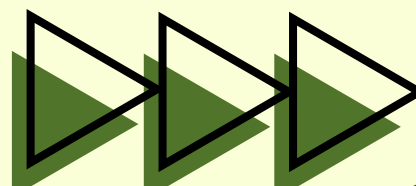




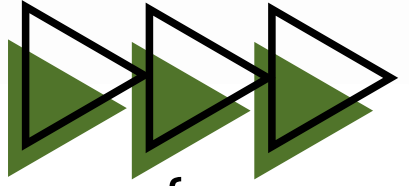
# Annual Report

2025





# Who we are



Paran Women Group was founded in 2005 by a group of visionary Indigenous women who recognized the urgent need to address issues around gender inequality, environmental degradation, and economic vulnerability in Narok County. The word “Paran” means togetherness in the local Maasai dialect, symbolizing unity and collective strength. Today, the organization brings together 64 women groups, representing over 3,800 women from various parts of Narok County. Guided by the principles of equality, sustainability, and respect for Indigenous knowledge, Paran Women Group promotes holistic development through women’s leadership, environmental conservation, and socio-economic empowerment.

Paran Resource and Knowledge Centre, located in Ololulunga, serves as the heart of the organization’s operations. It is a training center where workshops, community meetings, and skill-building sessions take place. The center also hosts a demonstration farm, tree nursery, and safe shelter for women and girls seeking protection from gender-based violence.



# Message from the Director

It is with deep gratitude and renewed purpose that I present the 2025 Annual Report of Paran Women Group. This year has been one of remarkable progress, driven by the commitment of our members and the strength of our community.

Throughout the year, we expanded our environmental restoration work across Narok County, strengthening tree nurseries, restoring degraded land, and scaling up our beekeeping, kitchen gardening, and climate-smart agriculture initiatives. These activities have improved household incomes, increased food security, and empowered women to take leadership roles in conservation. Women reported better harvests, increased honey production, and greater confidence in managing their own livelihood projects.

This year also marked a major milestone as Paran Women's Group received the FAO Global Forestry Production and Protection Recognition in Rome. This global honor affirmed the impact of our work and the importance of Indigenous women's leadership in forest protection and climate resilience.

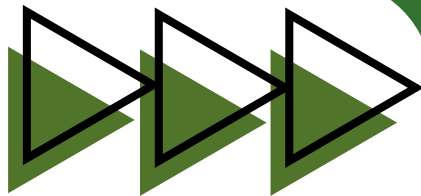
Our 3,800 members across 64 groups continued to support girls' education, uphold women's rights, and provide safe community spaces for survivors of violence. Many families reported improved well-being, strengthened unity, and renewed hope as a result of these efforts. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our members, the guidance of our elders, and the ongoing support of our partners, the Youths, and the entire community.

*As we reflect on a year of meaningful impact, we remain committed to protecting our environment, strengthening women's livelihoods, and shaping a resilient future for our community. Together, we continue to grow hope for generations to come.*

