



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NETWORK FOR KENYA NEWSLETTER 2024

Oscar Kadenge - Board Chair ECD Network for Kenya



As the year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable progress we have made at the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK). It has been an inspiring year of growth, collaboration, and tireless work towards ensuring that every child in Kenya receives the best start in life. 2024 presented us with both challenges and triumphs, and through it all, ECDNeK has been steadfast in its commitment to advocacy, research, and coordination in Early Childhood Development (ECD). Our network of passionate partners and stakeholders has been crucial in the success of our initiatives, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all those that

contributed to our success.

Throughout 2024, we made significant strides in building stronger relationships with key government ministries, county governments, and other critical partners. Our participation in forums, workshops, and conferences allowed us to influence policy, enhance public awareness, and drive conversations around the importance of quality ECD services. The continued development and refinement of our strategic initiatives has paved the way for more impactful and sustainable programs, particularly in marginalized communities. As we enter a new year, we are motivated than ever to continue strengthening our network and driving the critical changes needed for the advancement of Early Childhood Development across the country. I am confident that with our collective effort, we will continue to create lasting change for children, caregivers, and communities in Kenya.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and support throughout 2024. Together, we have achieved a great deal, but the journey ahead is even more promising. I look forward to another year of collaboration and success, as we work towards securing the future of Kenya's children.



**Prof. Teresa Mwoma, National Coordinator
ECD Network for Kenya**

As the curtains of 2024 come down, I am filled with both pride and gratitude as I reflect on the progress we have made at the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK). 2024 has been a time of reflection, growth, and bold actions, and together, we have achieved milestones that we can all be proud of. Our work in advancing Early Childhood Development (ECD) across Kenya has been unwavering, and we have seen meaningful impact in every corner of the country. From strengthening our partnerships with key government ministries and stakeholders to expanding our reach in both urban and rural areas, ECDNeK has continued to advocate for the needs of children and their caregivers.

This year, we hosted and participated in various events, including workshops, training sessions, and forums, where we had the opportunity to engage with national and county-level actors, share knowledge, and contribute to shaping policies that will benefit future generations. These efforts have been instrumental in promoting the importance of quality ECD services and ensuring that our work continues to have a lasting impact. I am particularly humbled on how we navigated challenges, engaged with stakeholders, and advanced our mission of improving ECD in Kenya. The resilience, passion, and dedication of our team, our partners, and our members has been key to our success this year.

Looking ahead, in 2025 we remain focused on scaling up our efforts and making even greater strides toward improving the lives of children. The work is far from finished, but with our continued collaboration and collective dedication, I am confident that we will continue to shape a better future for the children of Kenya.

Much thanks to everyone who has contributed to our journey this year. Your support, dedication, and commitment are what make our work possible. Together, we will continue to transform the landscape of early childhood development in Kenya.

Wishing you all a peaceful festive season and a prosperous 2025.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

National Childcare Dialogue Campaign

In collaboration with the Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN) and other key stakeholders, the ECD Network for Kenya launched the National Childcare campaign from June to December 2024. This six-month campaign, themed “Universal Access to Quality Childcare and Child Protection Services for Children 0-5 Years in Kenya,” aimed to raise



Figure 1: Participants of national childcare dialogue

awareness about the critical need for quality and affordable childcare in Kenya. The campaign focused on conducting nationwide awareness, highlighting the importance of childcare, and showcasing evidence-based milestones achieved in the country. To guide its implementation, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was formed, bringing together representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, National Council for Children Services, Directorate of Social Development, Department of Children Services, the Council of Governors, development partners, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia, the private sector, caregivers, and the media.

The campaign featured several strategic components, starting with its official launch, which marked the beginning of nationwide efforts to address childcare issues. Media sensitization tours were organized to coincide with key events like National Nutrition Week and World Breastfeeding Week, engaging the public and spreading vital messages on child nutrition and care.

On 14th November 2024, the campaign reached a pivotal moment with the National Childcare Dialogue held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi County. The event brought together 149 participants from various sectors, including government agencies such as the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education (MOE), Department of Children Services (DCS), Nita, KPS, DSD, and the



Figure 2: Prof Teresa Mwoma, National Coordinator ECDNeK

National Council for Children Services (NCCS). Also present were representatives from various counties including: Nairobi, Embu, Siaya, Kajiado, Nakuru, Makueni, Vihiga, and Kericho, as well as civil society organizations, faith-based groups, development partners; UNICEF and IDRC, and ECD experts, caregivers, and academia.

