



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs) Committee

Background

The Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs) Committee was constituted to consider all matters relating to development of Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs).



Figure 1: Ongoing Infrastructural development in Mandera County

The committees' mandate revolves around:

1. Policy and legal proposals on issues of food security and drought management in ASALs
2. Equalization fund
3. International best practices.

The committee provides technical assistance in terms of correspondence, inquiry, research, policy analysis, and resource development for county governments across a range of policy issues. These matters aim at promoting sustainable economic growth in the counties.

Legal framework for the Committee's activities

The primary source of legislation on the Committee's activities is the Constitution of Kenya. Article 56 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 states that the State shall put in place

affirmative action programmes designed to ensure that minorities and marginalized groups :-

- a. Participate in governance and other spheres of life;
- b. Provided special opportunities in educational, employment and other economic fields;
- c. Develop their cultural values, languages and practices; and
- d. Have reasonable access to water, health services and infrastructure

Similarly, the provisions of the Constitution Article 174 on devolved government underscore the importance of the interests, rights of the minorities and Marginalised communities.



Figure 2: Ongoing road works in Garisa County

The Constitution provides reference to the Climate-proofed Infrastructure policy, 2014; Common Programme Framework, 2014; Drought Risk Management, 2014; Human Capital, 2014; Institutional Development - Knowledge Management, 2014; Peace and Security, 2014; Sustainable Livelihoods, 2014; Kenya Vision 2030 Sector Plan for DRM and EDE - 2013-17; Sessional Paper on National policy for development of ASALs; Vision 2030 Development strategy for ASALs; Vision 2030 Abridged version.

Opportunities

The Committee work places emphasis on interventions aimed at:

- a) Direct investments in water to improve production and livelihoods
- b) County level planning and community focused interventions
- c) Private sector development and investments.

Resources

The committee develops and maintains a variety of research, technical and advisory resources on Arid and Semi Arid Lands.

Status Briefs : The Committee is currently involved in the review, development and implementation of policy documents, collection and analysis of food security, drought situation and early warning reports.

Our Approach



Figure 3: Newly built County secondary school, Isiolo

The Committee seeks to achieve its objectives and mandate through the following ways:

1. Strengthening inter-county coordination of ASALs development needs
2. Mainstreaming cross-county ASAL issues into legal and policy frameworks
3. Providing linkage between County governments and stakeholders
4. Regular monitoring of status of devolution implementation in ASAL regions

5. Comprehensive communication on impacts of devolution in ASAL counties to all stakeholders



Figure 4: Ongoing aquaculture in Mandera County

Our Impact

The Committees' contribution to the implementation of the devolved system of governance is largely on course. The required legislation, regulations, systems and structures are at various stages of operationalization. The progress made so far sets the foundation for the realization of the objects and principles of devolved government as provided for in Articles 174 and 175 of the Constitution respectively.



Figure 5: County government Mega Farming project

Success at County Level

The Committee has registered success in building the capacity of county governments and enhancing their knowledge on ASAL dynamics. The counties are currently armed with evidence of the efficacy of local adaptive strategies and ability to communicate findings to policymakers.