



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NETWORK FOR KENYA (ECDNeK) NEWSLETTER

“Building Strong Foundations for Every Child”

JAN - JUNE 2026 ISSUE

Editor's Note



Welcome to this edition of the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) Newsletter, where we reflect on our shared journey of advancing the rights, wellbeing, and holistic development of young children across Kenya. This edition captures the breadth of our collective efforts from influencing policy and strengthening governance to generating evidence, fostering partnerships, and championing sustainable investments in Early Childhood Development (ECD). Each engagement featured in these pages reaffirms that giving every child the best start in life requires coordinated action across sectors, institutions, and communities.

Over the past few months, ECDNeK has continued to provide leadership in national, regional, and global platforms, advocating for stronger financing, quality childcare, nurturing care, inclusive education, and multisectoral collaboration. Whether engaging with policymakers, county governments, development partners, researchers, or communities, our message has remained consistent: investing in the early years is one of the most impactful investments a nation can make.

As you read this newsletter, I encourage you to reflect on the progress we have made together and the opportunities that lie ahead. Achieving this vision will require sustained commitment, innovation, and stronger partnerships at every level.

On behalf of the ECD Network for Kenya, I extend my sincere appreciation to our members, government partners, development partners, researchers, practitioners, and communities for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we will continue to strengthen systems, influence policy, generate evidence, and advocate for investments that enable every child to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential.

Warm regards,

Prof. Teresa Mwoma

National Coordinator, ECD Network for Kenya

6th Legislative Summit

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), with support from Kidogo Early Years, participated in the **6th Legislative Summit** held from **13–16 April 2026** at the Sapphire Hotel



in Mombasa County. The summit brought together legislators, county leaders, government officials, development partners, and civil society organizations to discuss governance, public financial management, and strategies for improving service delivery across counties. The forum provided an important platform to advocate for increased public investment in Early Childhood Development (ECD), particularly in quality childcare services.

ECDNeK National Coordinator, **Prof. Teresa Mwoma** participated in the opening general session titled **"Unlocking Public Financing for Childcare: Addressing Legislative Representation and Oversight Barriers."** She presented a report highlighting the importance of sustained public financing for childcare and the critical role of legislative oversight in ensuring equitable investments in young children. She later joined a panel discussion where she engaged with policymakers and sector leaders on strengthening county financing, accountability, and policy frameworks that support childcare and holistic early childhood development.

The summit underscored the need for stronger governance, improved public financial management, and increased domestic financing to ensure quality services for children and families. Discussions emphasized that investing in childcare is not only a social priority but also an economic investment that enables women to participate in the workforce while giving children the best start in life. ECDNeK remains committed to working with legislators, county governments, and development partners to advance policies and financing mechanisms that strengthen childcare systems and improve outcomes for Kenya's youngest children.



Women Legislators Conference 2026

ECDNeK with support from Kidogo Early Years, participated in the Women Legislators Conference 2026, held from 4–5 March 2026 in Embu County as a pre-conference event to the 6th Legislative Summit. Convened under the theme *"Advancing Justice and Leading Change: Breaking Structural Barriers to Secure Inclusive Leadership and Equal Opportunities for All,"* the conference brought together women Members of County Assemblies, governance institutions, development partners, and civil society organizations to discuss women's political participation, gender-responsive

budgeting, and inclusive leadership. The discussions emphasized the critical role of County Assemblies in shaping public investment decisions and highlighted the importance of strengthening women's leadership to advance equitable governance and sustainable development.

For ECDNeK, the conference reinforced the importance of engaging County Assemblies as key champions for Early Childhood Development. Participants



underscored the need to strengthen advocacy for increased investment in ECD through evidence-based engagement with legislators, committee-level collaboration, and meaningful public participation in county budgeting processes. The

insights gained will strengthen ECDNeK's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable financing, influence policy, and ensure that young children remain a priority within county development agendas.