The event was officially opened by the Deputy Governor of Nairobi County, who emphasized the importance of collaboration across sectors to improve childcare and protection services. [Here's a link to catch up on the highlights.](#) and [click here for the communique and report.](#)



Figure 3: National & County government officials with ECDNeK Board members

Christmas Visit to Childcare Centres in Women's Prisons

On December 18 and 19, 2024, ECDNeK visited childcare centers in Lang'ata, Thika, and Nyeri Women's Prisons to share Christmas donations, offer emotional support, and interact with children and their caregivers. These children, aged 0 to 4, live with their mothers under the care of the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS), which ensures their safety and well-being within the prison system. The visits, attended by 12 representatives from ECDNeK, board members, the secretariat, and the Childcare Technical Working Group, emphasized the importance of nurturing environments for these children despite their unique circumstances. Lang'ata houses 29 children, Thika 10, and Nyeri 6, with numbers rising as more children are born within the system. After age four, they are either reunited with families or placed in childcare institutions if no relatives are available. This initiative highlights the need for continued advocacy for the rights and well-being of children in challenging environments.



ECDNeK Board & Secretariat End Year Meeting

The ECD Network for Kenya Secretariat and Board convened on 2nd and 3rd December 2024 respectively at Kyaka Hotel to review the progress made in the cause of the and strategize



Figure 4: ECDNeK Board members and secretariat

on how implementation of programs will happen in 2025. This meeting provided a platform to reflect on the achievements made, lessons learned, and discuss areas that require improvement. A key focus was the review of the annual work plan for 2025, ensuring alignment with the network's long-term goals and addressing emerging priorities in Early Childhood Development. The gathering also fostered collaboration, encouraged innovative ideas, and set the tone for a more impactful year ahead. By the close of the meeting, the secretariat reaffirmed their commitment to advancing quality ECD initiatives across Kenya.

ECD Network for Kenya Participation in a Consultative Meeting to Deliberate On Development of a County Model Childcare Policy

The ECD Network for Kenya had an opportunity to participate in a consultative meeting organized by Council of Governors (COG) to deliberate on developing a county model childcare policy. The COG continues to play a vital role in coordinating and improving devolved functions. A recent survey highlighted a major challenge in the implementation of childcare services at the county level— the lack of comprehensive legislative frameworks. This gap has hindered effective service delivery for young children and their families. To address this, COG convened a consultative meeting on **21st November 2024** at its Nairobi office, bringing together key stakeholders, including the ECDNeK and sectoral partners. The meeting focused on developing a County Model Childcare Policy to guide counties in



enhancing childcare services.

Key areas of partnership highlighted by the Council of Governors included; Development of a model county childcare/children policy framework (policy, bill, regulation), development of a model strategy for integration of nurturing care framework for ECD in counties, technical and financial support towards the capacity building of county governments in the discharge of the childcare function, development of a

costing framework for ECD service delivery, commissioning of a sectoral compendium on performance of functions and best practices and lessons learnt and co-creation of programs and interventions. This initiative underscores the importance of collaboration in advancing childcare and ECD services. With these strategic steps, counties are better positioned to provide accessible and high-quality childcare services, contributing to Kenya's broader goals for Early Childhood Development.

Nairobi County Courtesy Visit

The National Coordinator, Prof. Teresa Mwoma, and Partnerships Manager, Ms. Racheal



Figure 5: CECM & Deputy Director Education Nairobi County & ECDNeK Secretariat

Makena Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), had the opportunity to hold a courtesy call with Nairobi County CECM for Education, Mr. Brian Mulama, and Deputy Director, Mr. Raphael Kinyungu on 25th October 2024 at the Nairobi County offices. The meeting focused on discussing potential areas of partnership and collaboration between ECDNeK and Nairobi County, particularly in advancing early

childhood development initiatives. The meeting sought to foster a stronger relationship and identify joint efforts to improve ECD services in the county, ultimately enhancing the well-being and development of young children in Nairobi.

ECDNeK Partners with Nairobi City County to Develop Comprehensive ECDE Plan

ECDNeK, in collaboration with the Nairobi City County Government, Big Win Philanthropy,



and other stakeholders, successfully conducted a writing workshop from 5th to 8th November 2024, at Kempinski hotel, in Nairobi county. This workshop was a pivotal step in finalizing a comprehensive ECDE plan designed to deliver integrated multisectoral initiatives that address children's growth and developmental needs in Nairobi County. The objectives of the workshop were; to develop detailed content for strategic ECDE initiatives, including nurturing care and stimulation,

childcare services, play-based learning, school feeding, outdoor play, and strategic communication, to collaboratively create detailed budgets for each strategic initiative, providing a transparent breakdown of costs and resource requirements and to map key stakeholders and define their roles in the implementation of each initiative to ensure coordinated and effective delivery of ECDE services.

