DLCI

Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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Abbreviations

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
APaD	Agency for Cross-Border Pastoralist Development
AR	African Rangelands
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BETA	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
CECORE	Centre for Conflict Resolution
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CLMC	Community Land Management Committee
CPF	Common Programming Framework
DLCI	Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative
EAC	East African Community
EDE	Ending Drought Emergencies
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council
IDDRSI	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
ISID	Indigenous Strategy and Institution for Development
JO	Jameel Observatory
KHH	Karamoja Herders of the Horn
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MTP	Medium-Term Plan
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NLD&PS	National Livestock Development & Promotional Service
NSC	National Steering Committee
PDMIS	Presidential Delivery Management Information System
PLS	Pastoralist Leadership Summit
PPG	Pastoralist Parliamentary Group
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TCCF	The Coca-Cola Foundation
TCF	The Christensen Fund
THRIVE	Towards Holistic Resilience in Vulnerable Environments
UN	United Nations






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DISPLACED AREAS BY INSECURITY













Message from the CEO



2025 was a defining year for the Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI). It marked the moment when dryland voices moved from the margins of national debate to the centre of Kenya's policy, governance, and regional cooperation agenda. Across the drylands, communities demonstrated unity, courage, and renewed agency. Women, elders, youth, and pastoralist leaders meaningfully shaped national conversations and influenced decisions that had long excluded them.

A historic milestone was achieved with the integration of the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit (PLS) resolutions into a Presidential Directive Order, now tracked through the Presidential Delivery Management and Information System (PDMIS). For the first time in Kenya's history, pastoralist priorities are embedded within a national delivery framework under direct presidential oversight, bringing visibility, accountability, and structured follow-up across 22 state departments. This achievement reaffirmed DLCI's role as Secretariat to the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) and as a trusted bridge between pastoralist communities and national policy processes.

At the community level, DLCI supported major advances in Indigenous governance systems. The legal recognition of the Dedha Community Assemblies in Isiolo, resulting from five years of participatory work, affirmed communal land rights under the Community Land Act. Peaceful and credible CLMC elections further demonstrated the maturity of community-driven governance. Engagements with the Gumi Waso Elders, the Lokitonyala community, and the Lorengippi community underscored the enduring role of traditional institutions in safeguarding rangelands, managing resources, preventing conflict, and anchoring peace.

> **To every elder, woman leader, youth champion, the communities, PPG Members, Partners, Donors, and DLCI family, thank you!**

Regionally, DLCI strengthened cross-border governance and climate security across Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan. Work in Kakuma, Moroto, and Lodwar culminated in the establishment of the Ateker Speakers' Forum, a platform that deepens cooperation among legislative bodies, government agencies, civil society, and communities across the Karamoja cluster. The Forum is harmonising approaches to mobility, natural resource management, peacebuilding, and gender inclusion.

In the climate arena, DLCI played a key role in shaping the Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) Common Programming Framework II (2024–2032), reinforcing Kenya's leadership in long-term drought resilience. Our contributions highlighted the value of local knowledge, strengthened rangeland restoration, and supported community-led climate adaptation, positioning drought as a governance challenge requiring sustained investment rather than a natural hazard to be managed episodically.

Institutionally, DLCI experienced growth in influence, visibility, and learning. The team produced 21 articles and opinion pieces, raising public awareness on dryland issues and deepening national engagement. Our expanding partnerships and digital platforms strengthened policy discourse and amplified pastoralist perspectives. Most importantly, communities now affirm: "*This time, we are part of the process.*"

To every elder, woman leader, youth champion, the communities, PPG Members, Partners, Donors, and DLCI family, thank you! Your courage guides our work, your resilience inspires us, and your trust strengthens our resolve.

Our compass remains clear: rights protected in practice, governance that delivers, and a shared national promise to secure all community lands, with no community in Kenya left behind and no animal dying of drought in Kenya, now and forever.