National Council for Children's Services Stakeholders' Forum

ECDNeK participated in the National Council for Children's Services (NCCS) Stakeholders' Forum held on 30 June 2026 at Pride Inn Azure, Nairobi, bringing together government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and child rights stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in advancing the rights and wellbeing of children in Kenya. The forum provided updates on the implementation of the Children Act, 2022, progress on the Care Reform Strategy, development of the Kenya Childcare Standards, adoption reforms, and the National Council's 2026/27 work plan. Participants also discussed the need to strengthen child protection systems, improve coordination across sectors, accelerate the approval of the Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Policy, and enhance investment in children's services at both national and county levels.



ECDNeK joined other non-state actors in advocating for greater transparency, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable financing for child-focused programmes. The Network emphasized the importance of strengthening accountability through accessible information-sharing platforms, tracking implementation of strategic priorities, and

increasing budget allocations for child protection and early childhood development. The forum concluded with a shared commitment to enhance multisectoral collaboration, strengthen family-based care, improve data systems, and accelerate the implementation of policies and standards that ensure every child in Kenya grows up in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment.

Dissemination of Research on Quality Childcare and Women's Economic Empowerment

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in the dissemination of findings from the research project *"Enhancing and Scaling Up Impacts of a Social-Franchise Model of Daycare Centers to Reduce Effects of Unpaid Care Work Among Women in Low-Income Settings of Nairobi,"* held on 18 June 2026 at the Panari Hotel, Nairobi. The forum brought together government representatives, researchers, childcare providers, development partners, and civil society organizations to reflect on evidence demonstrating how access to quality childcare can improve child development while supporting women's economic participation. The research highlighted the critical role that affordable childcare plays in strengthening early childhood outcomes and reducing the burden of unpaid care work borne by women in low-income communities.

Findings from the study showed that children who consistently attended quality daycare centres experienced improved cognitive, language, social-emotional, and overall developmental outcomes, alongside better nutritional and health indicators. The research also demonstrated that accessible childcare services reduced the amount of time women spent on unpaid care work, enabling them to participate more actively in income-generating activities and other productive pursuits. While financial hardship remained the primary barrier to sustained daycare utilization, the evidence reinforced the importance of investing in affordable, quality childcare as a strategy for promoting both child wellbeing and women's empowerment.

The dissemination meeting concluded with a call for stronger investment in community-based childcare services, increased financial support for vulnerable families, continued capacity building for childcare providers, and greater public awareness of the long-term benefits of quality early childhood care. ECDNeK welcomed the findings as valuable evidence to inform policy and advocacy efforts, reaffirming its commitment to promoting integrated Early Childhood Development systems that support nurturing care, strengthen families, and create enabling environments where young children can thrive while caregivers, particularly women, are empowered to participate fully in social and economic development.

Climate Resilient Childcare Systems in Kenya Findings & Policy Dialogues

ECDNeK participated in the Climate-Resilient Childcare Systems in Kenya: Findings and Policy Dialogue held on 21 January 2026 in Nairobi. The Climate Resilient Childcare Systems Research was conducted by Samuel Hall and Uthabiti with 40+ childcare champions and stakeholders across Nairobi, Kisumu and Kakamega counties. The dialogue brought together government representatives, county officials, development partners, researchers, civil society organizations, and childcare practitioners to discuss findings from a multi-county study conducted in Nairobi, Kisumu, and Kakamega. The research highlighted how climate-related shocks including floods, extreme heat, disease outbreaks, and water scarcity are increasingly disrupting childcare services and placing additional burdens on caregivers, while emphasizing the need to integrate childcare into climate planning, disaster preparedness, and financing at both national and county levels.

The dialogue concluded with the launch of the Technical Working Group on Climate Change and Care, a platform established to strengthen coordination and advance climate-resilient childcare systems in Kenya. Stakeholders called for stronger collaboration across sectors, increased investment in climate-resilient childcare infrastructure, greater inclusion of caregivers in decision-making, and integration of childcare into county climate policies and financing mechanisms.

47th Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in the 47th Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), held



from 19th –22th, April 2026 in Lesotho. The National Coordinator and partnerships manager joined other civil society organizations and government representatives from across Africa to strengthen its understanding of child rights reporting, identifying emerging advocacy priorities, and contributing to discussions on advancing the rights and wellbeing of children. The engagement provided an important platform to deepen ECDNeK's capacity in evidence-based advocacy and regional collaboration.