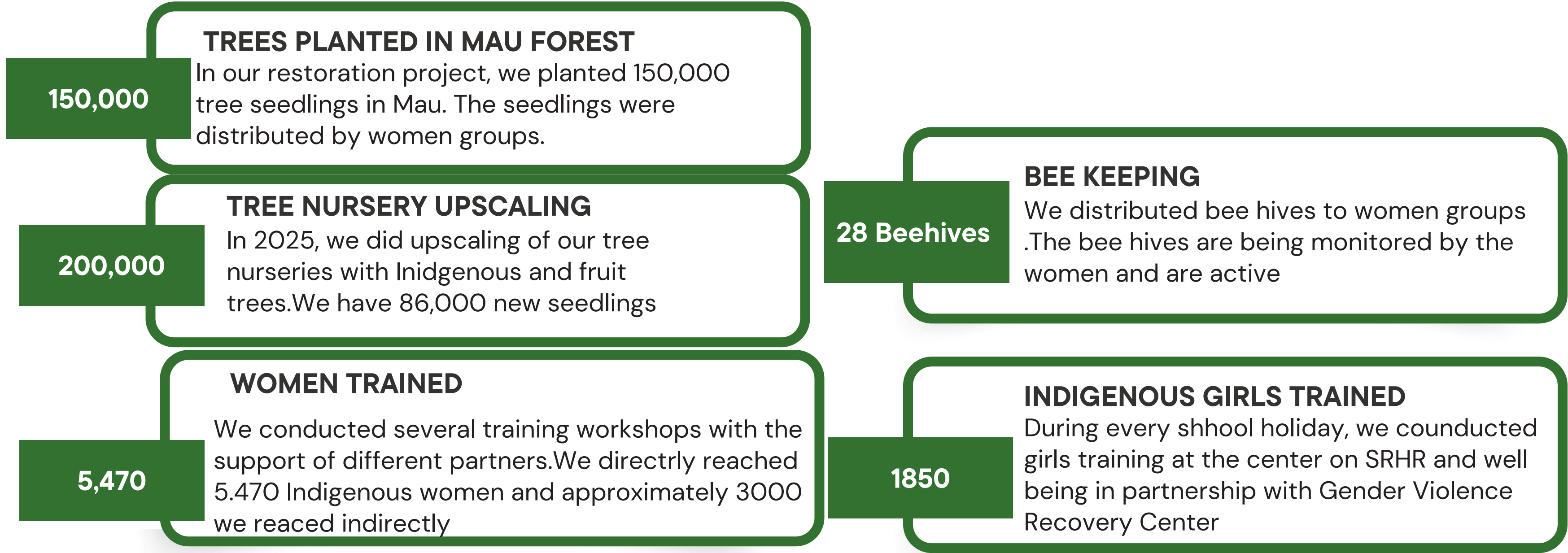


**Executive Director, Paran women group, Naiyan Kiplagat**

# Impact at a Glance



In 2025, our community grew stronger, together. From the seeds we planted in our nurseries to the knowledge we shared among the women ,youth and the community at large, every number you see here is a story of our collective power. It’s the story of mothers feeding families from their gardens, of daughters learning in school without fear, and of elders and youth side-by-side, healing our land.





# Our Areas of Impact



## Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Unpredictable rainfall and declining soil fertility in Narok County have continued to threaten food security, leaving many families vulnerable. In response, our Climate-Smart Agriculture programme focused on practical, hands-on training designed to equip women with the skills to create real change.

This year, 5,470 women participated in field-based sessions on sustainable land management. They learned to make compost pits, use mulch to conserve moisture, practice intercropping to improve soil health, and prepare organic pesticides using local plants. A key priority was reviving indigenous, drought-resistant crops such as amaranth, spider plant, and nightshade. We organized cooking demonstrations, where women not only learned how to prepare these foods but also reconnected with traditional, nutritious, and climate-resilient diets.



