



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



CHILDREN SERVICES WEEKLY - ISSUE 9

This edition highlights strategic actions driving child protection and early childhood care. From the national ECD conference in Garissa to key partnerships with IOM and the British High Commission, we spotlight ongoing efforts to improve support for vulnerable children and families. Also featured are local initiatives like case conferencing in Githunguri, reinforcing our commitment to collaboration, inclusion, and child-focused service delivery.

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CHAMPIONING ECD REFORMS: PS AGENG'O AT THE 6TH NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE

From 15th to 17th July, 2025, Garissa County hosted the 6th National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Stakeholders' Conference under the theme "Promoting Transformative Systemic Change in a Child's Ecosystem." The forum also marked the 10th anniversary of the ECD Network for Kenya (ECDNeK) and brought together stakeholders from government, civil society, development partners, academia, and county leadership.

Principal Secretary CPA Carren Ageng'o, who led the State Department for Children Services delegation, emphasized the importance of embedding protection, care, nutrition, and learning into development plans. *"Strengthening childcare is not just about services—it's about creating ecosystems where children thrive,"* she said during her keynote.



Guest Speaker: PS Carren Ageng'o delivers her keynote address at the 6th National ECD Stakeholders' Conference.

Advancing Equity and Coordination

The conference focused on practical reforms to tackle long-standing barriers to ECD service delivery, such as limited financing, fragmented systems, and the exclusion of children with disabilities. PS Ageng'o highlighted government efforts like the Positive Parenting Programme, the NICHE initiative, and the upcoming Kenya Integrated ECD Policy 2024.

Latest national data shared during the forum revealed that nearly 1 in 2 children in Kenya face violence before age 18, and over a third of 3–5-year-olds are not enrolled in early learning programs. Participants discussed how stronger

data systems like CPIMS, multi-sector collaboration, and inclusive governance can help close these gaps.



Chief Guest: H.E. Nathif Jama Adam, Governor of Garissa County, during the official opening of the 6th National ECD Stakeholders' Conference.

A Decade of Progress and a Call to Action

The event celebrated 10 years of ECDNeK's work in advocacy, research, and innovation. Leaders including Prof. Teresa Mwoma and Mr. Oscar Kadenge encouraged stakeholders to continue building bold, community-led, and data-driven solutions.

In his opening remarks, Garissa Governor H.E. Nathif Jama Adam pledged continued county-level support for child development, despite regional challenges. The conference concluded with a united call to align systems and partnerships for an equitable future—where every child is protected, empowered, and given a fair start in life.



Prof. Teresa Mwoma, National Coordinator, ECDNeK, addressing participants during the conference.

SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD: HIGH-LEVEL VISIT TO KABARNET SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

On 18th July 2025, the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, led a high-level delegation on an official visit to Kabarnet School for the Deaf and Blind in Baringo County. She was accompanied by Ms. Anne Wang'ombe, Principal Secretary for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action, and CPA Carren Ageng'o, Principal Secretary for Children Services.

The visit commenced with courtesy calls to the County Commissioner and H.E. Governor Benjamin Cheboi, EBS, EGH. The delegation engaged in discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between national and county governments in advancing child protection, gender equality, and disability inclusion.



Baringo Governor Benjamin Cheboi joins CS Cheptumo, PS Ageng'o, and PS Wang'ombe in enjoying a lively presentation during the visit.

As part of the mission, the delegation officially handed over donations to Sunrise Children's Home and other schools across the county. Contributions were made by the Child Welfare Society of Kenya, National Council for Children Services, Kenya Red Cross Society, State Department of Special Programs, and the Gender Violence Recovery Centre. These items are expected to enhance the care and support provided to vulnerable children in the region.

During community engagement sessions with

children, caregivers, parents, and local leaders, the delegation emphasized the importance of providing equal care, love, and opportunity to all children, particularly those living with disabilities. The forum also served as a platform to sensitize the community on ongoing government programs supporting orphans and vulnerable children.



CS Hon. Hannah Cheptumo delivers her speech during the official visit to Baringo County.

Raising concern over rising cases of child neglect in the county, PS Ageng'o urged parents and guardians to embrace their roles more intentionally, ensuring that all children grow up in safe, nurturing, and inclusive environments.

The visit reflected the Ministry's growing commitment to coordinated and multisectoral support for vulnerable children and families, with a particular focus on joint national-county action.



PS Carren Ageng'o and PS Anne Wang'ombe attentively following the day's proceedings.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SAFETY NETS: PS AGENG'O HOSTS FCDO DELEGATION FOR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

On 10th July 2025, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, hosted Ms. Eduarda Gray, Deputy Director of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and her delegation from the British High Commission for a high-level courtesy call.

