

CHILDREN SERVICES WEEKLY

ISSUE 27 | JUNE 2026

REFLECTIONS IN SERVICE TO THE CHILD
NATIONAL INSIGHTS AND FIELD PERSPECTIVES

Newsletter



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FOREWORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY'S DESK



BY CPA CARREN AGENG'O

Principal Secretary, State Department
for Children Services

This edition of Children Services Weekly highlights key national, county, and sub-county interventions undertaken by the State Department for Children Services to promote child protection, support family well-being, and enhance coordinated service delivery across the country.

At the national level, the State Department advanced strategic engagements focused on child protection advocacy, policy coordination, and inter-agency collaboration. These included engagements on public child protection concerns, budgetary advocacy before the Parliamentary Budget Committee, child online protection initiatives with key regulatory partners, and national commemorations reinforcing the central role of families in safeguarding children and promoting their holistic development.

At the county level, notable progress was recorded through collaborative interventions aimed at supporting children and communities. These included care reform implementation, institutional support initiatives, and multi-sectoral Government engagements that reinforced inclusive service delivery and strengthened partnerships in advancing the welfare of children and families.

At the sub-county level, frontline officers continued to deliver targeted interventions through reunification processes, community sensitization forums, justice sector coordination, and strengthened referral and response systems. These efforts contributed to more responsive, accessible, and community-driven child protection services while reinforcing the role of collaboration at the grassroots level.

The State Department for Children Services remains committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of every child, promoting supportive family and community environments, and strengthening systems that ensure children are protected, heard, and empowered to thrive.

CPA Carren Ageng'o
Principal Secretary

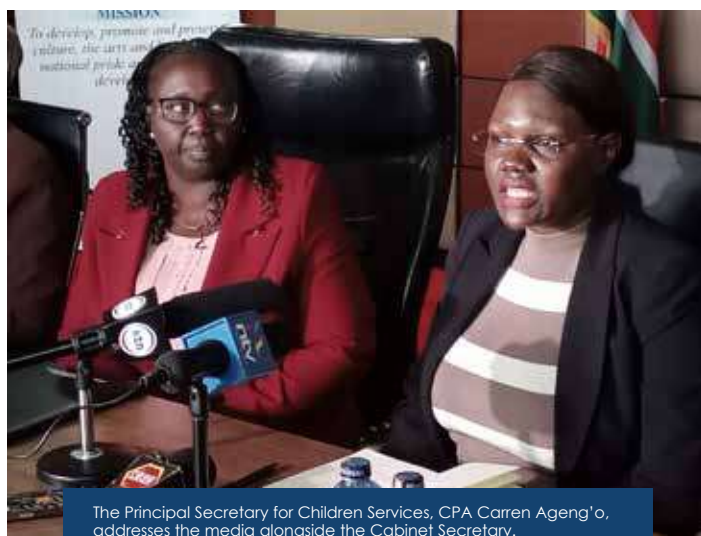
State Department for Children Services

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CHILD PROTECTION AND THE SAFETY OF VULNERABLE PERSONS

Reflections from the National Desk | Submitted by William Omondi Ochieng, SDCS



The Cabinet Secretary, Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, addresses the media flanked by the two Principal Secretaries.



The Principal Secretary for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, addresses the media alongside the Cabinet Secretary.

The Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services convened a press briefing to address emerging public concerns relating to the safety, dignity, protection, and wellbeing of children and other vulnerable persons, while reaffirming the Government's continued commitment to strengthening child protection systems and combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide across the country.

Addressing the media, the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to protecting all persons from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, emotional harm, and indignity in line with the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the Children Act, 2022, and other applicable legal and policy frameworks. She emphasized that children remain central to the country's future and noted that their welfare and best interests continue to be safeguarded through coordinated multi-sectoral interventions. The Cabinet Secretary also highlighted statistics on reported child protection cases and ongoing interventions supported through the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS).

Following the Cabinet Secretary's remarks, the Principal Secretary for Culture, the Arts and Heritage, Ms. Ummi Bashir, CBS, reiterated the Government's resolve to eliminate harmful cultural practices that negatively affect vulnerable populations and undermine human dignity.

Adding to the briefing, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, highlighted Kenya's recent recognition as the top-ranked country across Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa in the Out of the Shadows Index, a global benchmark measuring government efforts in preventing and responding to sexual violence against children and adolescents.