**Women during cooking demonstration**

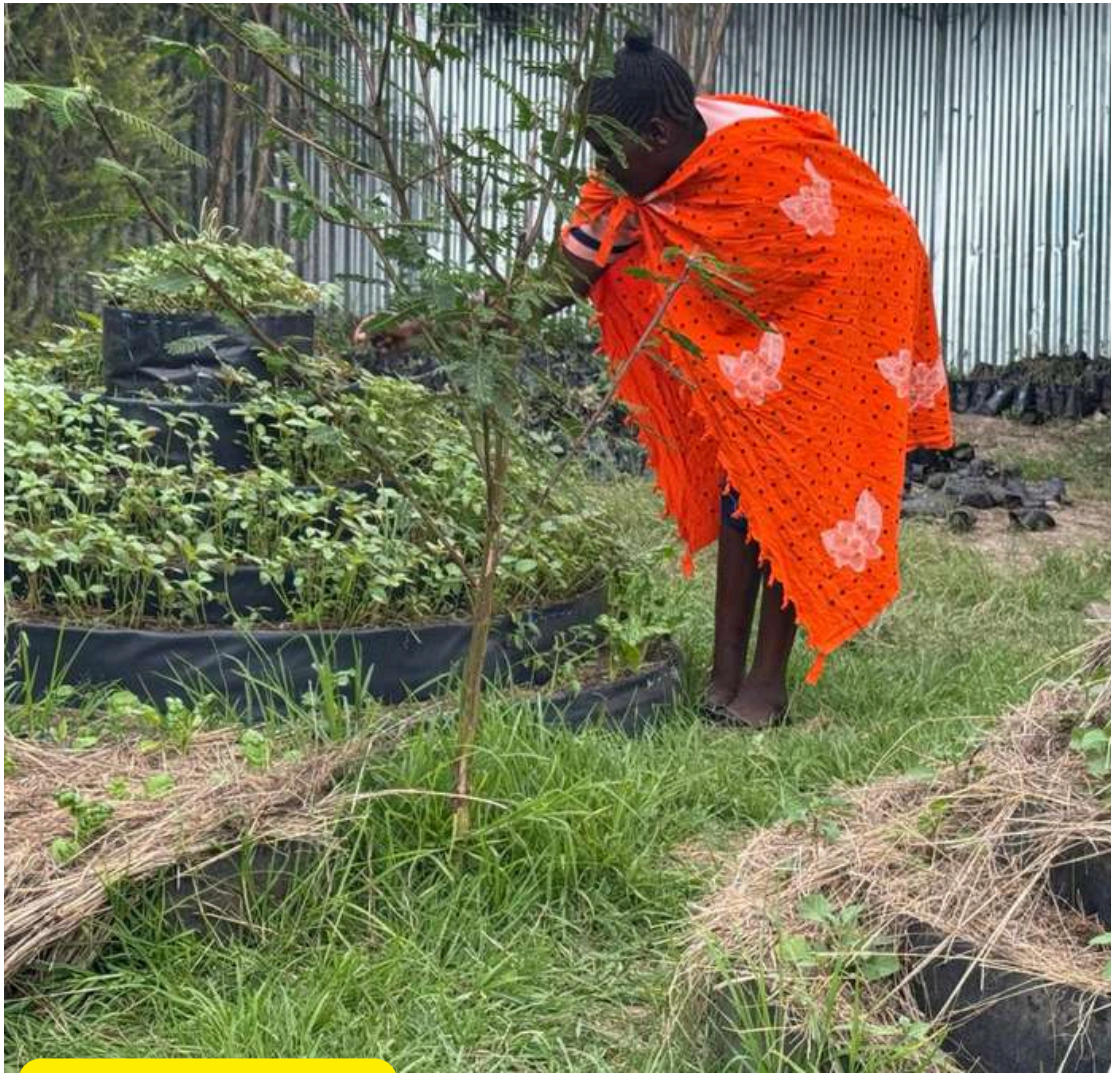


**Training on Smart Agriculture**

Kitchen gardens became one of the most impactful outcomes. Using affordable, locally available materials, women established small home gardens that now provide a steady supply of vegetables and, in many cases, surplus produce for sale. Families report better nutrition and increased income, while many women share that they feel more confident and valued in their homes and communities.



Still on food security, we trained women and youth on innovative kitchen gardening techniques. These methods were selected for their ability to maximize production within limited space, reduce pressure on land, and build climate-resilient household farming systems. The training introduced three key garden models that proved highly effective



**Tyre Gardens**

Participants were taught how to repurpose old tyres into productive garden beds. Women and youth reported increased vegetable yields from these compact, raised beds, especially leafy greens.



**Hanging Gardens**

Hanging gardens provided a creative solution by using simple materials such as recycled containers, ropes, and sacks. This technique promotes smart water use, reduces pest pressure, and is easy to maintain even in small homesteads.



**Conical Garden**

This is a space-efficient, multi-layered technique suitable for households with limited land. This method reduces water loss and improves nutrient retention. Participants appreciated the ability to produce a variety of vegetables in a small space.

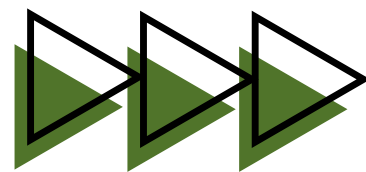


## Environmental Restoration & Conservation

In 2025, our commitment to restoring the vital ecosystems of Narok County remained a primary focus. We advanced this mission through hands-on restoration and community education.

### Key Achievements

- In 2025, 5 community nurseries were established, producing more than 90,000 seedlings. These nurseries included fruit trees like avocado and pawpaw, as well as Indigenous trees such as *Olea africana*, *Croton*, and *Calliandra*.
- A major milestone was the finalization of restoration in two forest blocks covering 150 acres in the Mau Forest.
- Managed to involve schools in tree planting initiatives. This helps young people learn practical skills such as tree planting, nursery management, and ecosystem protection, helping them understand their direct role in safeguarding the environment.



