



## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NETWORK FOR KENYA NEWSLETTER



Kajiado county chapter convening at Enchula Resort

<https://ecdnetworkforkenya.org/>

## INTRODUCTION

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) was established in September 2015, after a realization that there was a gap in coordination of Early Child Development (ECD) initiatives in Kenya. Subsequently, in September 2019, the network was formally registered with the NGO's Coordination Board.

The network has provided opportunities for enhanced engagement in the global development agenda, and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) by stakeholders in the country as well as through cross learning from fellow African countries under the Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN) umbrella.

Although incepted in 2015, the network was launched on October 19th, 2016, by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and stakeholders, during the 1st National ECD stakeholders' conference, held at KICD in Nairobi. ECDNeK secretariat is currently hosted by Kenyatta University's Department of Early Childhood and Special Needs Education, in Kenya

The ECD Network for Kenya is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of five members, and under it, is a secretariat headed by the Executive Director. The Board, which was constituted early 2019 meets quarterly, with Annual General Meetings held annually.

To achieve the vision and mission of ECDNeK, we are guided by four strategic goals; to have a vibrant network that enables learning, policy influence and advocacy in ECD, have a well-resourced network with fully fledged departments, have strengthened internal systems and processes and a healthy and sustainable financial base for recurrent and development expenditure.

Over the years, the ECDNeK has gained recognition from both National and County Governments. Currently, the ECDNeK is a member of the National Early Childhood Education Committee (NECEC) by MOE and a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) the National Advocacy Strategy and ECD policy by Ministry of Health and member TWG Childcare Policy Kenya Prisons Service. In 2016-2019, the ECDNeK was a member of the National Steering Committee on Curriculum reforms by the Ministry of Education

This newsletter presents the ECDNeK 2021 story highlighting the achievements of the year.

## Successful 4th National ECD Stakeholders Conference

The Ministries of Education and Health, and the Siaya County government in collaboration with the ECD Network for Kenya, co-hosted a blended Fourth National ECD Stakeholders Conference that was held in Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology Siaya County. The conference attracted over 547 participants through physical and zoom drawn from 23 counties and 10 countries. It reached a YouTube plenary of up to 647 (day two), Twitter reach of 352,000 and Twitter impact of 3 Million (day one). participants were drawn from ECD practitioners,



*members participating at the 4th ECD stakeholders conference*

researchers, policymakers, and leaders from national and county governments as well as UN Agencies, Academia, research institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, donors, and the media with the theme “Responsive Caregiving for Children in Diverse circumstances: Innovations and Inclusivity.”



*Partners launching ECDNeK strategic plan 2021-2025*

The [3-day ECD conference proceedings](#) can be accessed as attached. The conference [endorsed a communique](#) and the Siaya 2021 call to action as attached. The conference report covers the conference proceeding and can be accessed in this link [conference report](#).

## Launch of 2021-2025 ECDNEK Strategic plan



*launch of 2021-2025 strategic plan secretariat with deputy Governor and first lady of Siaya County*

The 4th National ECD stakeholders' conference was a great opportunity for the ECDNeK to launch her 2021-2025 strategic plan. This was presided over by H.E Deputy Governor Dr. James Okumbe, Siaya County and Siaya First Lady Rosella Rasanga.

The ECD Network 2021-2025 strategic plan can be viewed [here](#).

## Advocacy through Media

Dr Mwoma the National Coordinator ECDNeK in a bid to spearheading advocacy initiatives in Kenya through on childcare, successfully led the Network to reach 2 million people through KTN TV, 1 million on KBC TV and 100,000 people on Egesa FM on the various talks. Speaking on KBC on curriculum reforms, Dr Mwoma emphasized on the importance of children acquiring strong foundation in early years.



*Dr.Mwoma advocating on benefits of investing in early childhood*

She advocated on why early childhood education needs special attention on morning prime in KTN News. She also Participated on Dau La Elimu KTN talk show focusing on COVID 19 and government preparedness to provide online learning for preprimary children during school closure occasioned by COVID 19. In Egesa FM Radio she advocated on stakeholders' roles in reopening of schools after COVID 19. Racheal Makena the partnerships manager ECDNeK through Getu FM, and Dr. Teresa Mwoma as well as Sr. Joyce of AOSK through Radio Waumini advocated on childcare amidst covid-19.

## Malezi Bora ya Awali



*1st lady Kiambu county expressing her support for the nutrition initiatives intervention in Kiandutu health facility.*

Through Malezi Bora ya Awali implementation in Kiambu ECDNeK was able to reach 3628 children through 60 CHV's, 60 mothers, 80 fathers, 30 HCW's, 40 grassroot community leaders, 62 pre-school teachers, 11 journalists, 24 county & subcounty members. Through support from Malezi Bora project, the First lady Kiambu County launched the first kitchen garden project, in the county encouraging mothers to enhance proper nutrition in their homes through locally available foods such as spinach.

In this regard she handed green vegetables to mothers who had come for a routine health visit at the Kiandutu health facility. She emphasized on the importance of good nutrition and stimulation through play and communication for children's optimal growth. Some of the simple games are peek-a-boo, shaking a rattle, or singing a song to the children.



Convening with grassroot leaders in Kiambu County



Convening with early childhood caregivers in Nairobi County, Kibera



ECD Network for Kenya had an opportunity to work and cross learn from partners in the Rise and Shine project which focuses on early childhood development funded by Comic Relief. The projects are implemented in different counties while KANCO in collaboration with ECDNeK are implementing Malezi Bora ya Awali in Kiambu, Kajiado and Nairobi counties in Kenya, for the period 2019 to 2023. Kenya Aids NGOs Consortium (KANCO) working together with Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) are among the funded organizations with Upward Bound serving as the Learning Coordinator. The 8 funded partners by comic Relief include ANDY, The Action Foundation, AMURT, Lwala Community Alliance, MECF-K, and Terre de homes foundation Kenya

## Formation of County Chapters



*Partners in a workshop at kajjado county*

With support from the Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), the ECDNeK was able to do entry consultative meetings in Kajiado, Makueni, and Mombasa counties. With support from World Vision, ECDNeK convened a similar meeting with Nairobi County. The overall aim was to establish the ECDNeK county chapters. Partners in a workshop at Kajiado county. The aim is to create forums for ECD actors to share and learn from each other.

## POLITICAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (PEA) dissemination



*Partners participating at PEA*

The ECD Network for Kenya participated in the dissemination workshop of the launch of the Political Economic Analysis (PEA) on Early Childhood Education, which was organized by Theirworld, a leading children's charity committed to ending the global education crisis.

## Our Global Reach



We are deepening our commitment to knowledge sharing and learning through hosting webinars growing our social media presence by gaining 1000 new followers on both our Twitter and LinkedIn channels and doubling our subscribers to our ECD Connect platform to 6000. Through our media platforms as of February 25, 2022, we have been able to reach 9.2k people with a total click of 342 and 1000 unique visitors searching the ECD Network daily. Through our website we've reached 82 countries, 76 cities, 4 continents and 10 subcontinents.





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