Dr Jarso Mokku
CEO Drylands Learning & Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI)

Looking Ahead to 2026

1. Protecting Community Land Rights

DLCI will intensify fundraising and coordination to accelerate community land registration across dryland counties. We will be part of CSO, leading a national public campaign and advocacy Initiative to accelerate the implementation of the Community Land Act (2016) as part of the International Year of Pastoralism and Rangelands (IYRP) celebration, and to review the 10-year implementation of the Community Land Act (2016). The campaign will demand securing 60% of Kenya's community land by 2030. "No" community should lose ancestral land due to gaps in constitutional protection.

2. Elevating Women and Youth Leadership

Strengthening Dryland's governance requires aligning power with responsibility. Elders remain custodians of culture and peace, but women and youth increasingly drive daily resilience, innovation, and accountability.

3. Ensuring No Region Is Left Behind

DLCI will expand partnerships to support the full implementation of the 4th PLS resolutions and to embed Indigenous knowledge and resilience into national and county planning. It will lead a public national campaign and advocacy initiative to reduce drought-related livestock mortality and build dryland resilience. Protect pastoralist livelihoods through evidence-based, policy-aligned, and community-led interventions. No pastoralist child should inherit a life shaped by drought, and No animal should die of drought in Kenya—not now, not ever.

4. Equalisation Fund Reform

DLCI is advocating for a shift in the Equalisation Fund policy under Article 204, from fragmented microprojects to a "Big 30" macrotransformation agenda that restores constitutional integrity, resolves the Kshs 45B arrears breach, and delivers genuine equalisation for marginalized regions before the Fund's 2030 sunset.















Executive Summary

In 2025, DLCI advanced inclusive development across Kenya's drylands and borderlands through evidence-based advocacy, coordinated policy processes, and locally driven initiatives. A total of **19,814 stakeholders**, including women, youth, community leaders, government officials, private-sector actors, and regional institutions, participated in policy dialogues, peace & land registration meetings, community & government officials' trainings, and implementation forums.

A major national milestone was the integration of the 4th PLS Resolutions into the Presidential Monitoring Information System-PDMIS, enabling multi-ministerial coordination across six thematic areas under direct presidential oversight. This strengthened national alignment and accelerated implementation of the president's commitments, issued at the closing ceremony of the 4th PLS in Wajir County.

DLCI worked closely with the State Department of Land Adjudication and the Registrar of community lands to strengthen natural resource governance by supporting the legal recognition of the Dedha (rangelands) community assemblies in Isiolo. This includes the Kinna–Kulamawe–Gotu Dedha Community Assembly, which facilitates peaceful CLMC elections and reinforces land governance through forums such as the Gumi Waso Elders Gathering. Field learning missions in Turkana and West Pokot assessed and addressed anticipated resource conflicts and promoted concurrent community land registration as a conflict-prevention strategy.

On climate resilience, DLCI contributed to the development of the EDE CPF II (2024–2032), deepening Kenya's leadership in drought risk management and community-led adaptation. Regionally, DLCI facilitated cross-border parliamentary, local assembly, community leadership, and policy processes among Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan, including support for the formation and development of the Ateker Speakers' Forum, which aims to harmonise frameworks on mobility, peacebuilding, natural resource management, and gender inclusion.

DLCI amplified its thought leadership through 21 publications and expanded partnerships with government agencies, state corporations, international NGOs, and the private sector. This includes the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the National Livestock Development & Promotion Services (NLDPS), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), LANDESA, the Future Growth Forum, and others. In summary, 2025 was a year of strengthened policy engagement, institutional growth, and measurable community impact.

> **A historic milestone was achieved with the integration of the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit (PLS) resolutions into a Presidential Directive Order**



Organizational Overview

DLCI continues to serve as a regional thought leader in policy, governance, and drylands advocacy. As the Secretariat to the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG), DLCI facilitated legislative influence, evidence-based decision-making, and built new partnerships that secure land rights, improve governance, promote peace, strengthen social inclusion, and advance climate adaptation.

