



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



## **CHILDREN WELFARE WEEKLY VOL. 5**

This issue highlights key efforts in child welfare, including PS Ageng'o's NTV interview, an advocacy meeting with MPs on child financing, and a visit to Embu Law Courts on child-friendly justice. We also feature training on adoption reforms, a workshop on Alternative Justice Systems, an Eid outreach to Kabete institutions, and Kangundo's half-year impact report.

A publication of the  
State Department for  
Children Welfare Services

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

---

Interview with NTV  
PAGE 2

---

Justice for Children – Embu Visit  
PAGE 4

---

Kangundo Impact Report  
(Jan-June 2025)  
PAGE 8

## INTERVIEW WITH NTV ON THE CHILD WELFARE AGENDA

CPA Carren Ageng'o, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Welfare Services, appeared on NTV Kenya's Fix The Nation to shed light on the government's continued commitment to advancing child welfare in Kenya.

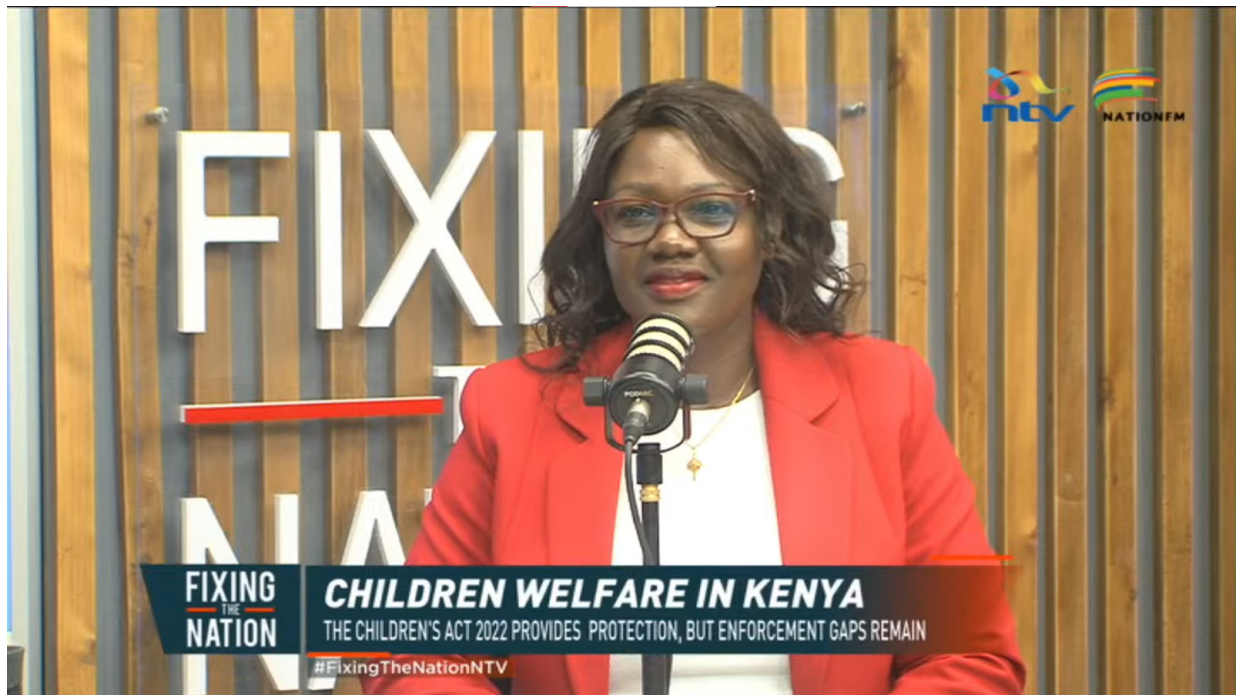
During the interview, PS Ageng'o reflected on the successful launch of the Day of the African Child 2025 held in Bungoma County, highlighting the event's significance in rallying stakeholders to prioritize children's rights. She also gave a sneak preview of the upcoming national celebrations scheduled for June 16 in Makueni County, to be graced by Her Excellency the First Lady of Kenya.