The Principal Secretary further encouraged parents and caregivers to remain present and actively engaged in the lives of their children while emphasizing the importance of strengthening family and community support systems. She also reminded members of the public to report child protection concerns through the National Child Helpline 116.

The briefing served as a clear reaffirmation of the Government's commitment to protecting the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of every child and vulnerable person in Kenya through coordinated action, responsive systems, and sustained public engagement.

ADVANCING CHILD WELFARE FINANCING: STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN SERVICES APPEARS BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Reflections from the National Desk | Submitted by William Omondi Ochieng, SDCS

The Cabinet Secretary, Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, alongside the Principal Secretary, CPA Carren Ageng'o, and senior officers from the State Department for Children Services led by the Secretary for Children Services, Mr. Shem Nyakutu, appeared before the Parliamentary Budget Committee on Social Protection to advocate for enhanced budgetary allocations to strengthen child protection and welfare programmes.

Opening the engagement, the Cabinet Secretary provided a comprehensive overview of the mandate of the State Department for Children Services, outlining its core responsibility in safeguarding children's rights and advancing coordinated social protection interventions across the country.

Subsequently, the Principal Secretary presented key priority areas requiring strengthened financing to improve service delivery. These included increased support for the Cash Transfer Programme for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC), enhanced funding for the Presidential Secondary School Bursary Programme, and reinforcement of rapid response mechanisms for children in emergency situations.

Further priorities highlighted included investment in the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) to enhance data-driven decision-making, recruitment of additional Children Officers to bridge staffing gaps, expansion of the Positive Parenting Programme, and rehabilitation of child protection institutions to improve service delivery environments.

The engagement underscored the State Department's sustained commitment to strengthening child protection systems, improving institutional capacity, and ensuring effective and responsive service delivery for children and families across Kenya.



The Cabinet Secretary, Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, addresses the Parliamentary Budget Committee alongside senior Ministry officials.



The Principal Secretary, CPA Carren Ageng'o, addresses the Parliamentary Budget Committee alongside the Cabinet Secretary.



Senior officials from the State Department for Children Services look on as the Principal Secretary, CPA Carren Ageng'o, presents before the Parliamentary Budget Committee.

WHEN FAMILIES RISE, CHILDREN THRIVE: MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES IN EMBU COUNTY

Reflections from the National Desk | Submitted by William Omondi Ochieng and Damaris Makena, SDCS

Marking the International Day of Families, the State Department for Children Services, in collaboration with the ACK Diocese of Mbeere and partners including Lumos and the Bible Society of Kenya, joined stakeholders at ACK St. Peter's Cathedral in Siakago under the theme "Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing."

Bringing together government officials, religious leaders, development partners, children, families, and community stakeholders, the commemoration reaffirmed a shared responsibility in safeguarding children and advancing family-centred approaches to child wellbeing.

featuring a rich programme of activities, the event included the planting of commemorative trees, a church service, and performances by various groups. Participants further shared lived experiences on positive parenting, reflections from a foster parent, a success story of a Presidential Secondary School Bursary (PSSB) beneficiary, alongside contributions from a NACADA representative and remarks from the Deputy Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Board.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, the Principal Secretary for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening families as the foundation of child wellbeing, underscoring that a child's wellbeing is inseparable from the wellbeing of the family.

Reinforcing the day's reflections, the commemoration highlighted the vital role of strong, stable, and supportive family systems in nurturing safe, dignified, and thriving childhoods.

IN PICTURES: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES COMMEMORATION IN EMBU COUNTY





PROMOTING CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION THROUGH STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD

Reflections from the National Desk | Submitted by William Omondi Ochieng and Damaris Makena, SDCS

In furtherance of the multi-sectoral approach to child protection, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, hosted a delegation from the Kenya Film Classification Board led by the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Nelly Oluoch.

Recognising the State Department's mandate in promoting positive family values, child wellbeing, and protective social environments, the Principal Secretary emphasized the importance of strategic collaboration with the Kenya Film Classification Board in advancing child online protection and safeguarding children from harmful audiovisual content.

During the engagement, Ms. Oluoch highlighted the Board's mandate, regulatory functions, and ongoing programmes aimed at promoting responsible media consumption and safeguarding public morality within the digital and broadcast space.