Vision:

Dryland communities are empowered and placed at the centre of all development interventions.

Mission:

To strengthen policy formulation and implementation that responds to the needs and rights of dryland and Indigenous communities in the Horn of Africa.







Strategic Pillars

Our work is anchored on two strategic pillars:

1. Policy Dialogue & Legislative Influence

DLCI convenes high-level national, county, and regional policy dialogues while supporting the PPG, the largest thematic caucus in the National Assembly. In the 13th Parliament, the PPG has 102 members, including 25 women parliamentarians and 2 EALA members, representing 10+ million pastoralists across 15 counties and 66 constituencies. We support legislative reforms and track policy implementation across land rights, climate adaptation, livestock systems, and peacebuilding. Our online policy repository provides consolidated access to evidence for decision-makers and policy tracking.

2. Partnerships & Coordination Platforms

DLCI catalyses collaboration among government, research institutions, CSOs, private-sector actors, and community networks. We promote system-level transformation in dryland development by strengthening trust, unlocking investment, and enabling coordinated action.





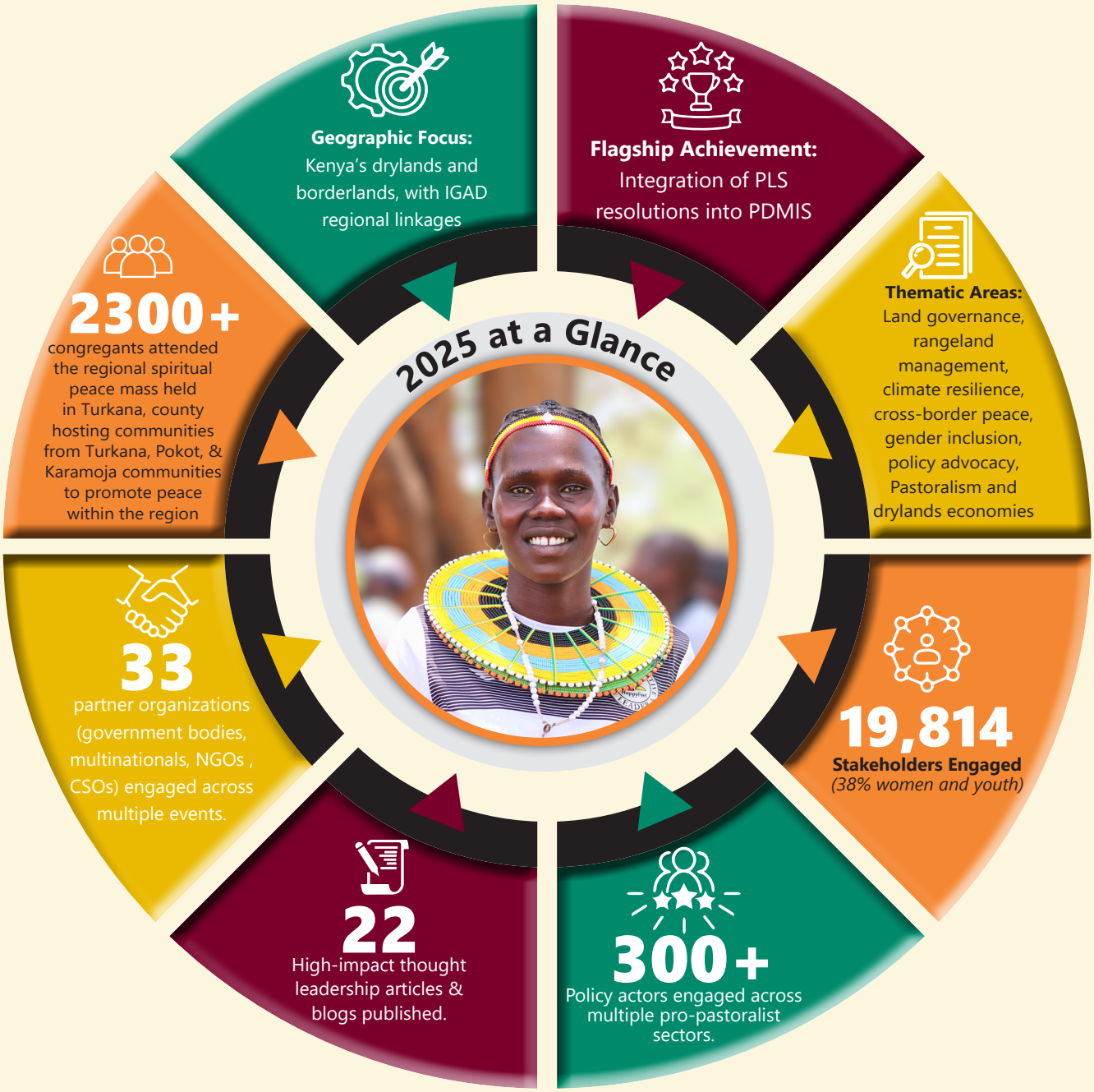




Program Highlights and Achievements



2025 at a Glance



Natural Resource Governance

Community Land Governance & Registration: Kinna–Kulamawe–Gotu Dedha

The Kina–Kulamawe–Gotu Dedha Community Assembly was established following a five-year participatory process that involved elders, women, youth, cooperatives, conservancies, and county and national government stakeholders. Its legal recognition under Legal Notice No. 10357 (August 23, 2024) formalised community authority under the Community Land Act (2016).

The Assembly has 7,000+ registered members. Demarcated and agreed on rangeland boundaries where the community has prepared and submitted its sketch map and member register, and its bylaws to the Community Land Registrar-Isiolo/ Marsabit.

In June 2025, the Registrar issued a notice to conduct CLMC elections. Following civil society support to uphold procedures, peaceful elections were held on July 10, 2025, across all seven locations in the Kinna, Kulamawe, and Gotu Dedha.

Key Achievements