Tree planting in Mau Forest



Tree Planting at Kotolian Primary

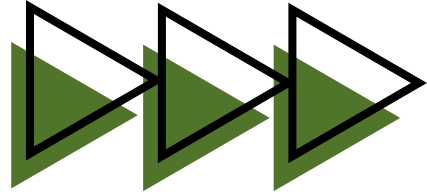


Tree Nursery management





## Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)



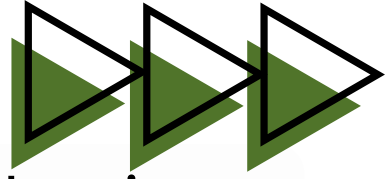
*Our dedication to gender equality is embodied in our work to protect and educate girls, ensuring they can live with dignity and pursue their dreams.*

### Key Programs

- ▶ Conducted transformative empowerment workshops for over 500 girls, providing critical knowledge on the risks of FGM, legal rights, and menstrual hygiene management, supported by the distribution of sanitary towels.
- ▶ Promoted gender inclusion and physical health through the donation of footballs, encouraging teamwork and breaking down gender barriers. To manage this, we included boys in our trainings within primary schools mainly to end gender norms
- ▶ Addressed sensitive topics with courage, laying the groundwork for long-term cultural shifts, despite encountering some initial resistance.







## ***Impact Analysis of Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)***

The impact data captured demonstrates how our efforts are steadily shifting knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours within communities

### ✓ **FGM Awareness – 72% Improvement**

Through targeted workshops and open dialogue, girls demonstrated a much stronger understanding of the dangers associated with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

### ✓ **Menstrual Hygiene Management – 70% Improvement**

With the distribution of sanitary towels and comprehensive menstrual health training, girls reported increased comfort, confidence, and preparedness in managing their cycles

### ✓ **Legal Rights Knowledge – 68% Improvement**

Participants gained a stronger awareness of their rights and how to seek protection. Both women and girls are now aware and confident to come to our safe shelter to seek help in case of any form of violence

### ✓ **Gender Inclusion – 81% Improvement**

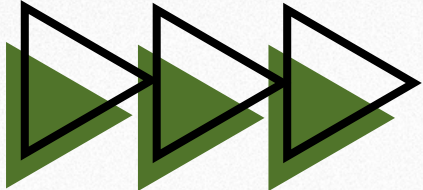
Sports-based empowerment through football allowed girls to participate in activities traditionally dominated by boys. The result was a marked boost in teamwork, confidence, and social inclusion, further breaking down gender barriers in community spaces



**Sports-based training to boost gender inclusion**



# Economic Empowerment: Cultivating Financial Independence



In 2025, the programme continued to strengthen the economic resilience of women, youth, and community groups across our target areas by expanding diversified livelihood options. Through hands-on training, market linkages, and peer learning exchanges, community members acquired practical skills that directly translated into improved livelihoods. Through the support of our partners, we ensure we upscale the income-generating activities, and this has enabled us to achieve sustainability as the organization

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITY	PROGRESS MADE IN 2025	IMPACT ON COMMUNITY
Beadwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conducted skills upgrading workshops on quality, color coordination, and modern designs.</li><li>Linked artisans to local craft markets and exhibitions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased women’s income and financial independence.</li><li>Preservation of cultural identity through traditional craft.</li></ul>
Energy-Saving Stoves & Briquettes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Trained groups on stove construction and briquette production using agricultural waste.</li><li>Supported demonstration sites in households and women’s groups.</li><li>Each household has at least an energy-saving cooking stove</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reduced household fuel costs by up to 60%.</li><li>Lowered pressure on forests since the stoves and briquettes have provided an alternative to charcoal. Charcoal burning has been a huge threat to our environment</li></ul>
Beekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Distributed modern hives and protective gear.</li><li>Trained groups on hive management, harvesting, and post-harvest handling.</li><li>We have 18 Active hives</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved household income from honey and beeswax sales.</li><li>Enhanced pollination and supported ecosystem restoration</li></ul>



