



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN
WELFARE SERVICES

Welfare Weekly

A publication of the State Department for Children Welfare Services



FOREWORD

By the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Hon. Alfred Mutua,

The launch of the State Department For Children Welfare Services marks a historic moment in our nation's journey toward a just and compassionate society. For far too long, the rights and needs of children, our most vulnerable and most precious population have not received the systemic attention they deserve. With the establishment of this department, Kenya boldly reaffirms its constitutional promise and international obligations to protect, nurture, and empower every child.

Children are not passive recipients of care; they are rights-holders with the full dignity of personhood. The Constitution of Kenya, the Children Act (2022), and global frameworks such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child place a solemn duty on the state to protect children from neglect, abuse, exploitation, and harmful practices. This duty is not optional, it is foundational.

Child protection is not just a welfare issue, it is a matter of national development. A child who is safeguarded today becomes a resilient adult tomorrow. A child who is educated, healthy, and loved becomes a citizen who builds peace, drives innovation, and leads with empathy. Investing in children is investing in Kenya's future.

We are deeply grateful to H.E President Dr. William Ruto for establishing this vital department within the ministry, bringing protection services closer to our children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable members of society.

CS. Hon. Alfred Mutua
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection





By PS CPA Carren Ageng'o

This first issue of the Welfare Weekly comes at a time of renewed national commitment to the rights and welfare of children. It is both a reflection of our first milestones and a window into the work that lies ahead.

Why do children's rights matter? Because children are not mini-adults: They have unique needs, vulnerabilities, and aspirations that require tailored responses. They are dependent on others for care and protection, yet their voices are often the last to be heard. This department exists to change that.

In recent years, Kenya has made significant legal and policy advances from the enactment of the Children Act (2022) to the development of child-friendly justice systems. However, laws alone do not protect children, people do. And that is where our work begins: building systems

that work at the grassroots, listening to children, supporting families, and training duty bearers.

The Children Act 2022 is a transformative piece of legislation that has the potential to change the lives of children in Kenya for the better. However, its success depends on how we implement it. By finalizing operational regulations, establishing child protection infrastructure, enhancing the capacity of the actors, implementing digital systems like CJIMS and CPIMS, increasing budgetary allocation for children's services, establishing the Child Welfare Fund, and strengthening public awareness, we can ensure that this Act delivers on its promise.

This newsletter will document not just our actions, but our values: compassion, dignity, inclusion, and accountability. We hope it serves as a resource, a call to action, and a celebration of the tireless work being done in every corner of Kenya.

Together, we must commit ourselves to ensuring that every child in Kenya grows up in an environment where their rights are respected, their voices are heard, and their futures are secured.

Let us work together to make this vision a reality.

PS CPA Carren Ageng'o
State Department For Children Welfare Services



President Ruto Signs Disability Rights Bill into Law

On May 8th, President William Ruto signed the Persons with Disabilities Act, securing lifetime tax exemptions, caregiver support, and stronger protections for the neurodiverse. The law marks a major step toward inclusion and equality in Kenya.

Welfare Weekly | 1st Issue

We are delighted to present the inaugural issue of the Welfare Weekly: your go-to source for updates, events, and insights into the programs and policies advancing the well-being of children across Kenya.

The State Department for Children Welfare Services, previously under the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs, allows focused attention, dedicated resources and stronger systems to protect and uplift children across the country.

Since the official handover ceremony on 23rd April held at the State Department for Children Welfare, the newly appointed PS CPA Carren Ageng'o has been laying strong foundations for impactful work, first of which involves working with the Cabinet Secretary Hon. Dr. Alfred Mutua to implement the mandate of operationalizing the Childrens Act and strengthening Social Safety nets for children in Kenya.

Over the past few weeks, the department has engaged in various stakeholder meetings and events to prioritize key issues in child protection. This week's newsletter covers these activities and updates on what is to come in the following months.

A National Forum on Children

During the handing over ceremony, on 23rd April, The newly appointed PS CPA Carren Ageng'o stated that the State Department for Children Welfare Services will soon convene a National Forum on Children and thereafter called upon Parliament and National Treasury to provide ring-fence funding for the departments services.



