the Trustees for their guidance and valuable input, and the management team and staff for their passion, unfailing support and continuous efforts, I owe you all an immense debt of gratitude for without each and every one of you our successes would not have been possible.

My gratitude is also extended to our

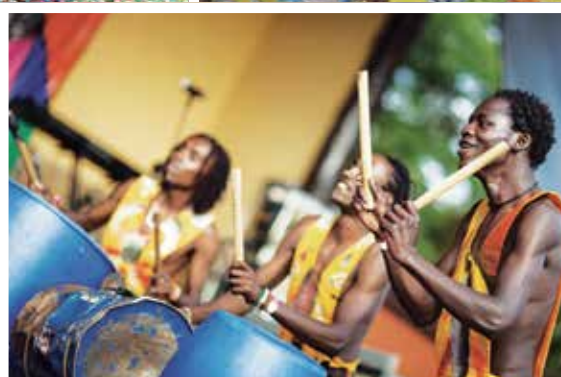
friends, partners, partner networks, donors and sponsors, all of whom continue to be the bed rock of the organization's financial growth and artistic capacity.

Last but not least, I must stress that without the talented acrobats, dancers and musicians Sarakasi would have never become what it is today. You are Sarakasi!

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

Marion van Dijk

Managing Director





Standing
proud

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 creativity 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 programmes. We implement numerous special programmes: 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, in Ngara, Nairobi, our office rehearsal and performance venue.

Sarakasi is a registered trust. We have a team of 35 full-time staff and reach over 1,000 children and young people through our training outreach programmes, as well as training some 100 people at the Dome every week.

Through audience-building projects, such as the outstanding festival and Dome programmes, we actually reach thousands of people. In addition, the Sarakasi Trust is a member of six partner networks and so has an even wider audience. More information is



Why
& How

available at www.sarakasi.org

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 poor and have to go beyond world class acrobatics, dance and music training and exchange programmes, 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.

To that effect, Sarakasi promotes the formation of groups of performing artists (acrobats, dancers, musicians) who are trained by associated groups or individual performers turned trainers/choreographers. 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 and skills development elsewhere.



Our Programmes

Sarakasi facilitates capacity building and training, exchange programmes, audience building programmes, 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 programmes.

Training and Capacity Building Programme

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

Outreach training - weekly 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;

Selection and training of professional level peer trainers for the Dome and outreach training levels.

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

International Exchanges and Performance Contracts

Sarakasi facilitates performance opportunities by identifying festivals, and other performance schools and programmes 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 programme 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 fifty young artists in this way.

Audience Building Programme



The Sarakasi Trust runs several audience building activities. One such is the annual Sawa Sawa Festival, held during the Madaraka weekend at the beginning of June. 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 aims to develop audiences, bring profile and exposure to Kenyan artists and build capacity in cultural entrepreneurship and festival production. Sawa Sawa promotes the performing arts through technical workshops, exchanges between local and international artists, community-building themed activities,

jam sessions/studio recordings, media activations and the multi- stage, multi- day concerts. Audiences of over 100,000 people attend the events. 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.

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,







Our Departments

and choreography.

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

Events Department

When every dawn brought us together to celebrate the dusk!

An events team manager and two programme officers undertake publicity and the implementation of all Sarakasi events. Performers at the Dome have dual roles as they often also serve as designated security, ushers, waitresses, and bar personnel so that they are earning as well as learning.

We are very proud that the Dome has been fully occupied and that approximately 15,000 people attended events there in 2012 - audiences, musicians, performers, fund-raisers, community workers, facilitators, local authorities, potential donors and the simply curious from all walks of life. There were over 150 events, including over thirty workshops, twelve Hip Hop events, five Reggae events, over forty special Friday activities, four mini concerts, eight sessions of the Sarakasi-

owned Look and Buy Market, and facilitated activities for outside clients.

Highlights of 2012

Lovers' Rock!! - A Valentine's Day special, the screening of the documentary "The Story of Lovers' Rock" by Menelik Shabazz, was followed by a romantic dinner on the roof of the Sarakasi Dome, with its unparalleled, breathtaking view of Nairobi by night, to the accompaniment of superb entertainment by the Sarakasi Dancers and a live band.

Double Wedding - This was a significant first, when two couples from the Imani Childrens home at Kayole celebrated their joint weddings before a full house at the Dome; a really beautiful occasion that reinforced and strengthened the links between Sarakasi and the community.