During the workshop, participants developed content for the strategic initiatives and collaboratively created comprehensive budgets for each one, clearly outlining costs to ensure transparency and accountability. Additionally, stakeholders mapped the roles and responsibilities of all partners involved in the implementation of the initiatives across Nairobi County, ensuring alignment and coordination for effective delivery of ECDE services. This collaborative effort sets the stage for sustainable systems that will enhance holistic child development and strengthen ECDE services across Nairobi County.

World Children's day

The ECD Network for Kenya on 20th November 2024, joined state and non-state actors in celebrating the World Children's Day in Murang'a County. Under the theme "*Investing in our future means investing in our children,*" the event highlighted the shared responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure that every child—regardless of their background, differences, or socio-economic status—has an equal opportunity to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential. The event, organized by the National Council for Children's Services and hosted by the County Government of Murang'a, took place at the Catholic Diocese of Murang'a. A significant highlight of the day was the launch of the Murang'a County Children Policy, which underscores the county's dedication to advancing the Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (NCFECD) agenda. This bold step demonstrates Murang'a County's commitment to creating an enabling environment where all children are supported to grow and succeed.



Figure 6: National & County Officials

This celebration served as a reminder of the importance of collaboration in ensuring the rights and well-being of children across Kenya and inspiring other counties to prioritize policies and initiatives that invest in the youngest members of society.

Convening of the Childcare webinar / Xspace

On 24th September 2024, the ECD Network for Kenya hosted a zoom webinar titled "Universal Access to Quality Childcare and Protection for Children 0-5 Years." The webinar attracted 156 participants from 21 counties in Kenya and 9 countries, reflecting broad interest and engagement in improving childcare services. Key areas of discussion from the webinar included: Promoting Positive Parenting at a National Level: Strategies and Success Stories, presented by the Directorate of social development; Scaling up Quality and Affordable Childcare: Lessons from Community-Based Models, presented by *Kidogo Early Years*; Professionalizing the childcare workforce: Child Caregiver Curriculum III, presented by the *National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)* and Empowering Home-Based Childcare Providers: Ensuring Quality and Protection in Early Childhood Development, presented by *Nurture First*.



In the effort of building momentum for the national childcare dialogue, the ECD Network hosted a Twitter Space discussion aimed at highlighting collaborative efforts between the government and local communities in improving outcomes for young children in Kenya. This interactive session featured a distinguished panel drawn from the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education (MOE), and the National Council for Children Services (NCCS). The X-Space convening attracted *117 participants*.

Both platforms offered valuable opportunities to share knowledge, best practices, and strategies for addressing key challenges in childcare. These discussions further underscored the importance of partnership in ensuring every child has access to quality care and protection during their early years.

Participation in finalizing the Community Health Promoters (CHPs) Curriculum and Training Manual

The ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), alongside other stakeholders, participated in a week-long workshop to finalize the Community Health Promoters Manual and Curriculum. Organized by the Ministry of Health, the workshop was held from 14th to 18th October 2024 in Nakuru County. The event brought together experts from UNICEF, CRS, MCGL, AMREF, PATH, NCCS, DCS, DSD, MOH, and county government representatives from Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu, Laikipia, Vihiga, Narok, Kisii, and Homa Bay. Academic institutions such as Kirinyaga University and KMTC were also present, emphasizing a multisectoral effort to enhance community health services. Participants agreed to continue discussions and collaboration through a scheduled hybrid meeting, ensuring progress on the manual and curriculum while promoting stronger partnerships. This initiative highlights the importance of collective action in strengthening community health and advancing early childhood development.



Figure 7: All participants

ECD Network for Kenya Joined Stakeholders in Celebrating Path's Transforming ECD services through Human Centered Design

The ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) joined stakeholders to celebrate the impactful work conducted by PATH Kenya, one of our esteemed registered members, in Siaya and Homabay counties, focusing on scaling up Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the Human-Centered Design (HCD) approach. The event brought together key partners, including UNICEF, Lwala Community Alliance, AMREF, Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), Nairobi County Health, Division of Newborn & Child Health, Directorate of Food Nutrition & Dietetics, Directorate of Health Promotion, Spinal Injury, National Council for Children's Services (NCCS), Department of Children Services (DCS), and the Ministry of Education (MOE). The ECD Network celebrates the remarkable milestones achieved by PATH Kenya and the invaluable contributions they continue to make in counties where they work.



Figure 8: All participants

The meeting's objectives included providing an overview of the ECD/HCD solutions developed during the pilot project, sharing key learnings from the HCD pilot, and discussing the next steps for advocacy,

implementation, and scaling of these solutions. The celebration underscored the importance of collaboration in advancing nurturing care for ECD and scaling innovative interventions to support young children and their families.

National Council for Children Services Consultative Forum

The ECD Network for Kenya participated in a one-day consultative forum organized by the National Council for Children Services (NCCS) on 10th September 2024 at Ngong Hills Hotel, Nairobi. The forum brought together key stakeholders from the children’s services sector to discuss ongoing NCCS programs, identify opportunities for collaboration, and review the work plan for the fiscal year 2024/25.