The key achievement of this process is the legal recognition of the Dedha Assembly under Notice No. 10357. Over 7,000 registered members are now legally registered. The foundational governance documents have been completed, including the bylaws that the community will use to administer and manage the community land. This process resulted in very peaceful and legitimate Kinna-Kulamawe-Gotu Dedha CLMC elections. This has strengthened public trust in the community's lawful land registration and ancestral lands.

> **Key outcomes of the mission were improved conflict-prevention strategies and enhanced readiness for community land registration.**

Gumi Waso Pastoralist Elders Gathering (Isiolo)

The two-day gathering brought together **183 delegates** from five Dedha territories, Sericho, Garbatulla, KinnaKulamaweGotu, Chari, and Cherab, to address delays in community land registration and strengthen natural resource governance. Delegates resolved to accelerate registration, engage in structured follow-up meetings, and apply Alternative Dispute Resolution to prevent escalation of tensions.



Environmental concerns, such as forest degradation and grazing pressure from cross-country mobility, were prioritised. The key outcome of this community dialogue was strengthened legal awareness and governance. Improved coordination for rangeland security, enhanced community autonomy, and reformed structured community decision-making.



THRIVE Field Visit

The field visit to West Pokot validated project progress and highlighted the need for concurrent land registration in Lokitonyala and Lorrengippi in Turkana County to ensure sustainable outcomes. The mission's key achievement was the strengthening of donor–community–government relations. Field validation of project results and clear priorities for future project implementation.













Field Learning Mission (Lorengippi, Turkana)

The mission addressed land governance challenges and conflict risks. Consultations emphasised secure land tenure as a conflict-prevention mechanism and improved coordination across border communities. Key outcomes of the mission were improved conflict-prevention strategies and enhanced readiness for community land registration.



Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation

DLCI continued to support the development of the **EDE CPF II (2024–2032)** following the 2021 Mid-Term Review, which identified gaps in financing, coordination, and inclusion. CPF II aligns with BETA and MTP IV (2023–2027), strengthening multi-sectoral drought resilience, institutional systems, and knowledge management.