Contributing to the discussions, the Head of Child Online Protection at the State Department for Children Services, Rose Mwangi, outlined the Department's child online protection mandate and shared ongoing interventions focused on enhancing digital safety for children in an increasingly interconnected environment.

Discussions further explored opportunities for inter-agency collaboration, coordination, and policy alignment in promoting safer media ecosystems for children. The engagement culminated in the establishment of a joint committee tasked with advancing key action points aimed at strengthening safeguards around audiovisual content consumed by children and supporting broader child online protection efforts.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of sustained collaboration, proactive governance, and coordinated institutional action in promoting safe digital spaces and ensuring children grow up within secure, dignified, and supportive information environments.



The Principal Secretary, CPA Carren Ageng'o, addresses the meeting



The Principal Secretary and CEO Nelly Oluoch hold the Regulators' Handbook for Film Practitioners in Kenya.



The Principal Secretary with senior officers and Kenya Film Classification Board representatives pose for a group photo



Some members of the newly formed technical committee on child online protection.

GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR MAMA NGINA CHILDREN'S HOME RECOVERY EFFORTS IN KISUMU

Reflections from the National Desk | Submitted by William Omondi Ochieng and Damaris Makena, SDCS



The Principal Secretary presents the KCB Foundation cheque to support the institution's recovery efforts.



The Principal Secretary, the County Commissioner, and senior officials proceed for an inspection of the facility.

Mama Ngina Children's Home, a Charitable Children's Institution currently providing care and protection to 52 children, including 20 children with intellectual disabilities, hosted the Principal Secretary for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, during a visit focused on supporting ongoing recovery efforts following a fire incident that affected the institution earlier in the year.

The Principal Secretary was accompanied by representatives from the KCB Foundation led by Mr. Frederick Ong'any, the Kisumu County Commissioner Mr. Benson Leparmorijo, the CEC Member for Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs Hon. Beatrice Odongo, and senior officers from the State Department for Children Services.

The programme commenced with a courtesy call at the office of the Kisumu County Commissioner, where the delegation received a briefing on key county matters. The team thereafter proceeded to Mama Ngina Children's Home, where they were received by the founder, D.P. Mandavia. The management team briefed the Principal Secretary on the operations of the institution and the children under its care before she conducted an inspection of the facility to assess recovery progress and remaining needs.

In her remarks, the Principal Secretary reaffirmed the Government's commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of children in line with the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and the Children Act, 2022, emphasizing that every intervention for children is an investment in the nation's future. She noted that protecting and supporting children remains a shared responsibility requiring sustained collaboration between Government and partners.

The visit culminated in the presentation of a cheque donated through the KCB Foundation to support the institution's recovery efforts, symbolising continued partnership and collective commitment to the wellbeing, dignity, care, and protection of every child.



The PS CPA Carren Ageng'o pays a courtesy call at the Kisumu County Commissioner's office.



The Principal Secretary greets a representative from the KCB Foundation upon arrival.



A child at Mama Ngina Children's Home presents a bouquet to the Principal Secretary.



The Principal Secretary interacts with children at Mama Ngina Children's Home.



The Principal Secretary addresses the press during the visit to Mama Ngina Children's Home.



The Principal Secretary addresses the press during the visit to Mama Ngina Children's Home.

GOVERNMENT LEADERS UNITE IN KISUMU TO BOOST DAIRY VALUE CHAIN AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

Reflections from the National Desk | Submitted by William Omondi Ochieng and Damaris Makena, SDCS

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, together with her counterpart, the Principal Secretary for Trade, Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam, today demonstrated the Whole-of-Government approach during the handing-over ceremony of milk coolers under the livestock value chain supply project at Muhoroni Stadium, Kisumu County, on behalf of the Principal Secretary for Livestock Development, Jonathan Mueke, CBS.

The event brought together multiple Government actors in a coordinated service delivery exercise aimed at improving livelihoods and expanding access to essential public services.

The programme commenced with a citizen-focused service delivery session that included voter registration services through the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, registration under the Social Health Authority, enrolment with the National Employment Authority, as well as National Identity Card registration services. The delegation also engaged with a local youth football team present at the stadium, reinforcing youth inclusion in public programmes.

In her remarks, CPA Carren Ageng'o encouraged dairy farmers to organize themselves into cooperative societies to enhance access to Government support programmes, noting that the provision of milk coolers will significantly strengthen the dairy value chain and improve household incomes within the region.