Figure 9: All participants

The primary goal of the forum was to harness the diverse contributions of both public and private sector actors to enhance the impact and effectiveness of NCCS initiatives. Key objectives included: Sensitizing Partners on NCCS Programs: Stakeholders were introduced to current and upcoming NCCS programs, Presentation of the NCCS 2024/25 Work Plan: A detailed overview of the work plan for the fiscal year was shared, Enhancing

Strategic Collaboration and Partnership: Participants explored opportunities to collaborate and contribute to the children’s services agenda and Interaction and Synergy Building: The forum provided a platform for networking and fostering synergy among various actors in the children’s services sector. Additionally, it provided a valuable platform for ECD Network for Kenya to engage with NCCS and other stakeholders, identify areas of potential collaboration, and contribute to the strategic direction of children’s services in the country. It highlighted both the achievements and challenges faced by NCCS and reaffirmed the importance of collective action in improving the lives of children in Kenya.

Strengthening Partnership between ECD Network for Kenya and SOS Children’s villages

The ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) recently held a productive meeting with SOS Children’s Villages to discuss potential areas of collaboration in advancing Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiatives across Kenya. During the meeting, ECDNeK highlighted its focus areas on ECD which include; Advocacy, Research, and Coordination—and its role in

working closely with national line ministries, county governments, and partners to create a cohesive approach to ECD. As a membership organization, ECDNeK invited SOS to explore its membership guidelines and participate actively in its networking platforms. SOS Children's Villages shared their focus areas, including Alternative Care, Family Strengthening, Education and Youth Programs, Advocacy, and Humanitarian Aid. Operating in counties such as Nairobi, Mombasa, Meru, Eldoret, and Kisumu. SOS further engages in community infrastructure projects like borehole construction, solar panel installations, and toilet facilities. This partnership underscores a shared commitment to ensuring holistic support and opportunities for children across Kenya, paving way for impactful and sustainable interventions.



Figure 10: ECDNeK Secretariat & SOS Children's village rep

Msingi Bora TOT Training in Kisumu County

The ECD Network for Kenya was joined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Directorate for Social Development on 2nd October 2024 at the Msingi Bora TOT training in Kisumu County. The training, facilitated by ECDNeK, SWAP Kenya, and USC, focused on sessions 17 to 20 of the Msingi Bora curriculum. Also in attendance was SOS Children's Villages, which is a member of the national TWG for parenting hosted by the Directorate of Social Development. The workshop aimed at enhancing the skills of participants in implementing effective Early Childhood and parenting programs.

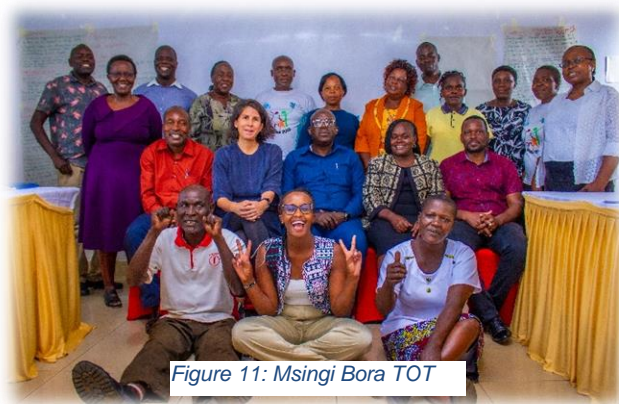


Figure 11: Msingi Bora TOT

ECDNeK Advocates for Child Nutrition During the National Nutrition Week

In alignment with its campaign for quality childcare, the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) joined this year's National Nutrition Week celebrations, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring that every child receives the nutrition necessary for a healthy start in life. As part of these efforts, ECDNeK organized media tours to raise public awareness about the importance of child nutrition. Representatives of ECD Network for Kenya appeared on various media houses to discuss critical nutrition topics: At KBC, ECDNeK representatives

emphasized the significance of proper child nutrition during National Nutrition Week [Watch the discussion here](#) , at K24, experts shared valuable insights on #Lisheborakwawatotowachanga, highlighting the essential role nutrition plays in young children's growth and development [Watch their discussion here](#). Through these engagements, ECDNeK continues to champion good nutrition as a cornerstone for Early Childhood Development, driving public conversations and action toward healthier outcomes for Kenya's children.

