



CHILDREN SERVICES WEEKLY - ISSUE 11

This week's edition highlights Kenya's continued efforts to protect and empower children across counties.

We spotlight the national commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons held in Nakuru, disability awareness efforts in Kangundo, and child online safety sensitizations in Nairobi schools.

Also featured are strategic engagements by the Principal Secretary with partners including Save the Children and Mtoto News, as well as the fulfilment of a special promise by H.E. First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto to the children of Makueni.

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State Department for
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Kenya Commemorates World Day Against Trafficking In Persons 2025

Submitted by Damaris Makena



Participants march through Nakuru town during the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025, raising awareness.

On 30th July 2025, Kenya joined the global community in commemorating the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (WDATIP), with national celebrations held at the ASK Showground in Nakuru. The event, led by the State Department for Children Services under the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, reaffirmed Kenya's strong commitment to ending human trafficking and protecting victims of exploitation.

This year's theme, "Human Trafficking is Organised Crime – End the Exploitation," emphasized the complexity of trafficking networks and the need for coordinated, multi-agency responses to dismantle them.

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 through Resolution A/RES/68/192, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons aims to raise awareness about the plight of trafficking victims and to promote efforts to protect their rights and hold perpetrators accountable. In Kenya, the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act, 2010 provides the legal framework for preventing and addressing trafficking, aligning with global protocols and targeting crimes such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, slavery, and organ trafficking.

Representing Principal Secretary CPA Carren Ageng'o, Secretary for Children Services Mr. Shem Nyakutu delivered the keynote address. In his address, Mr. Nyakutu called for united action to uphold victims' rights, strengthen prevention

measures, and bring perpetrators to justice.

A 2022 report by the National Crime Research Centre revealed that children account for 4 in 10 victims of internal trafficking, and 2 in 10 victims of international trafficking from Kenya. Common drivers include poverty, unemployment, family disintegration, and displacement due to climate change. Traffickers often pose as recruiters, family members, or trusted friends, using deceptive online platforms and false promises to exploit vulnerable individuals.

To counter these threats, the Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat has spearheaded rescue and reintegration initiatives, including the repatriation of 153 Kenyan victims from Myanmar, training of over 700 frontline officers, and the operationalisation of a state-run shelter for survivors with a capacity of twenty (20). The National Assistance Trust Fund has also empowered at least thirty-five (35) survivors to start small businesses, reducing their vulnerability to re-trafficking.

Citizens were urged to use only National Employment Authority (NEA)-accredited agencies when pursuing overseas jobs and to demand formal contracts and correct visa documentation.

The event concluded with a renewed national call: end trafficking, protect dignity, and act in unity to End Human Trafficking and End Modern Day Slavery.

Delivering Hope Through Water: First Lady Launches Borehole Project At Unoa Primary School, Makueni

On 16th June 2025, the Day of the African Child, a commitment was made by the First Lady to the children of Unoa Primary School in Makueni. She pledged to address the school's decades-long water crisis. On 30th July 2025, that promise was honoured when Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Mama Rachel Ruto, officially launched a borehole project that would, for the first time in over seventy-five (75) years, provide clean and safe water to the school and its surrounding community.



First Lady H.E. Mama Rachel Ruto operates the borehole water system at Unoa Primary School in Makueni.

Accompanied by Her Excellency Anita Mutula, First Lady of Makueni County, Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Mr. Julius Korir, the County Commissioner, and other senior officials, Mama Rachel Ruto presided over the launch with warmth and vision.

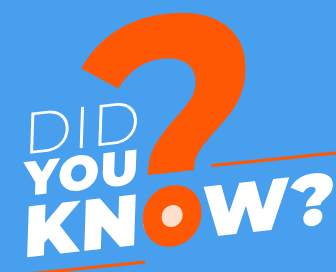


First Lady H.E. Mama Rachel Ruto addresses pupils of Unoa Primary School and members of the Makueni community during the official launch of a school borehole project.

This initiative marks more than just a water source, it signals the beginning of long-term transformation. With access to clean water, Unoa Primary School can now improve hygiene standards, start kitchen gardens, and plant fruit trees to support school feeding programmes and a greener learning environment.

“Every child deserves to learn in a safe, green, and nurturing environment,” affirmed Her Excellency Mama Rachel Ruto. **“This project is a step toward realizing that vision for Unoa and many other schools.”**

The State Department for Children Services lauds the First Lady for her unwavering dedication to child welfare and thanks the leadership of Makueni County for supporting such impactful change. This project is a testament to how visionary leadership and community-driven development can water not just the land, but the dreams of children.

