



project

2nd National ECD Stakeholders Conference, July 25-26

ECD IN URBAN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS OF
NAIROBI; REFLECTIONS FROM HOLISTIC
INTEGRATED APPROACHES WITH BABY-CARE
SETTINGS.

The Babycares Consortium

Group assembled in 2017 as an outcome of the BBF Project

Why We Formed

- Growing research that First 1000 Days are most critical for child development
- Recognition that majority of children in informal settlements access 'babycares'
- Limited policies or government spending focused on children Age 0-3 & daycares
- Only a handful of organizations working with daycares; opportunity to share best-practices & stronger voice as a collective
- Opportunity for women's economic empowerment through daycares

Key Objectives

1. Advocate for progressive policies & increased spending for children under 3
2. Bridge the gap between various sectors (health, nutrition, education & women's empowerment) related to young children
3. Coordinate our collective reach to engage in larger efforts across the county
4. Share best practices & avoid duplication

Kidogo: Hubs & Spokes Model

Spokes Officers

We train & deploy certified field staff to connect Hubs & Spokes

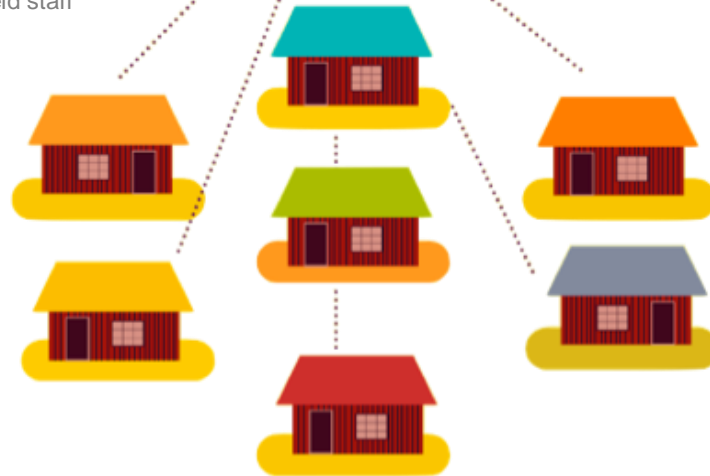
- In-centre mentorship
- Quality assurance



Kidogo Hubs

We design & operate high-quality model ECD centres for a select community

- Centre of excellence
- Training facility
- Parent & community engagement



Mamapreneur Spokes

We partner with local women to start or improve childcare micro-businesses to serve their local community.

- Facility renovation & set-up
- Starter kit / curriculum materials
- Ongoing training & mentorship