Re-Imagining the ECD Landscape in Kenya: Sustaining and Scaling Up Change

In continuation of the dialogue initiated during the ECD Network for Kenya's 2nd webinar on 14th May 2024, ECDNeK, in partnership with Upward Bound funded by Comic Relief, organized a hybrid learning event on 23rd July 2024. The event focused on strategies for sustaining and scaling up change in Early Childhood Development (ECD). Bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders and experts, the learning event explored innovative approaches and best practices in ECD, with an emphasis on practical steps to ensure lasting impact and broader implementation of effective ECD initiatives. A total of 113 virtual participants joined via Zoom, while 14 attendees participated physically at the



Fairview Hotel. The objectives of the Learning Event were to: Deepen the understanding of the budgeting and resource allocation process at both national and county levels, identify strategies to increase ECD resource allocations and identify key interventions and action points necessary for sustaining and scaling up ECD work. The event successfully fostered insightful discussions and collaborative efforts aimed at advancing ECD in Kenya.

Policy on Early Childhood Development in Kenya

On 13th August 2024, the ECD Network for Kenya hosted the 4th webinar focusing on policy in early childhood. The webinar attracted 136 participants drawn from 15 counties and 9 countries, highlighting the widespread engagement in Early Childhood Development. The webinar focused on four thematic areas that explored critical aspects of early learning, child protection, and health policies. **Ms. Emis Njeru, Ministry of Education (MOE)** presented on the Education Systems that Promote Early Learning Opportunities. **Hon. Jeizan Farouk, County Secretary, Mombasa County** presented on the strides Mombasa County has made in promoting policy on children's health, protection, education & childcare. **Dr. Shiroya Makeba** from **World Health Organization (WHO)** presented on global perspective on child health policies:

Exploring existing opportunities. **Elijah Bonyo, World Vision Kenya** presented on Strengthening Policy Implementation for Early Childhood Development in Kenya. These thought-provoking sessions provided a platform to explore innovative solutions, share local and global perspectives, and strengthen the collective commitment to advancing early childhood development policies and practices across Kenya and beyond.



Socialisation Workshop of CSOs on the Kenya INSPIRED Programme

The ECD Network for Kenya participated in a one-day sensitization workshop on the INSPIRED programme, organized by the Education Development Trust (EDT) on 26th September 2024 at KICD. The INSPIRED programme aims to improve Foundational Learning skills for Kenya's children, including the most marginalized and vulnerable in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), while also enhancing the policy environment for Foundational Learning. The workshop brought together various partners, including UNICEF, UNESCO, Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), Kidogo, Nyota Care, TAF, Hakijamii, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), Zizi Afrique, AfECN, and Sight Savers.

The ECD Network for Kenya actively engaged in discussions during the workshop, recognizing the potential of the INSPIRED programme to transform foundational learning for children, particularly those in underserved and marginalized regions. This platform provided an opportunity to share insights, learn from other stakeholders, and explore potential collaborations aimed at advancing inclusive and quality foundational learning across Kenya.

Preparation for the Pastoral Leadership summit by FCDC & NACONEK

ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) joined FCDC (Frontier Counties Development Council) and the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) for a two-day workshop at SEO Hotel in Machakos on 23rd and 24th September 2024. The workshop aimed to bring together key education stakeholders in preparation for the 4th Pastoral Leadership Summit that was scheduled to happen in late November 2024 in Wajir Town. The summit's focus was on addressing challenges faced by pastoralist communities, particularly in the areas of education, policy, and financing solutions. The central objective of the workshop was to examine the key challenges hindering education performance across Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands



Figure 13: All participants

(ASAL), while exploring sustainable solutions to improve learning outcomes. The workshop also focused on identifying ways to reintegrate marginalized children and youth back into the education system, ensuring they have access to quality education opportunities despite the unique challenges in these areas.

Validation of Child Caregiver Curriculum III: A Milestone in Professionalizing Childcare

The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), in collaboration with key stakeholders in the childcare sector, has developed the Child Caregiver Curriculum III, an initiative aimed at bridging skill gaps among childcare workers in Kenya. This curriculum provides essential training and certification to empower caregivers to deliver quality childcare services, ensuring they are well-prepared to support the holistic development of young children. The ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) joined other stakeholders for the Child Caregiver III Curriculum Validation Workshop, held on 22nd July 2024 at Double Tree by Hilton in Nairobi County. The primary objective of the one-day workshop was to bring together key stakeholders and experts to review and validate the



Figure 14: All participants

curriculum. This collaborative effort ensured that the curriculum aligns with sector demands and adequately prepares childcare workers to provide high-quality care and education to young children.

ECDNeK recognizes the significance of this initiative in professionalizing childcare work and remains committed to supporting efforts that enhance the quality of early childhood development in Kenya.

