



**SPRING OF THE ARID
& SEMI ARID LANDS**

— Towards Thriving Pastoral Communities —

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

YEARLY REPORT

SASAL

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Spring of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SASAL) 2024 Annual Report

Executive Summary

2024 was a year of dynamic growth and community impact for Spring of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SASAL). Grounded in the principles of climate justice, gender equity, and cultural resilience, we worked hand-in-hand with communities across Kajiado, Narok, and Samburu counties. Through strategic partnerships, bold advocacy, and community-driven initiatives, we advanced local solutions to global challenges—especially the climate crisis and gender-based injustices. This report outlines our key interventions, successes, challenges, and future commitments as we continue building dignity and resilience in pastoralist communities.

Introduction

SASAL is a local non-governmental organization that champions climate resilience and gender equality in Kenya's arid and semi-arid regions. In 2024, we scaled the impact of the Enkang Project—our flagship initiative under the Feminist Action for Climate Justice program. Our work focused on empowering women, preserving culture, protecting the environment, and elevating local voices in policy spaces.



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Key Activities and Achievements

Community and Cultural Development

- Benchmarking Trip on Modern Manyatta Construction (January):

Our participated in a learning exchange to understand resilient, culturally-appropriate Manyatta design. The insights guided improvements in the Enkang' model, blending tradition with climate-resilient architecture.

- Photography Project – Telling Our Stories Visually (January):

Youth and women were trained in documentary photography to capture the lived experiences, climate impacts, and beauty of Maasai culture. The images were showcased online and during Maa Cultural Week.

- Saen Lenkang Product Development (January):

SASAL facilitated a participatory design process to innovate and package beadwork products for local and international markets, boosting livelihoods.

- Maa Cultural Week (November):

A vibrant fusion of cultural expression and advocacy, the event drew over 2,000 participants. Climate dialogues were held alongside traditional dances, craft exhibitions, and storytelling sessions.



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Climate Justice and Advocacy

- Climate Justice Anthem – TONING’O (Feb–April):

A powerful music video and song produced with local artists, TONING’O, became a rallying cry for climate awareness. The project sparked widespread online engagement and was used in schools and events to inspire youth-led action.

- Global Climate Strike (April):

Mobilized over 200 youth leaders in Narok and Kajiado for climate marches, with placards, songs, and community forums demanding stronger government response to the climate crisis.

- SASAL Climate Justice Super Cup (April):

Sports met advocacy in a powerful tournament that brought 16 youth teams together under the banner of climate action. Messaging on conservation, clean energy, and adaptation reached over 5,000 attendees.

- Tree Planting at Enkang (December):

In partnership with community members, SASAL planted 300 indigenous trees within the Enkang” project area to restore biodiversity and provide shade.

- COP29 in Azerbaijan (November):

SASAL represented marginalized voices at the global stage, advocating for gender-responsive climate finance, Indigenous knowledge, and pastoralist rights in UNFCCC processes.



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— Towards Thriving Pastoral Communities —

Gender Equality and Social Empowerment

- Campaign to End Femicide (January):

Public murals, dialogues, and radio talk shows helped break the silence on femicide, urging accountability and community vigilance. The campaign was widely shared on social media and featured on local radio.

- Campaign to End FGM (February):

In collaboration with elders, reformed circumcisers, and girls' groups, SASAL held intergenerational forums to challenge FGM and promote alternative rites of passage.

- Sanitary Towels Distribution (June):

Distributed 720 dignity packs to schoolgirls across Samburu and Narok, reducing absenteeism and boosting confidence among adolescent girls.

- Beadwork & Entrepreneurship Training (June):

Trained 50 women and youth on value-added beadwork and business skills. Trainees accessed small grants and were linked to market platforms and local cooperatives.



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— Towards Thriving Pastoral Communities —

Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

- County Government Engagement (Jan–March, October):
Regular roundtable meetings with Kajiado County Government and civil society actors led to joint climate action plans and co-designing women-centered resilience projects.
- Embassy of Azerbaijan Visit (October):
Facilitated a cultural and policy exchange visit, deepening international collaboration on climate and gender justice.
- UN & International Conferences (May, October):
SASAL shared grassroots experiences on climate adaptation and Indigenous women's leadership at high-level global forums, elevating the Enkang' model as a replicable solution.



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Impact and Outcomes

- 100,000+ people reached via radio shows, TikTok campaigns, and social media activations.
- 200+ youth mobilized for climate strikes and tournaments.
- 720 girls were supported with menstrual hygiene kits.
- 50 artisans trained and supported through beadwork initiatives.
- 300 trees planted to restore degraded areas and support the Enkang' initiative.
- 10 modern Manyattas were constructed, though some faced structural challenges due to strong winds and poor finishes—prompting redesign and reinforcement for future phases.
- Stronger collaborations with government, diplomatic missions, and UN agencies on feminist climate action.



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Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Structural Defects in Pilot Manyattas:

Cracked walls, leaking roofs, fallen doors and windows, and a broken perimeter fence impacted safety and usability. SASAL is redesigning future structures with reinforced materials and better wind resistance.

- Limited Resources for Scale-Up:

High community demand outpaced funding. More partnerships are needed to meet demand for water access, energy systems, and shelter.

- Cultural Resistance:

Some elders initially opposed parts of the FGM and femicide campaigns. Continuous dialogue, respect for tradition, and community storytelling helped bridge gaps.

- Climate Emergencies:

Unexpected flooding in Magadi (May) displaced several families and damaged infrastructure. This reaffirmed the need for adaptive planning and emergency preparedness in ASAL areas.



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Future Plans and Recommendations

- **Expand Enkang' Model:**

Improve design, quality control, and community involvement in construction to build safer, scalable Manyattas.

- **Youth-Centered Climate Action:**

Train and fund more youth leaders as climate champions, digital content creators, and green entrepreneurs.

- **Scale Economic Empowerment:**

Grow beadwork programs into full cooperatives, link artisans to global markets, and diversify income streams.

- **Policy Advocacy & Research:**

Amplify community voices in climate policy, conduct impact studies, and develop toolkits for feminist climate action in ASALs.



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Acknowledgments

We extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, and supporters—including the communities of Kajiado, Narok, and Samburu—for trusting us as collaborators in change. To our dedicated team and volunteers, your courage, creativity, and resilience are the backbone of our progress.

Together, we will continue building an equitable, climate-resilient, and culturally vibrant future for pastoralist communities across Kenya and beyond.

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