



Strengthening ECD Systems in Kenya: Governance in ECD

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Introduction: Child population in Kenya (KNBS 2019)

Age in Years	Number in Millions
0-9	12.2
0-3	4.7
4-5	2.5

Status of Child Development in Kenya (KDHS, 2022)

Indicator	Percentage
Children 24-59 months not developmentally on track	21%
Children under 5 stunted	18%
Of the 18% children stunted, those living in rural areas	20%
Children stunted living in urban areas	12%
Children stunted in lowest and highest wealth quantiles	28% & 9% respectively
Children stunted from mothers with no/low education and those with secondary school education and above	20% & 9% respectively

Objective and project phases

- Overall goal to **develop an actionable ECD systems measurement framework**, and **collect monitoring data** on policy, governance, multi-sectoral coordination, and financing at the subnational level in Kenya.

- Project had two phases:

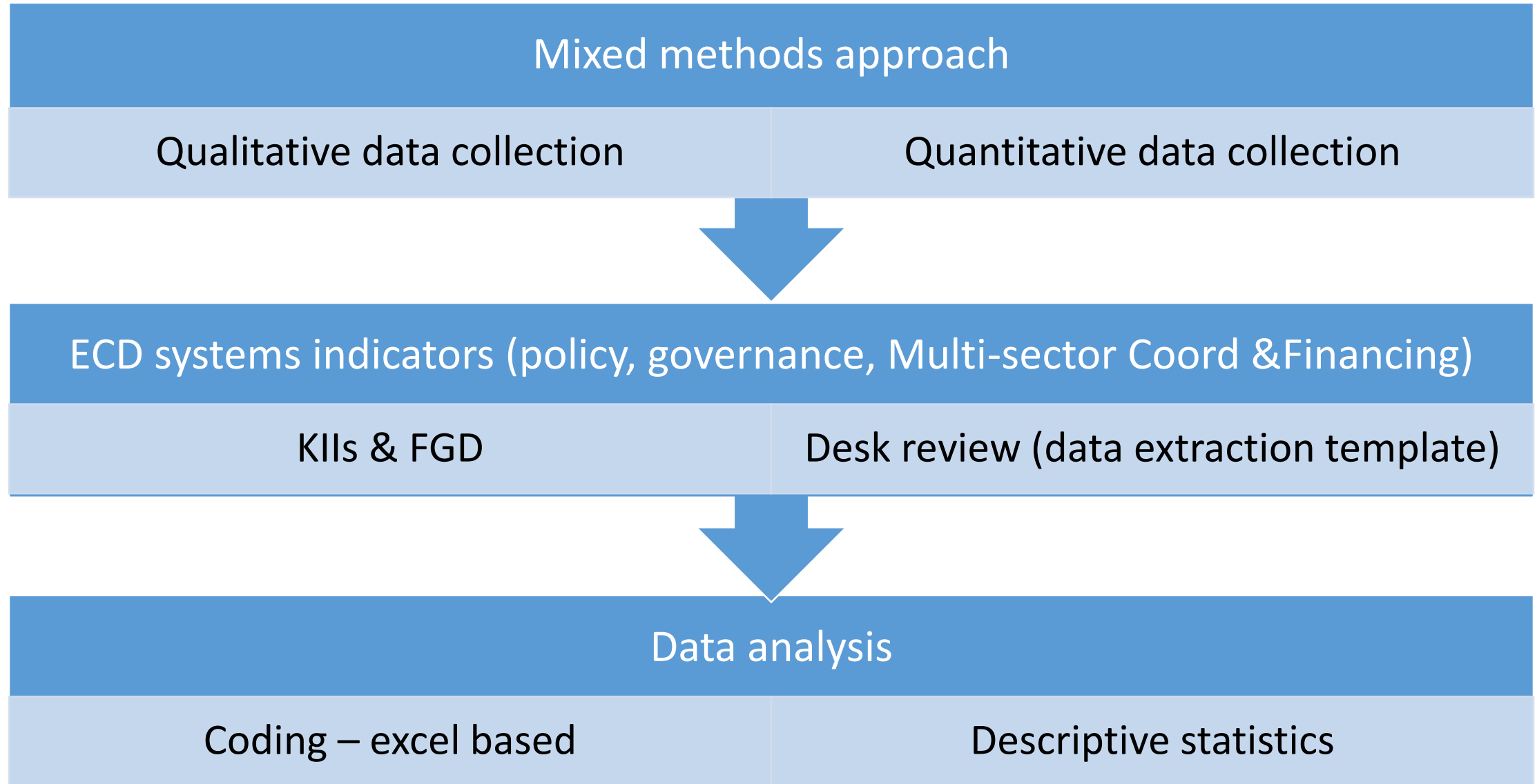
Phase 1: had 2 tasks involving:

- Kick off meetings, **desk review**
- **Designing evaluation & measurement framework** (systems actors and indicators mapping, developing theory of change).

Phase 2: had 2 tasks involving:

- **Baseline data collection both secondary & primary**, processing and report writing.
- Dissemination of findings.

