



## **FIFTH NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE**

### ***FROM POLICY & EVIDENCE TO ACTION 17 -19 JULY 2023 TURKANA COUNTY***

#### **Introduction**

The Nurturing Care Framework (WHO, 2018) provides a roadmap for action to support best practices to support early childhood development, how it can be improved through policy and intervention. The Constitution of Kenya (2010), acknowledges the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989); Article 53 guarantees the right of every child to free and compulsory education, nutrition, shelter, health care and protection. However, marginalized and disadvantaged populations continue to exist in the country. Guidelines for program implementation, based on policy formulation and oversights, require stronger linkages and interactions between policy, research and practice amongst diverse stakeholders with multi-sectoral coordination. Data capture and gaps lead to lack of coordination among social sectors with limited ECD workforce training and financing continuing to hamper access to ECD services for young children, their care-givers, and their families across the country.

#### **The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECD Network for Kenya)**

The ECD Network for Kenya exists to strengthen coordination and collaboration on ECD initiatives in Kenya among relevant actors and supports development and implementation of ECD policies and programs. The Network undertakes capacity development, research and advocacy working with National and County Governments, civil society organizations, parents and community members to ensure that children access and participate in high quality, holistic ECD programs based on international best practices. Specifically, the Network seeks to: promote, support, sustain and advance an enabling environment for implementation of nurturing care for ECD through research, advocacy, effective partnerships, and strengthened multi sector collaborations. <https://ecdnetworkforkenya.org/>

#### **Fifth National Early Childhood Stakeholders' Conference**

The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and the County Government of Turkana in collaboration with the ECD Network for Kenya are pleased to announce the Fifth National ECD Stakeholders Conference. The conference will convene practitioners, researchers, policymakers and leaders from national and county governments, research institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, donors, and the media.

The conference will provide an opportunity for participants to gain knowledge and insights on cultural / indigenous child-rearing practices; models of good practice for children living in diverse circumstances; community systems engagement including through enhanced technology use; ECD financing, investment and budgeting; the Children Act (2022) in relation to ECD implementation, reimagining the NCF; coordination, collaboration and implementation of ECD to reach all children.

**Objectives** The conference will be guided by four objectives. [here](#).

**Theme:** *From Policy & Evidence to Action*

**Conference Sub-Themes** [Find the sub-themes topics here](#).

- **Systems thinking and the Nurturing Care Framework:** Strengthening community systems – leveraging the community health strategy to ward level;
- **Leveraging intersectionalities:** Coordination, Technical Working Groups, and implementation blocks;
- **Aligning knowledge:** Indigenous and traditional child-rearing practices and cultures that promote nurturing care;
- **Reframing inclusivity:** A good start for all children; and
- **Early Childhood Education:** building programs on best practices.

### **Conference Outcomes**

It is expected that participants will commit to raising the profile of the ECD agenda in Kenya through strategic financial investment, multi-sectoral collaboration and engagement in related public-policy processes at the National and County levels, policy implementation, monitoring and influencing ECD system improvement. Participants will appreciate how ECD features in the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and mechanisms to upscale ECD programs for disenfranchised children.

Participating leaders in government and non-governmental organizations will be presented with evidence and urged to prioritize ECD in CIDPs, share County-level ECD best practices, and engage in mechanisms to scale-up effective programs based on local conditions such as the example of the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB).

Proceedings will be documented with release of conference report and communique; a pre- and post-conference analysis report on the engagement with the public and a documentary.

### **Participants and Program**

The conference targets participants with diverse expertise and backgrounds from government (National and County), Academia/Research, Donor agencies, Private sector, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), religious organizations, philanthropists and UN agencies. The conference format will include plenary presentations, symposia, group discussions and interactive panel sessions. The conference will also offer an array of formal and informal networking opportunities, an exhibition of the ECD program innovations and ECD best practices, in addition to tools and services. We look forward to welcoming you to the Fifth National ECD Stakeholders' Conference 2023. The conference dates are **17-19 July 2023**.

The full conference program will be available on the ECD Network for Kenya website (<http://www.ecdnetworkforkenya.org>)