Viata Africa Charity - A charity programme was held for the VIATU AFRICA campaign aimed at collecting shoes to enable children at risk from the parasite jiggers- that lays its eggs in the soles of the feet - to go to school. A total of over 1,000 pair of shoes was collected for distribution in the surrounding



communities.

Reggae at the Dome - Several Reggae events were organised this year, namely a concert dubbed by the Rastafarian community "word, power, sound" featuring the Sojourners reggae band; the return of King Azah, a well known reggae artist from Ethiopia; and disc jockey events with Blakwud Entertainment.

Sawa Sawa Festival 2012 - The 6th Annual multi disciplinary Sawa Sawa Festival - "Roots for the Future" - was held on 10th June 2012 with as its theme African cultural roots and traditions; how they have evolved and how they can strengthen existing relations and build bridges between and across gender, ages, communities, cultures and even nations. Sawa Sawa brought together African performing artists, other artists and styles inspired or derived from African Culture to explore, fuse and learn from their very diverse backgrounds and styles. To promote the festival and its theme, Sarakasi organised meetings and workshops between artists and the members of the public (students, youth, press, girls and women). These

included public relations activities, jam sessions, seminars, exhibitions, and demonstrations of acrobatics, dance and music.

Over 2,000 people attended the festival and were entertained from midday to midnight at the Carnivore compound in Nairobi, which featured an interactive stage, a cultural vending area, an information booth, a food and beverage court and children's activities. The afternoon was mainly geared to families and youth, with the evening being for older folk.

The programme featured performances by Juliani, Kidum, the Sojourners, Octopizzo, Yunasi, Makadem, Gar Gar, the MOB Deeja's, the Sarakasi Dancers and Acrobats and others, while the show stopper was the well-known Afro-Brazilian band, NAPALMA, an electro-percussive band with strong Brazilian/Mozambican influences, in their first visit to East Africa.

Forgotten Furahidays - Friday evenings are fun at the Dome! Sarakasi artists and live bands entertain audiences as they relax at the end of a busy week. Fura-hi means happy in Swahili. Forgotten Furahidays were introduced following

Eppy Tatya a musician says it all.....

"..., in the Sarakasi Trust I have gained more confidence and education than ever before. I have a will to learn here and it has given me hope. This is not only through their nurturing of my talent... and giving me a means of looking to my future, but also by providing workshops from which my fellow artists and I have benefited immensely. They have given me skills which have greatly improved my career and I give thanks to all those involved. Sarakasi has helped me realize that I have to handle my music career as a business, and how to work to plan my own shows and open my creative mind"

an advertising and social media campaign. This activity provides our artists with performance opportunities and outsiders with exposure to Kenyan audiences. In 2012, we enjoyed notable performances by Mzungu Kichaa from Tanzania, Anto Neosoul, the Dohty Family, the Afrozeze Band, Kanda King, Amileena, Karen Mukupa from Denmark, Atemi, Makadem and Fadhilee.

Artist's workshops - On the third Friday of every month, the Sarakasi Dome is the venue of Sound in Motion workshops facilitated by Artists for Artists in which invited deejays, producers, speakers and seasoned artists share their experiences and provide advice to young affiliated musicians. After the first Sound in Motion workshop at a Sawa Sawa Festival, Sarakasi was asked to continue the initiative on a regular basis - and we did just that! The seasoned artists who have given time to our developing performers include Kris Darling,

Octopizzo, Karen Mukupa and her band, and Mzungu Kichaa.

Hip, Hop, Hook Up or Triple H Up - This new initiative, in partnership with the Sarakasi Trust, originally known as Jump Off, was started in November 2012, by Susan Timon, Flemming Olendo, Edward Ananda and James Kimbiu, as a talent spotting platform of 'tomorrow's best acts and today's best kept secrets'. The aim is to assist youth through the performing arts and to identify hidden talent. Activities include music, DeeJay-ing and MCee-ing, rap battles, spoken word, open mike sessions, exhibitions, fashion and merchandising. Impact is also achieved through multiple media channels, including TV, radio and online social networks. Creating opportunities for talented young Kenyans enables them to drive social change and contribute to development.



The Look and Buy Market - In the Sarakasi spirit of empowerment, a market for cultural entrepreneurs took place from July to December 2012 in which artists could display and sell their products.

Creative Department

Our ideas moulded beautifully into outstanding masterpieces.

The Creative Programme Manager, who is also a choreographer, heads a team made up of an administrator, two choreographers, two acrobatic trainers, a part time field supervisor and six support staff drawn from the department's talented 44 dancers and 25 acrobats.