Collaborative meetings

On 30th April, The State department for Children Welfare Services in partnership with UNICEF held a high-level breakfast meeting to discuss a policy brief outlining 'investment case for strengthening the social service workforce for child protection.'

The meeting was a fruitful engagement on particular issues related to building a social service workforce.



Labour Day Celebrations

The Labour Day celebrations presided over by H.E. President Dr. William Ruto at the Uhuru Gardens with the theme "Self-reliance in Production is the key to Economic Growth", it was well attended and marked the 60th anniversary of COTU-K which made for a more auspicious day.

The newly appointed PS CPA Carren Ageng'o attended the event and re-iterated Her office's commitment to safeguarding the rights and well-being of children across Kenya.



Senate Briefing

On 2nd May, The Ministry of Labour and Social protection, led by the Cabinet Secretary Hon. Alfred Mutua and PS CPA Carren Ageng'o appeared before the Senate Committee to present a brief on the mandate and priorities of the newly established State department for Children's Welfare Services.



Consultative Meetings with key stakeholders to discuss Child Protection

The PS CPA Carren Ageng'o of the State Department for Children Welfare and Abdinoor Sheikh Mohamed, CEO of the National Council for Children's Services (NCCS) held a consultative meeting in collaboration with development partners to discuss child protection issues in Kenya.

The meeting aimed to bring our perspectives on key issues affecting children and to build consensus on priority arrears for collaboration between government and child-focused organisations. The discussions highlighted the need for a coordinated effort to strengthen child protection systems and address emerging challenges in the country in order to ensure that the goal to protect every child in Kenya is achieved.



A visit from the Office of The First Lady

On 8th May, The Office of the First Lady, represented by Chief of Staff Madam Mary Muinde and Head of Programs Ms. Joan Seurei, paid a courtesy call to the State Department for Children Welfare Services to explore collaboration on child-focused programs. The meeting was chaired by PS CPA Carren Ageng'o.

The meeting was on expanding the National School Feeding Program and school kitchen gardens. Discussions were centered on three main foundations of child welfare: Protection, Participation and Provision, with a shared commitment to creating sustainable, child-friendly environments. The collaboration seeks to uplift vulnerable communities by improving children's nutrition



Insights from the 2025 Economic Survey Report

The 2025 Economic Survey Report launched on 6th May, indicates that the child birth registration rate in Kenya remains at 70% and highlights the need for increased efforts with regard to child birth registrations, to ensure that all children are able to receive essential services from the Government.

The State Department for Children Welfare intends to step up efforts on mobilizing child birth registration towards attaining global standards.



A New Era for Disability Rights in Kenya

On May 8th, history was made at State House Nairobi as President William Ruto signed into law the Persons with Disabilities Act, a transformative bill spearheaded by Senator Crystal Asige.

This progressive legislation marks a powerful shift toward greater protection, inclusion, and support for persons with disabilities across the country.

What the New Law Brings

- Permanent Tax Relief.
- Support for Caregivers.
- Stronger Rights Enforcement.
- Inclusion for the Neurodiverse.
- Better Representation.

This Act is more than a policy — it's a promise of dignity, opportunity, and equality for all Kenyans, regardless of ability.





At the state department for Children Welfare Services our Priority is the safety of and justice for our children.

By calling **child help line 116** , a **free 24-hour** emergency service , anyone across the country can anonymously report child abuse and other child protection concerns.

BACKGROUND

- The state department of Children Welfare Services is domiciled in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The Ministry of Labour has three State Departments, that is, Labour and Skills Development, Social Protection & Senior Citizen Affairs & Children Welfare Services.
- The Directorate draws its mandate from Articles 27, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 53 of the Constitution of Kenya, the Children Act 2022, the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2010 and the Executive Order No. 2 of 2023 that establishes the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.
- In 2021, Child Protection Service was gazetted as a Critical and Essential Services Provider. (Kenya Gazette Notice No. 59 of 12th April 2021).

VISION

A society where children enjoy their rights responsibly

MISSION

To safeguard the rights of all children in Kenya through effective implementation of relevant policies, coordination and partnerships for delivery of quality services.