The conversation touched on key areas of progress including:

- Strengthening of child protection systems at all levels
- Strategic budget planning and resource allocation for children's services
- The importance of inclusive policies to ensure no child is left behind

PS Ageng'o emphasized that the government remains committed to placing children at the heart of national development, and called for sustained multi-sectoral efforts to deliver on Kenya's child welfare goals.

Missed the conversation? Watch the full interview now on [NTV Kenya's YouTube page](#).



*PS Carren Ageng'o at NTV's Fixing The Nation*



# ADVOCACY MEETING FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS CAUCUS FOR CHILDREN

From 13th–14th June 2025, the State Department for Children Welfare Services, in partnership with UNICEF and The World Bank, hosted a strategic Advocacy Meeting for the Parliamentarians' Caucus for Children at the Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi. Themed “Public Finance for Children – Child Protection and Social Protection,” the two-day forum focused on mobilizing MPs to prioritize and advocate for child-focused budgeting and policy support.

## Highlights:

### 1. Financing Proposals:

MPs called for a National Fund for Children, financed by a percentage of taxes from tobacco, alcohol, gambling, and crime proceeds. A “Seed Tax” for children, modeled after the Sports Fund, was also proposed. Legislators urged the State Department to push for dedicated child welfare funding at Cabinet level.

### 2. Local Engagement:

Emphasis was placed on strengthening the role of County Governments and Sub-County Children Officers, with calls to utilize CDF and local resources to support children's services and infrastructure.

### 3. Legislative Support:

MPs backed the full implementation of the Children Act, 2022, institutionalization of paralegal services, and review of key laws such as the Social Protection Bill, ECD Bill, and proposals to index cash transfers to inflation.

### 4. Strategic Insights:

The meeting underscored the cost of inaction in child protection, supported children's participation, and identified teenage pregnancy as a key driver of poverty. MPs proposed exploring Debt Swaps to finance child-focused programs and urged the PSC to address staffing gaps in the sector.

## Expert Input:

Presentations by UNICEF, The World Bank, and partners highlighted Kenya's child welfare trends, financing models, and strategic investment cases for child protection and social protection.

## Commitment:

MPs expressed strong commitment to enhancing public investment in children, recognizing that meaningful progress in child welfare is essential for Kenya's long-term social and economic development.



*Members of Parliament, child welfare stakeholders, and development partners gather during a two-day advocacy meeting in Nairobi to champion increased public financing for child protection and social protection programs.*



## STRENGTHENING JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN: EMBU LAW COURTS SETS THE PACE

In line with the One-Government Approach and our ongoing strategic partnership with the Judiciary, the State Department for Children Welfare Services recently visited the Embu Law Courts to engage in key deliberations on access to justice for children in conflict with and in contact with the law.

The visit highlighted the tremendous strides made by the Judiciary, particularly in collaboration with the Lumos Foundation, towards creating child-friendly courtrooms that uphold the dignity and rights of children involved in judicial processes. From physical infrastructure to courtroom etiquette, these spaces are designed to ensure that children are not further traumatized by the justice system, whether they appear as victims, witnesses, or children in conflict with the law.

We commend the leadership of Hon. Francis Kyambia, Chief Magistrate of the Embu Law Courts, for championing a justice environment where children are treated with care, respect, and sensitivity. His efforts reflect a growing national commitment to child-centered justice systems.

As a State Department, we reaffirm our dedication to enhancing this partnership with the Judiciary and scaling best practices across the country. Together, we aim to build a justice system where every child is protected, heard, and supported ensuring no child is left behind.