The Creative Department's job is to scout, develop and manage talented young people through auditioning, training and identifying job opportunities, both locally and beyond. It answers directly to the Finance and Operations Manager. An administrator was appointed in 2012 so that the

choreographers could concentrate on their creative roles.

In 2012 the department staged 6 quality shows in The Dome that each attracted audiences of 300 to 600 people. In addition, the artists were privately commissioned for some fifty four shows locally and nine shows internationally, as well as giving six free shows for various charities.

Successes of 2012:

Higher income from productions -

Improved administrative support resulted in increased bookings and income and better shows which in turn led to a 60 per cent increase in the clientele base, a 40 per cent rise in repeat clients, and significantly improved incomes for the artists.

Improved contracts and conditions for artists -

A review of contracts, codes of conduct and health and safety standards following the restructuring of the department led to notable improvements in training and working conditions - all are now enrolled in the

National Hospital Insurance Fund and all performers have personal accident cover.

Performances - Increased choreographic input resulted in quality shows and improved delivery. In particular we would like to highlight:

'Unspoken' This was a spectacular show, produced and directed by Edu Oroo and Issa Adero in October 2012, on the theme of secrets that people are unable to express, in which solos and duets depicted the struggle in relationships, the challenges and the various approaches to reconciliation. It played to an audience of over 300 people.

Choreographer - Edu went from strength to strength during the year and retained a very full schedule. He maintained the high profile of productions such as the Tusker project Fame, now in its fifth year, ably assisted by six of our finest dancers who also helped prepare the contestants for the weekly live shows. The international Mama Africa Circus sought Edu's expertise in preparing artists for

international contracts in Europe and on cruise ships.

Training - The Creative Department was able to capitalise on Sarakasi's increasing fame to respond to the emerging demand for dance and acrobatics lessons across the city. Every week two trainers visited the International School, the German School and the French School to teach classes of 10 to 30 in each venue.

Kids training - the Kids Training Programme teaches acrobatics, dance and drumming to some forty children aged between 5 and 12, every Saturday morning between 8.30 and 12.30. In December 2012, this project staged the Life Acrobatic Show on the theme of HIV awareness; indeed a proud moment for them, their parents and guardians and Sarakasi!

Private dance classes - were started at the Dome and in private houses in Nairobi, taking place between 5pm and 8pm on weekdays and between 8.30 am and noon on Saturdays. These can be booked through our office.

Exchange Programmes and International Contracts

International partnerships bring exposure and new experiences for our artists and in 2012, significant opportunities came their way.

Fontys Talent Week - In January 2012 senior dancer, trainer and choreographer Sylvester Oduor attended the Fontys Talent Week, as part of the mutually beneficial and long standing relationship with the Dutch based Fontys School of Arts. .

Floriade (Venlo) - Netherlands - Sarakasi was delighted and privileged to send three groups of artists to perform for two months in the spectacular show that formed part of the Floriade, an international exhibition of horticulture, held every 10 years in the Netherlands, in 2012 in the town of Venlo. The participating artists were selected through the United Cultures for Development Network and hailed from Brazil, Ghana, India and Kenya. It was a wonderful opportunity for our Kenyan artists, most of who were performing abroad for the first time, to gain experience, further their careers, and interact with other cultures.

Umoja Cultural Flying Carpet - In 2007, Sarakasi became a member of the Umoja Cultural Flying Carpet, a Norwegian-funded project to bring cultural institutions from different countries together under the banner of 'Creating Together'. Kenya is a member of the Eastern Carpet, with Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Norway. Umoja ensembles have been formed in each country under the guidance of the appropriate cultural institution. Every year the group takes part in international and regional camps where about twenty young artists from each ensemble and their trainers work together.



Umoja highlights of 2012

FEBRUARY

Choreographer Edwin Ooro and the administrator attended the annual partners' meeting to review 2011 activities and plan those for 2012

MARCH

Selection of 116 dancers, acrobats and musicians of the 150 auditioned, to represent Kenya on the Eastern Carpet

MAY

Umoja show, a fusion of dance, acrobatics and music, was launched - seen by over 550 people mainly from Nairobi:

JUNE

Performance at the Sawa Sawa Festival

AUGUST

performance at the Dome

SEPTEMBER

Two week camp in Tanzania with participants from Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Norway. Three performers and a musician were chosen to perform in Uganda over three days

NOVEMBER

Show at the fundraising event at the Nyali Hotel on behalf of the Wema centre for street children
Visit to Maputo, Mozambique, by musician Asali, choreographer Edu, dancers Rose Otieno and Vincent Kimat to participate in the annual Umoja New Year Show

DECEMBER

fundraising event by members of the ensemble, for needy children living at the Wema Center in Mombasa

31st December: Umoja Ensemble Kenya performed again in Mombasa.

