



MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE AND CHILDREN SERVICES
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN SERVICES



CHILDREN SERVICES WEEKLY - ISSUE 10

IN THIS ISSUE:

We celebrate 60 years of impact at Mama Ngina Children's Home in Kisumu County — a powerful reminder of the role rescue centres play in shaping brighter futures.

In Kisii County, a well-coordinated Government operation led to the rescue of 13 minors from an unregistered CCI, underscoring the State Department's firm stance on child safety and the power of multisectoral collaboration.

Plus, key engagements with UNICEF, Childline Kenya, and other partners reinforce our commitment to strengthening child protection systems across Kenya.

A publication of the
State Department for
Children Services

IN THIS ISSUE:

PS Ageng'o Hosts Childline
Kenya Board
PAGE 2

Celebrating Mama Ngina Children's
Home in Kisumu
PAGE 4

13 Minors Saved from Unregistered
CCI in Kisii County
PAGE 8

STRENGTHENING THE LIFELINE: PS AGENG'O HOSTS CHIDLINE KENYA FOR STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT ON HELPLINE 116

On 21st July 2025, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, hosted a delegation from Childline Kenya led by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. George Okado, for a strategic meeting aimed at strengthening the 116 Child Helpline partnership.

Key priorities discussed included the decentralization of the helpline to enable localized response mechanisms, improving feedback loops, and integrating local languages and cultural sensitivity into service delivery.

The engagement focused on enhancing the helpline's reach, responsiveness, and long-term sustainability to ensure that all children in Kenya, regardless of location, background, or circumstance, have timely access to protection services. The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to building a more efficient, accessible, and child centered emergency response platform.

Despite its critical role, the helpline still faces challenges such as intermittent system downtimes, high call volumes, limited grassroots integration, and language barriers. Addressing these issues was acknowledged as essential to delivering equitable and responsive care to every child.

Both the Principal Secretary and the Childline Kenya team emphasized the importance of a data-driven approach in shaping policy and advocacy efforts. They also called for increased public awareness to ensure every child knows and trusts Helpline 116 as a reliable avenue for help.

This meeting marks a vital step toward a more resilient, inclusive, and effective child protection ecosystem in Kenya. The State Department appreciates the longstanding partnership with Childline Kenya in advancing child safety nationwide.



PS CPA Carren Ageng'o engages the Childline Kenya leadership on strengthening the 116 Child Helpline for enhanced child protection services.



PS Ageng'o poses for a group photo with the Childline Kenya delegation after a strategic engagement on scaling up emergency response mechanisms for children.

PS AGENG'O, UNICEF IN STRATEGIC POLICY DIALOGUE



PS CPA Carren Ageng'o engages with the UNICEF Kenya delegation during a strategic dialogue on advancing child protection and social protection policies.

On 21st July 2025, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, held a strategic policy dialogue with representatives from UNICEF Kenya. The engagement reaffirmed the ongoing partnership between the Government of Kenya and UNICEF in advancing child protection and social protection priorities.

UNICEF reiterated its commitment to providing technical assistance to the Government in key areas such as public finance, cash transfer programming for orphans and vulnerable children, the Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) programme, and adolescent empowerment initiatives.

Discussions also reflected on global lessons and best practices, emphasizing the importance of data-driven, evidence based, and sustainable approaches that deliver measurable impact for children.

The State Department for Children Services looks forward to further deepening this collaboration with UNICEF to ensure that inclusive and transformative services reach the most vulnerable children across Kenya.

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE: PS AGENG'O ATTENDS PERFORMANCE SENSITIZATION MANAGEMENT

On 23rd July 2025, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, joined fellow Principal Secretaries for a high-level orientation session on performance management at the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary.

The session emphasized the critical role of structured performance systems in enhancing public service delivery and aligning ministerial mandates with national development goals, including Kenya Vision 2030, the Fourth Medium Term Plan, and the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda.



PS CPA Carren Ageng'o follows proceedings during the Performance Management Orientation for Principal Secretaries at the Prime Cabinet Secretary's Office.

As key policy implementers, Principal Secretaries are expected to provide strategic leadership, ensure efficient resource mobilization, and strengthen departmental accountability. The session reaffirmed the importance of data-driven decision making and institutional effectiveness in delivering measurable outcomes for Kenya's development.