Policy Advocacy and Community Inclusion

Cross-Border Peace and Climate Engagements

The series of June 2025 forums in **Moroto (Uganda)** and **Kakuma (Kenya)** brought together legislators, government officials, CSOs, and development partners. Outcomes included recommendations to strengthen governance, harmonise mobility policies, invest in infrastructure, and formally adopt the Moroto Resolutions. The way forward was government commitment to the process, including the appointment of a Special Envoy. Establishment of follow-up mechanisms. Alignment with IGAD's Transhumance Protocol. Strengthened local leadership roles and formal endorsement of the Moroto Resolutions by the political leadership.



Cross Border Policy Engagement

DLCI convened a cross-border policy engagement forum, resulting in the establishment of the **Ateker Speakers' Forum** and a cross-border action plan. The National Policy Dialogue further advanced a BorderlandFirst Approach, emphasising Indigenous governance, gender inclusion, peace, and climate resilience. The key outcomes of this process were enhanced gender and community inclusion. Strengthened policy coherence and clear direction for cross-border natural resource management.











National Private Sector Dialogue

The National Private Sector Dialogue on the Investment Framework for Unlocking Prosperity in Kenya's Drylands through Responsible Investment was held on 25th September 2025, at the Serena Hotel, Nairobi. The dialogue was convened by the Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI), in partnership with Landesa, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Jameel Observatory (International Livestock Research Institute-ILRI).

The dialogue brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including community leaders, Community Land Management Committees (CLMC), government officials, private sector. investors, development partners, researchers, academia, and civil society organizations. The discussions focused on identifying pathways to unlock the socioeconomic potential of Kenya's drylands through responsible, inclusive, and sustainable investment.

Participants underscored the importance of promoting multifunctional value chains, equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, and structured, community-centered engagement frameworks to ensure that investments in the drylands drive both prosperity and resilience. The dialogue also served as a platform to reflect on the emerging community-centered investment framework, providing insights into policy coherence, community participation, and the private sector's roles in transforming dryland economies.





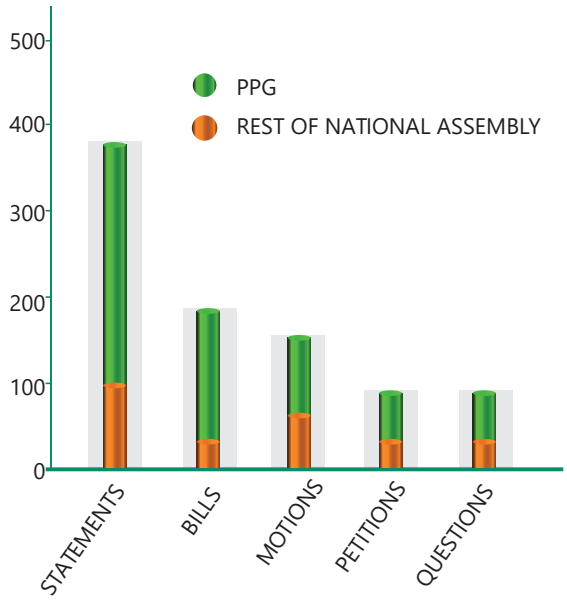





Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG)-Policy Influence

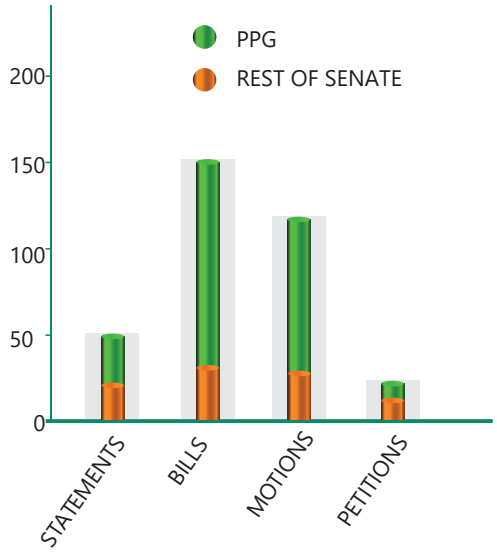
DLCI strengthened PPG's institutional profile through communications, evidence generation, and public awareness efforts, supporting members of the parliamentary caucus through advocacy on dryland issues.