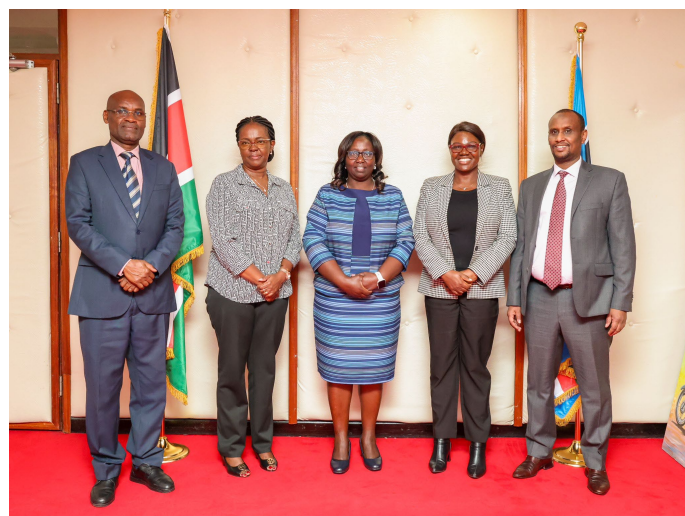


The State Department for Children Services runs over 47 county offices and more than 100 sub-county offices, ensuring grassroots-level protection and support for children.

Performance Contract Vetting: Ministry Reaffirms Commitment To Accountable Service Delivery

During the Financial Year 2025/2026 Performance Contract Vetting Exercise held at Maktaba Kuu in Nairobi, the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, reaffirmed the Ministry's strong commitment to results-driven service delivery aligned with Kenya's national development priorities.

She was joined by Principal Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action, Ms. Anne Wang'ombe, Principal Secretary for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, and Mr. Moses Ivuto, Secretary Administration for Culture, the Arts and Heritage, who represented PS Ummi Bashir, CBS. The leadership of these top officials was recognised for advancing department-level target setting that is both realistic and transformative.



CS Hon. Hannah Cheptumo with PSs Ageng'o, Wang'ombe, Ibrahim, and PAS Mwiranga at the Ministry headquarters.

Convened in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, the session brought together senior government officials including PS for National Government Coordination, Mr. Ahmed A. Ibrahim, and Principal Administrative Secretary for Performance Management, Mr. Joshua Mwiranga. The discussions focused on aligning the Ministry's performance obligations with Vision 2030, the Fourth Medium Term Plan, and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

The State Department for Children Services reaffirmed its commitment to embedding performance targets into its core functions to enhance service delivery and uphold the rights of vulnerable children across the country. This alignment not only supports equitable access to services but also fosters a more responsive and accountable public sector.



Staff from the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services during the FY 2025/26 Performance Contract vetting exercise at Maktaba Kuu.

In her remarks, CS Cheptumo emphasised that the performance contract is a product of mutual consensus, representing a shared pledge to transparency, responsiveness, and continuous institutional improvement. She urged departmental heads to cascade targets through the Staff Performance Appraisal System and to ensure that all reporting frameworks remain outcome-oriented and evidence-based.

Through coordinated leadership and a strong culture of accountability, the Ministry continues to demonstrate its dedication to transforming lives and strengthening public confidence in government systems.

Strengthening Child Participation: PS Ageng'o Meets Mtoto News On Child Rights Advocacy



PS CPA Carren Ageng'o hosts Mtoto News for a strategic discussion on strengthening child participation in governance.

On 29th July 2025, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, met with Ms. Jennifer Kaberi, Executive Director of Mtoto News, to advance the national agenda of Meaningful Child Participation in governance.

The meeting reaffirmed the right of every child to be

heard and involved in decisions that affect them, as outlined in the Children Act, 2022. PS Ageng'o emphasized the need to move beyond symbolic engagement by integrating children's voices in budgeting, planning, and policymaking processes.

The discussion also highlighted existing gaps where children's input is not always reflected in final outcomes. Both the State Department and Mtoto News committed to strengthening coordination of child participation activities, particularly at county level. Ms. Kaberi was joined by Mr. Elijah Bonyo, a child advocacy and policy specialist.

This engagement marks a significant step toward creating inclusive, child-centered governance frameworks where children are truly seen, heard, and involved.

Enhancing Partnerships For Child Protection: PS Ageng'o Meets Save The Children Kenya

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, recently hosted Ms. Rabilossaporn Pornpun, Country Director for Save the Children Kenya, for a courtesy visit in Nairobi.

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration and scaling up child-centered interventions across the country. Key areas of discussion included child protection in emergencies, child participation, capacity building, adolescent programming, maternal and child health, access to water, climate resilience, education, and evidence-based policy development.

Both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing children's rights and well-being. PS Ageng'o emphasized that strategic partnerships with



PS CPA Carren Ageng'o welcomes Save the Children Kenya for a courtesy call to deepen collaboration on child protection and strategic investments in children's well-being.

organisations like Save the Children are vital to delivering sustainable, impactful services for vulnerable children across Kenya.

Bringing Light To Every Child: Kangundo Disability Forum Affirms Rights And Dignity

Submitted by Kangundo Sub-County Office

On 22nd July 2025, Kangundo Sub-County held a disability awareness forum in Kivaani, East Ward—reaffirming the collective duty to protect and uplift children and persons living with disabilities. The event came soon after the Kangundo Children's Office secured court orders for public funding of medical care for a child survivor of abuse, reinforcing the State's commitment to justice and equity.