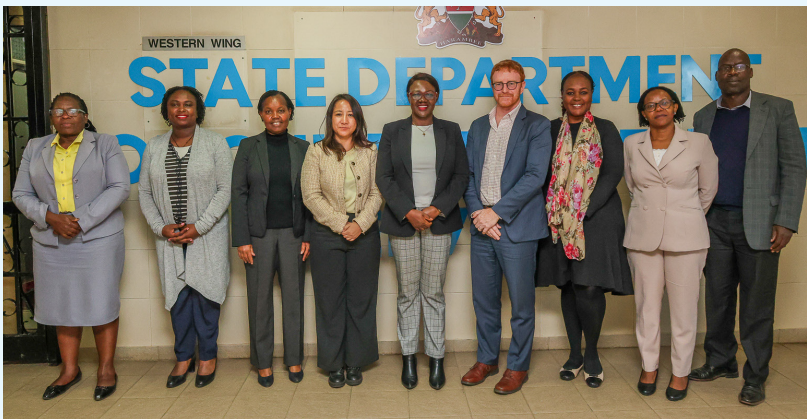


PS Carren Agengo with FDCO Members and SDCS Staff Members

The meeting reaffirmed the strong bilateral relationship and mutual commitment between the Government of Kenya and the United Kingdom to enhance social protection programs targeting vulnerable populations. In particular, both parties emphasized the urgent need to scale up collaborative efforts in maternal and child health and nutrition, as key pillars of a resilient social safety net.

Discussions also explored the value of strengthening integrated, community-based approaches that draw on the combined strengths of government agencies, development partners, and local systems. The Principal Secretary reiterated the State Department's commitment to multisectoral collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and innovative service delivery models that protect children and uplift families. Both sides agreed to continue advancing joint programs that deliver meaningful outcomes for children across Kenya.

ADVANCING SAFE MIGRATION: PS AGENG'O HOSTS IOM-UN FOR STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT



PS Carren Agengo with IOM-UN Staff and SDCS Staff Members

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Services, CPA Carren Ageng'o, on 10th July 2025, hosted a delegation from the International Organization for Migration (IOM UN), led by the Acting Chief of Mission, Mr John McCue. This high-level engagement focused on strengthening strategic cooperation in the prevention of human trafficking and enhancing support mechanisms for vulnerable migrant children.

IOM-UN continues to work alongside the Government of Kenya by providing technical expertise, building institutional capacity, and supporting the implementation of programmes that promote safe, orderly, and dignified migration.

The discussions underscored the critical importance of both bilateral and multilateral collaboration in eliminating human trafficking, particularly among at-risk children. The State Department reaffirmed its commitment to cross-sectoral partnerships aimed at protecting children on the move and upholding their rights across borders.

GARISSA COUNTY UNVEILS MODEL ECD CLASSROOMS DURING NATIONAL ECD STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

As part of the activities marking the 2025 National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Stakeholders Conference, H.E. Governor Nathif Jama, together with CPA Carren Ageng'o, Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Services under the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, officially opened model ECD classrooms at Hyuga Girls Primary School in Garissa County on 15th July 2025.

The launch of the new facilities stands as a testament to Garissa County's commitment to investing in strong foundations for lifelong learning. The event further underscored the importance of county and national government collaboration in scaling up access to quality, inclusive, and child-friendly early learning infrastructure.

The classrooms represent a major milestone in the county's ECD agenda and are aligned with the national theme of the conference: "Promoting Transformative Systemic Change in a Child's Ecosystem." They serve not only as learning spaces, but also as symbols of progress toward a nurturing, equitable, and well-resourced future for Kenya's youngest learners.

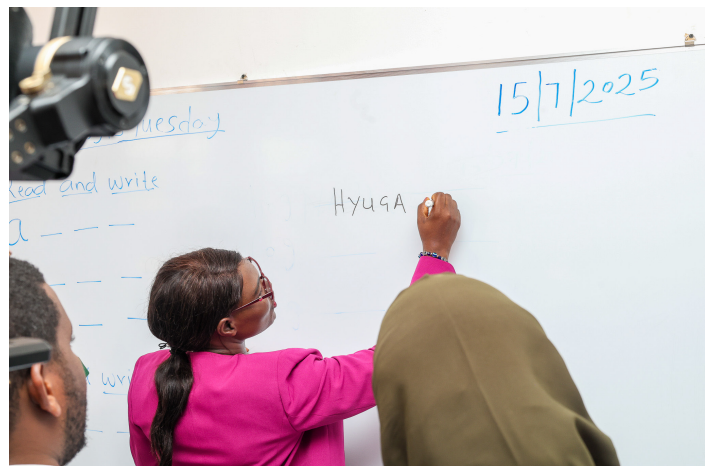
Community leaders, parents, and educators welcomed the investment, noting its role in increasing enrolment, reducing disparities, and fostering school readiness. The initiative also highlighted the importance of investing in teacher training and supportive learning materials to ensure impact and sustainability. As Kenya pushes forward with its Care Reform Agenda and ECD policy priorities, such collaborations remain critical to delivering results for every child, everywhere.