*PS CPA Carren Ageng'o joins officers from the State Department for Children Services, Hon. Francis Kyambia (Chief Magistrate, Embu Law Courts), the Embu County Commissioner, the Regional Coordinator for Eastern Region, and a representative from Lumos Foundation during a joint visit to Embu Law Courts to advance child-friendly justice.*

# TRAINING ON ADOPTION AND CARE REFORMS

Written by the National Council for Children's Services (NCCS)

From the 4th to the 6th of June 2025, the National Council for Children's Services (NCCS), in collaboration with the Directorate of Children's Services (DCS)—specifically the Alternative Family Care (AFC) department—convened a regional workshop aimed at strengthening the understanding and implementation of the Children Act, care reforms, and adoption processes in Kenya. The workshop was organized in alignment with the evolving child protection framework, with the overarching goal of enhancing institutional and individual capacity within the sector.

The initiative brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the NCCS, regional and county coordinators, select sub-county children officers, and some personnel from Charitable Children's Institutions (CCIs).

- **Region 1:** Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, Tana River, Taita Taveta, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera
- **Region 2:** Kisumu, Siya, Homabay, Kisii, Nyamira, Migori, Busia, Kakamega, Bungoma, Vihiga
- **Region 3:** Nakuru, Kajiado, Bomet, Kericho, Narok, Uasin Gishu, Turkana, Trans Nzoia, Samburu, West Pokot, Elegeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Baringo, Laikipia
- **Region 4:** Makueni, Machakos, Kitui, Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Embu, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Muranga, Kiambu, Nairobi, Marsabit, Kirinyaga Isiolo

The workshop's primary objectives were to familiarize participants with the ongoing care reforms in Kenya; to sensitize them on the provisions of the Children Act Cap 141; to provide a comprehensive overview of adoption provisions in the Act as well as the draft regulations, build capacity on compliance requirements for the renewal of CCI registrations and transitioning guidelines and child welfare programs. These objectives were addressed through a structured three-day program that combined expert-led sessions, participatory group work, and plenary discussions.

Throughout the sessions, participants raised important concerns and offered insights on the need to strengthen both policy formulation and implementation mechanisms. There was a resounding call to engage a broader range of stakeholders in future processes to ensure more inclusive and effective outcomes. The event reinforced the shared commitment of all stakeholders to uphold child rights and improve the quality of care and protection services across the country.



*stakeholders in region 3*



*stakeholders in region 4*



## WORKSHOP ON ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM (AJS)

Written by The National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Alternative Justice Systems Policy (NaSCI-AJS)

On 3rd and 4th June, Terres Des Hommes(TDH), The Legal Resource Foundation(LRF) and UNICEF hosted a satellite event in Nairobi on Alternative Justice System (AJS) as the 5th World congress on the same was marked in Madrid, Spain. The workshop was officially opened by Secretary Children Services, Shem Nyakutu on behalf of the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Children Welfare Services Carren Ageng'o.

The two-day event brought together various State and Non-State actors who included the Chair of the steering committee on AJS, Judiciary, Probation and aftercare services, State department for Children Welfare Services, National Police Service, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, National Council on the Administration of Justice, child rights lawyers, child therapists among others. The highlights of the discussion was on diversion, which is an international best practice. This is one of the disposal methods of children cases in line with Article 159 (c) of the Constitution (**requires courts and tribunals to promote alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms**). Additionally, diversion reflects the spirit of Article 40 of the UN convention on the rights of the child.

The participants had a critique look at how the landscape of diversion had evolved in Kenya, and how the State Department for Children Welfare services collaborates with the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution and the Judiciary in identifying suitable diversion pathways for children. The platform further looked at how the role of child protection officers can be strengthened in ensuring follow up and reintegration for diverted children considering the societal perceptions of such children. During the two-day event, a simulation of a children's court was conducted with the aim of demonstrating the role each justice actor plays in diversion. The participants then identified the gaps and challenges in implementation of diversion. Thereafter the participants were taken through another simulation on family group conference so as to bring to the fore the importance this platform plays in reference to the child, the family and community as a whole.

The way forward from the two-day activity was to develop a diversion framework anchored on the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) that will encompass all the stakeholders. TDH, UNICEF and LRF will support this process among other partners.