Also present were the Kisumu County Commissioner, Mr. Benson Leparmorijo, area Member of Parliament Hon. James Onyango K'Oyoo, representatives from the participating State Departments, National Government Administration Officers, senior Government officials from the region, representatives from institutions including the Lake Basin Development Authority, and members of the public.

The engagement underscored the Government's commitment to integrated service delivery and inclusive economic empowerment through coordinated inter-ministerial collaboration.

IN PICTURES: BOOSTING DAIRY VALUE CHAINS AND CITIZEN SERVICES IN MUHORONI, KISUMU COUNTY







STRENGTHENING CASE MANAGEMENT AND CHILD REINTEGRATION THROUGH CARE REFORM TRAINING IN UASIN GISHU COUNTY

*A Field Reflection from Uasin Gishu County, Rift Valley Region
Contributed by the Uasin Gishu County Children's Office*

The State Department for Children Services (SDCS) office in Uasin Gishu County successfully concluded a three-day workforce training aimed at strengthening case management, family assessment, and child reintegration under the Care Reform Programme.

The training brought together Sub-County Children Officers and partner personnel to enhance their competencies in family assessment, stakeholder engagement, and child-centred case management during the second phase of reintegration processes.

The engagement focused on equipping frontline officers with practical knowledge and coordinated approaches necessary to support the safe transition of children from institutional care into family and community-based care. Discussions also emphasized the importance of evidence-based decision-making, inter-agency collaboration, and sustained follow-up mechanisms to safeguard the best interests of children throughout the reintegration process.

Uasin Gishu County is among the three counties in the Rift Valley Region piloting the national Care Reform agenda in partnership with Lumos and UNICEF Kenya. The initiative supports the implementation of the National Care Reform Strategy for Children in Kenya (2022 - 2032), which seeks to transition children from Charitable Children's Institutions into safe and sustainable family and community-based care by the year 2032.

As part of this commitment, Uasin Gishu County aims to transition seventy-five percent (75%) of children currently living in Charitable Children's Institutions by the end of 2027, reaffirming the County's commitment to promoting family-based care and safeguarding the rights and well-being of children.

IN PICTURES: WORKFORCE TRAINING ON CASE MANAGEMENT AND CHILD REINTEGRATION IN UASIN GISHU COUNTY



REUNIFICATION OF A CHILD WITH HIS BIOLOGICAL FAMILY IN KANGUNDO SUB-COUNTY

*A Field Reflection from Machakos County, Eastern Region
Contributed by the Kangundo Sub-County Children's Office*

The Kangundo Sub-County Children's Office successfully facilitated the reunification of minor G.Z. with his biological family, marking a significant milestone in the promotion of family-based care and the advancement of Care Reforms in Kenya.

The child had previously been rescued by the Office following circumstances that necessitated intervention and protection. Pursuant to orders of the Honourable Court, the child was placed under the care and protection of the Child Welfare Society of Kenya (CWSK), where comprehensive support and alternative care services were provided.

Through CWSK's established family tracing networks and case management processes, extensive tracing, verification, and family assessment procedures were undertaken, culminating in the child's safe and supported reunification with his biological family. The process reflected the collaborative efforts of the State Department for Children Services, the judiciary, CWSK, and community stakeholders in safeguarding the best interests of the child.

The reunification aligns with the principles enshrined under the Children Act, 2022, which gives effect to Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Section 11 of the Act affirms every child's right to parental care and protection, while emphasizing that where parents or guardians are temporarily unable to provide care, alternative care arrangements should prioritize family and community-based solutions, with reunification pursued whenever safe and appropriate.

The Act further promotes a hierarchy of care that favours family preservation and alternative family care over long-term institutionalization. Placement in alternative care is intended to remain temporary and as a measure of last resort, while robust mechanisms for kinship care, guardianship, foster care, and reintegration continue to be strengthened nationally.

The successful reunification was also guided by the National Care Reform Strategy for Children in Kenya (2022 - 2032) and the accompanying National Guidelines on transitioning children to family and community-based care. The Strategy envisions a Kenya where all children grow up safely and sustainably within nurturing family and community environments that uphold their rights, dignity, and holistic development.

