



Spring of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SASAL)

⋮ ⋮ ⋮

ANNUAL & IMPACT REPORT 2025

Towards Thriving Pastoral Communities



**SPRING OF THE ARID
& SEMI ARID LANDS**
— Towards Thriving Pastoral Communities —



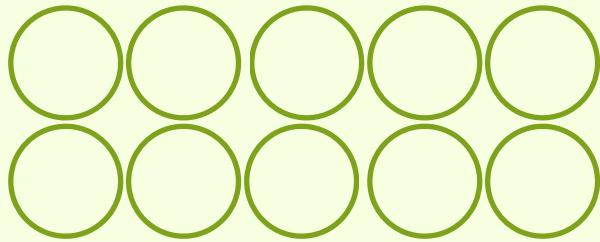
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Introduction**
- **Executive Summary**
- **Organizational focus & Theory of Change**
- **Project Overview**
- **2025 Project Activities**
- **2025 Impact Report**



INTRODUCTION ABOUT US

SASAL is a national Non-Governmental organization in Kenya working with the Pastoralists communities for their improved climate resilience and gender equality.



What makes SASAL different

SASAL moves beyond projects to build living models of resilience. By combining research on overlooked climate impacts such as psychosocial loss with culturally grounded solutions like the Enkang' Model, SASAL bridges community realities and climate policy spaces. Our approach ensures pastoralist communities are not only beneficiaries of climate action, but credible leaders in shaping it.



QUOTES FROM THE TEAM



Mana Omar

Executive Director

"2025 was a year of growth, learning, and impact for SASAL. From expanding community resilience at ENKANG Village to amplifying pastoralist voices through advocacy and cultural storytelling, we strengthened the capacity of communities and elevated Indigenous perspectives in national and global climate spaces. Our work in clean water, housing, solar energy, skills training, and cultural advocacy shows that holistic, community-led approaches are essential for sustainable resilience. I am proud of what we have achieved together and inspired to continue expanding our programs, deepening our impact, and ensuring pastoralist voices are heard in every decision that affects their lives."



Leshao Leshao

Marketing Head

"Through our music, we share the real stories of pastoralist communities and the impacts of climate change. Each song is a voice for those often unheard, raising awareness and inspiring action. I'm proud that our songs not only advocate for change but also help make SASAL's work visible to the world."

Mercy Moinan

Programs Lead



"Our work in 2025 proved that climate change is not gender-neutral. Pastoralist women are not victims of the crisis they are political actors transforming unjust systems and redefining resilience."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, SASAL, working towards thriving pastoral communities, implemented two broad programmatic initiatives rooted in research, lived experience, and community-led solutions for climate resilience and gender equality. Since the start of project implementation in 2023 through August 2024, SASAL delivered multiple standalone projects, including Greening the ASALs (land restoration), Living in the ASALs' Climate Stories, Women Empowerment, and Urgent Disaster Response. These interventions responded to immediate and visible community needs but also revealed deeper, interconnected challenges linked to climate vulnerability, gender inequality, and structural marginalization within pastoral communities.

In late 2024, informed by organizational learning and sustained community engagement, SASAL developed the Enkang' Model for Climate Resilience and Gender Equality—a holistic, integrated approach designed to address the root causes of these challenges rather than their symptoms. The model draws from the traditional Maasai village (enkang') and applies observational learning as a pathway for promoting sustainable, replicable, and culturally grounded climate solutions.

In January 2025, SASAL produced a documentary on flooding under the Living in the ASALs' Climate Stories project, focusing on Entasopia, Magadi Ward, Kajiado County, Kenya. This work prompted a dedicated research study on the non-economic impacts of flooding, particularly its psychosocial effects on affected residents. The findings, later published in a research report, highlighted mental and emotional distress as a critical yet often overlooked dimension of climate impacts on pastoral communities.

This research directly informed SASAL's advocacy on climate justice and the Loss and Damage agenda, ensuring that pastoralist perspectives—especially on non-economic losses such as mental health, dignity, culture, and social cohesion—were grounded in evidence and lived realities.