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITY	PROGRESS MADE IN 2025	IMPACT ON COMMUNITY
Poultry Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Offered training on improved breeds, feeding, housing, and vaccination.</li><li>Provided starter chicks for group demonstrations.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased egg and chicken supply for nutrition and income.</li><li>Strengthened the resilience of women-headed households.</li></ul>
Tree Nurseries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Established community-led nurseries producing indigenous and fruit seedlings.</li><li>Trained members on nursery management, business planning, and seed collection.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Generated income from the sale of seedlings.</li><li>Supported ongoing landscape restoration and climate adaptation</li></ul>





**Energy Saving Cooking Stoves**



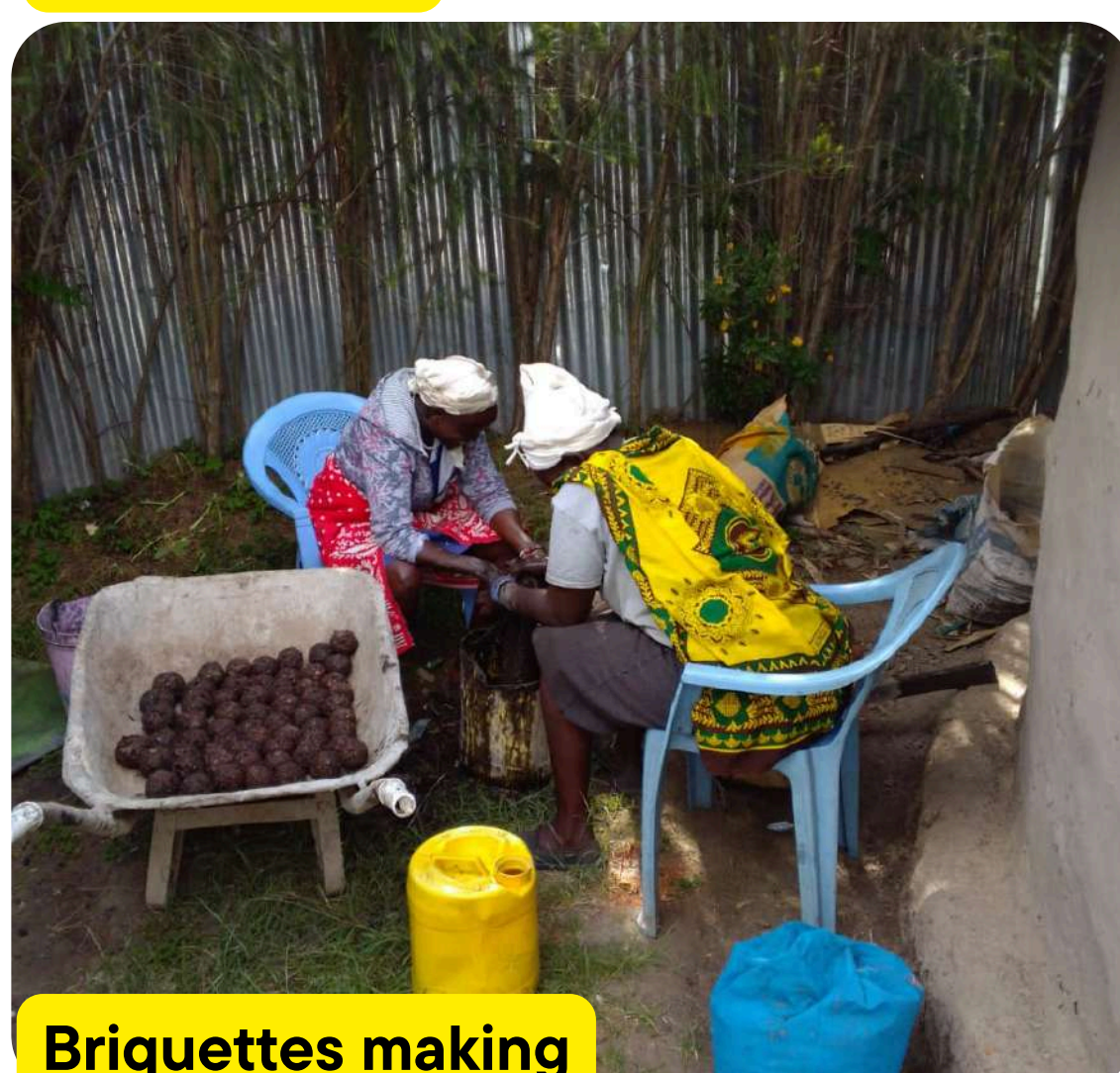
**Tree Nursery**



**Bee Keeping**



**Poultry Farming**



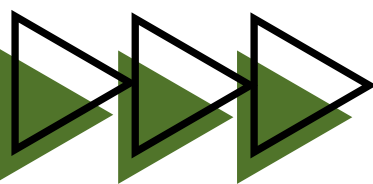
**Briquettes making**



**Beadwork**



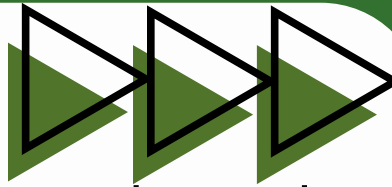
How our Demonstration Farm looks like in 2025





# Events

- **International Women's Day**



We organized and hosted a powerful celebration at Kotolian Resource Center under the theme “Accelerate Action.” The event brought together 250 Indigenous participants, women, youth, elders, and men from various community groups. The gathering aimed to highlight the critical role of women in community development, traditional knowledge preservation, and gender equality. The event served as a vital space for Indigenous women to share experiences, uplift one another, and highlight the progress and challenges in their communities.

The key highlight of the celebration was honoring Naikumuran Shughur, an esteemed elder from Paran Women's Group. Naikumuran is widely respected for her commitment to the transfer of traditional knowledge to women and girls.



The Women honoring Naikumuran Shughur who has been instrumental in transfer of Traditional Knowledge



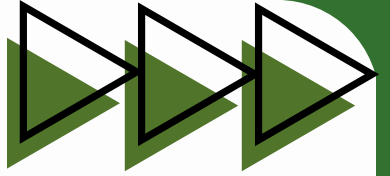
Testimonials from women



County government representation



- **Participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**



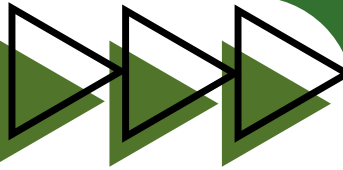