The National Assembly



Label	PPG	Rest of National Assembly
Statements	105	339
Bills	15	249
Motions	59	151
Petitions	13	89
Questions	8	73

The Senate



Label	PPG	Rest of Senate
Statements	14	25
Bills	19	131
Motions	25	100
Petitions	2	12



Implementation of the 4th PLS Resolutions

Following integration into PDMIS, thematic implementation meetings across six sectors clarified roles, prioritised actions and developed a delivery roadmap. The following key achievements have been realised: the Head of Public Service appointed the State Department of ASAL to the overall coordination role, which developed an oversight structure for the full implementation of all thematic areas and mechanisms of period review, thereby improving and securing the national–county alignment. DLCI, as the Secretariat of the PPG, and FCDC, as the Secretariat of the Governors, were appointed to the steering committee's Secretariat, overseeing the coordination of PLS resolution implementation across multi-government agencies.











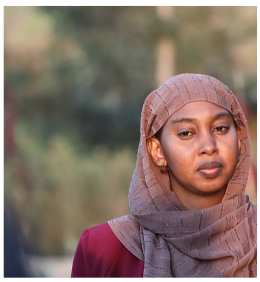
Thematic Areas

Pastoralism and Livestock Sector Development





















Peace and Security – Addressing Confilcts in Pastoralist Areas












Securing Community Land Rights, Climate Change Mitigation and Environmental Protection
















Gender, Youth and emerging Issues
























Human Capital Development in Pastoralist Communities





















Infrastructure and Mega Projects

















Impact Stories

Case 1: Dedha Community Assembly

Legal recognition led to strengthened governance, broader participation, and increased confidence in lawful resource management and investment pathways.



Case 2: Gumi Waso Elders Gathering

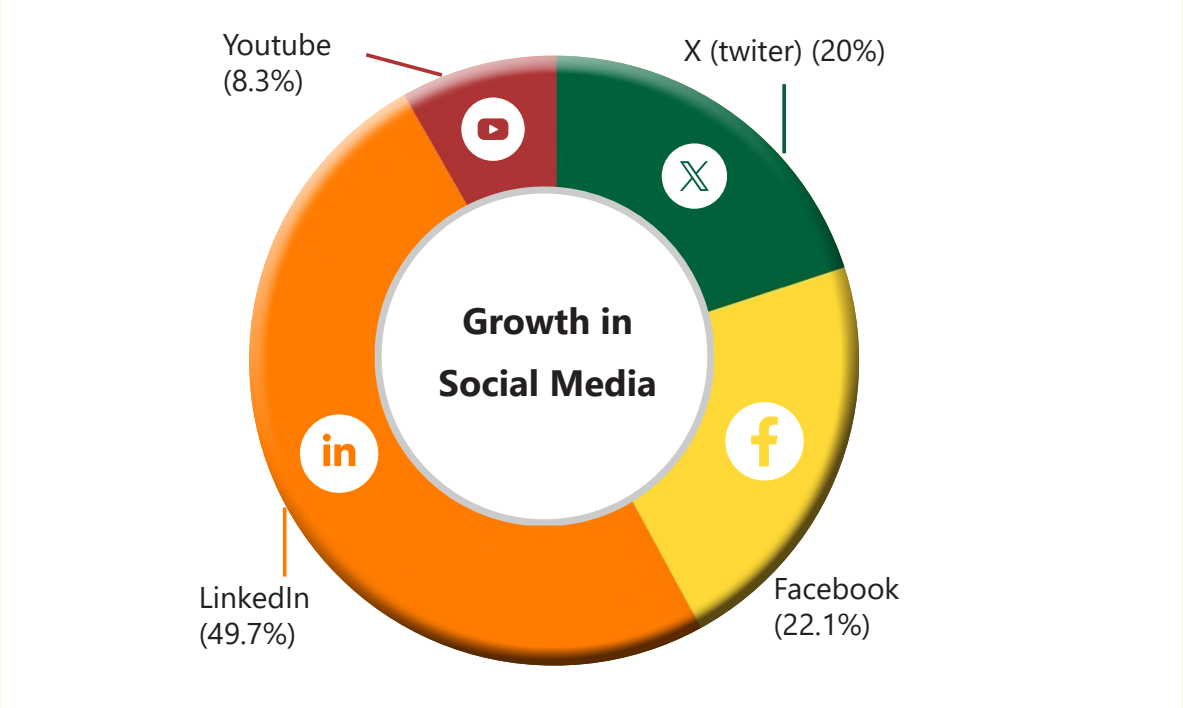
The community-owned governance model improved cohesion, strengthened autonomy, and accelerated progress on land registration.

