



Ministry of East African Community, the
ASALs and Regional Development

State Department for the ASALs and
Regional Development

National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands

March, 2026

FOREWARD

The Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands cover approximately 89% of Kenya's total land mass and are home to about 40% of the country's population. Despite the region's vast potential in livestock, minerals, renewable energy, irrigated agriculture, tourism, and other natural resource-based enterprises, it continues to experience the lowest development progress and the highest poverty levels in the country.

The Kenya Vision 2030, acknowledges the special contribution of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands in national development agenda. The accelerated investment in previously underserved regions is essential in redefining and transforming the marginalized communities and strengthen national cohesion. The Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands are considered to be the next frontier for socio-economic transformation with significant potential for diverse development. In order to harness this potential, it's imperative to fast-track the development of ASALs through an enabling policy framework.

The review of the sessional paper No.8 of 2012 on National Policy for the Sustainable development for Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands was necessitated by the Government's aspiration to foster inclusive development and address inequality across the Country.

This policy will provide a roadmap for transforming Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands thorough inclusive and sustainable development. The policy statements and proposed interventions are expected to accelerate the Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands by embracing a whole Government approach in laying the foundations of development for sustainable service delivery. This policy once implemented will spur development in ASALs by reducing inequalities and poverty level within the communities.

I deeply appreciate the MDAs, the County Governments, the development partners, the private sector and other stakeholders for their support in the review of this policy.

The Government is committed to implement this policy in collaboration with other stakeholders. I call upon all the actors involved to actively play their roles effectively in the transformation agenda of the Norther Kenya and Other Arid Lands.

Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, CBS
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of East African Community (EAC),
The ASALs and Regional Development

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The formulation of this policy was spearheaded by the Ministry of East African Community (EAC), the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), and Regional Development. The process involved a comprehensive review of Sessional Paper No. 8 of 2012 on the National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands. This review was guided by the Constitution of Kenya to ensure the policy aligns with constitutional provisions, other sectoral policies relevant to development of ASALs, as well as regional and global policies such as the EAC Vision 2050, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thus, the policy takes cognizance of the devolved system of governance, mainstreaming of national, regional, and global cross-cutting issues into the policy. It also seeks to define the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, and respond to emerging issues.

Towards this end, the policy formulation process was highly consultative and participatory involving stakeholders including; National Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), County Governments, the public, Development Partners and civil society. The policy statements and objectives, demonstrate a clear intent and commitment of the Government to collaborating and partnering with relevant stakeholders in the implementation of this policy.

Finally, I acknowledge invaluable guidance and support given by the Cabinet Secretary in this effort. I also appreciate the staff of the State Department for the ASALs and Regional Development. I also acknowledge and appreciate the contributions and participations of KIPPRA, NDMA, line ministries, the County Governments, development partners and all other stakeholders that contributed to the review and finalization of this policy.

Harsama Kello, CBS
Principal Secretary,
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AU	African Union
AUA	African Union Agenda
BETA	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
CBD	The Convention on Biological Diversity
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibilities
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EAC	East African Community
EARAP	Eastern Africa Regional Action Plan
EDE	Ending Drought Emergencies
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERS	Economic Recovery Strategy
FCDC	Frontiers Counties Development Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHGs	Green-House Gases
HHs	House-Holds
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MNKOAL	Ministry of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTP	Medium Term Plan
NACONEK	National Council on Nomadic Education
NDEF	National Drought Emergency Fund
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NFD	Northern Frontier District
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
PAPs	Project Affected Persons
PCF	Partnership Coordination Framework
PPPs	Public Private Partnerships
PWDs	Persons Living with Disabilities
RPF	Resilience Programming Framework
SALWs	Small and Light Weapons
SDARD	State Department for ASALs and Regional Development

SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME's	Small and Medium Enterprises
UN	United Nation
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following words are defined as follows:

1. **ASALs area:** these are areas characterized by low and erratic rainfall, often receiving less than 500 mm annually;
2. **Northern Kenya:** Refer to the region in the northern part of Kenya, encompassing counties like Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Wajir, Mandera and Turkana among others. It's characterized by its arid and semi-arid climate, distinct landscapes, and diverse ethnic groups
3. **Sustainable Development:** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
4. **Drought:** Refers to a severe long period of very low rainfall mostly experienced in ASALs areas.
5. **Basin:** an area of land, including the exclusive economic zones, constrained by a watershed divide from where all surface water drains to a lower elevation
6. **Cabinet Secretary:** The Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry;
7. **Integrated development:** a multi-sectoral development with interlinked actions that exploit synergy of multi-sectoral projects and programmes, natural resource systems and potentials for a lasting economic, physical, social and environmental improvement of a basin;
8. **Natural resources:** the physical non-human factors and components, whether renewable or non-renewable, including sunlight, surface and groundwater, forests, biodiversity and genetic resources and rocks, minerals, fossil fuels and other sources of energy;
9. **Region:** Means ASAL Area;
10. **Regional Development:** a holistic approach where different regional actors participate in the definition, decision-making and implementation of the most appropriate and sustainable development initiatives for both public and private sectors in support of coherent and integrated, productive and social infrastructure development;

11. **The Constitution:** Means the Constitution of Kenya;
12. **The Ministry:** Means the Ministry responsible for the ASALs development;
13. **Nomadic Pastoralism:** Is a livestock production system practiced in rangeland environments, characterized by livestock mobility and the communal management of natural resources.
14. **Agro-Pastoralism:** Is a farming system that integrates livestock husbandry with crop production, capitalizing on the benefits of both;
15. **Rangelands:** are *grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, wetlands, and deserts* that are grazed by domestic livestock or wild animals;
16. **Land degradation:** The decline in the quality and productivity of land, often due to natural processes or human activities;
17. **Food Security:** when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
18. **Equalization Fund:** is a financial mechanism aimed at addressing socio-economic disparities between different regions of Kenya established under Article 204 of the Kenyan Constitution;
19. **Desertification:** Is the process by which vegetation in drylands such grasslands or shrublands, decrease and eventually disappears as results of drought or deforestation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya cover approximately 89% of the national territory and are home to over 40% of the country's population. These regions are endowed with vast potential in renewable energy, livestock production, irrigated agriculture, minerals, and tourism. Yet, despite their promise, ASALs continue to lag behind in development, with the lowest socio-economic indicators and highest levels of poverty and vulnerability to climate change and conflict.

Historically, Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) have been overlooked in favor of high-potential, high-rainfall regions, with policies such as Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965 directing resources away from ASALs. It wasn't until the 1980s and beyond that Government policies began to recognize the potential of ASALs for national development. Initiatives like the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2001 and the Economic Recovery Strategy, 2003 started focusing on ASALs, and the Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint marked a shift towards investing in the region's infrastructure, agriculture, and social capital. The creation of the Ministry of Northern Kenya and Other Arid lands in 2008 and the development of Sessional Paper No.8 of 2012 on Sustainable Development further prioritized these areas, laying a foundation for long-term development.

The Sessional Paper No.8 of 2012 on Sustainable Development and the Executive Orders No. 1 of 2018 and No.2 of 2023 outlined the mandates for the state department towards fast-tracking the development of ASALs. The policy review is based on the constitution and other Government legislations.

The policy is organized into six chapters. Chapter One provides a historical and contextual foundation for the development of Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), tracing back to colonial-era policies of marginalization. It emphasizes ASALs' untapped economic potential and outlines the policy's rationale, goals, objectives, guiding principles and scope. The chapter closes with a section providing the structure of the policy.

The next Chapter is on situational analysis highlighting the features of the ASALs and their geographical coverage, resource endowment and respective economic potentials, mandate of ASALs, legal and policy provision and some of the programmes and projects implemented by ASALs and their contribution to the achievements of national development agenda. The chapter also offers a detailed analysis of the challenges that hinder progress in the ASAL region, providing insights into the complexities faced in addressing these issues. Finally, the chapter outlines various regional and international treaties.

Chapter three presents the framework of the policy outlining eight policy objectives and

corresponding policy statements. Each sub-section in this chapter presents the context and the justification of the proposed policy direction. It gives Government commitments on each of the provided objectives. It further outlines how cross cutting issues that will be mainstreamed in ASALs Development.

Chapter four outlines the institutional framework for the implementation of the policy with the State Department taking the coordinating role. The Government, in consultation with key stakeholders will develop an implementation framework outlining key interventions, activities, performance indicators, time lines and lead implementing agencies. The chapter further outlines policy implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Chapter five outlines policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation whereas chapter six provides diverse funding resources to support development initiatives for ASALs. It also highlights financing mechanisms and provides institutional framework for resources mobilization, to ensure sustainability

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1. The ASALs have a long history that dates back to the colonial period. During the colonial period, the Government policy towards the ASALs was defined by containment rather than engagement. A large portion of the ASALs was designated as the Northern Frontier District (NFD) and other ASAL counties¹. Since independence until 1980s, limited investment was done to change that state of affairs. The status is that the geographical area referred to as the ASALs remained under-developed.
2. The Sessional Paper No.10 of 1965, on African Socialism and its Application to Planning, favored the development of high-potential areas to the disadvantage of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands. This policy guided the direction of Government resources to the high-potential, high-rainfall areas. In 1980, the ASALs section set up in the then Ministry of Economic Planning and Development was moved to the Ministry of Reclamation and Development of Arid, Semi-Arid, and Wastelands, in 1989². Nevertheless, its mandate was limited to livestock and conventional range management.
3. Meanwhile, the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1986, on Economic Management for Renewed Growth, recognized the potential of the ASALs to contribute to the country's economic growth and identified the need to bring economic benefits to all regions of the country.
4. The Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS), 2003-2007, recognized the significant potential the ASALs could contribute to national development and espoused priority interventions for the development of the region. To improve equity and reduce poverty, ERS focused on universal primary education, improved access to basic health, expanded productive capacity in agriculture, livestock and range management, eco-tourism and irrigation development of underdeveloped areas in ASALs that have suffered poor infrastructure and social services.
5. The Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint, launched in 2008, built on the progress made by the ERS, to embark on an ambitious agenda for the ASALs, addressing the unique challenges

¹ Northern Frontier District of Kenya, Hansard, 3rd April 1963; the Kenya Gazette, April, 1963

² Kenya Vision 2030; Kenya Gazette Vol. XCI, No. 50, December 1989

facing the region. It enhanced public investment in ASALs to develop physical infrastructure, agriculture, and Social Capital development. In 2008, the Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands (MDNKAL) made significant strides in laying out the policy and institutional foundations for sustainable development of the ASALs.

6. In 2010, Kenya promulgated a new constitution, marking a significant shift in its approach to the ASAL regions. The constitution formally recognized marginalized communities, established an equalization fund, and safeguarded pastoralism rights, laying the foundation for renewed development efforts in ASALs. Building on this momentum, Sessional Paper No. 8 of 2012 on the National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands became the first dedicated policy to address key challenges unique to ASALs. These included bridging the developmental gap with the rest of the country, promoting and protecting mobility through institutional support for productive pastoralism, and enhancing food and nutrition security.
7. In 2012, following a severe drought that heavily impacted the ASAL regions, the Government adopted the IGAD-led common programming Framework for Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) Initiative. This initiative introduced a sector-based approach aimed at ending drought emergencies in Kenya by 2022. The Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) initiative in Kenya has made significant strides in strengthening drought risk management, improving coordination, and enhancing investment in development foundations in drought-prone areas. EDE has also fostered institutional resilience and improved the livelihoods of communities affected by drought.

1.2 Rationale of the Policy

8. The Sessional Paper No.8 of 2012 needs a comprehensive review to align and integrate emerging knowledge and technical advancement to enable effective planning for sustainable development of ASALs.
9. Government policies directions have shifted frequently over the last 12 years since the Sessional come to operation and therefore impacting long term effectiveness of interventions.
10. The Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands are considered to be the next frontier for socio-economic transformation with significant potential for diverse development. In

order to harness this potential, it's imperative to Fastrack the development of ASALs through an enabling policy framework.