Fredskorpset north-south programme (FK) - Norway - Sarakasi is a member of the FK Programme, a Norwegian funded organisation that fosters international cultural exchanges, and has taken part in three-way cultural exchanges with Norway and Mozambique.

In 2012:

Sarakasi Acrobat trainer James Njunge went to Norway for a year to work at the Kulturskolen i Fredrikstad and is currently training students in acrobatics and acro - yoga;

Sarakasi Dance trainer Sammy Gian went to Mozambique for a year to teach dance and the elements of acrobatics facilitated by the Escola Nacional de Artes Vusuais;

Mozambique Dance trainer Gabriel Simbine came to Sarakasi to teach southern African influences in dance whilst also taking lessons in acrobatics.

Russian contracts - The Sarakasi affiliated Black Angels Acrobats performed with the Russian Nikolin Circus and also the Great Moscow State Circus.



Local Collaboration and Partnerships

Sarakasi is also involved in many local partnerships and collaborative activities:

Some artist bookings needed many artists and therefore effective collaboration was set up with other groups, such as the All Blacks, Eclipse, Copa Cabana, the Titans, Groundbreakers and Black Blingers, to produce some of the most memorable Flash mobs ever witnessed locally, such as the Cadbury's and DSTV Olympic Flash mobs. Sarakasi offered training space, trainers and performance opportunities for some of the groups such as the Groundbreakers, Titans, All Blacks and Black Blingers and were

delighted when the last group won the popular Dance Competition Series Sakata Season 3.

Talanta training - Founded in 2010, this programme responds to the needs of disabled artists, training some eighteen deaf people in acrobatics, yoga and dance each year. Some of them have been able to perform on local and international stages with other artists. One such artist is Joy who was part of the Umoja ensemble for two seasons. In 2012, performers under the Talanta project were honoured to appear before His Excellency the President of Kenya during the Jamhuri Day celebration.

World Circus Day - It is an annual event. On 16 April 2012, the Sarakasi Acrobats were pleased to join in this

My stepping stone - Oscar's story

Before I joined Sarakasi I lived with my mum, step dad and siblings in Siaya. I am one of 14 children. After my mum lost her job when I was in form four, she could no longer pay for my education.

After leaving form four at Kisumu Boys' High School, things did not work out at home and I asked my mum for the bus fare to go to Nairobi. She gave me 600 shillings and I went to stay with my uncle in Kibera, a poor area of Nairobi. A former school friend advised me to join the Sarakasi Trust as I had been the best dancer in our school. Sarakasi accepted me in 2007 and I started training as a dancer, with Edu Ooro and Issa Adero. I became a professional dancer 3 months later. I then rented a room in Kibera with 5 friends from Sarakasi; six of us and one mattress! We were all trainees and did a few shows. I became one of the best dancers as Sarakasi and moved to stay with my best friend.

I do local shows and have travelled abroad to perform, so that now I am able to help at home; I am paying school fees for 5 sisters and 1 brother. Two of them have finished secondary school - my sister and brother. Three sisters are still in high school, who are going into form four next year, and one sister will join the last year of primary school next year.

I have been in many Sarakasi presentations and now I'm a dance captain which is a great privilege. Sarakasi has helped me to support our family. I have bought a piece of land on which I hope to build a house to rent out to support me and our family. I also bought a motor cycle taxi to support the family.

God has helped me in my life and I know He still has plans for me.

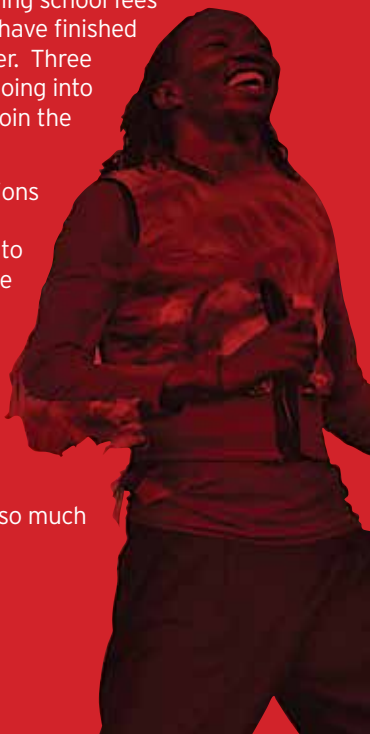
My future is bright and I have achieved so much since joining Sarakasi.

important celebration of circus and its contribution to world culture. Twenty five Sarakasi Acrobats, ten from the Mighty Jambo Academy and eight from the Jericho Centre performed in Jevanjee Gardens in central Nairobi.