CWSK played a central role throughout the process by providing holistic care during the child's placement, conducting family tracing and suitability assessments, and coordinating with the Children's Office and the Court to facilitate the necessary approvals and transition arrangements. Follow-up and monitoring mechanisms will continue to be undertaken to support the child's successful reintegration and long-term well-being.

The return of G.Z. to his biological family represents a meaningful step in advancing care reform efforts within Machakos County and across the country. It demonstrates the impact of coordinated child protection systems in reducing reliance on institutional care, strengthening families, and promoting every child's right to identity, belonging, protection, and family life within a safe and supportive environment.



Mr. William Omondi Ochieng signs reunification documents during the reintegration process.



Children Officers, officials from the Child Welfare Society of Kenya, and the family pose for a group photograph alongside items donated to support the child's reintegration and family welfare

ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH THE KANGUNDO COURT USERS COMMITTEE

*A Field Reflection from Machakos County, Eastern Region
Contributed by the Kangundo Sub-County Children's Office*

A Court Users Committee (CUC) meeting for Kangundo Law Courts was convened, bringing together key justice sector stakeholders to deliberate on matters relating to child protection and access to justice within Kangundo Sub-County.

Drawing from data generated through the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), the Kangundo Sub-County Children's Office presented prevailing case trends affecting children and advocated for targeted, evidence-based interventions to address the leading categories of child protection concerns within the Sub-County.

The engagement provided a strategic platform for stakeholders to reflect on emerging challenges affecting children and to strengthen coordinated responses within the justice and child protection sectors. Discussions emphasized the importance of preventive and community-driven interventions in promoting the rights and welfare of children.

Among the key resolutions reached, members of the Court Users Committee committed to supporting the Children's Office in conducting community sensitization forums focusing on child rights, positive role modelling, positive parenting, and the eradication of harmful cultural practices.

Appreciation was extended to all members for their continued collaboration and commitment to advancing access to justice and child protection. Special recognition was accorded to the Law Society of Kenya for its consistent provision of pro bono legal representation to children in conflict with the law whenever called upon.

The engagement served as a powerful reminder that when institutions unite around data, collaboration, and shared purpose, meaningful protection for children becomes not merely an aspiration, but a practical and lived reality within communities.



Members of the Court Users Committee pose for a group photograph following the meeting held at Viet Gardens.

QUARTERLY SUB-COUNTY MULTISECTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON SYNDEMIC DISEASES CONTROL

*A Field Reflection from Machakos County, Eastern Region
Contributed by the Kangundo Sub-County Children's Office*

Today, the Quarterly Sub-County Multisectoral Committee Meeting on Syndemic Diseases Control convened at Kangundo Level 4 Hospital under the leadership of the Sub-County Medical Officer of Health. The forum brought together representatives from the health sector, Children's Services, the education sector, Community Health Volunteers, and other key stakeholders to review progress and strengthen coordinated community interventions targeting syndemic diseases, including HIV & AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), Malaria, and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Among those in attendance were the Sub-County Medical Officer of Health, who chaired the meeting, medical officers and facility in-charges from Kangundo Level 4 Hospital, Community Health Volunteer coordinators, representatives from the education sector, officers from the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council focal team, alongside officers and partners working with vulnerable populations within the Sub-County.

Deliberations focused on the prevailing epidemiological situation within Kangundo Sub-County, with particular emphasis placed on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, TB contact tracing among children, malaria control during the ongoing rainy season, and the growing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases and their impact on household stability and child welfare. Participants reviewed quarterly performance data and discussed emerging challenges, including treatment adherence gaps, stock availability concerns, and the indirect effects of parental illness on the safety, care, and well-being of children.

The meeting strongly underscored the importance of sustained multisectoral collaboration in ensuring integrated and community-centered service delivery. Contributions from the Children's Office highlighted the heightened vulnerabilities faced by orphans and children living with or affected by syndemic diseases, emphasizing the need for timely referrals, psychosocial support, strengthened case management, and protection from neglect, exploitation, and abuse arising from family health crises.

The discussions further reaffirmed the legal and policy framework guiding the collective response. Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 guarantees every child the right to basic nutrition, shelter, healthcare, and protection from abuse and neglect, while Article 43 affirms the right of every person to the highest attainable standard of health. These constitutional guarantees are operationalized through the Children Act, 2022, particularly Section 16, which affirms every child's right to healthcare services, access to age-appropriate health information, confidentiality, and a child-friendly environment. Sections 4 and 8 of the Act further reinforce the principle that the best interests of the child shall remain the primary consideration in all actions concerning children. The Public Health Act equally provides a statutory basis for coordinated disease prevention and control efforts across sectors.