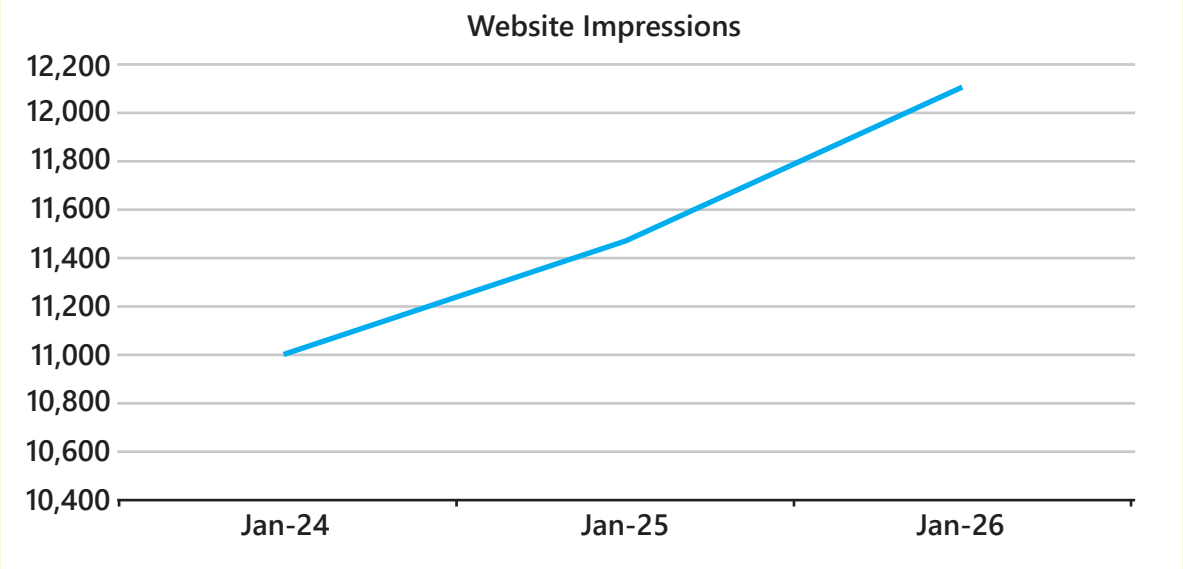


Communications & Knowledge Management

DLCI produced **21 articles** and expanded its digital footprint through weekly thematic content. Every day was dedicated to a thematic area: (#Governance on Monday, #Impact on Tuesday, #Resilience on Wednesday, #Policy on Thursday, #Community Voices on Friday). Engagement with PPG and national-level media platforms further increased visibility.