This research directly informed SASAL's advocacy on climate justice and the Loss and Damage agenda, ensuring that pastoralist perspectives—especially on non-economic losses such as mental health, dignity, culture, and social cohesion—were grounded in evidence and lived realities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2025, the Enkang' Model absorbed several previously standalone interventions, including land restoration and women's empowerment. Core components of the model included water access, solar energy provision, skills training for women to support income generation, climate-resilient traditional housing (manyattas) to promote learning and replicability, sanitation facilities, kitchen gardening, and land restoration activities. By mirroring a typical Maasai village setting, the Enkang' Model demonstrates that climate resilience, food security, environmental conservation, and gender equality are achievable within pastoral contexts without eroding cultural identity.

As a community-led and community-run initiative, the Enkang' Model also generated critical organizational learning. Throughout 2025, SASAL adapted aspects of its internal policies and implementation approaches based on community governance systems, culturally grounded decision-making, and the realities of working with field teams drawn largely from the communities themselves. These adaptations strengthened trust, reduced conflict, and reinforced community ownership and long-term sustainability.

Alongside the Enkang' Model, SASAL implemented Pastoralists Awake: A Common Voice and Agenda, an advocacy initiative amplifying pastoralist voices in climate decision-making spaces. Storytelling under Living in the ASALs' Climate Stories in 2025 was strategically aligned with this advocacy, documenting climate impacts, resilience practices, and evidence-based narratives for broader influence.

While Urgent Disaster Response remained a thematic focus, no emergency response interventions were activated in 2025 due to the absence of immediate disaster events in target communities.

Overall, 2025 marked a strategic turning point for SASAL—from implementing multiple standalone projects to advancing a model-driven, research-informed, and community-governed approach that integrates community infrastructure, gender equality, cultural advocacy, and data-backed climate justice for pastoralist communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS

Community Resilience – Water, solar energy, sanitation, climate-resilient housing, land restoration, and kitchen gardening.

Capacity Building & Training – Skills development for women, youth leadership, and community learning. Creative & Cultural Advocacy – Documentaries, storytelling, and digital media that highlight climate impacts and resilience.

Policy & Global Engagement – Data-backed advocacy on Loss & Damage, amplifying pastoralist voices in climate decision-making.

THEORY OF CHANGE

WE BELIEVE..

- Providing essential infrastructure and practical solutions,
- Equipping communities with skills and leadership,
- And amplifying their voices through research and storytelling

LEADS TO..

- Stronger community resilience and self-reliance
- Greater gender equality and livelihoods
- Visibility of pastoralist perspectives in climate policy
- More inclusive and just climate action



2025 Projects Overview

ENKANG' MODEL

Holistic, Maasai village-inspired model combining water access, solar energy, climate-resilient housing, skills training for women, sanitation, land restoration, and kitchen gardening.

PASTORALISTS AWAKE: A COMMON VOICE & AGENDA

- Amplifying pastoralist voices in climate decision-making spaces, raising awareness on climate justice, loss & damage, and non-economic climate impacts.

LIVING IN THE ASALS' CLIMATE STORIES

- Documenting climate impacts, resilience practices, and advocacy stories through documentaries, videos, photography, and social media.

URGENT DISASTER RESPONSE

- Thematic focus maintained; no interventions activated in 2025 due to the absence of immediate disasters.



2025

Project Activities

1. ENKANG' MODEL FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE & GENDER EQUALITY



- In 2025, construction of the Enkang' Resilient Maasai Village continued, with all planned infrastructure completed by March.
- Following construction, SASAL began community trainings on the basics of climate change, gender equality, and climate adaptation.
- The Village was officially launched in May through a vibrant community-led ceremony.
- In August, skills training programs commenced, focusing on catering and tailoring, with 23 women enrolled over several months.

2025

Project Activities

1. ENKANG' MODEL FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE & GENDER EQUALITY



- Held regular community consultations with women, men, youth, PWDs, and local leadership to guide ENKANG Village planning and programs.
- Convened ENKANG Village Committee meetings, with members drawn from diverse community groups, to manage day-to-day operations.
- Committee members represented and consulted their groups, including community group ranches, land management structures, and traditional leadership, ensuring equitable participation.
- Strengthened inclusive governance and community ownership of ENKANG Village through these consultations and committee processes.