11. The review of the Sessional Paper No.8 of 2012 was necessitated by the promulgation of the Constitution 2010. The need for the review is to recognize and harmonize the roles of the counties and other stakeholders in the ASAL region
12. To plan and manage resources in the region in an integrated and sustainable way, the ASAL development agenda should always be guided by an up-to-date policy framework that is in line with the constitution and other legislation requirements.

1.3 Policy Development Process

13. This policy was developed through a collaborative, multisectoral process that engaged a diverse group of stakeholders to identify the key challenges and opportunities for the development of ASALs. The policy review involved community groups, opinion leaders, elected officials, development partners, civil society organizations, sector-specific technical working groups, and subject matter experts. A national validation exercise ensured consensus and affirmed the contributions from all stakeholders.
14. The formulation process was enriched by a thorough review of literature, relevant surveys, and a critical analysis of both historical and current national policies affecting the ASALs. This comprehensive approach provided valuable insights into policy evolution and highlighted persistent implementation challenges. The policy's development was guided by the aspirations and principles of Kenya Vision 2030, the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and other regional and global development frameworks.
15. Broad public participation further strengthened the policy, with written submissions and feedback collected from national Government ministries, agencies and departments, County Governments, universities, research institutions, private sector actors, industry associations, and development partners.

1.6 Policy Goal and Objectives

1.6.1 The Goal

The overall goal of this policy is to spur socio-economic transformation for harmonious and resilient communities, and sustainable development in the ASALs.

1.6.2 Objectives

16. The objectives of this policy are:

- 1) Strengthen coordination among various development actors within the ASALs;
- 2) Enhance Security, Peace building, and conflict management;
- 3) Build resilience of ASAL communities and develop competitive value chain;
- 4) Create enabling environment and establish robust market systems;
- 5) Optimize utilization of existing land, land-based and water resources;
- 6) Promote development, management and marketing of camel resources;
- 7) Promote livestock production and marketing;
- 8) Promote Research and Knowledge Management for ASAL Development; and
- 9) Promote Human Capital Development in ASALs.

1.6.2 Vision

A socio-economically transformed Arid and Semi- Arid Lands for inclusive and sustainable development.

1.6.3 Mission

To provide an enabling environment for an integrated development to support socio-economic transformation of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

1.7 Guiding Principles

17. Implementation of this policy will be guided by the following principles:

- a) **Human Rights:** - All persons have the right to the full enjoyment of the essential rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to equal political, economic, social and cultural opportunities.
- b) **Equity and fairness:** - ASAL communities will be accorded fair, impartial treatment and ensure equitable access to opportunities;
- c) **Sustainable development:** - Ensuring that communities live and meet their needs without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs;
- d) **Multi-sectoral and multi-agency approach:** - This approach will be adopted to create synergy amongst various actors and sectors in addressing development of the ASALs;
- e) **Affirmative Action:** - This principle will be used to ensure that deliberate effort is put in place to address development needs of a certain target group or region that are disadvantaged;
- f) **Good Governance:** Rule of law, effective institutions, access to information, transparency and accountability, professional ethics, respect for human

rights, equity, non-discrimination and the meaningful participation of citizens will be integrated in environmental management.

- g) **Public Participation:** A coordinated and participatory approach to environmental protection and management will be enhanced to ensure that the relevant Government agencies, County Governments, private sector, civil society and communities are involved in planning, implementation and decision-making processes;
- h) **Environmental Right:** Every person in Kenya has a right to a clean and healthy environment and a duty to safeguard and enhance the environment;

1.8 Scope of the Policy

18. This will apply to Ministries, Departments, Agencies, County Government, development partners and non-state actors in the ASALs. The interventions of this policy will target all ASAL regions in Kenya that requires basic foundations of development through strengthen coordination among development actors.

1.9 Structure of the Policy

19. This policy is organized into six chapters. The introductory chapter reflects historical policy background, legal and policy context. It also outlines the policy rationale and objectives. Chapter Two gives the situation analysis while chapter three sets out detailed policy statements while the fourth chapter outlines the institutional framework for the implementation of the policy. Chapter five of the policy elaborates Policy implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation. Finally, chapter six of the policy outlines resource mobilization and financing.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Introduction

20. The economy of arid regions is primarily driven by nomadic pastoralism, while agro-pastoralism is more common in semi-arid areas. Additionally, some communities depend on fishing and other subsistence activities for their livelihoods. The ecology of semi-arid regions allows for greater intensification of production, unlike the harsher arid landscapes, which have limited agricultural potential. However, both arid and semi-arid areas face chronic food & nutrition insecurity and are increasingly challenged by rapid population growth, violent conflicts, ecosystem degradation, and the escalating impacts of climate change.
21. Pastoralism is a livestock production system practiced in rangeland environments, characterized by livestock mobility and the communal management of natural resources. It is traditionally regulated by customary governance systems within pastoral societies. One of the key policy challenges is ensuring the protection and promotion of mobility while supporting these traditional institutions in a society that is increasingly adopting sedentary lifestyles and more individualized economic structures. In recent years, some ASAL households have gradually shifted towards settled living and livelihood diversification, partly due to the adverse effects of climate change, which have resulted in the loss of large livestock populations, threatening the sustainability of pastoralism.
22. The basic drivers for development in the ASALs remain relatively low in comparison to the rest of the country. Nonetheless, there is continuous improvement since devolution was implemented with the equalization fund playing a critical role in providing basic services such as water, roads, health facilities and electricity.

2.2 Current Status and Trends

2.2.1 Climate change adaptation and mitigation

23. Northern Kenya recorded 28 major droughts in the last century, four of which occurred in the last decade.). The latest recorded drought occurred from 2021 to 2023, and was reported to be the worst in 40 years. Based on the National Food and Nutrition Security Assessment Report of 2023, the drought had negative impacts on all food security dimensions as follows: below-average crop yields, low livestock productivity and high mortalities of about 2.5 million (cattle, sheep, goats, and camels) that resulted in the loss of over Kshs. 75 billion in the ASAL

counties, thus affecting food availability. Over 4.4 million people in ASAL counties were reported to be food insecure, at IPC 3+ and above. This meant that the affected people had no access to sufficient water for drinking, cooking and sanitation. In addition, food prices were above normal and all food consumption indicators were outside their normal ranges.

24.The mass movement of pastoralists from Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) Counties to neighboring regions in search of pasture and water has reached alarming levels. During the recent drought, the distances traveled by these communities increased by 150%. Many pastoralists walk between 20 to 35 kilometers daily, often multiple times, to fetch water for their livestock and domestic use. This struggle for resources is exacerbated by widespread land degradation, primarily caused by deforestation and land use changes such as overgrazing. It is estimated that land degradation costs the region at least US\$1.3 billion annually. The economic impact of land degradation, due to land use and cover changes (LUCC), is most severe in Garissa, Wajir, and Turkana. In these counties, land degradation is pervasive, with the majority of rangelands severely affected—95% of Garissa, 82% of Wajir, and 73% of Turkana are degraded. In some sub-counties, nearly all rangeland is completely degraded ³.

25.Projections indicate that between 2006 and 2100, maximum temperatures in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) are expected to rise by 0.88°C to 3.43°C. This increase could render 53% to 59% of these regions (approximately 131,000 km² to 151,000 km²) highly unsuitable for cattle grazing, as temperatures may exceed 30°C, a threshold beyond which cattle experience heat stress. Consequently, about 1.7 million cattle, representing 52% of the total cattle population in ASALs, are at risk of extreme temperature stress. This stress could lead to economic losses estimated between 34 and 68 billion Kenyan Shillings by 2030. Additionally, the number of people affected by extreme temperature changes in these areas is projected to increase from 8.2 million in 2016 to 14.1 million by 2030 ⁴.

26.The ASAL region is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, including flash floods which have devastating consequences. Floods displace thousands of households, lead to the loss of livelihoods, destroy critical infrastructure, and severely impact agriculture by damaging farmlands and causing mass livestock

³ World bank report on Land and Natural Resources Degradation in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Kenya,2018

⁴ Kenya Markets Trust. Climate-resilient economic development in Kenya's ASALS: A pathway to achieving the Big Four Agenda, 2019

deaths. Such climatic shocks further exacerbate food insecurity and economic instability in the region. Heavy rains experienced between October to December 2023 affected 38 counties out of the 47 in the country resulting in the deaths of at least 174, injured 242 and displaced more than half a million people. In the 2024 long rains season flooding, an estimated 267 people died, 188 were injured, 75 went missing, 61 roads were damaged and 886 businesses were affected while 281,835 (56,367 families) were displaced. At least 380,573 (76,114 families) were affected by the persistent heavy rains and flooding. The consecutive flooding seasons of October, November and December (OND) 2023 and March, April and May 2024 resulted in at least 19,940 livestock deaths and 464,235 acres (187,869.41 ha) of farmland destroyed. According to National Floods Emergency Response Secretariat, 2024 report and (UN-OCHA Kenya: Heavy rains and flooding update of May 2024, the estimated cost of recovery from the impacts of the latter (March, April and May) floods was Kshs. 42,603,986,743 (US\$ 327.7).

2.2.2 Infrastructure Development

- 27.** The large size of the region means that infrastructure investments in different sectors should be well coordinated in order to reinforce each other and deliver maximum benefit. For example, road construction can improve the harvesting of water run-off whilst access to energy is essential for access to ICTs and additionally, marketing investments need underpinning with investments in transport, energy and water.
- 28.** Through Vision 2030, Kenya aspires to be a country that is firmly interconnected, where no part of it will any longer be called remote. This is highly significant for the north, where infrastructure is consistently ranked among people's top three priorities. Four aspects are of particular concern: transport (particularly the road network), energy, water, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). The lack of them has undermined investment and reinforced the separation of the north from the rest of the country.

2.2.3 Road Infrastructure

- 29.** The transport network is thin, disjointed, and in places non-existent. An area covering nearly 400,000km² of land has less than 1,000km of tarmac, much of which is in disrepair.²⁵ Key arterial routes linking Kenya to international markets in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia are poorly maintained and prone to periodic closure from flooding or other damage. There are two airports, one of which is being upgraded, several airstrips and no rail network.

2.2.4 Energy Infrastructure

30. The energy potential of the north, from solar, wind, bio-gas and geo-thermal, is only now starting to be tapped. Only one County, Isiolo, is served by the national grid. Other large towns rely on expensive and polluting diesel generators. Population growth and urbanization are raising energy demand, with consequences for the environment. The Rural Electrification Programme is gradually expanding its reach. By June 2011, 476 schools and health centres in arid and semi-arid areas had had solar PV systems installed; funds are available to connect a further 380 facilities over the coming two years. ASALs have huge potential for renewable energy (both solar and wind). These regions, characterized by abundant sunlight and consistent wind patterns, offer an ideal environment for harnessing renewable energy.

2.2.5 ICT Infrastructure

31. Access to ICTs is comparatively poor, although the infrastructure for the fibre optic cable has now reached several locations in the north (Lokichoggio, Lodwar, Marsabit, Moyale, Wajir, and Garissa). For the most part the region remains reliant on expensive satellite. Mobile telephone operators are expanding their networks, but coverage is still limited beyond the major towns.