The session highlighted significant progress made by African countries in strengthening child protection frameworks while underscoring persistent challenges in implementation, financing, data systems, and accountability. Building on these insights, ECDNeK will continue working closely with government institutions, member organizations, and regional partners to promote child-sensitive budgeting, strengthen safeguarding and protection systems, integrate climate resilience into ECD advocacy, and enhance multisectoral coordination. These efforts reaffirm the Network's commitment to ensuring that every young child in Kenya grows up in a safe, nurturing, and enabling environment where their rights are protected and fulfilled.

Global Dialogue on Financing Early Childhood Development

ECDNeK participated in the Global Technical Financing Forum on Investing in the Early Years, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 6th – 8th May 2026. Convened by the Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) in partnership with the Government of Rwanda, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), the forum brought together governments, civil society, academia, development partners, and the private sector to explore innovative approaches to financing holistic Early Childhood Development (ECD) systems. Discussions focused on strengthening investments across health, nutrition, education, childcare, social protection, and nurturing care to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.



During the forum, ECDNeK participated in a high-level panel discussion on leveraging civil society to mobilize public demand and strengthen government accountability for ECD. Together with representatives from the ECD Networks of Tanzania and Mozambique, Catholic Relief Services, and UNESCO, the Network shared Kenya's

experiences in collaborating with the government through Technical Working Groups and multisectoral partnerships to advance the ECD agenda. ECDNeK also joined a regional learning forum with national ECD networks from Eastern and Southern Africa, where participants exchanged experiences on advocacy, network sustainability, resource mobilization, political engagement, and innovative financing models to strengthen national ECD systems.

The forum reinforced the importance of sustainable financing, evidence generation, cross-sector collaboration, and political leadership in advancing quality ECD services. Key takeaways included the need to adopt blended financing approaches, strengthen public-private partnerships, develop compelling investment cases for ECD, and leverage data to inform policy and advocacy. ECDNeK returned from the forum with renewed commitment to promoting sustainable financing for early childhood development in Kenya while strengthening partnerships, fostering peer learning, and advocating for increased investments that will enable every young child to survive, learn, and thrive.

[Review feedback on the Draft Integrated Early Childhood Development \(IECD\) Policy](#)

ECDNeK participated in a three-day national workshop to conclude the review of the Draft Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Policy, held from 11th –13th February 2026 at the Kenya School of Government. Convened by the National Council for Children's Services (NCCS), the workshop brought together representatives from government ministries, the Council of Governors, development partners, civil society organizations, and other ECD stakeholders to refine the policy and produce a harmonized draft for finalization and adoption. The review sought to strengthen coordination and establish a unified framework for delivering integrated Early Childhood Development services across health, nutrition, education, protection, and social welfare sectors.

Throughout the workshop, participants emphasized the importance of strengthening governance, resource mobilization, and multisectoral coordination to improve outcomes for young children. Key discussions focused on sustainable financing for ECD, enhanced collaboration between national and county governments, caregiver wellbeing, inclusive services for children with disabilities, child protection, nutrition, and expanding access to quality early learning opportunities. Stakeholders also

reaffirmed the critical role of counties in implementing ECD programmes and the need for stronger coordination structures to support effective service delivery.

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to finalize the IECD Policy and submit it for Cabinet approval, paving the way for implementation with support from development partners. ECDNeK welcomed the progress made during the review process and reaffirmed its commitment to continue working with government, county governments, and partners to advance a coordinated, well-resourced, and child-centred policy framework that ensures every child in Kenya has access to quality nurturing care and integrated Early Childhood Development services.

Launch of the Diagnostic Tool for Gifted and Talented Learners

ECDNeK participated in the launch of the **Diagnostic Tool for Gifted and Talented Learners** on **18 February 2026**, an initiative spearheaded by the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE). The event brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education, KISE, Educational Assessment and Resource Centres (EARCs), development partners, education practitioners, and organizations working in child development and inclusive education. The launch marked a significant milestone in strengthening Kenya's inclusive education agenda by providing a standardized framework for identifying and supporting gifted and talented learners within the Competency-Based Education (CBE) framework.