2025

Project Activities

2. PASTORALISTS AWAKE: A COMMON VOICE & AGENDA



- Our Executive Director participated in CSW69 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and spoke at a high-level UN Women event on environmental conservation and protection.
- Our Executive Director delivered keynote addresses at the F20 Climate Solutions Forum 2025 in South Africa, opening both the main conference and a side event on gender and just transition.
- A four-person delegation participated in the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany, focusing on learning, documentation, and awareness creation.

2025 Project Activities

2. PASTORALISTS AWAKE: A COMMON VOICE & AGENDA



- Implemented the Walk to Brazil Campaign, a one-week symbolic walk designed to mirror the physical, structural, and systemic barriers Indigenous pastoralist youth face in accessing global climate decision-making spaces.
- The campaign used real-time documentation and storytelling to raise awareness on exclusion, mobility challenges, and inequitable access to climate forums, particularly for Indigenous youth and grassroots advocates.

2025

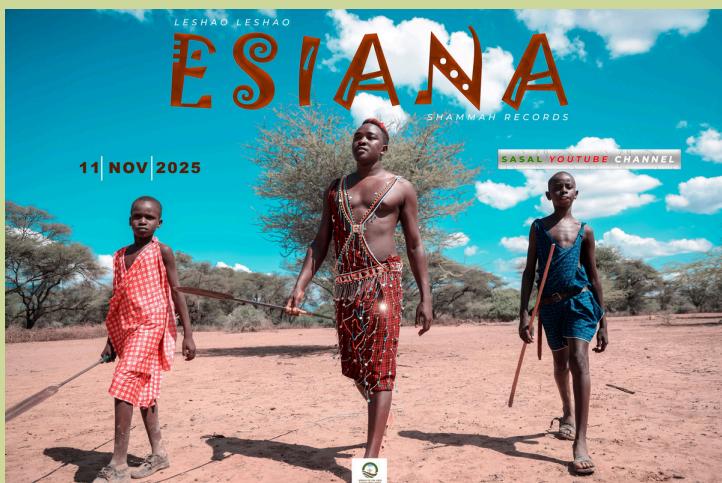
Project Activities

2. PASTORALISTS AWAKE: A COMMON VOICE & AGENDA



- Utilized music and cultural expression as advocacy tools to amplify pastoralist voices in global climate spaces.

- “ESIANA” was released ahead of COP30 (Brazil); a two-person delegation participated (our Executive Director & Musician, Leshao Leshao), including a one-week exhibition and the hosting of an official UNFCCC side event.



- The song was performed live at multiple side events and panels, elevating pastoralist realities and increasing visibility of grassroots initiatives, including ENKANG.
- Hosted the inaugural Climate Justice Concert in December, bringing together youths and the wider community to experience advocacy songs, live performances, brief speeches, and awareness on good governance that promotes climate action, gathering over 1,000 people.



2025 Project Activities

3. ENVISIONING RESILIENCE (CO-IMPLEMENTED PROJECT)



- 7 Women trained on photography to tell adaptation stories and influence national adaptation processes in Kenya.
- Worked together with NAP Global Network, Lensational and the Directorate of Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment.
- Roundtable policy dialogue held at the end bringing together government officials, relevant policy makers, CSO's and the trained photographers who presented their final photo stories.
- Photos/stories produced by the trained photographers uploaded on Lensational's website earning income for women. Same photos will be used in the Directorate's publications on adaptation/climate change etc.

2025 Impact Report



Key Impact Metrics

Water & Solar Beneficiaries	Women trained in skills	Staff Employed	Kitchen garden beneficiaries
20+ households, 140 people daily	23 Women	10 staff, 80% local	35 people fed daily for 6 months

Impact by Project

Enkang' Model – Climate Resilience & Gender Equality

- 20 households (~140 people daily) directly benefiting from our water pipeline.
- ~2,000 goats, 200 donkeys benefitting from water access
- Countless giraffes, antelopes, gazelles, rabbits benefitting from water
- Total of 35 people kitchen garden beneficiaries
- 23 women trained in income generating skills, 40 on basics of climate change and adaptation
- 30+ people per day benefitting from solar energy access
- Our Enkang' village received 300+ visitors, local, international to learn and observe.