2.2.6 Water Infrastructure

32. The water infrastructure is also undeveloped. The condition of underground water has not been fully assessed. The region's large rivers could provide irrigation, but the lessons from the many failed irrigation schemes of the past are yet to be learned. Catchment management is poor, and the potential for water harvesting has been inadequately explored. Sanitation infrastructure is also very poor. Many of the challenges facing ASALs can be attributed to low and unpredictable rainfall experienced in these regions, affecting water availability for agriculture, industry, and human consumption. In these areas, underground water aquifers are vital water sources. In 2013, UNESCO conducted a survey of groundwater resources in Turkana County, discovering the Lotikipi Aquifer, which is the largest aquifer discovered in Africa, holding an estimated 250 billion cubic metres of water. However, exploration of the aquifer was halted due to high salinity levels and the associated desalination costs. Desalination of groundwater from the Lotikipi Aquifer is a promising opportunity to alleviate water scarcity in ASALs.

2.2.7 Critical Minerals

33. Using data from the Kenya National Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the current contribution of the mining sector to Kenya's GDP is less than one per cent. However, the sector has the potential to increase to 10 per cent. Geologists have confirmed the presence of rich deposits of critical minerals in different ASAL counties such as copper, graphite, manganese, nickel, iron ore, and nickel-cobalt. Despite the challenge artisanal mining is an important economic activity especially where alternative opportunities are scarce, in fact in ASAL regions, artisanal mining is considered an invisible economic activity which compliments dryland communities' main sources of income i.e. livestock and rainfed-agriculture. In fact, there is more economic opportunity in artisan mining than charcoal burning which has negative environmental impact from which ASAL communities' source their livelihood. Attention needs to be afforded to the mining opportunities in the ASAL regions to reduce over-reliance on activities such as charcoal burning and adopt mining as an economic activity alternative.

2.2.8 Food and Nutrition Security

34. The arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya face significant food and nutrition insecurity due to multiple factors. These include poor rainfall distribution and below-average precipitation, leading to diminished crop and livestock production and escalating food prices. As of early 2023, approximately 4.4 million people in ASALs were experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, a rise from 3.5 million in July 2022.⁵ The lack of access to adequate and diversified diets has resulted in widespread malnutrition, particularly among children under five and pregnant or lactating women. By December 2023, the number of food insecure individuals had risen from 2.4 to 4.4 million. As a result of Impacts of drought, there were high malnutrition rates, with over 945,610 acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months and 144,940 acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women requiring treatment and nutrition support. In some regions, acute malnutrition rates surpassed double the emergency levels. The persistent malnutrition in arid counties is attributed to consecutive failed rainy seasons, poor child feeding practices, and a high disease burden.⁶

35. A number of institutions particularly commercial banks and insurance companies have realized the huge potential in this sector and have started initiatives to assist livestock keepers improve productivity of their stocks through interest-free revolving fund for the ASALs, by setting aside funds for insurance targeting livestock and crops during

⁵ Humanitarian Situation Report No.1-UNICEF. Include year

⁶ Kenya ASAL-Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 2023

drought. The Government of Kenya has implemented several strategic initiatives to combat hunger and enhance food security in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) regions, particularly in response to recurring droughts and climate-related challenges. Such programmes include; The Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) which is an unconditional Government cash transfer programme implemented by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in eight poorest and arid counties, namely; Turkana, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo, and Samburu; HSNP is one of four cash transfer programmes under the National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) collectively called *Inua Jamii*. The other three programmes are;

- (i) Older Persons Cash Transfer.
- (ii) Cash Transfers for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.
- (iii) Persons with Severe Disability Cash Transfer.

Other programmes include the National Irrigation Sector Investment Plan (NISIP), Kenya Food and Nutrition Resilience Program (FNRP), Phase II of Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) Program, Relief Food Distribution and School Feeding Programs and Collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP).

36. In Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), mixed farming is prevalent, with crop cultivation primarily geared towards subsistence. Sorghum and millet are well-suited to these environments due to their drought resistance. Small-scale irrigation has shown promise in enhancing agricultural productivity in these regions. However, crop production in arid areas is predominantly confined to riverine zones, where maize is commonly grown despite its susceptibility to crop failure. Several factors contribute to the low agricultural productivity in ASALs, including soil erosion, low soil fertility, frequent droughts, occasional floods, limited access to credit facilities, and inadequate research and extension services. Additionally, fish farming is practiced in the region's lakes and rivers, though it faces challenges such as drought-induced water scarcity, siltation, reduced water flow, lack of capital, poor infrastructure, and insufficient processing facilities.

2.2.9 Livestock Diseases

37. Livestock diseases pose significant threats to food security and loss of livelihoods through their impacts on food production, trade, consumption, and economic stability. Diseases of economic importance in the ASALs include the Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) which are transboundary animal diseases and major contributors to food and nutrition security

crises. Outbreaks of these diseases have often resulted in significant livestock losses, reduced production, trade disruptions and economic losses. For example, the RVF outbreak of 2006-2007 resulted in the loss of at least 420,000 livestock, affecting mainly sheep and goats with an estimated loss of USD 33.6million (KES3.36 Billion). During the same period an outbreak of PPR caused the deaths of 1.2 Million sheep and goats with an estimated value of USD 23.6 Million (KES 2.83 Billion) and a drop-in milk production of 2.1 Million liters valued of KES 105 Million. Further, in 2010, PPR in Turkana County caused over US\$ 19.1 million (KES 2.29 Billion) in economic losses to pastoralists, highlighting the severe impact of the disease on livelihoods and food security, on average, 25 out of 47 Counties have been affected by FMD each year since 2016, with an estimated 5-15 annual outbreaks leading to closure of livestock markets, death of livestock, abortions, increased treatment costs and loss of productivity in cattle.

2.2.10 Pests

38. Migratory and invasive pests have caused heavy farm losses leading to poor food availability. Desert locusts and Armyworms are the two main crop pests that have led to acute food insecurity.

- a) Desert Locust; During the last invasion of desert locusts in Kenya, from 2019-2020, a total of 812 swarms were reported affecting an estimated 3,430,556Ha of crops and pasture in 22 out of 47 Counties, thereby threatening FNS. An estimated 3 million people were affected.
- b) Fall Armyworm, a migratory pest first detected in 2017 has also caused significant damage to cereals crops in Kenya. A survey conducted in 2017 by the Ministry of Agriculture estimated losses of over 50% in low and medium potential areas (ASALs) and a nationwide loss of 37% in 2019.

2.2.11 Integrated Land Use and Natural Resource Management

39. Land plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of ASAL communities, where access to water and pasture is vital. ASALs are predominantly characterized by communal land ownership, which ensures access and security for multiple heirs while providing non-monetary welfare benefits to vulnerable members. However, this system also presents challenges, particularly in dispute resolution and land use for economic purposes, such as securing credit. Communal ownership can hinder social mobility, economic empowerment, land conservation, and sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, the expansion of Irrigated agriculture and related infrastructure in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) pose several threats, including water depletion, land degradation, and

increased competition for resources. These developments can negatively impact traditional pastoralist livelihoods, reduce biodiversity, and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities in these fragile ecosystems.

40. Increased land subdivision in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) has several negative impacts, including reduced livestock carrying capacity, increased agricultural production costs, and declining agricultural productivity. It can also lead to decreased herd sizes, restricted livestock mobility, and increased vulnerability of pastoral households to drought and other shocks. Additionally, the fragmentation of land can make it harder to manage natural resources and reduce the overall productivity of the land.
41. Human activities in ASALs have led to significant environmental challenges, including human-wildlife conflicts (crop destruction, livestock losses, and human injuries), soil degradation, and shifts in land use. Rapid population growth intensifies pressure on natural resources, increasing demand for fuel (charcoal, firewood) and building materials (timber, poles). These pressures contribute to habitat destruction, fragmentation, invasive species spread, encroachment into wildlife areas, pollution, water depletion, loss of wildlife corridors, and illegal harvesting of wildlife products, all of which threaten biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

2.2.12 Security, Peace building and Conflict management

42. Internal displacement in Kenya is a longstanding and complex issue that dates back to the pre-colonial era. Displacement in ASALs is primarily driven by competition over scarce natural resources, particularly water and pasture. Other key factors include political instability, prolonged droughts and floods, food shortages, and localized violence. The lack of peace and security hampers sustainable development, deters investment, and undermines economic growth in the region. The scale, causes, and response to displacement vary widely. In the past, displacements in ASALs were largely temporary, but they have increasingly become permanent due to insecurity and inter-communal conflicts. This forced relocation disrupts livelihoods, excludes affected communities from development efforts, and increases dependency on humanitarian aid.
43. Kenya hosts a significant number of international refugees, with Kakuma in Turkana County and Dadaab in Garissa County serving as major refugee camps. The IGAD and

EAC regions account for some of the highest refugee populations in Africa. By May 2023, the East and Horn of Africa hosted over 5 million refugees and asylum seekers alongside 12 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to the UNHCR report 2025 data, the refugee and asylum-seeker population in Kenya stood at 829,211 persons as of 31 January 2025, which comprises 608,668 (73%) refugees and 220,543 (27%) asylum-seekers.

- 44.** Previously, refugees in Kenya were confined to designated camps, but the Refugee Act (2021) introduced a shift towards an inclusion approach. This policy allows refugees to live outside camps, integrate into host communities, and move freely within the country. While this promotes socio-economic inclusion, it also impacts the cultural, economic, and social dynamics of host communities. The Shirika Plan is Kenya's initiative to integrate refugees into the country's socioeconomic fabric, transforming refugee camps into integrated settlements. Launched in March 2025, the plan focuses on promoting sustainable inclusion for both refugees and host communities by aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 and the Global Compact on Refugees. It aims to improve access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for refugees, while also strengthening local economies and fostering social cohesion. The Kenya Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (KDRDIP) is another initiative whose main objective is to improve access to basic social services, expand economic opportunities, and enhance environmental management for communities hosting refugees in the target areas in the recipient's territory.
- 45.** The recurrence of violent conflicts and wars in the region continues to drive forced displacement, increasing the number of refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers. Currently, the EAC region has a humanitarian caseload of 4.9 (UNHCR 2023) million refugees, over 12 million IDPs, and millions of mixed migrants, including economic migrants, climate-displaced persons, and stateless individuals. The Government is in the process of launching the National shelter strategy to address these concerns. This comprehensive plan will guide the implementation of policies and programs over the next decade, aimed at improving access to safe, affordable, and sustainable housing for all Kenyans.
- 46.** Insecurity in ASALs is further worsened by inadequate security infrastructure, poor communication networks, and a dispersed population. The easy availability of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) has intensified conflicts, making them more lethal. ASALs have the highest concentration of illicit SALWs, with arms smuggled from

neighboring conflict-prone countries, fueling violence and instability. Conflicts and insecurity have the potential to cause food and nutrition security crises if unchecked. Kenya has witnessed these in the form of banditry, cattle rustling and terrorist activities among others. The areas mostly affected by cattle rustling and banditry are the North Rift ASAL counties while terrorism mostly affects Counties in the North and Northeastern Kenya. Insecurity adversely affects various social dimensions and key sectors including, health, education, shelter, agriculture and livestock among others. Conflicts limit access to farming and grazing areas as well as markets. They also lead to loss of lives and livelihoods and displacements due to fear of further attacks. Conflicts and insecurity affect the population's ability to access food and clean safe water for drinking and domestic use, resulting in crises situations.

47. While general crime rates in ASALs remain relatively low, however, issues such as cattle rustling, inter-communal conflicts, high poverty levels, youth unemployment, illiteracy, contraband smuggling, banditry, and piracy along the coast continue to pose serious challenges. Additionally, the radicalization of youth and the spread of terrorism in some parts of the region are emerging threats. Despite the presence of traditional justice systems, access to formal legal institutions remains inadequate, further complicating conflict resolution efforts.