Pale Juu project - In partnership and cooperation with Australian based Vertical Circus, the very successful "Pale Juu Next" project was implemented, involving thirty acrobats taking part in a two month training camp leading to performances at the Dome and other venues. It was a show of acrobatics, combined with dance, theatre and drumming.

Pamoja - In August 2012, Sarakasi choreographer Issa Ishmael Adero presented a dance and acrobatics show called Pamoja, partly as a fundraising event for one of our artists Wenceslaus Xavier who fractured both legs in an accident. The Umoja Kenya Ensemble also took part.

Dunda Mtaani Community Festival - Also in August, Sarakasi took part in the Dunda Mtaani community festival that is now in its fifth year, and has been staged in Korogocho, Kibera, Huruma, Kawangware, Riruta and California. Professional artists and local youth groups combined in a music, dance and acrobatic show.





Sarakasi Trust

Hospital The Project

'God Bless you because you bring home to the youth in here. The drama played was a reflection of my life. The acrobatics and other activities also helped us to release stress. People judge us, but you treat us like any other person out there'.

"Ben", an inmate of the Youth Correctional and Training Centre, Kamiti Prison

The Sarakasi Trust Hospital Project was initiated in 2006 as a special project. The edutainment programme 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 became the field manager during 2012, and is ably assisted by eleven gifted creative assistants and a special needs teacher, and supported by an administrative team - a finance officer, administrative officer and project manager.

In 2012:

240 one-on-one days reached 7,335 children in three major hospitals and gave them a reason to smile - 1,467 of them had terminal or life threatening illnesses;

2,381 children and young people in rehabilitation centres, youth prisons, remand homes and rescue centres experienced a sense of hope and a boost to their self esteem through the 114 "healing days";

Activities were made available to 370 children with special needs in the Occupational Therapy

Department of Kenyatta National Hospital and in the Comfort the Children Centre in Maai Mahiu;

Activities were expanded to Mbagathi District Hospital, to work with youth groups and children living with/affected by HIV/Aids;

Frequent counselling sessions for youths living with HIV were carried out during the regular Youth Days;

Two new support platforms were introduced - Sponsor a Clown and Sponsor a Smile whereby donors

fund the engagement of a hospital clown for a set period;

Materials were donated by Hillcrest School, Nairobi - board games, puppets and story books - for use in Kenyatta National Hospital;

Project income grew by thirty per cent thanks to additional funding from the Tejcheve Foundation of the Netherlands;

Pilot activities started aimed at raising funds from the sale of Christmas cards.



Skill Exchanges:

The Israeli clown, Tito from the Dream Doctors and Dr. Berkun, the Head of Paediatrics at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem both shared their ideas on the importance of hospital clowning;

Daria the Doctor Clown from Russia visited and gave their inputs.

Partnership Activities:

Joined with Mbagathi District Hospital in the implementation of their HIV/ AIDS Training " Literacy Treatment" facilitated by Aphia Plus and in their first Youth Day, and incorporated some Sarakasi members into their youth support groups;

De-worming sensitization undertaken in partnership with the health insurer AAR's Beckman Foundation at Westlands Primary School;

Helped Kenyatta National Hospital's hand washing and community sensitization campaign;

Provided Kids Entertainment in various venues - the Naivasha Hortifair, for the German Business Community, at the Sawa Sawa Festival, at Kirigiti Girls - Day of the African Child Celebrations, and at Maua Moments Christmas Fair.

Other developments:

A strategic plan for the project was drawn up which would involve some restructuring and a far-reaching fundraising effort to ensure sustainability;

March 2012, commissioning of a project website as a marketing and information tool for all stakeholders wishing to know more about project activities and outcomes.



"The Mbagathi District Hospital partnership with the Sarakasi Trust Hospital Project has really had a great impact in both the HIV clinic and the general wards. Before it there was a social barrier between the patients and hospital staff, but things have changed. Through the drama, comedy, public speaking, and music, among others, a friendlier environment has been created and people smile. I would like it if the hospital environment could continue like this.

Thank you, Sarakasi".

Miriam Mumbi
social worker



The
Dome



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. 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. Apart from client's events, Sarakasi's event management department is in charge of planning and executing the organization's own cultural agenda.