HONOURING SIX DECADES OF SERVICE: MAMA NGINA CHILDREN'S HOME CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF CHILD PROTECTION IN KISUMU

On 25th July 2025, the Principal Secretary for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, joined His Excellency Professor Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor of Kisumu County, Mama Kisumu Dorothy Nyong'o, Member of Parliament Hon. Aduma Owuor, and other county leaders to commemorate the sixtieth (60) anniversary of Mama Ngina Children's Home in Kibuye, Kisumu County.



Governor Nyong'o, Mama Kisumu Dorothy Nyong'o, and PS Ageng'o join in song with the children during the celebration.

Established six (6) decades ago, Mama Ngina Children's Home has remained a sanctuary of hope and care for vulnerable children, providing protection, shelter, and a sense of belonging to countless young lives. The event marked a celebration of this enduring legacy and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening Kenya's child care and protection system.

In her address, Principal Secretary Ageng'o acknowledged the essential role that rescue centres play in supporting child survivors of violence and underscored the department's ongoing efforts in care reform.

"We are transitioning from institutional care to safe, loving, and supportive family and community based care, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow, to belong, and to thrive,"
CPA Carren Ageng'o.



Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o delivering his remarks during the 60th anniversary celebration of Mama Ngina Children's Home.

Governor Nyong'o echoed the call for collective responsibility, urging the business community, development partners, and residents of Kisumu to support Mama Ngina Children's Home. Special recognition was given to the Centre Manager, Hellen Apiyo (Tuli Tulitu), for her outstanding service and leadership at the institution.

This milestone celebration reaffirmed the shared vision of a society where no child is left behind and where every child receives the care, dignity, and support they deserve.

WRITING THEIR NAMES INTO THE NATION: LIGHTING THE PATH OF IDENTITY FOR CHILDREN IN KANGUNDO

Contributed by the Kangundo Sub-County Office, Machakos County, Eastern Region

In line with efforts to reinforce the rights guaranteed under Section 7 of the Children Act, No. 29 of 2022, which affirms every child's entitlement to a name and nationality from birth, the Directorate of Children's Services - Kangundo Office, under the State Department for Children Services, participated in a community-based registration drive in Kangundo Sub-County, Machakos County (Eastern Region) on 16th July 2025. The outreach resulted in the issuance of over one hundred (100) birth and death certificates, with special focus on vulnerable children and families who often face structural and logistical barriers in accessing central government services.

This initiative was part of a broader national effort to bring essential services closer to underserved populations. It was implemented in collaboration with the County Government of Machakos, the Office of the Women Representative, Civil Registration Services, the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, National Government Administration Officers, the Directorate of Children's Services, and other key stakeholders.

"This initiative is not just about paperwork. It is about belonging," said Mr. William Ochieng, Kangundo Sub-County Children's Officer. "Many of these children already walk and talk, full of life and promise, yet their names are only now being written into the nation's records. With each certificate, we honour their identity, affirm their place in society, and open the door to a future where they are fully seen, protected, and included."

The event also provided a valuable platform for raising public awareness on child protection, including emerging risks such as online child sexual exploitation, and abuse. Participants were encouraged to make timely reports through national channels like the toll-free Child Helpline 116.

As the sun set over Kangundo, the impact of the outreach extended beyond legal documentation. It stood as a quiet yet powerful reminder of the government's enduring commitment to visibility, inclusion, and protection for every child, no matter their background or circumstance.



Group photo of participants during the Kangundo Sub-County child protection sensitization forum.

EMPOWERING CAREGIVERS THROUGH POSITIVE PARENTING TRAINING IN GATUNDU SOUTH

Contributed by the Gatundu South Sub-County Office, Kiambu County, Central Region

On 1st and 2nd July 2025, the Gatundu South Sub-County Children's Office, in partnership with TDH and ECOM, conducted a two-day Positive Parenting training for eighteen (18) parents and caregivers drawn from six (6) locations across the sub-county. The training was a timely response to rising cases of child neglect, domestic violence, and family dysfunction, often linked to alcoholism, poverty, and strained household dynamics.

The sessions were designed to equip caregivers, particularly those from vulnerable families, with practical tools to foster nurturing, respectful, and emotionally safe home environments. Topics covered included healthy family relationships, positive discipline, child development, effective communication, mental wellness, and basic financial planning.