Council of Governors Meeting on Children Devolution Call to Action

ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in a strategic meeting organized by the Council of Governors (COG) at the Delta Corner offices. The meeting brought together key partners, including UNICEF, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Plan International, ChildFund, Save the Children, ActionAid, and Safaricom/Mpesa Foundation, alongside representatives from COG and ECDNeK. The primary objective of the meeting was to review the Children Devolution Call to Action



Figure 15: Partnerships Manager ECDNeK

and explore areas where partners have been offering support and would like to strengthen their contributions. Discussions centered on breaking down the Devolution Conference Communiqué into actionable focus areas, ensuring all stakeholders align efforts to advance children’s welfare in Kenya. ECDNeK remains committed to working collaboratively with partners to drive impactful initiatives that enhance early childhood development and child protection services across the counties.

Migori County Sensitization Initiative on Integrated ECD Approaches

From September 3rd to 6th, 2024, Migori County hosted a four-day sensitization initiative at Vanna Hotel, coordinated by a steering committee led by the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) secretariat. Key partners included Lwala Community Alliance, ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), PATH, KMET, and the Investment in Children Society (ICS). The initiative aimed to engage county officials in enhancing Early Childhood Development (ECD) service delivery through integrated policy development. Targeted participants included County Executive Committee Members (CECMs), who are pivotal in policymaking, County Chief Officers, responsible for financial management, and directors, tasked with direct service delivery to communities.

To ensure the initiative's success, a multisectoral team was drawn from various departments, promoting a collaborative approach to ECD. The orientation successfully achieved its objectives and culminated in the formation of a Multisectoral Team (MST) to spearhead the process of



integrating ECD into all government structures in Migori County. This effort underscored the importance of harmonized strategies in fostering effective policies and improving outcomes for young children in the county.

Clubfoot Care for Kenya Clinic Coordinators Meeting

On July 16th and 17th, 2024, the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in a coordinators' meeting organized by Clubfoot Care for Kenya (CCK) and supported by the Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN). Held at the Nairobi Transit Hotel, the meeting aimed to increase awareness and local ownership of early clubfoot management. This critical initiative targets the provision of clubfoot treatment in 29 partnering health facilities across 22 counties, each represented at the event by their clubfoot clinic coordinators. The meeting sought to build the capacity of these coordinators, who serve as local champions advocating for early clubfoot treatment. These advocates are key to driving change, leveraging their roles to lobby County Health Management Teams, community leaders, and the media for greater recognition and support for clubfoot management. The effort is expected to result in

signed commitment agreements from local governments, demonstrating their increased involvement and prioritization of early clubfoot treatment.

CCK, an affiliate of Hope Walks and registered as a local NGO in 2019, is dedicated to freeing children and families from the burdens of clubfoot. Through a sustainable, high-impact, and



Figure 17: All participants

low-cost model, CCK aims to transform lives by eliminating the disability caused by untreated clubfoot and fostering community well-being. ECDNeK remains committed to supporting efforts that align with its mission of advancing child development and inclusive health services.

Learning Workshop on the Establishment of the Education Evidence Hub

On August 7th, 2024, the ECD Network for Kenya participated in a workshop organized and co-hosted by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) held at Panafric Hotel to present the vision for the Education Evidence Hub (EEH) and gather feedback on its lab design and operational plan. This pivotal session brought together heads of MoE departments and semi-autonomous agencies, along with key education stakeholders, including representatives from donors, think tanks, and academia. In Kenya, this initiative is referred to as the Kenya Education Evidence Hub (EEH), which involves teams from the Ministry of Education, IPA, and other key stakeholders. Institutionalized within the existing MoE structures, the EEH is envisioned as a permanent infrastructure owned and operated



Figure 18: All participants

by the Ministry. The establishment of the EEH is outlined as a priority in the National Education Sector Strategic Plan (NESSP) 2023-2027 and is designed to strengthen the use of data and evidence in decision-making processes within the education sector.

The ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) actively participated in this workshop, reinforcing its commitment to data-driven approaches in Early Childhood Development. Through its involvement, ECDNeK continues to play a critical role in shaping strategies that foster impactful policies for children’s education in Kenya.

Childcare Legal, Policy, and Regulatory Reforms TWG Meeting

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships and coordination, the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) actively participated in a Childcare Legal, Policy, and Regulatory Reforms Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting held on August 19th, 2024, at the Education Boardroom in City Hall Annex, Nairobi County. The meeting brought together 20

participants representing diverse stakeholders, including APHRC, Tiny Totos, Kidogo, UNICEF, Wow Mom, Strathmore University, CAC, and key Nairobi County officials such as the Deputy Director of Education, the Director of Education, the Chief Officer of Education, the CECM for Education, and the Nairobi County Advocate.



Figure 19: All participants

The primary objective was to discuss and finalize a roadmap for the approval of the Nairobi County Childcare Facilities Regulations. Participants explored ways to enable existing actors to commit to supporting various stages of the regulation process until its eventual launch. The expected outcome of the meeting was to develop a well-defined and agreed-upon roadmap outlining the necessary steps to secure approval of the regulations, paving the way for enhanced childcare services within Nairobi County. ECDNeK remains committed to supporting such collaborative initiatives to drive impactful policy reforms for early childhood development.