2.2.13 Sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure

48. Kenya is classified among the world's water-scarce countries, with per capita water availability falling below 1,000 cubic meters annually and surface water storage estimated at just 647 cubic meters per person. Of this, only 3.1 cubic meters are accessible for domestic, livestock, industrial, and irrigation use, while the majority is allocated to hydroelectric generation. The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions are traversed by major rivers such as the Tana, Athi, Turkwel, Kerio, Ewaso Nyiro, Mara, and Dauwa, among others. These rivers present significant opportunities for wealth and employment creation if their waters are effectively harvested and stored for irrigation, hydro-power generation, and other uses. Some major dam projects, such as Thwake and High Grand Falls, are currently under construction. Additionally, the region hosts several lakes, with Lake Turkana being the largest, offering immense potential for fishing and related economic activities. There is also high potential for groundwater resources, with large aquifers like Lotikipi and Merti already identified.

49. Water storage in the ASALs is particularly critical due to challenges such as de-vegetation, land degradation, high surface water loss from runoff, and siltation of dams.

Furthermore, inadequate investment in underground water exploration exacerbates water scarcity, leading to long travel distances for water collection—often over an hour during the dry season. Sustained transboundary water flows are also a growing challenge due to uncoordinated upstream usage. Potable water coverage from conventional sources remains low, ranging between 2% and 47%(citation), forcing many communities to rely on unsafe water sources and community-based water points, which require substantial investment. Sanitation coverage is equally concerning, with only 29% of Kenya’s national population having access to safely managed sanitation, and the ASALs performing even worse due to historically low investment in this sector. There is urgent need to prioritize sanitation improvements in these regions.

2.2.14 Value Chain Development

50. Value chain development in the ASALs remains largely underdeveloped. Key value chains include dairy, beef, camel milk, sheep and goats, hides and skins, live animals, honey, fodder, crops, gums and resins. However, limited value addition results in most marketing being done through the direct transportation of live animals and primary products to terminal markets in Nairobi and Mombasa for sale or slaughter. Several constraints hinder market development, including the lack of organized markets and market information, inadequate market outlets, low producer prices due to high transaction costs, poor road and infrastructure networks, the absence of cold chains for fresh produce, high market charges imposed by County Governments, inadequate capital for traders and entrepreneurs, and security concerns. Addressing these challenges through investment in market structures, infrastructure, and value addition can unlock the economic potential of ASALs and contribute significantly to national development.

2.2.15 Research and Development

51. Sustainable development requires relevant information and knowledge that must be generated in a coordinated and timely manner. However, in the ASALs there are significant challenges in terms of quality, relevance and availability of data for decision making. The scarcity of data makes it difficult to quantify the contribution of pastoralism to the Country’s GDP. In addition, the livestock numbers in pastoralist areas fluctuate due to frequent droughts and since censuses are not carried out frequently, with the latest one having been conducted in 2019. Using this data to inform programme design and implementation can be misleading.

52. Failure of the official surveys to use a “pastoralism” category, as indicated in the National Livestock Policy of 2019, defining pastoralism as “an economic activity

and a cultural identity and categorizing Kenya's livestock keepers into farmers, agro-pastoralists, pastoralists and ranchers makes it difficult to assess the economic importance of pastoralism from national economic data. Currently a significant amount of data on pastoralists is collected on a project basis and for specific locations by different actors resulting to un-coordinated and fragmented research.

53. There is limited research on the sustainable diversified livelihoods options such as apiculture, fishing and enhanced use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)- gums, resins, honey, agave, berries, fruits, nuts, essences, medicinal plants barks and fibres whose value chains if domesticated can greatly boost incomes and food security for rural communities in the ASALs.

2.2.16 Coordination, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

54. Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) encompass vast regions with unique ecological challenges, posing hurdles to sustainable development. Recognizing the need for targeted efforts in these areas, Kenya has forged partnerships with various development partners and donor groups. **Kenya ASALs Donor Group Membership** Comprising UN agencies, bilateral partners, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose major role is to coordinate efforts, share information, and align strategies to optimize the impact of development interventions in ASALs.

55. The Government recognizes vulnerabilities of the ASALs and the need for accelerated investments for socio-economic development. These vulnerabilities have attracted heavy investments by both Government (National and Counties) and Non- State Actors to build resilience to frequently experienced shocks and stressors.

56. Despite massive investment in resilience programming, resilience investments play a crucial role in fortifying communities, businesses, and systems against shocks and stressors. Social development indicators in ASALs are low compared to the rest of the country due to various factors. The low development outcomes may be attributed to weak partnerships amongst partners and fragmented development approach. Additionally, this has led to skewed investments resulting in further marginalization amidst the vulnerable communities as well as duplication of efforts. In order to enhance the existing efforts by Government of Kenya and Non-State Actors in building resilience of the ASAL communities, it is imperative to Coordinate the efforts among diverse partners in the ASALs that has proven to be challenging due to the fragmentation in planning, projects, programmes and investments and varying degrees of coordination

structures. This has resulted in limited accountability, weak synergies and duplication of activities. Consequently, this impacts collaboration and may result in missing opportunities for layering and integration.

57.The SDARD has developed Partnership Coordination Framework (PCF) and Resilience Programming Framework (RPF) to ensure that there exist synergies amongst Partners hence maximize impact of investments. These frameworks will support the achievement of the BETA agenda and MTP IV in the arid and semi-arid lands by ensuring that the vulnerable communities become resilient.

2.2.17 Human Capital Development

58. ASAL areas often lack adequate educational infrastructure, including schools and qualified teachers. Limited access to quality education results in low literacy levels and fewer opportunities for skill development among the population. Additionally, nomadic lifestyles dominant in ASAL regions pose challenges to consistent schooling for children. According to UN Habitat 2022 data on social infrastructure in Turkana, the following data was captured; Education levels and transition rates are low in Turkana West compared to the national statistics. The survey showed that 36% of the respondents lacked any formal schooling, while only 15% have pursued a post-secondary education. Refugees and IDPs were found to have better education and training opportunities than the host community as well as a higher transition rate. This is largely due to the support provided to refugees by humanitarian organizations. The combined transition rate among host and refugee communities from Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) level to primary school is 57%, whereas it is 98% from primary to secondary school, and 27% from secondary to tertiary. Overall, low transition rates were attributed to poverty, nomadism, accessibility, insecurity, child labour and cultural practices that act as barrier to education. For both refugee and host communities, access to specialized training and skills development is a major challenge among the youth.

59.ASAL regions suffer from inadequate healthcare infrastructure and limited access to medical facilities. This leads to higher rates of preventable diseases and maternal mortality. Poor health outcomes not only impact individual well-being but also hinder economic productivity in these areas. According to UN Habitat 2022 data on healthcare in Turkana County most of the households (86%) indicated that they had good access to basic health services, through variations exist between communities and

locations, of the households surveyed, 42% described the provision of health services as remaining the same over the last five years.

60. Limited social infrastructure and economic opportunities in ASAL regions make it difficult for residents to access formal employment opportunities. Lack of diversified economic activities and market linkages contribute to high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among youth.

2.2.18 Inclusivity and Equity

61. Inclusion in ASAL development is vital for achieving sustainable and equitable growth, promoting social cohesion, and improving the quality of life for all residents of these regions. It also ensures that these regions receive adequate attention and resources for improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other essential services. Inclusive development fosters good governance and democratic participation by ensuring that all stakeholders, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, have a voice in decision making processes. This strengthens accountability and transparency in governance structures.

2.3 Regional and International Frameworks

62. In Kenya, ASALS (arid and semi-arid lands) development is supported by various regional and international frameworks. These include:

- i. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Specifically, Goal 15 focuses on protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, including arid and semi-arid areas;
- ii. **The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):** This international treaty aims to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through sustainable land management;
- iii. **African Union's Agenda 2063:** This strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of Africa includes provisions for sustainable development in ASALS, recognizing their importance in Africa's development.
- iv. **Eastern Africa Regional Action Plan (EARAP):** This plan focuses on addressing land degradation and promoting sustainable land management in East Africa, including ASALS;
- v. **Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD):** IGAD has initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and resilience in ASALS regions, such as the Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI);

- vi. **East Africa Vision 2050:** Outlines a plan for East Africa to become a prosperous competitive and politically united region. This vision focuses on achieving upper middle-income status through economic growth, social development and regional integration. It emphasizes sustainable development across various sectors including infrastructure, agriculture, industry and human capital.
- vii. **The Paris Agreement:** While not specific to ASALs, this agreement emphasizes climate change mitigation and adaptation, which are crucial for regions prone to aridity and desertification;
- viii. **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Protecting biodiversity is essential for ASAL regions, and the CBD provides a framework for countries to work towards this goal.
- ix. **The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction:** ASAL regions are often prone to natural disasters, and this framework provides guidelines for reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience;
- x. **The Great Green Wall Initiative:** Although primarily focused on the Sahel region, the principles of restoring degraded landscapes and combating desertification are relevant to ASAL regions as well.
- xi. **The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** and the **World Bank**, both of which fund climate-smart agriculture and infrastructure in Kenya's ASALs.
- xii. **The African Development Bank (AfDB)** funds climate-resilient infrastructure and water projects in ASAL areas and Supports the **Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)** and **Climate Investment Funds (CIF)** in arid zones.
- xiii. **The World Bank and FAO Initiatives:** Projects like the **Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP)** and the **Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP)** focus on sustainable livelihoods, rangeland management, and drought resilience.

2.4 Impact of ASALs development to the National Agenda

63. The development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) can have significant impacts on a nation's agenda in various aspects, including economic, social, and environmental spheres. Below are some key impacts along with relevant examples:

a) Economic Development:

- ASALs possess vast untapped natural resources such as minerals, oil, and gas, which, if properly harnessed, can contribute significantly to a nation's economic growth. For example, Kenya's ASAL counties of Turkana & Marsabit, have been a focal point for

oil, wind and geothermal exploration respectively, potentially transforming the region's economic landscape.

- Development initiatives in ASALs include investments in agriculture, livestock farming, and renewable energy projects. These sectors have the potential to generate employment opportunities and enhance income levels among local communities. For instance, Kenya has been investing in large-scale irrigation projects in its ASAL regions such as Galana Kulalu Mega irrigation scheme that is expected to produce 20 million bags of maize annually to improve agricultural productivity and food security
- The ASALs supports over 70% of Kenya's livestock playing a major role in food systems and contributing about 12% of the country's overall GDP. To the communities living in the ASALs, pastoralism is not just a livelihood but a lifeline contributing to over 80% of household incomes in the arid regions and 65% in the semi-arid regions. Kenya currently hosts approximately 4.7 million camels and is the largest camel milk producer in the world (1.165 million MT annually) Additionally Kenya hosts 23.5 million cattle, 26.7 million goats, 18.9 million sheep and 1.9 million donkeys thus prioritizing livestock development empowers pastoral communities, boosts rural incomes and strengthens value chains
- Additionally, a previous study by IGAD-LPI 2011 reported that in 2010, 11.4 percent of the national household consumption expenditure is spent on livestock-derived food items. Additionally, between 2005 and 2010, manufacturing based on three animal product inputs– meat, milk and hides/skins – constituted about 12 percent of Kenya's total official manufacturing output. This can provide insight on how important the sector is to the Kenyan economy even though it is underestimated

b) Social Empowerment:

- Improved infrastructure and access to basic services such as healthcare and education in ASALs can help bridge the gap between these regions and more developed areas, leading to enhanced social inclusion and equity.
- Community-based initiatives and partnerships in ASALs can empower local populations, particularly indigenous communities, by involving them in decision-making processes and resource management.

c) Environmental Conservation:

- Sustainable land management practices and conservation efforts in ASALs are crucial for preserving fragile ecosystems and biodiversity. Initiatives such as afforestation, watershed management, and sustainable land-use planning can help mitigate the impacts of climate change and desertification. The Great Green Wall project in Africa

aims to combat desertification by creating a barrier of trees across the Sahel region, including ASAL areas, to restore degraded lands and promote sustainable agriculture.

