



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

# **National Commitments to Ending Violence Against Children in Kenya**

**1st Global Ministerial Conference on Ending  
Violence Against Children**

**7-8 November 2024  
Bogotá Colombia**



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## NATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN KENYA

### Background

Kenya's population in 2019 was estimated to be 47.6 million of which 21.9 million were children. Kenyan children face a range of vulnerabilities due to poverty, disability, harmful practices, family breakdown, and political conflict. In this context, violence, abuse, and harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) continue to affect many children in Kenya. According to the 2019 Violence Against Children Survey, nearly half of girls (45.9%) and more than half of boys (56.1%) experienced violence during their childhood. Physical violence is the most common type of violence in childhood with nearly two out of five females (38.8 %) and half of males (51.9%) affected. Parents and caregivers are the most common perpetrators. Nearly one in six females (15.6 %) experienced childhood sexual violence and among them, nearly two-thirds (62.6 %) experienced multiple incidents before age 18. A lower percentage (6.4 %) of males experienced childhood sexual violence.

The Disrupting Harm Survey, 2021 shows an alarming picture on online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Kenya: Two-thirds of internet-using children have not been taught about how to stay safe online and; 14% of the children had met someone face-to-face after first encountering them online in the past year. In Kenya, one in 10 children is not living with their biological parents although they are alive (Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022). Currently, 44,070 children reside in institutional care across 902 Charitable Children's Institutions (CCIs).

Over the past decade, Kenya has made significant strides in enhancing child protection, particularly in addressing violence against children (VAC) and strengthening the legal and policy frameworks that safeguard children's rights including the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and the Children Act (Cap 141). On data and evidence gathering, two nationally representative surveys on violence against children were carried out in 2010 and 2019 that informed the five-year strategic plans in place (National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children 2019- 2023, National Action Plan to tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2022-2026).

Complementing these efforts, The National Parenting Programme was launched in 2023 to equip parents with essential skills in non-violent discipline, communication, and emotional regulation, fostering safer, nurturing family environments. The Government also launched the National Care Reform Strategy for children in Kenya (2022-2032) to transition from a system of care where all children and young people are living in institutional care, or unaccompanied or separated, to a system which allows all children to live safely, happily and sustainably in family and community-based care where their best interests are served. The Government of Kenya is committed to end violence against children with increased investment in key activities across different sectors including education, health, justice and social protection as stated below.



**1. Parent and caregiver support:** The Government of Kenya pledges to:

- I. Invest Ksh.2.6 billion<sup>1</sup> to strengthen the capacity of families to foster healthy and equitable family relationships by rolling out the National Positive Parenting Programme (NPPP) to reach 2 million families by 2027.
- II. Invest Ksh.600 million<sup>2</sup> for the implementation of the Child Care Reform Strategy countrywide, transitioning 70% of children in residential institutions of care to safe, loving and supported families by 2027.
- III. Invest Ksh.16 billion for the establishment and operationalization of the Child Welfare Fund<sup>3</sup> by 2027 to support 4.2 million families to safeguard the right to social security.
- IV. Scale up Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE)<sup>4</sup> programme a cash plus programme with nutrition and child protection components, to reach 2.9 million families in additional 7 counties by 2030.

**2. Safe and Enabling School Environments:** The Government of Kenya pledges to:

- I. Strengthen psychosocial support for learners and educators by capacity building at least 100,000 teachers and non-teaching staff by 2030 to address mental health, trauma, and support needs for children, emphasizing early intervention and referral systems for vulnerable students.
- II. Promote positive discipline as a national standard by designing and implementing evidence-based school safety programs and training at least 100,000 teachers at basic education level to adopt supportive and nonviolent disciplinary approaches by 2030.
- III. Enhance inclusive child participation in violence prevention and response initiatives that empower learners as active partners in shaping policies and practices through various platforms in at least 50% of schools by 2030.
- IV. Enhance provision of digital safety education in schools by 2030 by training at least 50,000 teachers to equip learners with skills to navigate online environments safely and prevent cyberbullying.

**3. Response and support services:** The Government of Kenya pledges to:

- I. To enhance the safety of children in all settings by developing and disseminating a Kenya Safeguarding Policy for Children by 2027.

<sup>1</sup> [FINAL-MTP-IV-2023-2027\\_240320\\_184046.pdf](#) pg, 283.

<sup>2</sup> [FINAL-MTP-IV-2023-2027\\_240320\\_184046.pdf](#) pg, 283.

<sup>3</sup> Section 12(7) of the Children Act Cap 141

<sup>4</sup> NICHE - Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education is a cash plus programme designed to improve the nutritional status of children in the first 1,000 days of life. The programme includes the national positive parenting programme to address violence.



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- II. Provide trauma informed training for 16,000<sup>5</sup> authorized officers<sup>6</sup> by 2027 to handle child abuse cases with sensitivity, care and minimal re-traumatization.
- III. Train 80,000 Community Health Promoters on Violence Against Children (VAC) by 2027 to enhance awareness and support within local communities to prevent and respond to violence against children.
- IV. Enhance the capacity of 5,000 healthcare providers with the necessary skills and knowledge on handling Violence Against Children (VAC) by 2027.
- V. Designate and gazette Specialized Children Courts<sup>7</sup> in 45 additional counties to fast-track the justice process by 2027.
- VI. Increase the number of children officers by 50% each year and strengthen their capacity by 2027.
- VII. Operationalize the coordination structures (Children Advisory Committees) at 336 sub-counties and all 47 counties through capacity building and resourcing by 2027.
- VIII. Review the Sexual Offenses Act 2006 to include emerging issues including technology facilitated crimes against children by 2030.

### 4. Ending Harmful Norms and Values: The Government of Kenya pledges to:

- I. Conduct a baseline survey on the prevalence of harmful practices<sup>8</sup> on children by 2027.
- II. Develop and implement a male engagement program to end child marriage by 2027 in 7 hotspot counties.
- III. Develop and disseminate a strategy and guidelines to end harmful practices on children by 2027.

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<sup>5</sup> 2000 officers per agency from the 8 authorized officers agencies.

<sup>6</sup> "authorized officer" includes a police officer, a chief, a children's officer, a probation officer, prison officer, a registered medical practitioner, a labor officer, a teacher, or any other officer authorized by the Secretary or under any other written law for the purposes of the Children Act.

<sup>7</sup> Section 90 (1)(2) of the Children Act Cap 141

<sup>8</sup> Section 23 of the Children Act; (a) in the case of a male child, forced circumcision; (b) female genital mutilation; (c) child marriage; (d) virginity testing; (e) girl child beading; (f) except with the advice of a medical geneticist, organ change or removal in case of an intersex child; or (g) any other cultural or religious rite, custom or practice that is likely to negatively affect the child's life, health, social wellbeing, dignity, physical, emotional or psychological development.

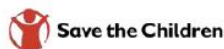


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## 5. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Research and Learning: The Government of Kenya pledges to:

- I. Establish, maintain and update a database<sup>9</sup> of children in Kenya by 2027.
- II. Invest Ksh.40 million to improve the functionality and utilization of the Child Protection Information Management System to strengthen the child protection programmes by 2027.

## Acknowledgements



<sup>9</sup> Section 42(t) Children Act Cap 141