Pastoralists Awake – Advocacy & Cultural Mobilization

- Global/National policy events attended: CSW69 (NY), F20 Forum (SA), UN Climate Conference (Bonn), Peer Learning Forum (Namibia), COP 30 with 3-4 delegates sent.
- 3 advocacy songs produced (ESIANA, SUPATI & MANYISHO)
- Newest advocacy song garnered 135,000 plus views on youtube in less than a month of release. 10,000+ challenges on tiktok indicating audience engagement.
- Performed at COP30 on brazil, for an international audience.



2025 Impact Report



Impact by Project

LIVING IN THE ASAL's CLIMATE STORIES- RESEARCH SEGMENT

- Research report (Psychosocial impacts of floods on the people of Entasopia, kajiado County, kenya) dissemination-1,000-5,000 people online and shared to 50-100 advocacy groups to inform their loss and damage messaging

ENVISIONING RESILIENCE: CO-IMPLEMENTING WITH NAP GN AND LENSATIONAL

- 7 women trained on photography to tell adaptation stories and influence national adaptation processes.
- A policy dialogue held with the women and policy makers as well as other relevant stakeholders to discuss their ultimate photo stories.
- SASAL as a partner invited to a peer learning Forum on CSO engagement in NAP processes by NAP GN in Namibia.

Credits to our partners: NAP Global Network and Lensational.

MEDIA FEATURES

- NTV Earthwise- Enkang' model
- Radio stations- Nosim, Mayian FM- Enkang' Model
- Cultural Survival News- SASAL's work
- Mpashogram- Our Walk to Brazil
- The Spill Mag-Our Advocacy Campaign & Walk to BRAZIL

ORGANIZATIONAL VISIBILITY

- Youtube channel growth from 2k to 5,6k subscribers
- Growth and engagement on Tiktok- 6,8k followers, Instagram 1K plus Followers.



OUR 2026 PLAN

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scale up existing programs to reach more beneficiaries across water access, housing, sanitation, solar energy, and skills training.• Launch new programs if funding allows, including: Profitable Pastoralism initiatives to increase sustainable income for pastoralist households, Health Clinic—providing accessible primary healthcare for the community and care for women and children, ,Cultural Museum: preserving and celebrating Indigenous culture and knowledge.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Training Centre: replacing the current temporary training space with a permanent, heat-friendly structure to support ongoing capacity building for women and the broader community.• Expanded SASAL Field Office: upgrade from the small office at ENKANG to a larger, fully functional facility housing all departments, a boardroom, and meeting spaces to enhance operations and program delivery.• Organizational Vehicles: acquire vehicles to improve access to remote interior areas and extend program reach.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend and participate meaningfully in key global advocacy spaces, such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other relevant policy platforms.• Continue to elevate pastoralist and Indigenous voices in climate justice, gender equality, and policy-making spaces.• Document and share advocacy activities to ensure community perspectives influence global decision-making processes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document and share more pastoralist climate realities through videos, storytelling, and research.• Host screenings and community events to raise awareness of climate impacts and solutions.• Use real stories and research to inform policy discussions and provide data-driven evidence for global advocacy.

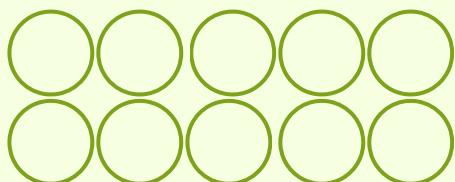




Spring of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SASAL)



OUR PARTNERS



re:arc
Institute



**GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN**

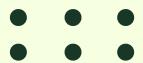


MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE &
FORESTRY

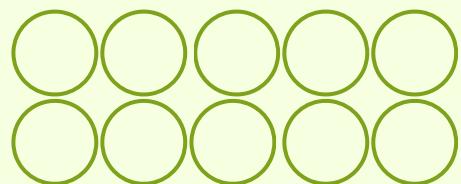
UNITED NATIONS
FOUNDATION



Spring of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SASAL)



WORK WITH US



Contact Us

communications@sasal.org



Our Website

www.sasal.org



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

– Towards Thriving Pastoral Communities –