The Kidogo Way



Designing
Child-Friendly
Environments



Training
Childcare / ECD
Professionals



Developing
Play-Based
Curriculum



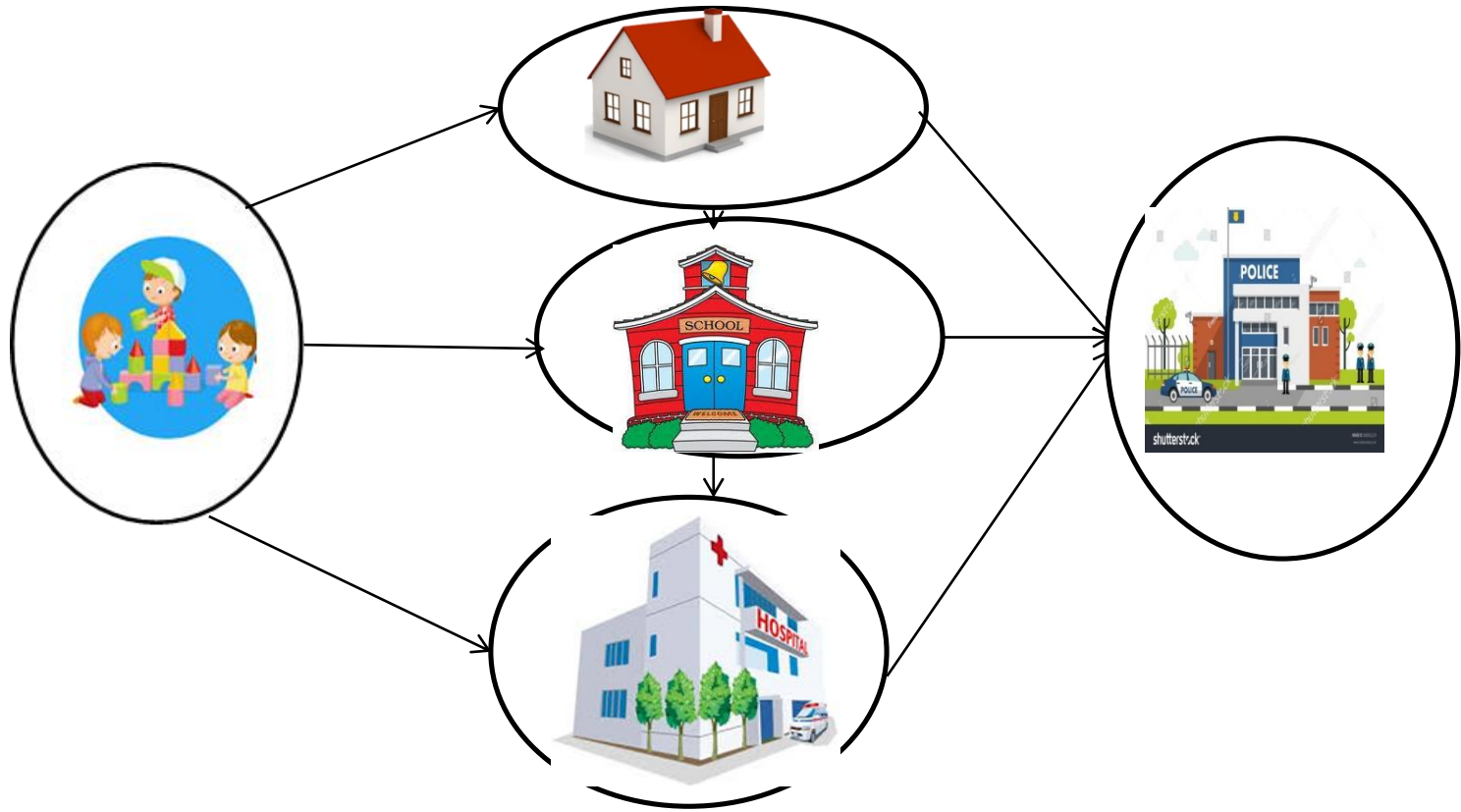
Integrating
Health &
Nutrition



Engaging
Parents &
Communities



Integrated ECD Referral pathways



AKF/Daraja 1- learnings

BBF Model of implementation is scalable!

- Partnering to increase quality ECD with already existing (organic) Babycare centres is sustainable for informal settlement contexts.
- Training of government officers as ToT (Master Trainers) ensures continuity of knowledge and skills even after a project funding phase
- Working through Community Health Volunteers (attached to health department) as 'change agents' in the community – helps with the 'hardest to reach communities'
- Linkages of Babycares to the nearest government health facilities ensures easy and timely access to other services offered in the facility, such as referrals.

SPEC intervention – rides on lessons learnt from Babycares:

- Integrating child protection to ECD – formative study
- Transition
- School readiness

Daraja 2 - key findings - endline

- Findings indicate improved feeding practices, with more coloured plates observed at end line: 100% of the babycare settings.
- The availability and use of low-cost play materials has enhanced children's play and language development.
- Improved standards of daycare hygiene due to continuous sensitization/ trainings to caregivers (FGD CHVs)
- Interviews with owners/caregivers across the babycare centers indicated an enhanced professional identity due to the trainings delivered throughout the implementation period.
- The formation of The Babycares Consortium together with civil society partners working towards forging a relationship with the County government to push for minimum standards for babycares in Nairobi, sharing of best practices amongst partners, and a collective advocacy agenda to the private sector.

Recommendations AKF- daraja/kidogo

- Sensitization of babycare caregivers on children safety and protection guidelines and practices.
- Caregivers training on transition/ school readiness of children from home to school.
- Parents and caregivers at the babycare level should be armed with skills for identifying developmental milestones and delays.
- Advocacy for father/male involvement/engagement through urban farming/nutrition component and local play material development.
- Replicate and scale up the strategies used to implement BBF project to reach more children in other informal settlements.