- Integrated approaches that combine traditional knowledge with modern conservation strategies can lead to more effective environmental stewardship in ASALs.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK

64.The ASALs can play a critical role in the country's socio-economic development, particularly in line with Government Agenda through agricultural transformation and the MSME economy. If fully harnessed, the ASAL regions can contribute significantly to food security, livestock development, and value chain expansion, making them key drivers of inclusive economic growth and resilience. The ASAL regions present high potential for improving food security in Kenya through large-scale dryland farming, using irrigation from underground aquifers, lakes and rivers. Harnessing these resources through irrigation, water harvesting, and climate smart agriculture can significantly reduce reliance on rain-fed farming and enhance food security.

65.This policy focuses on following the eight priority areas:

- a) Compliance with provisions of the Constitution of Kenya and other operational legal frameworks
- b) ASALs Development
- c) Coordination of Stakeholders
- d) Resilience of ASAL communities against environmental, social, and economic shocks.
- e) Sustainable natural resource management in ASALs
- f) Livestock Development Value Chains
- g) Community Integration and Social Cohesion
- h) Preventive Community-led Peacebuilding and Conflict Management
- i) Food and nutrition security

3.1 Policy Statements

66.This policy recognizes the provision of the Constitution on the role of the counties and that of other sectoral institutions in regional development agenda. The policy will progress the constitutional and operational legal requirements, through the following framework of objectives and corresponding policy statements:

Policy Objective 1: Strengthen coordination among various development actors within the ASALs

67.There are many development actors in the ASAL region with different capacities, expertise and resource base. While this is beneficial for synergies, there is risk of

duplication of interventions, imbalances in development and conflicts if development activities are not well coordinated and guided. In this respect, the Government will:

- a) Develop and implement frameworks for Partnership Coordination and Resilience Programming;
- b) Establish mechanisms for coordination for sustainable utilization of natural resources within ASAL region;
- c) Promote consultative engagements with relevant stakeholders on sustainable development of ASALs; and
- d) Review definition and classification of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

Policy Objective 2: Enhance Security, Peace building and conflict management

68. The ASALs areas are located within its vastness of land with limited infrastructure and porous borders. The trans-boundary nature of nomadic pastoralism and the effects of climate change have exacerbated resource-based conflicts internally and across the national borders. Therefore, Community Integration, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation shall be treated as cross-cutting enablers for sustainable development and inclusive growth in the ASALs. In order to bring social cohesion, peaceful co-existence and provide a conducive environment for investment, the Government will:

- a) Develop and implement Joint Integrated Cross-Border Peace and Community Integration Programmes that promote socio-cultural and economic integration;
- b) Design and implement inclusive Community - Led peace-building and conflict management mechanisms that promote engagement of diverse community groups;
- c) Develop and implement integrated inter and intra community peace programmes that promote community integration and peaceful co-existence;
- d) Promote sustainable and equitable utilization of shared natural resources through conflict and gender-sensitive programming;
- e) Build the capacities of community Peace Actors and relevant stakeholders through ASAL-specific training in negotiation, mediation, and peacebuilding, to enhance integration and peaceful co-existence;
- f) Leverage on technology such as GIS for data collection, communication and coordinated responses across borders and among ASAL communities; and
- g) Establish mechanisms that ensures robust monitoring of conflict trends, peace outcomes, and social cohesion indicators, while promoting learning, accountability, adaptability and evidence-based decision-making in peacebuilding and social cohesion.

Policy objective 3: Build resilience and develop competitive value chains

69. The development of ASALs is hampered by shocks and stressors which include economic fluctuations and climate change effects. Other pressures, such as population growth and uncontrolled settlements, undermine the capacity of communities to manage and reduce the resultant vulnerabilities. In order to reduce these effects, and enhance resilience of ASAL communities, the Government will:

- a) Provide legal and regulatory framework to support disaster risk management;
- b) Strengthen social protection to cushion communities against disaster risks;
- c) Strengthen multi-hazard early warning and response systems;
- d) Promote value chain diversification to improve lives and livelihoods;
- e) Promote and mainstream strategies aimed at achieving food and nutrition security in ASALs;
- f) Promote climate smart agriculture;
- g) Mainstream resilience building and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in development plans and programmes;
- h) Support resilience building and climate change adaptation of pastoral and agro pastoral communities;
- i) Promote private sector investments in viable value chains
- j) Support the Implementation of plans, frameworks and strategies to combat desertification; and
- k) Enhance support of National Drought Emergency Fund to finance drought preparedness, response and recovery.

Policy Objective 4: Create enabling environment and establish robust market systems

70. The ASALs hold immense potential including livestock, Natural Resources among others that remains largely under-developed. Harnessing these resources will contribute significantly to food security and economic growth. It is imperative to prioritize investments for innovation, development of market linkages and expansion of value chains, making them key drivers for growth thus spurring productivity for improved lives and livelihoods. Further, infrastructure and other supportive interventions required to facilitate trade and growth of MSMEs in the ASALs remain key in creation of conducive business environment. In order to stimulate the development of value chains and improve access to markets, the Government will:

- a) Provide fiscal and other incentives to attract private sector investments in viable value chains;
- b) Develop and maintain an integrated, safe and efficient road, rail and air transport network in the region;
- c) Expand and enhance access to energy to spur investments;
- d) Support utilization of ICT and emerging technologies for innovations;
- e) Strengthen producer and marketing systems to promote trade, MSMEs, cooperatives and Business associations in the ASALs; and
- f) Promote and support access to appropriate financial services and products.

Policy Objective 5: Optimize utilization of existing land, land-based and water resources

71. Most land in the ASALs is communally owned and endowed with natural wealth and biodiversity that remain largely unexploited. Livestock, wildlife, forests, pasture, minerals, and medicinal plants are all critical resources upon which the people of the region depend. The ASALs have unique landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and diverse wildlife that present significant opportunities for ecotourism development. However, natural resource management systems have come under increasing pressure from competing forms of land use, successive and more frequent droughts, and land degradation. Further, the region has untapped potential of renewable energy particularly wind and solar as well as underground water aquifers and frequent flush floods. In order to optimize utilization of land, land-based and water resources, the Government will:

- a) Invest in water harvesting, water supply, sanitation and irrigation infrastructure;
- b) Enhance environmental conservation, and protection and management of water catchment areas;
- c) Harness renewable energy such as wind, geothermal, hydropower and solar energy;
- d) Promote pastoral and desert safari circuit ecotourism attractions;
- e) Promote optimal and sustainable land use;
- f) Enhance rehabilitation and restoration of the degraded rangelands;
- g) Promote equitable and eco-friendly exploitation, and management of minerals and other natural resources;
- h) Promote conservation and sustainable utilization of the genetic resources;
- i) Promote management and innovative utilization of invasive plant Species;
- j) Promote production and utilization of indigenous medicinal plants; and
- k) Develop and implement National Shelter Strategy (NSS) to ensure access to safe, dignified and adequate shelter for displaced communities.

Policy Objective 6: Promote development, management and marketing of camel resources

72. Camels are increasingly recognized for their resilience to harsh climates, their lower greenhouse gas emissions compared to other livestock, and their ability to provide diverse resources such as milk, meat, hides, and therapeutic products. In the Horn of Africa, which boasts the highest density of camels globally and play a critical role in rural livelihoods, food security, and economic development. However, challenges such as fragmented grazing areas, limited infrastructure, and insufficient research and marketing strategies hinder the full exploitation of camel resources. In order to address these challenges, the Government will:

- a) Support research focusing on camel breeding, health, welfare and innovative camel products;
- b) Promote camel advocacy, education and extension;
- c) Promote development of camel value chain for food security and resilience; and
- d) Enhance production practices, and promoting sustainable marketing systems to support livelihoods.

Policy Objective 7: Promote livestock production and marketing

73. Livestock plays a major role in food systems and contributes about 12% of the country GDP. To communities living in the ASALs, Pastoralism is not just a livelihood but a lifeline contributing over 80% of the household incomes. Thus, prioritizing livestock and pasture development will boost rural incomes and strengthen value chains. In this respect, the Government will:

- a) Support research focusing on livestock breeding, health and products;
- b) Promote livestock education, insurance and extension;
- c) Promote development of livestock value chains;
- d) Establish and promote sustainable fodder production systems;
- e) Support silvopastoral system (SPS) approaches that incorporate trees, shrubs, and grasses into farming landscapes; and
- f) Ensure availability and access to improved forage seeds and tailored fodder packages.

Policy Objective 8: Promote Research and Knowledge Management for ASAL Development

74. To support Sustainable development of ASAL, it is key to invest in targeted research that addresses local challenges that include climate resilience, water management and sustainable livelihoods among others. Strengthening collaboration between research

institutions, communities, and policymakers ensures practical and inclusive solutions. Creating knowledge hubs and digital platforms helps in storing and sharing information. Building local capacity for data use and decision-making makes research useful thus more effective and resilient development in ASALs. In this respect, the Government will:

- a) Develop a unified ASALs platform for sharing knowledge and best practices among stakeholders;
- b) Establish mechanisms to link research findings to users and encourage private sector participation;
- c) Establish stakeholder collaborations and engagements;
- d) Promote integration of indigenous knowledge and practices for sustainable ASALs development;
- e) Support research and development programmes that transfer knowledge and technologies for sustainable development; and
- f) Promote adoption of ICTs and emerging technologies for knowledge transfer.

Policy Objective 9: Promote Human Capital Development in ASALs

75.A highly skilled human resource base is critical to achieving goals of Vision 2030. However, the disparities in human capital between the ASALs counties is so acute that major investment will be required for the region to complete on an equal basis with the rest of the country. Developing human capital in ASALs requires integrated efforts across education, health, nutrition, WASH, and digital access. Together, these efforts boost resilience, reduce poverty, and drive inclusive development in ASAL regions. In this respect, the Government will:

- a) Develop and improve appropriate infrastructure for education and training;
- b) Enhance access to quality, relevant and equitable education and training opportunities;
- c) Develop Health care infrastructure and financing mechanisms to enhance access to healthcare services;
- d) Promote science, technology and Innovation, and build capacities on ICTs and emerging technologies;
- e) Support Health care education and promotion;
- f) Mainstream gender, youth and PWDs in ASALs development; and
- g) Develop and enhance incentives and mechanisms to attract and retain vulnerable students in schools.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

4.1 Institutional Arrangement

76. Implementation of this policy requires a comprehensive and well-coordinated legal and regulatory framework. This framework must be grounded in the Constitution, supported by specific legislation and policies, and implemented through effective institutions at both National and County levels. Continuous review and strengthening of this framework are essential to address the evolving challenges and opportunities in Kenya's ASALs. Effective coordination is paramount for a cross-sectoral issue like ASAL development. The coordination framework for successful implementation of this policy includes the following:

4.2 ASALs Transformation Structures

4.2.1 ASALs Inter-Governmental Committee

77. This is a High-level Inter-Governmental Committee chaired by the president whose membership includes; the Deputy President, relevant Cabinet Secretaries, the Chairperson, Council of Governors and Governors from ASALs counties to provide high-level policy direction and political support to ASALs development. The committee provides guidance and oversight of the national ASAL sustainable development policy implementation by facilitating Inter-Ministerial and Inter-Governmental Collaboration, resolving policy conflicts and bottlenecks, mobilizing resources and coordinating funding efforts overall progress and impact.

4.2.2 Inter-Ministerial and County Technical Working Groups

78. This is composed of technical experts from relevant National and ASAL County Government Ministries. TWGs focus on specific thematic areas of the policy. Their roles include: Developing detailed implementation plans and guidelines for their respective areas, providing technical support to County Governments and other implementing agencies, sharing information and best practices across sectors and monitoring technical aspects of implementation.