One of Sarakasi's essential tasks is to secure adequate, predictable and sustainable financing. In 2012 Sarakasi activities and Dome rentals brought in \$US 156,653. Ensuring such an income demands an incredible amount of

effort, -from the event organisers, to the acrobats who help move furniture, to the team of cleaners - Jorim, Vivan, Jane and Maggie - who keep our venue spotless and set out the rental spaces according to client requirements, to our caretaker Mr. Mwangi who is also our in-house technician, sound and light operator and overall Mr. Fix-it ensuring the smooth running of the Dome. Public relations, marketing and on the ground logistics are essential and are in the capable hands of Anitah and Sammy. In overall charge of all these functions is Kui, who ensures that everything is in order so that clients are fully satisfied with the services provided.

Much was accomplished in 2012:

The Dome saw an upgrading of the lighting system, seating, floor and the sound system.



The lighting of the stage front of house and production areas was improved;

The old seating was renovated and remodelled to fit better into the available spaces and 200 new cocktail tables and chairs made busy Fridays more comfortable;

Additional sound equipment increased sound clarity, a flat screen in the foyer helped entertain guests and new curtains smartened up the overall appearance;

A new floor with soundproofing and a life span of over twenty years has arrived, but must await a break in activities to be fitted. 2013 will see the Dome with a multi-purpose, modern, black tiled floor that is soft enough to ensure a gentle landing after jumps, yet tough enough to carry heavy loads, thanks to the use of new technology developed in the Netherlands.

The result of all this will be a yet more beautiful Dome!

Marketing

In 2012 the marketing campaign was aggressive and effective, particularly the focus on social media, where the Sarakasi Trust face book page grew to over 5,000 followers. Our strategic partnerships with various media houses gave Sarakasi media exposure and airtime to highlight our various activities.

The Ngara community

The Ngara community continues to consider Sarakasi as essential to its personality. The completion of an estate of 300 housing units has increased the business in Ngara and contributed to the growth of the area; a factor in the increased audiences for Sarakasi.





Institution Building



Sarakasi continues to evolve and learn as it implements its strategic plan. Core funding provides the necessary means to ensure good results in the key areas of institutional development, finance, programmes 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. A positive development in this was the planning review and adoption of a new strategic plan (2012 to 2014) to guide the organisation.

The Sarakasi Trust has a well-trying financial system with inbuilt checks and balances 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.

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.

During 2012 'Stichting Sarakasi Nederland' (Sarakasi Netherlands) was founded by the Sarakasi MD, who became a board member (treasurer) together with two Netherlands based board members namely Ester Strasek (chair) and Shiro de Voogd-Mbugua (secretary). The aim of Stichting Sarakasi Netherlands is to financially support Sarakasi Trust Kenya through resource mobilization and activities that build Sarakasi Kenya's capacity.



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 programme working for peace and societal development through international cultural collaboration that aims to develop a worldwide network of programmes, institutions and individuals.

The United Cultures for Development network - (UCD) developed in 2007 from organisations working with Mundial Productions, and promotes worldwide advocacy for the power of culture and its important contribution to development. In 2012, UCDN gained independent legal status and in 2013 will move 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.

In 2012, Sarakasi took part in iconic UCD activities such as:

Harvest Time Productions at the Floriade in Venlo, the Netherlands for the opening ceremony before Her

Majesty the Queen, at the closing ceremony and approximately 250 shows before a total audience of over half a million people. Rehearsals in April at the Dome involving twelve Sarakasi dancers in a cast of thirty;

Street Shows at Floriade by the Sarakasi affiliated Jango Jugglers over a period of five weeks;

European Tour Possibilities : Cees Rullens, an artistic director from the Netherlands visited the Sarakasi Trust with a view to putting together a future production for the European market;

Sander van Bussel of the Tilburg Cowboys from the Netherlands developed the Human Rights Tattoo following a visit to Sarakasi that was launched at the Mundial Productions festival;

The United Cultures for Development World Culture Photo Booth, a publicity initiative to inspire innovative ways of bringing people and art together in entertaining ways, was part of the Sawa Sawa Festival;

With support from the Danish Culture Fund, five Danish artists came to Kenya on an exchange visit that included workshops with 34 artists and a performance at the Dome;

In December, Sarakasi and the Kuona Trust, with United Cultures for Development ran a Kenyan Flash Mob.

Jeuneses 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.

Sarakasi is also a recent 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. Thus, Sarakasi was able to have a dance trainer for a period of 18 months and to send an acrobatic trainer to Norway and a dance trainer to Mozambique; a very effective way of transferring new skills to Sarakasi artists.