A key reflection from the meeting, aptly captured by the Sub-County Medical Officer of Health, was:

"No child should be left behind in our syndemic response; health and child protection must walk together to secure the future of our communities."

Among the resolutions reached were the development of a standardized bidirectional referral mechanism between health facilities and the Children's Office, joint sensitization initiatives on PMTCT and pediatric treatment adherence, and the establishment of a small technical team to monitor child-specific indicators during the next review period. The Children's Office reaffirmed its commitment to fully participate in these initiatives while upholding confidentiality standards and prioritizing effective case management for affected children.

Overall, the meeting was productive and reaffirmed the indispensable value of coordinated multisectoral engagement in safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable families. The collaborative spirit demonstrated by stakeholders provided renewed momentum toward building healthier, safer, and more resilient communities within Kangundo Sub-County.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH SENSITIZATION FORUMS IN MWALA SUB-COUNTY

*A Field Reflection from Machakos County, Eastern Region |
Contributed by the Mwala Sub-County Children's Office*

The State Department for Children Services (SDCS) in Mwala Sub-County, through Sub-County Children Officer Mr. Julius Maswi and Children Officer Mr. Edward Nyamala, successfully concluded a four-day sensitization forum on child protection within Ikaalasa and Kibauni Locations in Kibauni Division.

The forum brought together officers from the National Police Service and the Ministry of Health, reflecting a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to addressing child protection concerns at community level. Participants engaged in discussions on key thematic areas including child protection legal frameworks, best practices in responding to child protection cases, prevention of violence and promotion of positive parenting, reporting mechanisms and referral pathways, as well as child growth and development.

The sessions provided a platform for strengthening community understanding of safeguarding systems while reinforcing the importance of timely reporting and coordinated response to cases affecting children. Emphasis was also placed on equipping community structures with practical knowledge to support prevention and early intervention.

A key outcome of the forum was the development of a community action plan, under which participants committed to cascading child protection information to village level through newly formed Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs). This initiative is expected to enhance grassroots awareness, early identification of risks, and community-led response mechanisms

The engagement reaffirmed the State Department's commitment to advancing child protection through inclusive, community-driven, and collaborative approaches that place children's safety and well-being at the centre of development effort

IN PICTURES: COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION ON CHILD PROTECTION IN MWALA SUB-COUNTY



STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS THROUGH THE LAUNCH OF A CHILD PROTECTION UNIT IN TURBO SUB-COUNTY

*A Field Reflection from Uasin Gishu County, Rift Valley Region
Contributed by the Turbo Sub-County Children's Office*

The Turbo Sub-County Children's Office successfully launched and officially handed over the first Child Protection Unit (CPU) at Turbo Police Station, marking a significant milestone in advancing child-friendly justice and protection systems within Uasin Gishu County

The establishment of the Child Protection Unit represents a strategic intervention aimed at enhancing the response to child protection cases, particularly in Turbo Sub-County, which records the highest number of child-related cases in the County. The initiative was designed to ensure timely, coordinated, and sensitive handling of cases involving children in need of care and protection.

The facility will provide a safe and child-friendly environment for survivors of violence, neglect, abuse, and exploitation. It will also strengthen case management processes, reporting and referral systems, counselling services, and multi-agency coordination among child protection stakeholders.

The initiative was supported by Beam Kenya in partnership with the State Department for Children Services and the National Police Service, reflecting a collaborative approach to safeguarding the rights and welfare of children.

The launch brought together key stakeholders in the child protection sector, including members of the Eldoret Courts Court Users Committee, the National Police Service, and various child protection partners in Uasin Gishu County, all of whom reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening coordinated efforts in protecting children and promoting their well-being.

IN PICTURES: LAUNCH OF THE CHILD PROTECTION UNIT AT TURBO POLICE STATION, UASIN GISHU COUNTY



MWALA SUB-COUNTY CHILDREN ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEWS CHILD PROTECTION TRENDS AND STRENGTHENS MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE

*A Field Reflection from Machakos County, Eastern Region
Contributed by the Mwala Sub-County Children's Office*

The State Department for Children Services in Mwala Sub-County today convened its 4th Children Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, bringing together key child protection stakeholders to review child protection trends and strengthen coordinated interventions within the sub-county.

