Number of kids and lambs per house

The size of the house and age of kids and lambs will determine the number to keep per house. A medium-sized house of 1 metre diameter can accommodate 7 kids and lambs of 3 months of age.

Benefits of Risayon house

• Labour for handling kids and lambs, house repair and cleanliness is saved. These tasks are usually performed by women and children.

• The house saves on the woodland trees as less wood material is required.

• A well-maintained house can last for about 3 years.

• It significantly reduces the incidence of flies, lice and ticks, predation and the cost of acaricide application.

• For mobile pastoralists, donkeys can be used to transport small and medium-size houses to new settlement sites.

• Kid and lamb mortality reduces from 35 to 10%.
Introduction

Poor housing of kids and lambs in pastoral areas is a major cause of death. The traditional house is made of woody enclosure which exposes them to high draught, predation and parasites. An alternative to the traditional housing enclosures is Risayon mobile house that meets the basic requirement for a good house and has multiple benefits.

How to make the Risayon mobile house

The house takes the shape of half moon and vary in size (small, medium and large).

Materials

Strong wooden sticks of about 1.5-3 meters length and of finger size thickness.

Binding wire, the size used in beads work or wood bark.

Locally available woody species, which can be folded to form a semi-circle without breaking e.g. Grewia, Doum palm and Commiphora species.

Step 1: Foundation frame

Make the foundation of the house frame, by folding together two (2) strong wooden sticks of two (2) finger size thickness to form a circle.

Join the two foundation wooden sticks together by use of binding wire or wood bark.

Step 2: Roof framework

- Fold the 1.5-3 metres length finger size thickness wooden sticks to form a semi-circle and join the ends of the sticks to the opposite ends of the foundation frame.
- The folded wooden sticks in the upper frame should crisscross, close each other and joined together by use of binding wire or wood bark.

Hygiene and maintenance

- Move the house to a new site on daily basis.
- For grazing kids and lambs, turn it upside down to expose the ticks, lice and flies to the sun’s heat. This will keep the house free of parasites.
- After weaning the kids and lambs, keep the house for use in the future. Keep it above ground, and in shaded area to protect from termites attack and intense heat. Repair the wooden binding material from time to time since kids and lambs destroy it.