During the launch, stakeholders emphasized the importance of early identification and nurturing of learners with exceptional abilities across academic, creative, artistic, leadership, and sporting domains. The newly developed diagnostic tool is expected to equip educators and assessment professionals with a structured approach to identifying gifted learners and guiding appropriate interventions that enable every child to realize their full potential. Speakers also highlighted the need for strong collaboration among government, schools, parents, and education stakeholders to ensure gifted and talented learners receive the support they need from an early age.

The launch aligns closely with ECDNeK's commitment to promoting holistic child development and inclusive early learning opportunities for all children. By participating in the event, the Network reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for early identification of children's unique abilities, strengthening awareness among caregivers and educators, and fostering partnerships that support equitable and inclusive education systems. ECDNeK will continue working with the government and partners to ensure that every child's talents and potential are recognized, nurtured, and celebrated from the earliest years.

National Foundational Learning Conference 2026

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in the inaugural **National Foundational Learning Conference**, held from **23–26 March 2026** in Mombasa under the theme *"Launch, Learn, Lead: Strengthening Foundational Learning in Kenya."* Convened by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with county governments, development partners, civil society organizations, and education stakeholders, the conference brought together nearly 700 participants

to advance dialogue on improving literacy, numeracy, and socio-emotional learning outcomes for children across Kenya. The forum provided an important platform to share evidence, showcase innovative practices, and strengthen partnerships aimed at ensuring every child acquires strong foundational skills.



ECDNeK played a pivotal role in both the planning and implementation of the conference by serving on the national planning committee and providing technical and financial support to the convening. The Network contributed to agenda development, stakeholder mobilization, and coordination efforts, reinforcing its commitment to strengthening early childhood development and foundational learning in Kenya. Prof. Teresa Mwoma represented ECDNeK as a panel moderator during the session on

"Teaching and Learning Foundational Skills," facilitating rich discussions among policymakers, practitioners, and development partners on strategies for improving learning outcomes in the early years.

The conference underscored the importance of investing in quality teaching, strengthening coordination between national and county governments, promoting inclusive and equitable learning opportunities, and increasing the use of evidence to inform policy and practice. It also highlighted the critical role of parents, communities, and cross-sector collaboration in supporting children's learning and development. ECDNeK remains committed to working alongside government and partners to advance these priorities, advocate for increased investments in foundational learning, and contribute to building an education system where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Strengthening Governance, Financing and Accountability for Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), in partnership with KMET and the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), convened a hybrid webinar on **10 March 2026** under the theme **"Governance, Finance and Accountability in ECD: Examining ECD Financing, Multisectoral Collaboration, Planning and Accountability Mechanisms at National and County Levels."** Held at Acacia Premier Hotel in Kisumu County, the webinar brought together 227 participants from 25 counties and seven countries, including representatives from government, county governments, development partners, academia, civil society, practitioners, and philanthropists. The forum provided a platform to examine sustainable financing for Early Childhood Development, strengthen

multisectoral coordination, and promote accountability in delivering quality services for young children.

Throughout the discussions, speakers emphasized that investing in Early Childhood Development is one of the most strategic investments a country can make, while highlighting persistent challenges related to inadequate financing, fragmented coordination, and weak data systems. Participants shared practical experiences from national and county governments on integrating ECD into planning and budgeting processes, strengthening governance structures, improving workforce development, and building evidence-based investment cases to secure sustainable financing. The webinar also showcased successful county-led initiatives demonstrating how coordinated action across sectors can improve nutrition, health, education, and overall child wellbeing.



The webinar concluded with a collective call for stronger political commitment, increased domestic financing, and institutionalized multisectoral coordination to advance Early Childhood Development in Kenya. Participants underscored the need to strengthen accountability through better data systems, protect ECD investments within county budgets, and empower communities to actively participate in planning and implementation. ECDNeK reaffirmed its commitment to providing platforms for knowledge exchange and policy dialogue that support collaborative action towards ensuring every child receives the best possible start in life.

Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development Technical Working Group

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in the **Quarter Three Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (NCfECD) Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting** held on **7 April 2026** at Weston Hotel. Convened by the Ministry of Health, through the Division of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the meeting brought together representatives from government, development partners, academia, professional associations, and civil society organizations. The forum provided an opportunity to review progress made during the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, align priorities, and strengthen multisectoral collaboration in advancing nurturing care and holistic early childhood development across Kenya.

During the meeting, ECDNeK shared updates on its efforts to strengthen coordination among stakeholders working in Early Childhood Development. The Network highlighted its continued



support for policy advocacy, implementation of the Nurturing Care Framework and the Kenya Integrated Early Childhood Development (KIECD) Policy, as well as its role in facilitating knowledge sharing through technical

working groups, webinars, conferences, and stakeholder engagements. ECDNeK also showcased its work in building the capacity of ECD practitioners, caregivers, and frontline service providers while fostering partnerships with national and county governments to strengthen ECD systems and improve service delivery for young children and their families.

The meeting concluded with renewed commitments from stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of nurturing care interventions through stronger coordination, evidence-based planning, and enhanced county-level engagement. Key priorities for the next quarter include supporting the rollout of the Mother-Child Health Handbook, finalizing the Care for Child Development package, operationalizing nurturing care tools within health facilities, and strengthening collaboration across sectors. ECDNeK reaffirmed its commitment to working alongside government and partners to advance nurturing care, promote knowledge exchange, and contribute to policies and programmes that ensure every child in Kenya has the opportunity to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential.

Empowering Women and Men through Enhanced Childcare Support Systems

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), with support from Kidogo and COVAW, convened a webinar on 12 May 2026 at the Best Western Hotel, Nairobi, under the theme



"Empowering Women and Men through Enhanced Childcare Support Systems: Linking Childcare Support with Women's Economic Empowerment and Labour Force Participation." The webinar brought together government representatives, development partners, civil society organizations, researchers, employers, and childcare practitioners to explore the critical role of childcare systems in promoting women's economic participation, gender equality, child wellbeing, and sustainable

development. The discussions reinforced that childcare is not only a family responsibility but also a key social and economic investment that contributes to stronger communities and national development.

Throughout the webinar, participants highlighted the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work carried by women and the need for increased investment in affordable, accessible, safe, and quality childcare services. Discussions emphasized the importance of transforming harmful gender norms by promoting shared caregiving responsibilities between women and men, while also recognizing and professionalizing childcare and domestic work through improved training, regulation, fair labour practices, and better working conditions. Participants further underscored the need for inclusive childcare systems that respond to the needs of children with disabilities and provide greater support to caregivers and families.

The webinar concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthen partnerships, advocacy, policy implementation, and financing for childcare systems in Kenya. Stakeholders called for greater collaboration among national and county governments, the private sector, civil society, and development partners to expand quality childcare services and create enabling environments that empower families and caregivers. ECDNeK reaffirmed its commitment to championing evidence-based advocacy and multisectoral collaboration to ensure every child has access to nurturing care while enabling women and families to thrive socially and economically.

Co-creation workshop and community immersion in Samburu County

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in a consultative co-creation workshop and community immersion in Samburu County under the **Mapema Initiative**, convened by Mizizi Elimu Afrika from **25-29 May 2026**. The engagement brought together government representatives, development partners, researchers, civil society organizations, and community members to co-create a scalable childcare model tailored to pastoralist and ASAL contexts. Through household immersion, participants gained first-hand insights into the everyday realities of childcare, adolescent pregnancy, caregiving practices, education, and the socio-cultural factors shaping children's wellbeing in Samburu communities.

The immersion revealed that access to childcare is one of the greatest barriers preventing adolescent mothers from returning to school, often outweighing challenges such as school fees. The experience



also highlighted how poverty, food insecurity, limited access to healthcare, and environmental challenges continue to undermine children's health, development, and education. At the same time, participants observed the profound impact of stigma and social isolation experienced by adolescent mothers, reinforcing the need for integrated interventions that address

education, childcare, health, and social protection together rather than in isolation.