We had the opportunity to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a global platform dedicated to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Our participation amplified the voices of Indigenous women from Narok County, highlighting their leadership in environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and community-driven development. This engagement was made possible through the support of CREAW Kenya, whose partnership strengthened our capacity to advocate for the rights and priorities of Indigenous women at both national and international levels. Through CSW, we contributed to critical dialogues, built new networks, and affirmed our commitment to advancing women's rights and environmental justice.



**Representation at CSW. Photo session with Creaw Kenya team**



- **Mazingira Ambassadors Training and Graduation**



Mazingira Ambassadors Program transformed local environmental and social challenges into opportunities for youth leadership. Over 450 young people completed intensive training in agroforestry, sustainable farming, conflict resolution, and community mobilization.

Equipped with these skills, the graduates are now leading reforestation efforts within their villages, each planting more than 50 trees and using mobile applications to monitor growth and survival rates, successfully blending Indigenous knowledge with modern technology. We thank NOPE and VI Agroforestry for the support throughout the program period



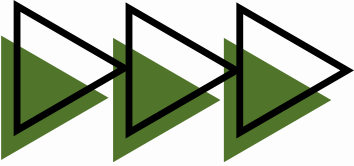
**The Ambassadors during graduation**



**The ambassadors during one of the training session**



## • World Environment Day Celebration



During World Environment Day, we led community-wide activities that brought together women, school children, and local partners to promote environmental stewardship. Women mobilized pupils from nearby schools to plant trees and participate in plastic clean-ups, fostering a culture of responsibility and conservation among younger generations.

### Activities



Women and schoolchildren planted indigenous tree seedlings to support local reforestation efforts.



Girls received training and guidance on menstrual hygiene management to promote dignity, confidence, and school attendance.



Leaders, learners, women and community leaders were sensitized on proper waste management, plastic reduction, and the importance of conserving local ecosystems.