During the meeting, members reviewed the third quarter Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) report and discussed emerging child protection trends compared to the second quarter. The review noted an increase in neglect and custody-related cases, prompting members to emphasize the need for intensified community sensitization across the sub-county.

Recognizing the vast geographical coverage of Mwala Sub-County, members underscored the importance of inclusive and collaborative child protection efforts, noting that sustained engagement of all child protection stakeholders remains critical in addressing child protection concerns and strengthening the multi-sectoral approach.

The committee also highlighted key challenges affecting service delivery within the health sector, including the need for professional counsellors in Level 4 hospitals and adequate testing kits in Level 3 health facilities. Members observed that children and caregivers are often compelled to travel long distances to access essential services, affecting timely response and weakening referral pathways. Representatives from the Ministry of Health present during the meeting committed to follow up on the concerns raised and support appropriate interventions.

The meeting concluded with a resolution that child protection issues continue to be incorporated as a standing agenda item during village barazas convened regularly by the National Government Administration Officers, in a bid to strengthen community awareness and reinforce child protection efforts at the grassroots level.



Members of the Mwala Sub-County Children Advisory Committee pose for a group photo after the meeting.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFEGUARDING: MULTI-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP EMPOWERS 125 GENDER CHAMPIONS IN KANGUNDO, MWALA AND MATUNGULU

*A Field Reflection from Machakos County, Eastern Region
Contributed by the Kangundo Sub-County Children's Office*

In a strong demonstration of coordinated action in child protection and gender-based violence prevention, SHOFKO partnered with the State Department for Children Services (Kangundo Sub-County Office, now under the leadership of Mr. Neville Musima following the transfer of Mr. William Omondi Ochieng), the Ministry of Health, the Probation and Aftercare Services, and the National Police Service to convene a one-day capacity-building workshop for Gender Champions drawn from Kangundo, Mwala, and Matungulu Sub-Counties.

The training, held at Nguluni Salvation Army Church Hall, brought together 125 participants at a time when concerns over rising cases of gender-based violence, particularly affecting children, continue to demand sustained and multi-layered interventions. The initiative aimed at strengthening participants' knowledge and practical skills in child rights, safeguarding, and protection in line with the Children Act, 2022 and applicable international frameworks.

Guided by core child protection principles, the sessions reinforced key provisions of the Children Act, 2022, including the right of every child to life, survival, development, and protection, the principle of the best interests of the child as paramount, prohibition of discrimination, protection from all forms of abuse, and the prohibition of harmful cultural practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Participants were also equipped with practical safeguarding tools, including the Non-Negotiable Code of Conduct with emphasis on the two-deep rule and mandatory reporting obligations, as well as the 4Cs of digital safety, namely Content, Contact, Conduct, and Commerce. These tools were aimed at enhancing prevention, early identification, and response to child protection concerns within communities.

The workshop further underscored the critical role of Gender Champions as frontline actors in community awareness, prevention of abuse, and the transformation of harmful gender norms. Presentations from different agencies highlighted existing referral pathways and the importance of timely, coordinated multi-agency responses in addressing child protection cases effectively.

Through shared reflections, stakeholders reaffirmed that safeguarding children requires sustained collaboration between government institutions, civil society, and communities. The engagement concluded with participants signing a Champions' Pledge and developing actionable commitments to guide their work at the sub-county level.

The initiative marked a significant step in strengthening community-based protection systems and empowering local champions to drive sustained advocacy for child rights and safer communities across the three sub-counties.

IN PICTURES: CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP GENDER CHAMPIONS IN KANGUNDO, MWALA AND MATUNGULU





CPA Carren Agengo
Principal Secretary
State Department for Children Services

Share Your Story

We're always looking for inspiring stories, reflections, and field reports from across the country. If you have a contribution for the next issue of Children Services Weekly, email us at sdcs.newsletter@gmail.com and be part of the conversation advancing child protection in Kenya

For all inquiries, feedback, and official correspondence, please contact us via email at csw.inquiriesdesk@gmail.com.

A heartfelt thank you to all our contributors whose time, insights, and on-the-ground experiences made this edition possible.



State Department for Children Services



Carren Agengo