Despite these challenges, the community demonstrated remarkable resilience and strong informal support systems. Grandmothers, neighbours, and other family members were found to play a critical role in caring for young children, enabling some adolescent mothers to resume their education and pursue livelihood opportunities. Parents also expressed a strong desire to see their children complete school, viewing education as a pathway to breaking the cycle of poverty. These positive stories underscored the importance of building on existing community strengths while designing culturally appropriate childcare solutions that respond to local realities. The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to develop an inclusive, community-driven childcare model that strengthens nurturing care for young children while supporting adolescent mothers and families in pastoralist communities.

Introductory Meeting Between the Council of Governors (CoG) and ECD Actors

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in an introductory meeting between the **Council of Governors (CoG)** and Early Childhood Development (ECD) actors on **26 May 2026** at the Council of Governors Offices in Nairobi. The meeting brought together representatives from the Council of Governors, development partners, UNICEF, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, civil society organizations, and ECD stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in advancing Early Childhood Development within Kenya's devolved governance framework. Discussions focused on positioning ECD as a multisectoral development priority, strengthening county systems, improving sustainable financing, and enhancing coordination to deliver better outcomes for young children.



As the country's leading membership organization for Early Childhood Development, ECDNeK played a central role in mobilizing and coordinating participation from its diverse network of member organizations. Through its convening power and strong partnerships across government, academia, civil society, and development partners, the Network ensured

that a broad range of perspectives informed discussions on policy implementation, financing, systems strengthening, workforce development, and county-level coordination. The engagement reinforced ECDNeK's role as a trusted platform for fostering collaboration and advocating for integrated approaches that place children at the centre of county development agendas.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening collaboration between the Council of Governors and ECD stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of key ECD priorities. Participants emphasized the need to operationalize the Integrated ECD Policy, support counties in domesticating the Model County ECD Policy, strengthen workforce capacity, improve data systems, and increase sustainable financing for children. ECDNeK remains committed to working with county governments and partners to advance a coordinated, multisectoral approach that ensures every child in Kenya has the opportunity to survive, learn, and thrive.

Dissemination of Findings from the Project: Enhancing and Scaling Up Impacts of a Social-Franchise Model of Daycare Centers to Reduce Effects of Unpaid Care Work

The Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) participated in the dissemination of findings from the research project "Enhancing and Scaling Up Impacts of a Social-Franchise Model of Daycare Centers to Reduce Effects of Unpaid Care Work Among Women in Low-Income Settings of Nairobi", held on 18 June 2026 at the Panari Hotel, Nairobi. The event brought together government representatives, researchers, childcare providers, development partners, and community stakeholders to share evidence on how quality childcare can improve child development while supporting women's economic participation. The study examined the impact of the Tiny Totos social-franchise daycare model on children's wellbeing, nutrition, and the burden of unpaid care work among women in low-income communities.



The findings demonstrated that consistent attendance at quality daycare centres significantly improves children's cognitive, language, social-emotional, and overall developmental outcomes while also contributing to better nutrition and health. The research further showed that access to childcare reduces the amount of time women spend on unpaid care work, enabling them to participate more actively in income-generating activities and other productive pursuits. Despite

these positive outcomes, the study identified financial hardship as the greatest barrier to sustained daycare utilization, highlighting the need for affordable childcare services and stronger support systems for vulnerable families.

The dissemination meeting concluded with a call for increased investment in accessible, quality childcare services, strengthened capacity for daycare providers, and greater public awareness of the long-term benefits of early childhood care. ECDNeK welcomed the research findings as important evidence to inform policy and advocacy efforts, reaffirming its commitment to promoting sustainable childcare systems that support nurturing care, improve child development outcomes, and empower women to participate fully in Kenya's social and economic development.

Upcoming Events



— SAVE THE DATE —

7TH NATIONAL ECD STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

Theme:

Investing in **ECD Ecosystems**
for Better Child Outcomes.



2ND – 4TH
MARCH 2027

📍 **EMBU COUNTY**



**GOOD
HEALTH**



**ADEQUATE
NUTRITION**



**RESPONSIVE
CAREGIVING**



**SAFETY AND
SECURITY**



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR
EARLY LEARNING**

..... *Invest today, transform tomorrow.*

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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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