Collaborative Action for Childcare Annual Conference

The ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) actively participated in the Collaborative Action for Childcare (CAC) Annual Conference 2024, held on September 18th and 19th in Nairobi, Kenya. This significant event aimed to drive tangible and feasible changes in childcare practices and policies across the country. Over the two-day conference, stakeholders engaged in high-level plenary sessions, multi-sectoral panel discussions, and dynamic breakout sessions. Discussions spanned various topics critical to the childcare ecosystem, including policy reform, financing mechanisms, and innovative solutions to enhance childcare services. Keynote speakers from diverse sectors enriched the conference by sharing insights and experiences, offering practical perspectives on addressing the pressing challenges facing Kenya's childcare sector. ECDNeK remains committed to collaborating with like-minded organizations to advance policies and practices that ensure quality childcare for all.



Kidogo Annual Mamapreneur Gala



Figure 20: National coordinator handing award to CEO Kidogo

Kidogo, Kenya's pioneering childcare network and a registered member of the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), marked a significant milestone by hosting its Annual Mamapreneur Gala at St. Andrews P.C.E.A Nyerere Road in Nairobi. The event, held on November 16th, 2024, celebrated the transformative role of "Mamapreneurs" – women entrepreneurs who are revolutionizing early childhood education and care across Kenya's informal settlements. The Gala, which has become a signature event for Kidogo, highlighted the inspiring stories of these women who not only provide safe and high-quality childcare but also empower entire communities. Kidogo's Mamapreneurs are community leaders who run childcare centers, offering thousands of children access to nurturing, play-based environments that support their holistic development. This year's event emphasized the profound social and economic impact of Kidogo's Mamapreneur Model, which has created a "Triple Impact" across three key groups: children,

Mamapreneurs, and working parents. The ECD Network for Kenya was delighted to join in celebrating these achievements, reaffirming its commitment to supporting innovative childcare models that transform lives and promote holistic early childhood development.

Gift Connect and Stellar Mengele Foundation End-of-Year Celebration

On December 6th, 2024, the ECDNeK joined Gift Connect and Stellar Mengele Foundation in celebrating the end of the year milestones at Katutu Primary School in Kitui County. The Stellar Mengele Foundation is a Non-Profit Organization that provides Early Childhood Development interventions and community empowerment programs led by Stellar and Huldah Mengele. The Foundation is dedicated to fostering transformation by nurturing children's self-awareness and self-worth, which plays a crucial role in promoting socio-emotional development and wellbeing.



Figure 21: All participants

Investing in children's wellbeing is essential for cultivating healthier, more stable, and prosperous communities. A key highlight of the event was awarding groups that had achieved notable profit growth in their table banking initiatives. The table banking model involves forming groups of mothers aged 18-40, based on location and population. Each group is provided with a seed fund of KES 30,000, which is loaned equally

among members. The loans are given with a 10% interest rate and a one-month repayment duration. The interest generated is reinvested into the group for further lending. The celebration underscored the importance of collective community initiatives and financial empowerment in enhancing family and child welfare. ECDNeK was honored to participate in this transformative event and remains committed to supporting innovative approaches that promote the wellbeing of children and families.

The Action Foundation Gala Dinner

The ECD Network for Kenya was honored to join The Action Foundation at a Gala Dinner on December 6th, 2024, to celebrate 15 years of improving the quality of life for children and youth with disabilities. Held at the International Leadership University, the event offered an opportunity to reflect on The Action Foundation's remarkable journey and its profound impact on marginalized communities. The celebration highlighted not only the foundation's



achievements but also the invaluable contributions of caregivers and children with disabilities who have been integral to this journey. Attendees were deeply moved by the powerful testimonials shared by caregivers and children, showcasing how the foundation's work has transformed lives and inspired hope.

Since its inception, The Action Foundation has positively impacted over 20,000 lives in informal communities through its outreach centers and partnerships. In response to increasing demand, the foundation is planning to build the Innovation and Community Center (ICC). This upcoming facility will provide essential health and education services, training, and mental health support for children with disabilities and their families. As fundraising efforts for the Community Center continue, this milestone celebration was a testament to the power of inclusion and the importance of partnerships in fostering meaningful change for children and youth with disabilities. ECDNeK celebrates these achievements and reaffirms its commitment to advocates for initiatives that promote inclusivity and empowerment.