In 2012, Sarakasi as one of the lead festivals, with the Bayimaba Festival of Uganda and Sauti za Busara of Zanzibar, successfully applied for funding from the Africa Music Festival

Network (AMFN) for training and marketing. The first training session was held during Sarakasi’s Sawa Sawa Festival in June 2012, with the second training to take place in February 2013 at Sauti za Busara. The remaining support was put towards marketing, public relations and writing a marketing toolkit for Sawa Sawa 2012. 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.

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.

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.



From Gang member to Giver

Born and raised in Korogocho, in a family of five, I went to local primary school, but there was not enough money for secondary school and I had to look for ways to earn a living. But life is tough in the Korogocho slums, and I ended up in the wrong company. I became a gangster at the age of 12 and took to a life of crime, from carjacking to bank robberies. There is money in crime and I could ensure my survival. I became famous because I was fearless! Eventually I was one of the police's most wanted criminals.

But during this time I also discovered that I had a talent for football as a goalkeeper, and one day I met David a football coach who encouraged me to develop this talent. In the early 2000s I was selected as the Kenyan national team goalkeeper for an important under 17's match. I received the Best Player of the month award. I was called to play for a club under 18's team in an international competition where we came third. I was named best player of the tournament and got the golden boot award.

During our international tour we were entertained by a group called Wayo Wayo. I thought they sounded very good and they triggered my love for the drums. I found my passion for music and enjoyed performing; I tried to leave the gang but it was difficult.

One day we went for a show at the Safari Park Hotel where I met Edu and Issa, who both worked for the Sarakasi Trust. Sarakasi was auditioning for entertainers and a friend encouraged me to try. I joined Sarakasi in 2003 as a drummer and have since gained a lot of experience and knowledge through workshops, exchange programmes, and the chance to travel and perform - in the US, the UK, China, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Taiwan, Korea, Dubai, and different parts of Africa. I was able to earn some money which I used to develop myself and my family.

Sarakasi kept me alive, I left the gang life and started making positive changes through work. The workshops both in Kenya and abroad taught me a lot and brought me into contact with different cultures, an experience I am always grateful for. I am happy with the lifestyle change that I have gone through.

I now live in a safe neighbourhood, but I have not forgotten where I was raised. Sarakasi taught me the importance of giving back and I often go back to the slums to work with a youth group I started, I teach them to perform African shows using drums and dance. I have also recently started an initiative to help single mothers in the slums. I want to try and promote change and positive living and I want to use what I learned to improve the slums. I believe that we are the face of change inside that slum. Sarakasi's outreach programme helps to keep young people busy and prevents them from following the path that I initially did. As for my own future, it looks bright; I have a family now: a happy wife and a child of my own. I am only 26 but I have been able to build my parents a home in Kisumu and I put my younger brother through journalism school.

Sarakasi was able to help me realize that you have to work hard to get places and gave me the opportunity to reach new levels and where I am now.



Finances





The Sarakasi Trust has grown immensely over the years as a result of a combination of donor funding, the commercialization of Dome and Sarakasi activities, partnerships, creativity and innovation, supported by the effective management of resources and financial accountability.

The Finance and Operations Manager with the help of the accountant ensures the accountability in the use of financial resources. This is made possible through participating in budget preparation and control. They also prepare financial and management reports to Managing Director, the Board of Trustees and Donors. The finance function at Sarakasi is guided by the Finance Manual which details the accounting policies and procedures needed to ensure compliance with international financial reporting standards and with donor requirements. Such exacting standards of financial accountability and reporting ensure the

goodwill of donors and partners leading to continued and additional funding; the elimination of waste; security against fraud; and sound information on which to base investment and disbursement. Sarakasi acknowledges with deep gratitude our donors who, believing in the special mission of the Trust, continue to make available the financial resources to enable Sarakasi to sustain operations and to grow.

Core funding is the essential foundation of the organization, providing the means to support personnel costs, operating expenses for the Dome, including maintenance, and administrative costs. Since 2009, this core funding has been provided by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, in Nairobi, for which Sarakasi is most deeply grateful. The current phase of their commitment ends in December 2014. Acknowledgement is also made for their generous project funding from 2003 to 2009.



Warm thanks are also due to Stichting Doen Netherlands for financing programmes from 2003, the most current funding at Sarakasi for three years to December 2014, including for Dome upgrading, special circus and dance productions at the Dome and marketing. They are also helping Sarakasi to establish an endowment fund in a bid to attain financial sustainability.