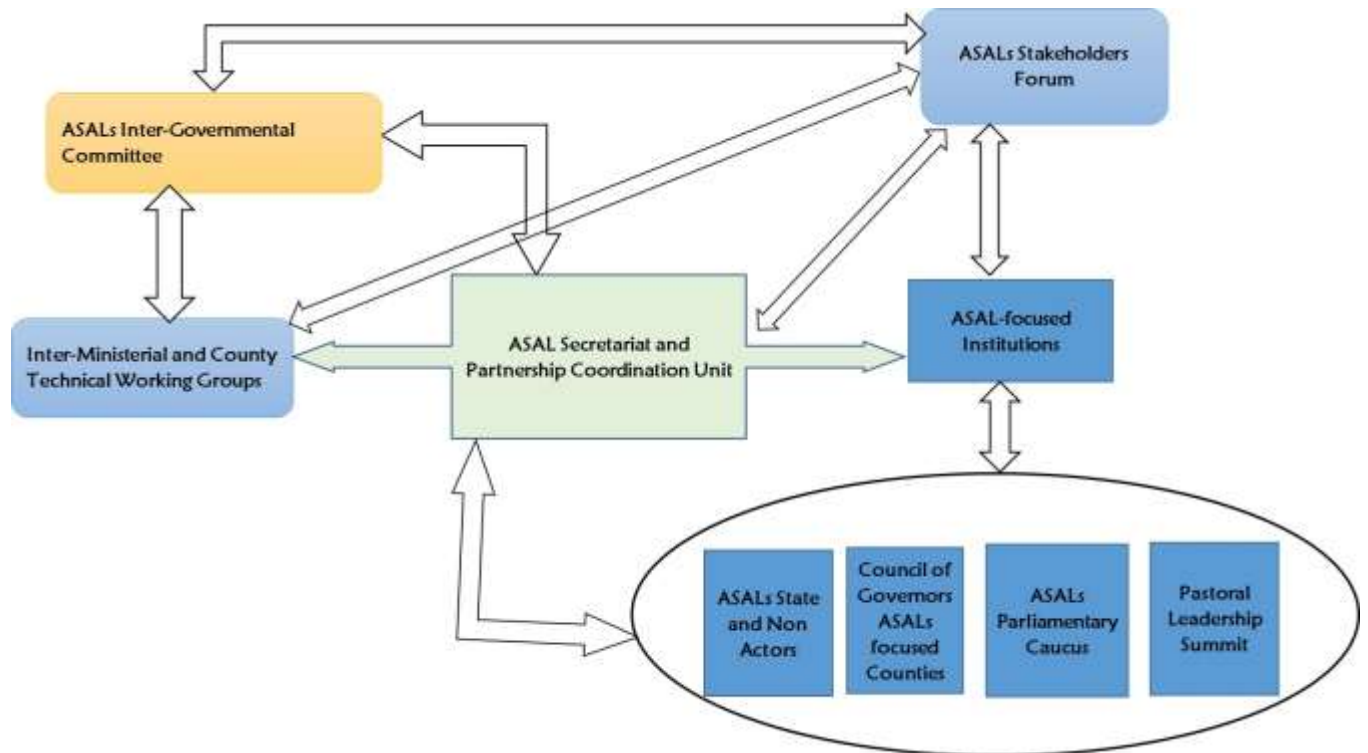
4.2.3 ASALs Stakeholder Forums

79. The forum will bring together Government, private sector, development partners, Civil Society Organizations and ASAL citizens to share best practices and inform policy and programme development.

4.2.3 ASAL Secretariat

80. This will support ASAL inter-ministerial committee, the ASAL stakeholder forum and other ASALs institutions to promote strong coordination of ASALs policy and practice. The mandate of the ASAL secretariat is to champion and coordinate development in Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands in order to ensure that the distinct challenges and opportunities of the ASALs are appropriately and equitably addressed in this policy. In addition, to the core ASAL structures a number of public and private sector institution have been established to support the long-term development of the region.

Figure 1: Institutional Framework for ASALs development



4.3 Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

81. Implementation of this policy requires a robust institutional framework, strong legal and regulatory foundations, and effective stakeholder engagement. This includes establishing ASALs Inter-Governmental Committee, Inter-Ministerial and County Technical Working Group, ASALs Stakeholders Forum supported to by ASALs Partnership Coordination Unit

4.3.1 Foundational Legal Framework

82. Below are the existing laws that support and align with this policy, providing a legal framework to guide its effective implementation and ensure consistency with national objectives. 2001

- **The Constitution of Kenya, 2010:** This is supreme law that provides several articles relevant to ASALs and their development
- **Article 56:** Mandates affirmative action programs to address the needs of marginalized groups, which often include ASAL communities.
- **Article 43 (1) (c and d):** Guarantees the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality. This is particularly relevant in the food-insecure ASALs. It also outlines access to clean and safe water in adequate quantities;

- **Article 63:** Recognizes and protects community land rights, which are prevalent in many ASAL areas. Legislation like the **Community Land Act** (mentioned below) operationalizes this article.
- **Article 69:** Addresses the sustainable use, management, and conservation of natural resources, which is critical for the fragile ecosystems of ASALs.
- **Article 204 (The Equalization Fund):** Although this article was set to lapse 20 years after August 2010 (unless extended), it aimed to address historical marginalization of areas like the ASALs by providing additional resources for basic services.
- **Article 189:** Provides for collaboration between the National and County Governments.

4.3.2 Key Policies and Legislation Impacting on ASALs

83. The following section provides laws and regulations that relate to the issue that can support the implementation of the proposed policy:

- **Sessional Paper No. 8 of 2012 on the National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands (The ASAL Policy):** ¹ This is the overarching policy document that guides the development of ASALs. While not a law itself, it provides the framework for legislative and administrative actions. It identifies key challenges and proposes an institutional and legal framework for coordination.
- **The National Land Policy (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2009):** Provides principles and guidelines for land administration and management, including community land rights, which are significant in ASALs.
- **The Community Land Act, 2016:** Operationalizes Article 63 of the Constitution, providing for the recognition, protection, and management of community land. This is particularly important for securing the land rights of pastoralist communities and regulating resource use.
- **The County Governments Act, 2012:** Defines the functions and powers of County Governments, which play a crucial role in implementing ASAL development policies at the local level, including natural resource management, agriculture, and disaster preparedness.
- **The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Act, 2016:** Establishes the NDMA with the mandate to coordinate all matters related to drought risk management and to establish mechanisms to end drought emergencies in Kenya. This is a critical institution for ASALs.

- **The Water Act, 2016:** Governs the management, conservation, and sustainable use of water resources, which are scarce and vital in ASALs. It addresses issues like water rights, water service provision, and water resource management.
- **The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), 1999 (and its amendments):** Provides the legal framework for environmental management and conservation, relevant for ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources in ASALs and mitigating environmental degradation.
- **The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Act, 2013:** Regulates the agriculture sector, including livestock, which is a primary livelihood in many ASAL areas.
- **The Livestock Marketing Board Act (Cap 363):** Although potentially needing updating, this act governs the marketing of livestock, crucial for the pastoral economy of ASALs.

4.4 Roles of key stakeholders

84. ASALs institutional framework includes a range of key actors from Government, Non-Governmental, private sector, and community levels. These actors work together to address the unique socio-economic, environmental, and development challenges in these regions. The following are the key actors in the institutional framework of ASAL development:

4.4.1 Ministries Departments and Agencies

85. The ministry responsible for the development of the ASALs is mandated to initiate, formulate, coordinate and implement policies, strategies, projects and programmes to fast-track the development of ASALs to build resilience and improve livelihoods. The key actors in development for ASALs include the ministry responsible for Water and Irrigation, Interior security, Agriculture and Livestock and Environment. The key Government agencies supporting mandate of the department includes Kenya Forestry Service, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and KIPPRA.

4.4.2 County Governments

86. These include County Governments, County ASAL Units and County Development Committees. They are responsible for devolved functions such as agriculture, water, and health, develop County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) tailored to ASAL contexts, and facilitate local planning, decision-making, and the coordination of development projects at the grass-root level.

4.4.3 Development Partners and International Organizations

87. The organizations provide funding, technical assistance, and support implementation of sectoral programmes.

4.4.4 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Local Communities

88. These are key in delivering services and implementing development projects at the grassroots, advocating for ASALs rights and inclusive policy-making. The local communities in ASALs are essential stakeholders in decision-making and implementation.

4.4.5 Private Sector

89. Private sector involvement in ASALs has grown increasingly significant, particularly in sectors such as water resource management, rangeland management, and land restoration. It plays a critical role in job creation, technology development, and investment, with notable activities including water provision for communities and water conservation efforts. There is need for continued collaboration between Government, development partners, and the private sector to unlock the ASALs full economic potential.

4.4.6 Research and Academic Institutions

90. These includes Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and the Universities whose main function is to conduct research on sustainable livelihoods, climate change, and rangeland management in ASALs.

4.5 Resource Mobilization

4.5.1 Funding Sources

91. ASAL policy outlines diverse funding sources to support development initiatives. Government budget allocations must prioritize ASALs, ensuring consistent public funding for infrastructure, water access, and livelihoods. International donors, including organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, and the African Development Bank, can provide grants, loans, and technical assistance to strengthen ASAL development. The private sector also plays a crucial role, and policies should create incentives to attract investment in key sectors. Additionally, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can be leveraged to implement large-scale infrastructure projects efficiently. At the local level,

community-based financing, such as cooperatives and savings groups, can help drive grassroots development.

4.5.2 Sustainable Financing Mechanisms

92. To ensure long-term financial sustainability, ASAL policies should incorporate innovative financing mechanisms. Climate finance, including green funds and carbon credits, can support climate adaptation efforts. Disaster risk financing, such as drought insurance and emergency relief funds, can help communities recover from climate-related shocks. Blended finance, social impact bonds, and microfinance institutions can provide capital to small businesses and farmers, promoting economic resilience. Additionally, ASALs often possess valuable resources, including livestock, minerals, and tourism potential. Policies should encourage sustainable revenue generation from these resources while ensuring environmental conservation.

4.5.3 Institutional Framework for Resource Mobilization

93. Effective resource mobilization requires strong institutional frameworks. Government agencies, donors, and private sector actors must collaborate through well-coordinated mechanisms to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize impact. Capacity building is essential, ensuring that Local Governments and institutions are equipped with the skills needed for financial management and fundraising. Finally, transparency and accountability must be enforced through rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that mobilized resources are used efficiently and equitably.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

5.1 Introduction

- 94.** Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning (ME&L) of this policy will strengthen the links between then policy interventions and their outcomes, enhance accountability and transparency and identify deviations from plans for informed corrective measures. The National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy 2012 informs the establishment of this M&E framework.
- 95.** The M&E framework will establish a mechanism to continuously collect, track, analyze and report on resources used, outcomes and impacts achieved informing implementation of this policy. Timely dissemination and sound feedback mechanisms for ME&L report findings will aid in implementation of this policy. This will ensure the intended objectives, outcomes and impacts are relevant, efficient, effective, impactful, and sustainable.
- 96.** The National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, 2012 provides guidelines on reporting of Monitoring and Evaluation timelines of projects and programmes. The data and

information will inform quarterly and annual reports, which will be amalgamated at the ministerial level and presented to the Principal Secretary responsible for coordination and Development of ASALs to inform policy decisions. This data and information will be disseminated to stakeholders.

97. The assessment of the policy will be undertaken annually to gauge the implementation progress. The impact evaluation of the policy will be undertaken every five years to analyze the extent to which the objectives have been achieved.

98. The Ministry responsible for ASALs development shall take the lead role in overseeing the coordinating and implementation of this Policy. The Ministry, in consultation with key stakeholders, will develop an implementation framework outlining key interventions, activities, performance indicators, timelines and lead implementing agencies.

99. The Implementation of this policy will be monitored and evaluated continuously by key stakeholders with the ministry responsible for the ASALs Development taking the lead. This will inform policy and administrative action for implementation of this policy. The Ministry shall establish an integrated ME&L framework which will reflect the policy objectives, strategic interventions, key performance indicators and expected outcomes.