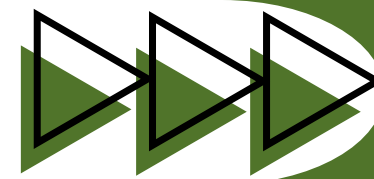
**Girls after menstrual hygiene training**



**Community sensitization Campaign**



- **Exchange visit programs**



In 2025, we had an inter-county exchange visit to Bungoma County, where 250 women and youth participated in a two-day hands-on learning experience. The visit was intentionally designed to expose participants to successful agroecology practices, community-led enterprises, and effective models of land restoration implemented by grassroots groups. The hosting community in Bungoma warmly welcomed the delegation and shared inspiring stories of their transformation from degraded lands to productive, thriving farms. Paran women eagerly asked questions, took notes, and exchanged ideas with their peers. Many participants were particularly inspired by the simple, low-cost agricultural techniques demonstrated, realizing how consistently applied practices can significantly improve yields and restore ecosystems.



**The participants visiting farms and learning different farming techniques**



- **FAO Global Forestry Production and Protection Recognition**

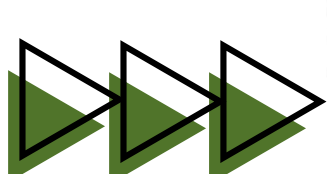
In 2025, we were honored with recognition under the FAO Global Forestry Production and Protection Initiative during FAO's historic 80th anniversary celebrations. This milestone acknowledgment highlighted the group's outstanding contribution to community-led forest restoration and sustainable land management.

The recognition celebrated the dedication of Indigenous women and youth who continue to lead transformative environmental actions across Narok County. Through expanding tree nurseries, promoting indigenous species, and driving large-scale restoration efforts on school and community lands, we have demonstrated strong alignment with global forestry priorities and the FAO's vision for resilient ecosystems.

Being recognized during such a significant global milestone elevated the visibility of our work and reaffirmed the power of grassroots solutions in addressing climate change. It also inspired our members to strengthen their commitment to protecting natural ecosystems and advancing sustainable land stewardship for future generations.

*“Let this recognition inspire continued collaboration between indigenous communities, governments, and international partners. Together we can ensure that forestry production supports both people and planet, that protection strengthens livelihoods and that the voices of indigenous women continue to guide the path towards a sustainable and just.”*

*Naiyan Kiplagat-Director ;Paran women group*





- **Participation at COP 30**

We had the privilege of representing Paran Women Group at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30). This opportunity allowed us to bring the voices, experiences, and solutions of Indigenous women from Narok County to the global climate arena.

As part of this engagement, we also attended the awardees' meeting with the WECF team, where we interacted with fellow women leaders from around the world. The session provided a valuable space for sharing achievements, learning from global best practices, and exploring opportunities for collaboration on gender-responsive climate solutions.

Our presence at COP 30 not only elevated our visibility but also deepened our understanding of climate finance, policy advocacy, and emerging global trends. This experience will inform our future programming and strengthen our contribution to national and international climate initiatives.



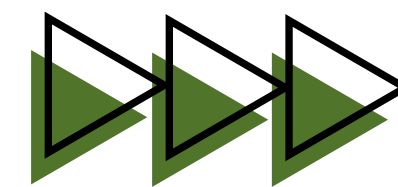
**Presenting about Indigenous women's leadership in climate resilience and ecosystem restoration with WECF team**



**Our team at COP 30**



**A group photo with Gender Just Climate Solutions Awardees**



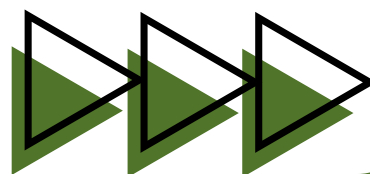


## • 16 Days of Activism



In December 2025, we marked the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence through community engagement in Mara (Itoang), Narok West, and in various parts of Narok South under the theme “Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls.” Implemented in partnership with the Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC), the activity brought together over 250 indigenous women, men, and youth living in and around the conservancy.

The engagement focused on raising awareness of gender-based violence, with a strong emphasis on emerging digital threats affecting women and girls.



Through participatory sessions, community members were trained on digital safety, prevention strategies, reporting mechanisms, and the role of families and local leaders in addressing abuse. The approach promoted inclusive dialogue, youth engagement, and collective responsibility in preventing violence against women and girls in both online and offline spaces.

The activity strengthened community knowledge on gender-based violence and digital safety, contributing to increased awareness and confidence in reporting abuse. Women and girls gained practical information on available support services, while men and youth were actively engaged as allies in prevention efforts. The partnership with GVRC enhanced referral pathways for survivors to access medical and psychosocial support. The initiative fostered community commitment to safer digital practices, gender equality, and sustained advocacy against violence, directly supporting long-term protection and empowerment of indigenous women and girls.