Organised by the Directorate of Children Services in partnership with various stakeholders—including the Assistant County Commissioner, NCPWD, Ministry of Health, TSC, Probation and Aftercare, the National Police Service, and the State Department for Youth Affairs—the forum brought together hundreds of participants, most of them living with disabilities.

Attendees were sensitised on services such as special needs assessments, registration under the Social Health Insurance Fund, youth empowerment initiatives, legal procedures, and cash transfer programmes for vulnerable populations.



Members of the public follow proceedings during the disability awareness exercise in Kangundo Sub-County.

Children Officers William Omondi Ochieng and Neville Musima led sessions on disability inclusion, emphasizing early identification, support systems, and the importance of reporting mechanisms like the 116 Child Helpline. **“When we hide a child with a disability, we deny them their future and deny**

ourselves the gift of their potential,” said Mr. Ochieng.



Mr. Ochieng addresses members of the public during the disability awareness forum in Kangundo Sub-County.

On-site registration for undocumented persons with disabilities was also conducted. The Assistant County Commissioner applauded the outreach and pledged continued collaboration.

This forum was more than an awareness event—it was a bold commitment to building inclusive, empowered communities where all children can thrive.



Mr. Musima engages members of the public during the disability awareness forum in Kangundo Sub-County.

Safe Surfing: Promoting Online Child Safety At Milimani Primary School

Submitted by Jackline Ikuwa - Senior Children Officer, DCI-AHTCPU

On 29th July 2025, the Directorate of Children Services, in collaboration with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations through the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Lawyers Without Borders, and other child justice stakeholders, conducted a sensitisation session on online child safety at Milimani Primary School in Nairobi.

Located near informal settlements, the school reported that its learners are more exposed to child protection risks, both online and offline. The engagement created a safe space for children to ask questions, reflect on their experiences, and understand the support systems available to them.

“While the internet presents incredible opportunities, it also carries risks. Ensuring our children are informed and protected must be a shared priority,”

- Jackline Ikuwa, Senior Children Officer, DCI AHTCPU



Children Officer interacting with the learners

The session underscored the need for ongoing training and sensitisation not only for children but also for teachers, parents, and school administrators. Participants agreed that stronger collaboration between state and non-state actors remains essential in building a safer digital environment for all children.

The school management expressed gratitude for the outreach and requested follow-up sessions focusing on parents and caregivers, recognising that long-term child online safety requires a whole-community approach.

With more than 1,495 learners enrolled across primary and junior secondary levels, the school served as a vital platform for raising awareness about the growing risks children face in digital spaces. The session addressed key topics including online child abuse and exploitation, grooming tactics used by online predators, available reporting mechanisms, the role of the justice system, and the importance of prevention through continuous awareness.

Special focus was placed on equipping learners with the skills to recognise and respond to online threats, particularly through digital games and social media platforms which had been flagged as high-risk by the school. The learners were also introduced to national reporting tools, such as the toll-free Child Helpline 116, and encouraged to seek help whenever they encounter inappropriate online interactions.



Milimani primary school learners interacting with the IEC material

Strengthening Family-based Care: Kafaalah Trainings Held In Kisumu, Kilifi And Mombasa

Submitted by by Range David - Alternative Care Department

In a sustained effort to scale up family-based alternative care for children, the State Department for Children's Services, through its Alternative Care Department and in partnership with Catholic Relief Services under the Changing The Way We Care programme, conducted a series of Kafaalah training sessions across Kisumu, Kilifi, and Mombasa Counties in June and July 2025. The initiative was further supported by representatives from the Kadhi Courts.

The three (3) day training aimed to enhance the capacity of child protection actors and para-social workers using the Kafaalah Flipbook, a community education tool developed to promote consistent understanding and community engagement around Kafaalah. The flipbook centers communities in the promotion and implementation of Kafaalah, while also supporting the scaling and funding of this care model.

Kafaalah is recognized under Kenyan law as a valid and important form of alternative care for children without parental support. It plays a vital role in Kenya's care reform agenda, which seeks to transition from institutional care models to family and community-based options that align with cultural and religious values and uphold the best interests of the child.

The training focused on three (3) objectives: helping participants understand Kafaalah within the wider continuum of care, equipping them with skills to support appropriate Kafaalah placements, and building their capacity to sensitise communities, including children, on the values, responsibilities, and processes involved in Kafaalah care.

A total of sixty-seven (67) participants were trained and certified across the three (3) counties. The group included Children Officers, representatives from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and Kadhi Court officials, highlighting the strong multi-sectoral approach to child protection.

The State Department for Children's Services remains committed to strengthening care systems that honour both religious tradition and children's rights, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe, loving, and dignified family environment.



Mombasa Kafaalah Steering Committee during the child community-engagement



Kilifi Kafaalah Steering Committee during the child community-engagement



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

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 sdcws.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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