*Representatives from Terres Des Hommes (TDH), Legal Resource Foundation (LRF), and UNICEF during a satellite event in Nairobi focused on advancing the Alternative Justice System (AJS) for child-friendly justice solutions.*

## SPREADING JOY AND COMPASSION: EID AL-ADHA OUTREACH TO KABETE CHILD INSTITUTIONS

In celebration of Eid al-Adha, a touching outreach initiative was carried out at Kabete Rehabilitation Centre, bringing hope and happiness to hundreds of children across five child welfare institutions. The event, organized through the generous support of RAHMA Worldwide Organization, was presided over by Director Philip Nzenge, who represented the Principal Secretary for Children Welfare Services through the Office of the Secretary for Children Services.

Over 400 kilograms of carefully handled and packed meat were distributed to Kabete Rehabilitation Centre, Dagoretti Rehabilitation Centre, Getathuru Reception Centre, Nairobi Baby Centre, and Kabete Remand Home. The initiative aimed to ensure that children in institutional care could partake in the joy and spirit of Eid, reaffirming their place in the heart of the community.

The occasion was more than a donation—it was a powerful expression of solidarity, compassion, and shared humanity. Representatives from all five institutions joined the event, which also served as a platform for discussions on deepening the partnership between RAHMA Worldwide and the State Department for Children Welfare Services. Among the proposed areas of support were the installation of water tanks and solar energy systems to improve sustainability and quality of life within the facilities.

RAHMA Worldwide, a longstanding ally in advancing the rights and welfare of vulnerable children in Kenya, reiterated its commitment to continued collaboration. The organization encouraged the submission of a formal proposal through the Principal Secretary's office to initiate the next phase of support.

This Eid al-Adha initiative stands as a testament to the power of strategic partnerships in transforming lives. By working hand in hand with the Department of Strategic Interventions under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, RAHMA Worldwide continues to play a vital role in strengthening Kenya's child protection systems and delivering hope to children who need it most.



*Representatives from RAHMA Worldwide Organization, Director Philip Nzenge from State Department for Children Services and staff from Getathuru Reception Centre*



# STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION IN KANGUNDO: JANUARY-JUNE 2025 IMPACT REPORT

The Kangundo Sub-County Children's Office has recorded remarkable progress in its efforts to safeguard the rights and well-being of children over the first half of 2025. Guided by the Children Act, No. 29 of 2022 and the National Care Reform Strategy 2022–2032, the office has implemented impactful interventions through strong collaboration with both State and non-State partners.

According to the recently released Kangundo Sub-County Activity Report, more than 200 child protection cases were successfully managed and documented through the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS). These cases reflect a consistent commitment to addressing the complex needs of vulnerable children across the sub-county.

Key Highlights from January–June 2025:

- 200+ child protection cases addressed and managed
- 10+ children reintegrated into family care, including court-facilitated processes
- 250+ caregivers trained in Positive Parenting

- 500 trees planted through a local community greening initiative
- 21 multi-agency activities executed in coordination with partners

These interventions represent a dynamic blend of policy implementation, community engagement, and direct support to children and families in need. The period under review saw strategic partnerships formed, multi-agency collaborations strengthened, and community-based child protection systems reinforced.

As the Directorate of Children Services transitions into a fully-fledged State Department, new doors are opening for deeper impact and stronger coordination. The continued leadership of County Coordinator Madam Rhoda Mwikya and the tireless dedication of frontline officers and local partners have positioned Kangundo as a model of integrated child protection service delivery.

For a detailed look at the data and activities behind these highlights, view the full report [here](#).



*Family reunification of six (6) children with their biological parents in Kangundo sub-county*










*meeting with beneficiaries of the Presidential Secondary School Bursary (PSSB) program*

## Got a story to share?

We're always looking for inspiring stories, reports, or reflections! Send your contributions to [sdcws.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:sdcws.newsletter@gmail.com) and be part of the next issue of Children Welfare Weekly.

## Stay connected with us on social media:



 State Department of Children Welfare Services  



 Carren Agengo