In a safe and reflective space, caregivers revisited their own childhood experiences and explored alternative approaches to raising children with empathy, consistency, and dignity. Participants were also sensitized on early signs of abuse, available child protection services, and the importance of caregiver self-care in supporting stable families.

To sustain the impact of the training, participants formed a peer support group and were equipped with key child protection contacts, including the toll-free Child Helpline 116.

This initiative marks a meaningful step toward preventing violence, strengthening family resilience, and deepening the community's collective role in child protection and well-being.



Participants being addressed by the SCCO, Gatundu South



Participants during a session with a staff from TDH

LEAVING NO LEARNER BEHIND: KITUI SOUTH MP LAUNCHES KSH 424,000 BURSARY FUND TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Contributed by the Kitui South Sub-County Office, Kitui County, Eastern Region

On 19th July 2025, Kitui South Constituency Member of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Rachael Kaki Nyamai, CBS, unveiled an additional bursary allocation amounting to Ksh 424,000 to support at least forty-five (45) students from vulnerable families across the constituency. The launch event, held at the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) offices, brought together education stakeholders, local leaders, and the area Children Officer from the State Department for Children Services.

In her remarks, Hon. Dr. Nyamai reaffirmed her dedication to inclusive education and child welfare. “Our children must remain in class, not out herding goats or worrying about school fees,” she stated, underscoring the vital role of bursary programs in dismantling barriers to education for children from low-income households.

The Children Officer praised the initiative as a meaningful intervention to combat school dropout, promote social inclusion, and advance the national child protection agenda. The officer further emphasized that safeguarding a child’s right to education is a shared responsibility that demands coordination between leaders, agencies, and the broader community.

The event served as a strong reminder of the power of targeted investment in human potential. It reaffirmed the constituency’s commitment to ensuring that no learner is left behind, regardless of their socio-economic background.



Children Officer Kitui South joins Hon. Dr. Rachael Kaki Nyamai, MP for Kitui South, during the bursary disbursement event supporting access to education.



Beneficiaries of the Kitui South bursary fund receive their cheques during the official handover ceremony held at the CDF offices.

RESCUING HOPE: PS AGENG'O LEADS MULTI-AGENCY RESCUE OF 13 CHILDREN IN KISII COUNTY

Contributed by the Gucha South Sub-County Office, Kisii County, Nyanza Region

In a powerful show of leadership and solidarity, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, led a high-level rescue operation following the discovery of thirteen (13) minors living in an unregistered Charitable Children's Institution (CCI). The operation, held on July 22, 2025, underscores the State Department's unwavering commitment to safeguarding every child's right to protection, care, and dignity.

The rescue was prompted by a brave escape made by one (1) of the minors, who walked over seven (7) kilometers at dawn to a nearby Children's Office. After receiving immediate psychosocial support, the child was escorted to the nearest police station to file an official report and underwent a medical examination. She has since been relocated to a registered and safe alternative care institution.

The subsequent investigation and coordinated intervention, spearheaded by the State Department for Children Services, the National Council for Children's Services (NCCS) and local administration teams, culminated in the successful rescue of twelve (12) more children from the same institution. The alleged perpetrator, who also serves as the institution's director, was arraigned in court and released on bond as the Judiciary deals with the matter.

The visit by PS Ageng'o brought reassurance and relief to the affected children. Her presence signaled the State's readiness to respond, protect, and provide a path forward for vulnerable children facing abuse or neglect.

The State Department commends the swift and collaborative response of the multisectoral task force, comprising NCCS, children services officers at all levels, county and sub-county security teams, and National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO), whose combined efforts ensured the children have been relocated to safe places as the Judiciary handles the case.



PS CPA Carren Ageng'o and her team interact warmly with rescued children during the official visit to Gucha South, Kisii County.



PS CPA Carren Ageng'o addresses the media on the successful rescue and protection efforts for minors from the unregistered CCI in Kisii.



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Hello... I don't feel safe
at home. Can I talk to
someone?

~ Caller

You're not alone. I'm
here to listen and help.
This call is safe and
confidential.

~ Responder

National Child Helpline Kenya

116

CONFIDENTIAL • FREE • AVAILABLE 24/7 • SAFE







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 sdews.newsletter@gmail.com and be part of the conversation advancing child protection in Kenya.

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

~ Children Services Weekly Editorial Team

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A publication of the
State Department for Children Services