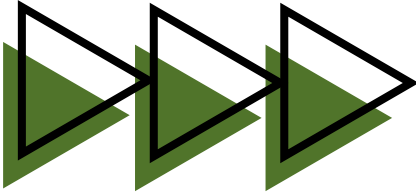


16 days of activism participation in Narok south and west sub counties



Participants learnt on how climate change contribute to Gender based violence and how they can participate in combating the climate change crisis





- **UNEA7 Participation**

We participated in UNEA-7 as co-hosts of a side event on Investing in Women and Youth, Restoring Ecosystems, and Advancing Climate Policy, aligned with our mission to empower Indigenous women and promote community-led ecosystem restoration.

The platform enabled us to showcase our work in Narok County, including restoration of degraded ecosystems, scaling up tree nurseries, and supporting Indigenous women to lead sustainable climate solutions.

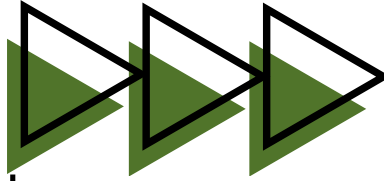
Our engagement reaffirmed our commitment to amplifying women's and youth voices and ensuring grassroots, Indigenous-led actions inform climate and environmental policy.



*Thank you to Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) for the invitation to participate in this event*



- **Board Meetings**



In 2025, we held a series of board and committee meetings to strengthen governance, leadership, and program oversight. Key meetings took place in February, March, June, September, and November, bringing together board members, group leaders, project staff, and partners to review progress, address challenges, and plan strategically.

A major focus was on leadership and governance capacity building, where members received training on roles and responsibilities, transparency, accountability, conflict resolution, and teamwork. The importance of women's leadership in driving community development and economic empowerment was emphasized, alongside discussions on challenges such as cultural barriers and limited resources.

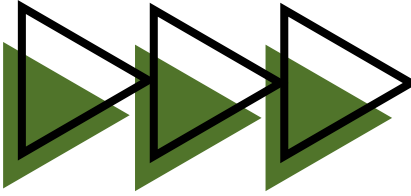
Additionally, they reviewed the women's group's performance and identified areas where improvements might be needed. This will give a clear guide in planning 2026 activities

The Board reviewed the progress of donor-supported activities, including initiatives funded by FIMI and AYNl. While positive impacts were noted, such as improved leadership confidence among women and active group participation, the Board acknowledged the need to accelerate practical implementation of skills gained through training. As a result, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were strengthened to improve accountability and results.

Key resolutions included the introduction of table banking to enhance financial sustainability, improvement of energy-saving cooking solutions, expansion of leadership training at the grassroots level, and continued resource mobilization to sustain programs benefiting Indigenous women.



# Acknowledgements



We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable support and collaboration of our partners, whose contributions were instrumental to the successful implementation of our programmes during the reporting period. Through these partnerships, we benefited from technical expertise, capacity building, joint advocacy, and financial and programmatic support that strengthened our work on women's rights, environmental conservation, climate action, sustainable livelihoods, and community resilience. Our partners played a critical role in amplifying community voices, enhancing institutional capacity, and supporting inclusive and locally driven solutions. We appreciate individual donors who have supported our work and the county government of Narok for the collaborations we have had in the implementation of our project



**Gender Violence Recovery Center (GVRC)**



**Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW Kenya)**



**International Forum of Indigenous Women (FIMI)**



**Women's Environmental Development Organization**



**African Indigenous Women's Organization (AIWO)**



**One Tree Planted**



**VI Agroforestry**



**Women Engage for Common Future**



**World Resource Institute**

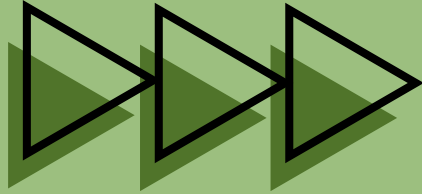


**United Nations Development Programme**



**Vumbuzi Impact Africa Foundation**





# Have a Question?

We're happy to discuss, and you can visit us at Paran Women's Resource and knowledge center

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## X

<https://x.com/paranwomen2019>