Methodology

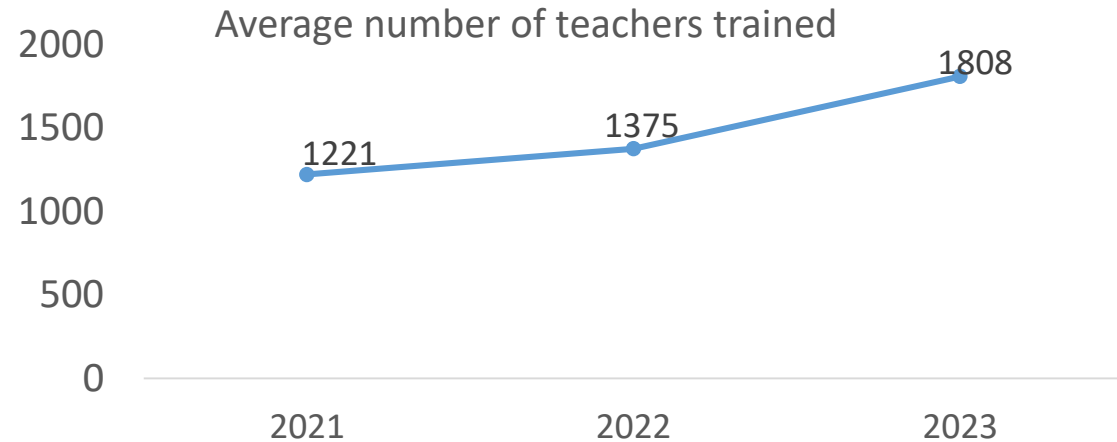
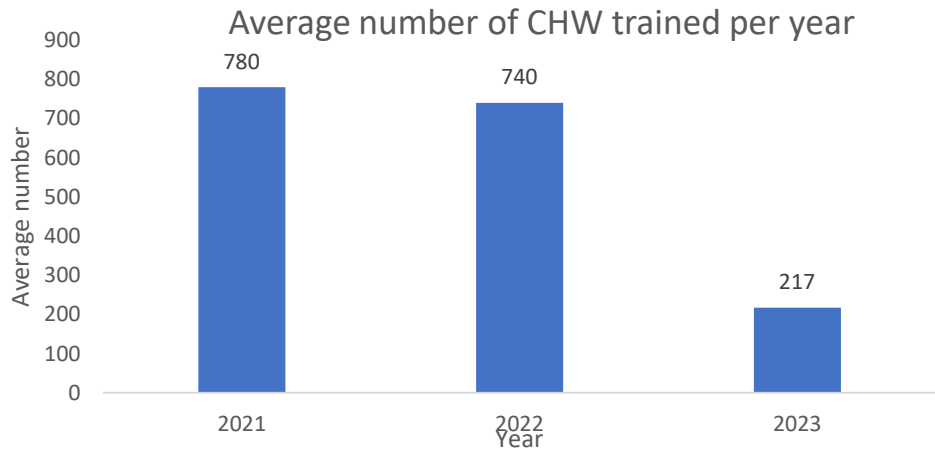


Systems indicators on governance

Three systems indicators were used to measure governance 2 focusing on **capacity building of frontline workers** and 1 **tracking Nurturing Care** implementation.

- Number of **pre-primary teachers trained** on SECD/CCD
- Number of **HCWs trained** on SECD/CCD
- Number of **county departments** tracking implementation of nurturing care components

Findings: Capacity Building



A total # of **18,093 health workers from 19 counties trained** between 2021 and 2023. This equates to an average of 953 health workers trained per county.

Training areas included; **child development, nutrition, maternal and child health, and maternal, infant, and young child nutrition.**

Teacher training focused on upgrading teacher qualifications and implementing CBC, the training did not focus on nurturing care for child development. Total number of teachers trained 37,077 from 20 counties 2021-2023

Findings

- **Multi- sectoral coordination:** Lack of publicly available documents on multi-sector coordination.
- Four counties had structures for multi-sectoral coordination, including dedicated departments responsible for fostering partnerships and facilitating coordination efforts (Siaya, Nairobi, Mombasa and Kajiado).
- **Finance:** 47% of the counties had costed ECD activities for three target departments (Health, Education, and Children Services), 38% had costed activities for two departments, and 83% had costed activities for only one targeted department.
- **Budgeting** in the department of health is program-based, with no specific budget lines ring-fenced for children below five years, indicating a lack of targeted budget allocation for ECD within

Conclusion/Recommendations

Enhance Governance Commitment:

- ✓ County governments to **demonstrate stronger commitment to supporting NC** for young children by prioritizing the development of the NC **skillset of pre-primary teachers and health care workers**
- ✓ There is a need to encourage counties to **allocate resources for training and professional development** in these areas
- ✓ Counties should invest in **data systems** to enhance availability of evidence on ECD systems monitoring

Strengthen Multi-Sectoral Coordination:

- ✓ **Promote sharing of best practices and coordination models** among counties to improve multi-sectoral cooperation for ECD
- ✓ Encourage **development of publicly available documents** that outline **coordination mechanisms** and responsibilities among ministries and stakeholders involved in ECD is critical for enhancing multi-sectoral coordination

Structured Financing Mechanism:

- ✓ Establish a dedicated **and ring-fenced budget for ECD** at both the national and county levels



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