We acknowledge the immense support to the Cultural Planning Project supplied by the HIVOS East Africa Office that guarantees the viability of the platforms for sharing skills and culture among artists, youth groups and other stakeholders. The Sawa Sawa Festival is one of these key platforms sponsored by Hivos. The current funding cycle expires in November 2013.

Grateful thanks also to the Tejcheve Foundation, Netherlands for supporting

the Hospital Project and the Trip en Masse special dance performance on the theme of the post election violence in Kenya of 2008.

A big thank you to Terre des Hommes for being the founding and ongoing sponsors of the Hospital Project since 2006 and for their continued sponsorship of the greatly expanded project.

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

Mundial Productions, Netherlands for their contracts and network support;

United Culture for Development Network for facilitating activities between Sarakasi and other members of the network;

Steve Cousins of Lets' Circus for raising funds to maintain our acrobatics, dance and special deaf artist outreach at the Dome and in Nairobi's slums;





**AFRICAN
MUSIC
FESTIVAL
NETWORK**



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
DANIDA | INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Kennedymars Someren for fundraising for training and capacity building programmes at Sarakasi;

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 marketing;

Dansgroep Amsterdam Netherlands for sponsoring the previously mentioned production Trip en Masse;

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;

The Danish Culture Fund for accepting Sarakasi as an implementing partner in its cultural exchange activities;

The Africa Yoga Project for co-funding one of our acrobat trainers and sponsoring yoga trainers for outreach programmes in Nairobi;

Friends of the Hospital Project for helping to bridge the funding gap and ensure the project's success.

In all, partners and friends contributed \$US 189,565 in 2012.

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!



The
Future



During 2013 we aim to operationalize the endowment fund and begin fundraising so getting closer to the goal of financial sustainability. We are proud of our record of being able to balance cultural entrepreneurship with the implementation of the core programmes within culture for development, and would like to strengthen this focus, sharing this expertise with individual performers, performance groups and organizations that have expressed the need for such support and other capacity building activities.

Sarakasi owns and occupies one of the most iconic buildings in Kenya, but in a very real sense our artists own

the Dome since they are Sarakasi. In 2013, the upgrading of the Dome will continue, as will the staging of our productions and events, so that a wide public can get to know the Dome and our many performing artists. We plan to reinforce our logistical and creative capacities with the help of our partners, and we look forward to an expanded and varied array of international exchanges, training programmes, local and international contracts, the Sawa Sawa Festival, new productions and the continuation of a full cultural agenda at the Dome.

Sarakasi accepts no limits in striving for our goal of arts and culture for a better world!

Annex 1 Consolidated financial statement for 2012

In 2012 **\$US 1,177,979** was generated in our accounts from the following sources:

	USD
Brought forward from 2011	290,649
Income 2012	
Netherlands Embassy - Core Funding	172,917
Stichting Doen	154,540
Hivos	69,400
Mundial Productions	67,711
Tejcheve Foundation - Hospital Project	33,750
Tejcheve Foundation - Trip en Masse	13,500
Dance Group Amsterdam	6,299
Terre Des Hommes Netherlands	53,333
Hospital Project - Other Donations	30,926
Africa Yoga Project	11,795
Local Shows	93,030
Rent/Dome Income	55,959
AMFN; c/o Pamberi Trust Zimbabwe	18,666
Sawa Sawa Festival Gate Collection	10,743
Miscellaneous/Private Donations	11,828
Danish Culture Fund Income	16,917
Umoja CFC	30,645
F. K. Norway	12,975
UCDN - Partner Contribution	9,328
UCDN - Project Money	13,068
Total income 2012	887,330
Total funds available 2012	1,177,979

The funds were disbursed as summarized below:

Project Management and Implementation (including Personnel)	315,573
Cultural Exchanges, Training and Capacity Building	403,905
Premises, Equipment and Office Facilities	89,548
Communication and Promotion	23,401
Miscellaneous Component	30,455
Total Expenditure	862,881
Fund Balance as at 31 December 2012	315,095

Note: The fund balance represents donor funds designated for projects and operational costs for 2013.

Other Financial Highlight for 2012

In 2012, the Royal Danish Embassy approached Sarakasi Trust with a request that we become the implementing partner for their cultural fund. For strategic reasons, the Sarakasi Trust chose to implement this project under the NGO umbrella. The NGO, Sarakasi Foundation, was created in 2009 as a separate legal entity

operating independently from the Sarakasi Trust. The funds under the NGO, therefore, do not form part of the regular Sarakasi Trust accounts.

In 2011 and 2012, a total of \$US 170,341 was credited through Sarakasi Foundation for sponsorship of independent arts and cultural organizations in Kenya and Denmark.