5.2 Policy Review

100. This policy should be reviewed after ten years or when need arises to accommodate emerging issues, changing needs and priorities of both the Government and key stakeholders.

ANNEXES 1: IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Policy Objective	Policy Statement	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators	Time Frame	Responsibilities	
					Lead	Support
Strengthen coordination among various development actors within the ASALS	Develop and implement frameworks for Partnership Coordination and Resilience Programming	Establish a coordination frameworks for all actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination frameworks established 		SDARD	County Governments, DPs
		Strengthen investment tracking platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment tracking platform operationalized 		SDARD	County Governments, DPs
	Establish mechanisms for coordination for sustainable utilization of natural resources within ASAL region	Convene National and Regional ASALS conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of conferences held 		SDARD	County Governments, DPs
		Mapping natural resources available in ASALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources mapped 		State Department for Mining, State Department for Environment	County Government, State department for environment, SDARD

		Establish joint implementation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of joint implementation agreements signed. 		SDARD, Foreign Affairs, state law office	DPs, County Governments
	Promote consultative engagements with relevant stakeholders on sustainable development of ASALs	Convene Consultative engagement forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of consultative engagement convened 		SDARD	DPs, County Governments, NGOs, CBOs
	Review definition and classification of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands	Develop framework for classification of ASALs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework developed for ASALs classification 		KALRO	SDARD, KNBS
		Undertake classification of ASAL areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASAL areas classified 		KALRO	SDARD, KNBS
Enhance Security, Peace building and	Develop and implement Joint Integrated	Conduct bilateral engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of bilateral engagement conducted 		State Department	DRM institutions, MFA, County

conflict management	Cross-Border Peace programmes	Develop cross border peace MoUs Implement cross border peace programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. MoUs developed • No. of cross border programmes implemented 		for Interior and SDARD	Government, NGOs, CBOs
	Develop and implement peace-building mechanisms for effective conflict management	Convene consultative fora Map resources in conflict prone areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of fora held • No. of resources mapped 		State Department for Interior, SDARD	DRM institutions, MFA, County Government, NGOs, CBOs
	Develop and implement integrated inter and intra community peace programmes	Implement peace dividend programmes Implement peace building initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of programmes implemented • No. of initiatives organized 		SDARD and County Governments	State Department for Interior, CBOs, NGOs

	Promote community integration and peaceful co-existence	Organize inter-community socio-cultural events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of inter-community events held 		County Governments	SDARD, CBOs, NGOs, SDI, State Department for Culture
	Promote and institutionalize citizen focused security interventions	<p>Strengthen peace committees and community policing</p> <p>Invest in security roads</p> <p>Deploy communication and surveillance system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of community peace committee strengthened Security roads constructed Communication and surveillance system installed 		County Government, State Department for Interior	State Department for roads, State Department for ICT
Build resilience and develop competitive value chains	Provide legal and regulatory framework to support disaster risk management	Develop regulatory framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory framework developed 		SDARD	Office of Attorney General, Parliament
	Strengthen social protection to cushion communities	Implement strategic social protection programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of Beneficiaries 		SDARD, State Department for Interior, State Department	NDMA, State Department for Social Protection

	against disaster risks				for Special Programmes	
	Strengthen multi-hazard early warning and response systems	Establish integrated multi-hazard early warning system Establish early response mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated early warning system operationalized • Early response mechanisms in place 		NDMA	State Department for Interior, CBOs, NGOs, DPs
	Promote value chain diversification to improve lives and livelihoods	Establish and promote business incubation centers to support cottage industry Capacity building on entrepreneurial skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of business incubation centres • No. of youth and household capacity built 		State Department for MSMEs Department for Industry, State Department for Trade	County Governments, KIRDI, KenInvest
	Promote and mainstream strategies aimed at achieving food and nutrition	Implement food production programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantities of food produced • Quantity of indigenous, 		State Department of Agriculture	KALRO, County Governments

	security in ASALs	Promote consumption of indigenous, healthy, safe and nutritious food	healthy, safe and nutritious food consumed			
	Promote climate smart agriculture	Implement climate smart agriculture programmes Strengthen post production management across value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate smart agricultural practices adopted • No. of post-production structures (driers, coolers, silos) established 		State Department of Agriculture	State Department of environment, NEMA, County Governments
	Mainstream resilience building and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in development plans and programmes	Mainstream EDE into development plans and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDE mainstreamed in plans and programmes 		NDMA	State Department for economic planning, County Governments, CBOs, NGOs. DPs, State Department for Environment and Climate Change

	Support resilience building and climate change adaptation of pastoral and agro pastoral communities	Implement the resilience building and climate change adaptation programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of resilience building and climate change programmes implemented 		State Department for Agriculture, SDARD	County Governments, KALRO
	Promote private sector investments in viable value chains	Create conducive environment for private sector investment in value chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of incentive provided 		Private Sector	SDARD, MSEA
	Support the Implementation of the National Action Plan to combat desertification	Implement the National Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Action Plan implemented 		SDARD	State Department for Environment
	Enhance support of National Drought Emergency Fund to finance drought	Capitalize the National Drought Emergency Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of resources allocated to NDEF • No. of development 		National Treasury	NDMA, DPs

	preparedness, response and recovery	Mobilize funding from development partners	partners supporting NDEF			
Create enabling environment and establish robust market systems	Provide fiscal and other incentives to attract private sector investments in viable value chains	Identify and implement fiscal and other incentives to attract and retain investments in ASALs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of incentives provided 		Private Sector	Ken-Invest, MSEA, NT
	Develop and maintain an integrated, safe and efficient road, rail and air transport network in the region	<p>Construct strategic road and rail transport network</p> <p>Construct air strips/airports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMs of road and rail constructed No. of air strips/airports developed 		State Department for Transport	NT, DPs, County Government, KAA, KR
	Expand and enhance access to energy to spur investments	Implement renewable energy investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of households accessing renewable energy 		State Department for Energy,	NT, KETRACO, Kenya Power
	Support utilization of ICTs and	Invest in ICTs and emerging technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of investment in ICTs 		State Department for ICT	Private Sector, Universities, TVETS

	emerging technologies for innovations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage increase in utilization of ICTs 			
	Strengthen producer and marketing systems to promote trade, MSMEs, cooperatives and Business associations in the ASALs	<p>Invest in innovations</p> <p>Develop market linkages across value chains</p> <p>Support establishment of MSMEs, cooperatives and business associations</p> <p>Build capacities of MSMEs and cooperatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of innovations developed • Percentage increase in exports • No. of MSMEs, cooperatives and business associations established • No. of market linkages established 		State Department for MSMEs, State Department for Cooperatives	County Governments, State Department for Trade

	Promote and support access to appropriate financial services and products	Establish appropriate financial services and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial services and products established • No. of beneficiaries accessing financial services and products 		State Department for MSMEs, Private sector	NT, State Department for Cooperatives
Optimize utilization of existing land, land-based and water resources	Invest in water harvesting, water supply, sanitation and irrigation infrastructure	<p>Construct dams, water pans and boreholes</p> <p>Develop water supply infrastructure</p> <p>Construct sanitation facilities</p> <p>Develop irrigation infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of dams, water pans and boreholes constructed • No. of Households accessing water • No. of sanitation facilities constructed • Acreage of land under irrigation 		State Department for Water, State Department for Environment and Climate Change and County Governments	State Department for Irrigation, State Department for Agriculture, State Department for Public health and sanitation, DPs

	Enhance environmental conservation, and protection and management of water catchment areas	Undertake environmental conservation Invest in protection and management of water catchment areas Protect riparian lands and water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. environmental conservation initiatives undertaken • Ha. of water catchment areas protected • KMs. of riparian land and water bodies protected 		State Department for Water, State Department for Environment and Climate Change, SDARD, County Governments	State Department for Water, NEMA
	Harness renewable energy such as wind, geothermal, hydropower and solar energy	Implement renewable energy investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar, geothermal, wind and hydro energy interventions developed 		State Department for Energy,	National Treasury, Private sector, KETRACO, KENGEN
	Promote pastoral and desert safari circuit ecotourism attractions	Develop pastoral and desert safari circuits masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral and desert safari circuit masterplan developed 		State Department for Tourism, SDARD	State Department for Wildlife, State Department for ICT

		Support marketing of pastoral attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of tourists recorded 			
	Promote optimal and sustainable land use	Develop and implement spatial plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial plans developed • Land under sustainable crop and livestock production • Ha. of forest cover 		County Governments, State Department for Lands and Physical Planning, State Department for Agriculture, State Department for Livestock	KFS, State Department for Forestry
	Enhance rehabilitation and restoration of the degraded rangelands	Rehabilitate, protect and conserve degraded rangelands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ha. of degraded land rehabilitated 		State Department for Agriculture, State Department environment and Climate Change	SDARD, CBOs, NGOs

	Promote equitable and eco-friendly exploitation, and management of minerals and other natural resources	Enforce regulatory framework for exploitation of mineral and other natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory framework enforced 		State Department for Mining, State Law Office	State Department for Environment and Climate Change, SDARD
	Promote conservation and sustainable utilization of the genetic resources	Undertake conservation of plant genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of plant genetic resources documented and conserved in gene banks • % increase in community seed banks established and supported • Number of awareness and capacity-building programs conducted annually 		State Department for Agriculture, SDARD,	ILRI, KALRO

	Promote management and innovative utilization of invasive plant Species	Implement innovative research to utilize invasive plant species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of invasive species management plans developed and implemented • Hectares of land restored or rehabilitated from invasive species • Number of value-added products developed from invasive species 		State Department for Environment and Climate Change	State Department for Livestock, SDARD, NEMA, NGOs
	Promote production and utilization of indigenous medicinal plants	Support the sustainable cultivation, preservation, and utilization of indigenous medicinal plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of indigenous medicinal plant species under sustainable cultivation • % increase in community-based medicinal plant enterprises • Number of partnerships formed with traditional healers 		SDARD, State Department for Forestry	KEFRI, CBOs, NGOs

			and research institutions			
	Develop and implement National Shelter Strategy (NSS) to ensure access to safe, dignified and adequate shelter for displaced communities	Develop National Shelter Strategy (NSS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Shelter Strategy document finalized and approved • % of displaced households with access to safe and adequate shelter 		SDARD, State Department for Special Programmes,	State Department for Housing, Public Works, IOM, Red Cross
Promote research, development, management and marketing of camel resources	Support research focusing on camel breeding, health, welfare and innovative camel products;	Undertake research focusing on camel development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of research projects on camel health and breeding funded • Number of innovative camel products developed and commercialized 		State Department for Livestock, SDARD	ILRI, State Department for Trade, State Department for Cooperative

	Promote camel advocacy, education and extension	Implement camel extension services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of advocacy and extension events held annually 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI	State Department for Trade, State Department for Cooperatives
	Promote development of camel value chain for food security and resilience	Implement camel value chain Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of camel value chain actors trained and supported • Increase in camel product volumes (meat, milk, hides) marketed 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI	State Department for Trade, State Department for Cooperatives
	Enhance production practices, and promoting sustainable marketing systems to support livelihoods.	Develop marketing systems for camels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % increase in camel producers accessing structured markets • Number of camel cooperative groups formed or strengthened 		State Department for Trade, State Department for Cooperative	SDARD, State Department for livestock