OPPORTUNITIES

Become a Member of ECDNeK

[Join us](#) in being part of the vibrant community of registered members at the ECD Network for Kenya! As members, we are united in our mission to advance early childhood development across the country. Our collective efforts—driven by passion, dedication, and a shared commitment to creating better futures for Kenya's children—have led to impactful initiatives, collaborations, and progress in the sector. By becoming a member, you're not just

joining a network; you're becoming a part of a movement dedicated to influencing change, strengthening policies, and ensuring every child gets the best start in life. Together, we can make a meaningful difference—let's build on this momentum and create brighter futures for our children.



Individual Members

Prof. Teresa Mwoma	Steven O Waswala	Dr. Steve Wandiga	Mumbi Muguongo	Elizabeth Omondi	Tracy C. Koske	Prof. Simon Onywere	Charity Wawira
Erskine B.Wesa	Leonard Chumo	Regina Mwasambo	Ruth Owuor	Jean Kaggwa	Robert O.O Momanyi	Veronica Akinyi	Beatrice Oyugi
Christine Moraa	Munaweza Muleji	Maureen Kwamboka	Raphael Kinyungu	Henry Muronga	Tom Joe Omollo	Elisha Jimmy	Tairus Omondi
Dorina Okisa Atichi	Camlus Odhus	Victor Andahi Serede	Mukani Shem Rodgers	Tamara Kahai	Benedict Mbuvi	Benter Owino	Emis Njeru
Elias Guya	Linzy Nyamboki	Evelyne Kisembe	Philip Onyango	Rebecca Inyele	Dredan Ngugi	Amina Hamisi	Dr. Benard Ashiono

Evans Chandai	Antony Onyango Ochieng	Oscar Kadenge	Josephine Charana	Ruth Emily Oduor	Edda Ocharo	Magdalene Wangari	Peninah Nyamori
Muzammil Yakub	Gilbert Ngaira	Joyce Wesonga	Margaret Nampijja	Maureen Njeri	Caroline Linda Awuor	Silas Guya	Valentine Ndimu
Raymond Musembi	Faith Kwamboka	Patricia Wekulo	Rosalia Mweni	Damaris Wambua	Elizabeth Kithuka	Stella Mengele	Augustus Nyakiba
Dr. Moses Oyagi	Kimutai Victor	Cyril Sogoni	Enid Kiende				

Join our growing network and contribute to advancing Early Childhood Development in Kenya. Membership offers the opportunity to collaborate, learn, and influence policies that shape the future of our children [Register here](#)

[Opportunity to Serve as an Auditor](#)

ECD Network for Kenya is seeking a qualified auditor to support our mission by providing financial auditing services. If you have the expertise and are ready to make an impact, [Apply here](#)

[Request for Vendors for IEC Materials, Documentary, and Livestreaming](#)

We're calling for vendors to provide services for the 6th ECDNeK National Conference, including IEC materials, documentary production, and livestreaming. Interested parties are encouraged to review the specifications and submit their applications by 15th January 2025 [Learn more here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ECDNeK's 10-Year Anniversary

Celebrate a decade of championing Early Childhood Development in Kenya! Let's mark this milestone together with fun activities, inspiring stories, and a look back at our incredible journey. Stay tuned for the date, and get ready to join the festivities!

6th National ECD Stakeholders' Conference

The 6th National ECD Stakeholders Conference is set to take place from **15th to 17th July 2025** in Garissa County under the **theme "Promoting Transformative Systemic Change in a Child's Ecosystem."** This is an exciting opportunity to bring together stakeholders, researchers, and practitioners in Early Childhood Development to share innovative ideas, research findings, and impactful experiences. The [Call for Papers](#) is now open, inviting you to contribute your insights to shape the future of ECD. Additionally, early bird registration is live, offering discounted rates for those who sign up early. Don't miss the chance to be part of this transformative event.

📄 Submit your paper and register here: [Call for Papers](#) / [Early Bird Registration](#).



6TH NATIONAL ECD STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE
15TH - 17TH JULY 2025 Venue: GARISSA COUNTY
Theme: Promoting transformative systemic change in a child's ecosystem

Early Bird Registration: 1st December 2024 to 31st March 2025

	Physical (Ksh)	Physical (\$)	Virtual (Ksh)	Virtual (\$)
Non-Member	Ksh 18,000	\$180	Ksh 6,000	\$60
Member	Ksh 13,000	\$130	Ksh 4,500	\$45

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!!
Deadline: 30th April 2025

For more information: WhatsApp: +25476104131

2025 Bi-Monthly Webinar Series

Learn, connect, and grow with us! Our 2025 bi-monthly webinar series is packed with exciting discussions and expert insights into Early Childhood Development. Stay tuned for details on topics and speakers.

Twitter Space – October 2025

Join the conversation! Connect with like-minded individuals and engage in lively discussions about ECD on our October Twitter Space. Let your voice be heard!

Join us in spreading the word! Share this newsletter with your contacts and network. We look forward to connecting with you!

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