Growth in Social Media Impressions across platforms

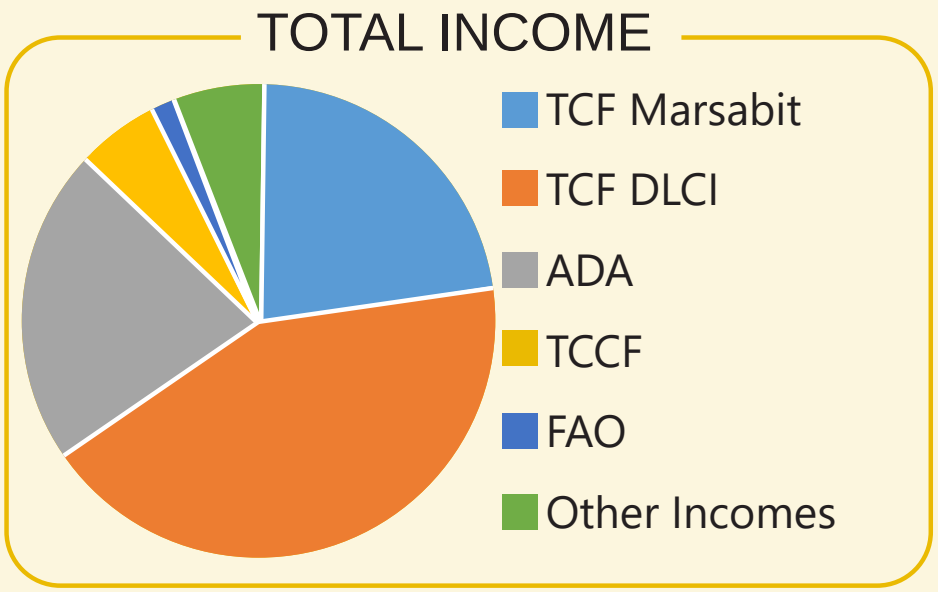




Financial Summary

DLCI managed a diversified donor portfolio with strong emphasis on accountability, value for money, and alignment with impact priorities.

Project	Total Income
TCF Marsabit	9,504,845
TCF DLCI	18,295,100
Saferworld	9,320,381
Acted	2,287,502
Fao	548,755
Other Incomes	2,534,574
	42,491,158



Institutional Strengthening & Governance

DLCI enhanced and strengthened its governance systems, improved documentation and communication processes, and deepened adaptive learning across programmes. As the Secretariat of both the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) and the Pastoralist Leadership Summit (PLS), DLCI played a central convening role—expanding partnerships, strengthening coordination mechanisms, and elevating pastoralist priorities within national and regional platforms.

DLCI cemented new and stronger partnerships by signing Memorandum of Understanding with NDMA, NLD&PS, Landesa, ILRI/Jameel Observatory and the Future Growth Forum. These collaborations broadened technical depth, enhanced reporting and coordination systems, and deepened policy influence across the dryland Counties and beyond.

Partnerships and networks

DLCI also broadened its partnerships and networks within Kenya and across the region. Key collaborations include: Danish Refugee Council; Ateker Cultural Center; Karamoja (Uganda); Organisation for Pastoral Peace and Development (OPPD); Embassy of Ireland; DANIDA; Mercy Corps Uganda and Kenya; GIZ Uganda; Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE); Karamoja Herders of the Horn; Agency for Cross Border Pastoralists (APAD); Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organisation (LOKADO); Landesa; universities and research institutions;Edinburgh University, AU IBAR on Livestock Data Ecosystems; and the IGAD Centre for Climate Prediction and Applications (ICPAC).

Our Donors and Partners:

THE CHRISTENSEN FUND

THE Coca-Cola FOUNDATION

Austrian Development Agency

SVCF SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

acted

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SAFERWORLD
PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

Our Partners

Landesa

NLDPS

NDMA

APaD

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KARAMOJA HERDERS of the HORN

FUTURE GROWTH FORUM

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

FCDC

JAMEEL OBSERVATORY