Newly constructed ECD Classrooms in Garrisa County



A child showcasing skills on a learning app on phone



PS Carren writing a message on the board

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING: KANGUNDO'S BOLD STEP FOR CLEAN JUSTICE

Contributed by the Kangundo Sub-County Office

In a strategic move to uphold integrity within Kenya's justice system, the Judiciary Integrity Committee—guided by a directive from Chief Justice Hon. Martha Koome—convened its first sensitization forum for senior National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs) in Kangundo Sub-County, Machakos County. The forum was attended by key justice sector stakeholders including Judiciary magistrates Hon. S.A. Opande and Hon. D.N. Sure, representatives from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), and the State Department of Children Services.

The forum aimed to reinforce ethical leadership and accountability in line with Article 10 and Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya, the Leadership and Integrity Act, and relevant policy frameworks. Discussions covered the judiciary's zero-tolerance policy on corruption, ethical responsibilities of public officers, and the importance of coordinated responses to integrity challenges.

"If you see something, say something."

William O. Ochieng

Mr. William Omondi Ochieng, Kangundo Sub-County Children's Officer and a Court Users Committee representative, presented on the critical role of NGAOs in upholding justice and safeguarding children. He highlighted threats beyond financial corruption, such as coercion, manipulation, abuse of authority, and deliberate misinformation, which erode fairness in the justice chain. His presentation also stressed the need to protect children in digital spaces, with a call to action on combating Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) and raising awareness on the National Child Helpline 116.

Mr. Ochieng emphasized that ethical conduct begins with individual responsibility and that even one act of misconduct can compromise trust in the entire justice system. The forum ended with a strong message: for justice to prevail, every officer must act as a guardian of integrity.



Mr. Ochieng delivers his presentation alongside other Judiciary Integrity Committee members.



Hon. D.N. Sure delivers her presentation alongside other Judiciary Integrity Committee members.

SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION OF A CHILD FROM HOMA BAY TO MBEERE SOUTH, EMBU COUNTY

Contributed by the Homa Bay County Office

On 17th July 2025, a minor was successfully reintegrated to Mbeere South Sub-County, Embu County, from Homa Bay County, following a coordinated child protection response. The child had been misled by a relative with false promises of education but was instead subjected to child labour.

Following a rescue operation, the child was temporarily placed in a Charitable Children's Institution as tracing and reintegration efforts were initiated. Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Mwaura supported the reintegration process on behalf of the Sub-County Children Officer, who was attending court at the time.

Special appreciation goes to Sub-County Children Officer Madam Beth, whose support, coordination, and groundwork ensured a smooth transition and a soft landing for the child.

This case underscores the value of inter-agency collaboration and the State Department's continued commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of every child, regardless of county boundaries.



Homa Bay Children Officer in Mbeere South Sub-County reintegrating a child with a family member at the Deputy County Commissioner Office

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH CASE CONFERENCING: A GATHAITHI OVC STORY

Contributed by the Githunguri Sub-County Office

On 4th July 2025, Gathaithi OVC Centre hosted a milestone case conferencing session, bringing together a multidisciplinary team of child protection stakeholders to review and strengthen care pathways for 32 vulnerable children.

Case conferencing is a core element of child protection case management. It provides a structured, participatory platform for social workers, caregivers, government officers, and partners to co-develop comprehensive care plans. These plans consider each child's individual context and are guided by principles of child rights and family-based care.

Led by Sub-County Children Officer Ms. June Wachira, the session brought together staff from Gathaithi OVC Centre, Child in Family Focus Kenya (CFFK), and Weza Care, including CFFK Director Mr. Peter Kamau and Githunguri Children's Officer Mr. Brian Siele. The team also included counselors, field officers, and social workers from the partnering institutions.

Each case resulted in a time-bound, actionable plan addressing specific needs from psychosocial support and educational assistance to family tracing, reintegration, or foster care readiness.

These plans were aligned with Kenya's National Care Reform Strategy (2022 - 2032) and grounded in community realities.

In addition to reviewing files, the session provided an invaluable space for professional development. Participants exchanged knowledge, reviewed ethical standards, and reinforced coordination protocols, deepening their understanding of holistic child care.

To support ongoing psychosocial documentation, SCCO Wachira also distributed copies of the My Life Story Book to the centre, targeting children under five with complex family histories and care transitions.

"The case conference helped us align our goals, clarify responsibilities, and most importantly, listen to each child's story in a structured, respectful manner," - Ms. June Wachira

This session served not just as a review meeting, but as a model of effective gatekeeping ensuring that interventions are child-centered, rights-based, and rooted in strong professional collaboration.



SCCO Wachira meeting with staff from Gathaithi OVC Centre, Child in Family Focus Kenya (CFFK), and Weza Care



SCCO Wachira also distributing copies of the My Life Story Book to the centre



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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 sdcs.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.

~ SDCS Newsletter Team

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