Promote livestock production and marketing	Support research focusing on livestock breeding, health and products	Conduct research focusing on livestock production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of livestock research outputs adopted by farmers • Increase in livestock productivity 		State Department for Livestock, County Governments	ILRI, KALRO, SDARD, State Department for Agriculture
	Promote livestock education and extension	Undertake livestock extension services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of livestock extension officers trained and deployed • Frequency of farmer training sessions held 		County Governments, State Department for Livestock, State Department for Agriculture	ILRI, SDARD, CBOs, NGOs, KALRO
	Promote development of livestock value chains	Implement livestock value chains initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of livestock value chains established • % increase in livestock value-added exports 		County Governments, State Department for Livestock, State Department for Agriculture	ILRI, KALRO, SDARD, CBOs, NGOs
	Establish and promote sustainable fodder	Implement fodder production programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of acres under fodder cultivation 		State Department for Livestock, , State	SDARD, CBOs, NGOs, ILRI, KALRO

	production systems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % reduction in dry-season fodder shortages. 		Department for Agriculture, County Government	
	Support silvopastoral approaches that incorporate trees, shrubs, and grasses into farming landscapes	Implement silvopastoral programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of farmers adopting silvopastoral techniques • Area (hectares) under silvopastoral land use 		State Department for Livestock, State Department for Agriculture, State Department for Forestry,	KFS, ILRI, SDARD, CBOs, NGOs, County Governments
	Ensure availability and access to improved forage seeds and tailored fodder packages	Promote forage seeds and tailored fodder packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % increase in distribution of improved fodder seed varieties • Number of demonstration plots established 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI, State Department for Agriculture, SDARD, County Government	Farmer groups, CBOs, NGOs,
Promote Research and Knowledge Management for ASAL	Develop a unified ASALs platform for sharing knowledge and best practices	Develop one stop shop database on ASALs programmes and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIS and database developed • ASALs digital knowledge 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI, State Department for	State Department for ICT, CBOs, NGOs,

Development	among stakeholders		platform operationalized		Agriculture, SDARD	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of users and stakeholders engaged via platform 			
	Establish mechanisms to link research findings to users and encourage private sector participation	Initiate mechanisms to adopt research findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of research-to-practice pilot programs % increase in private sector co-investment in ASALs research 		SDARD, State Department for Livestock, ILRI, KALRO, State Department for Agriculture	CBOs, NGOs, County Governments
	Establish stakeholder collaborations and engagements	Establish stakeholder collaborations and engagements for inclusive policy implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of stakeholder forums or dialogues annually Number of signed MOUs/partnership agreements 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI, State Department for Agriculture, County Governments	SDARD, CBOs, NGOs
Promote integration of indigenous knowledge and practices for	Support integration of indigenous knowledge and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of traditional knowledge systems 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI, State	SDARD, CBOs, NGOs	

	sustainable ASALs development	practices in ASALs development.	documented and integrated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of community-led projects utilizing indigenous practices 		Department for Agriculture	
	Support research and development programmes that transfer knowledge and technologies for sustainable development	Support research and development programs that transfer knowledge and technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of technology transfer hubs established • % adoption of new technologies in target communities 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI, State Department for Agriculture	SDARD, ICT, CBOs, NGOs
	Promote adoption of ICTs and emerging technologies for knowledge transfer	Implement ICTs programmes to enhance knowledge transfer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of ICT-based extension platforms in use • % of pastoral households accessing digital information 		State Department for Livestock, ILRI, State Department for Agriculture	SDARD, State Department for ICT, CBOs, NGOs

Promote Human Capital Development in ASALs	Develop and improve appropriate infrastructure for education and training	Implement education programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of schools/classrooms constructed or rehabilitated • Student-classroom ratio improvements 		State Department for Education, NG-CDF, NGAAF, NACONEK, County Government	SDARD
	Enhance access to quality, relevant and equitable education and training opportunities	Implement programmes to enhancing access to education and training opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross enrollment rate in ASALs • Gender parity index in education 		State Department for Health, County Governments	State Department for Gender, SDARD CBOs, NGOs
	Develop Health care infrastructure and financing mechanisms to enhance access to healthcare services	Develop health care infrastructure and financing mechanisms to enhance access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of ASAL population with access to essential health services 		State Department for Health, County Governments,	Development Partners, SDARD, CBOs, NGOs
	Promote science, technology and Innovation, and build	Building capacities on ICTs and other emerging technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of ICT training centers established 		State Department for ICT	SDARD, County Government, NGOs

	capacities on ICTs and emerging technologies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of ICT Coverage 			
	Support Health care education and promotion	Undertake capacity building on health care education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of community health education programs • % increase in maternal and child health service uptake 		State Department for Public Health, County Government,	SDARD, CHVs, NGOs, CBOs
	Mainstream gender, youth and PWDs in ASALs development	Establish affirmative action projects/programmes for ASALs development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of projects/programmes with gender/youth/PWD components • Representation of women and youth in decision-making forums 		State Department for Gender and Youth, Gender commission	SDARD, NCPWD, County Government
	Develop and enhance incentives and mechanisms to attract and retain	Initiate programmes to retain students in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of school feeding programmes or bursaries provided 		State Department for Education, State Department for Special Programmes,	SDARD, State Department for Interior

	vulnerable students in schools		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dropout rates among vulnerable groups		County Government	
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Annex 2: The role of Stakeholders in the ASALs

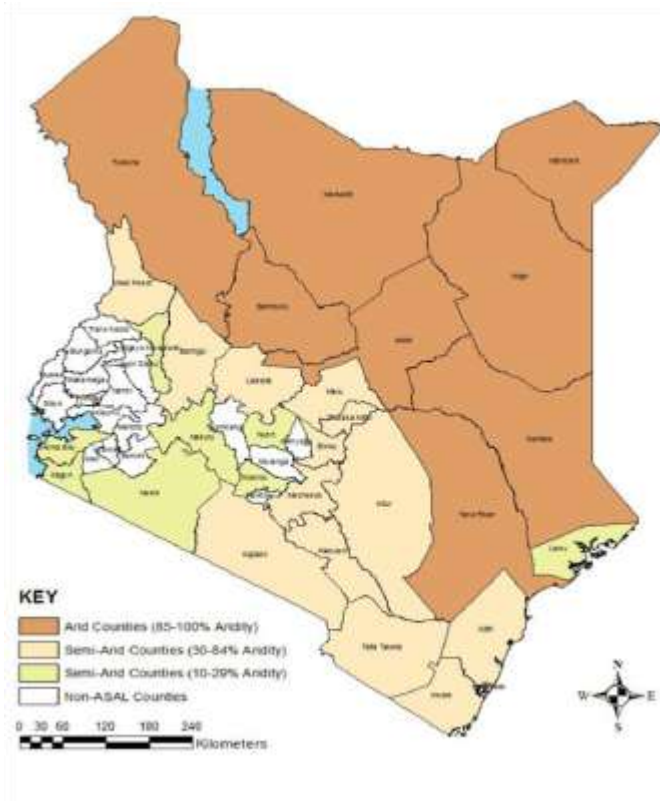
S/No	Stakeholders	Role	Expectation of Stakeholders
1.	The Presidency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide oversight • Appointment of boards/chairpersons of statutory bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver on Departmental mandate
2.	The Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve policies, strategies and bills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Cabinet Memos, briefs, policies, strategies and bills
3.	National Drought Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and implement drought risk management strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy direction • Cross sectoral and Inter-Governmental coordination
4.	Regional Development Authorities (TARDA, KVDA, LBDA, ENSDA, ENNDA and CDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan, coordinate and implement integrated development in the river basins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy direction • Cross sectoral and Inter-Governmental coordination
5.	Line Ministries, Departments and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster synergy in development
6.	National Treasury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and ensure prudent resource utilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prudent utilization of resources • Provide timely financial and economic reports • Prioritization of programmes and projects • Adherence to projects budgetary requirements and procedures
7.	County Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and implement programmes and projects at the County level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of technical support • Collaborate and partner with strategic development partners and investors in implementation of projects and programmes

S/No	Stakeholders	Role	Expectation of Stakeholders
8.	Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and ensure prudent resource utilization • Provide technical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy direction • Foster synergy and co-creation in implementation of development projects • Prudent utilization of resources • Coordination of development partners
9.	Direct project beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize initiatives • Uphold good governance • Sustainably manage the projects • Uphold cost sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical and financial support • Ensure good governance • Ensure public participation and stakeholder consultations
10.	Project Affected Persons (PAPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in project formulation and implementation • Adhere to laws and regulations • Ensure mitigation measures are implemented • Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate project information • Adherence to laws and regulations • Implement mitigation measures • Accountability and transparency
11.	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster accountability • Provide information • Champion development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability in use of public resources • Provision of information on projects and programmes • Ensure equity, equality and inclusivity
12.	Civil Society Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and representation • Enhance accountability • Ensure Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) are conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability and transparency in utilization of resources • Conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) • Provision of legal and institutional frameworks

S/No	Stakeholders	Role	Expectation of Stakeholders
13.	Contractors and suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honour contractual obligations • Ensure accountability and transparency • Adhere to environmental and social safeguards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honour contractual obligations • Accountability and transparent procurement process • Provide technical support • Ensure laws and regulations are implemented
14.	Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislate laws and regulations • Ensure budgetary allocation and prudent utilization of resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement projects and programmes • Adherence to laws and regulations • Prudent utilization of resources and citizen-centred programming
15.	Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic investments • Compliance with applicable laws and regulations • Adhere to environmental and social safeguards • Undertake Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an enabling environment • Ensure laws and regulations are implemented • Accountability and transparency • Co-creation of projects and programmes • Collaboration and Partnerships with stakeholders • Disseminate projects information
16.	Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information • Adhere to laws and regulations • Uphold accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accurate information • Create an enabling environment • Implement laws and regulations • Transparency
17.	Academia and research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research • Disseminate research information • Capacity development • Resource mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide data and information • Partnership in research projects and programmes • Disseminate and promote uptake of research findings

S/No	Stakeholders	Role	Expectation of Stakeholders
18.	Public officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to laws and regulations • Implement projects and programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance with laws and regulations
19.	Financial institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to laws and regulations • Provide financing and credit facilities • Promote saving culture • Provide risk transfer instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create enabling policy environment • Ensure laws and regulations are implemented • Accountability and transparency
20.	IGAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote regional development and integration • Formulate regional policies and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honor regional obligations • Implement regional policies and strategies
21.	Pastoralists' Parliamentary Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for development of pastoral areas • Resource mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement projects and programmes • Adherence to laws and regulations • Prudent utilization of resources and citizen-centred programming
22.	ASALs stakeholder forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate ASALs stakeholders' forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and partnership in ASALs development
23.	ASALs Development Partners' Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and harmonization of development partner interventions in ASALs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide policy direction • Co-creation in development programming

Annex 3: ASALs Map on Geographical Dimension and Description



Characteristics of ASALs

- i. Low Rainfall: ASALs are defined by their aridity, with annual rainfall ranging from 300 to 800 mm, but often sporadic.
- ii. High Temperatures: These regions experience consistently high temperatures.
- iii. Frequent Windstorms: ASALs are also prone to frequent windstorms.
- iv. Poor Vegetation Cover: The arid conditions lead to sparse vegetation cover.
- v. Fragile Soils: The soils are often fragile and susceptible to degradation.

Annex 4: Evaluation Matrix

Policy Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline		Mid-Term Evaluation	End of Plan Period Evaluation		Remarks	Correction Intervention
			Value	Year	Achievement		Actual (F)		
Strengthen peace and conflict management for harmonious co-existence among the ASALs communities in Kenya and across border									
Strengthen climate mitigation and adaptation through increased climate financing									

Enhance adaptive capacities of the ASALs communities									
Develop value chains and market linkages for jobs and wealth creation									
Optimize utilization of existing land and land-based and water resources to facilitate economic development									

Annex: 5 Monitoring Matrix

Expected Output	Output Indicator	Annual Target (A)	Quarter for Year			Cumulative to Date			Remarks	Correction Intervention
			Target (B)	Actual (C)	Variance D=(C-B)	Target (E)	Actual (F)	Variance (F-E)		