



ECD
NETWORK
FOR KENYA

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

January-June 2022

Editors' note

This year ushered the chance to do things differently, with more intention and purpose. The editor's message in this issue gives a summary of January to June 2022, echoing the resilience shown by the ECDNEK secretariat strive to achieve its newly launched strategic plan 2021-2025. This issue showcases a snippet on areas covered so far not limited to but inclusive of advocacy, partnerships and collaborations as well as research. The short stories give an array of the milestones achieved so far. ECD Network for Kenya showcase its progress in the last six months and its endearing nature to push through all odds amidst the global pandemic Covid-19. We are thrilled as a secretariat to share our story with you our reader.

Editorial team,

ECD Network for Kenya secretariat

Advocacy

Validation Workshop for the Childcare Policy on children accompanying their incarcerated mothers (2021-2030)

Dr. Teresa Mwoma, the National Coordinator ECD Network for Kenya, was privileged to be among the participants who attended a one day validation workshop for the childcare policy on children accompanying their incarcerated mothers. The validation workshop was organized by the Kenya Prison Services in collaboration with Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ), and Directorate of Children Services. The Policy is meant to provide guidelines to ensure proper management of children accompanying their mothers to prison. The validation workshop happened on 27th January at the Kenya School of Government. It was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner General Kenya Prisons Service Madam Florence Omundi.



The Second Early Childhood development network for Kenya Annual General Meeting

ECD Network for Kenya Annual General Meeting took place virtually on 18th March, 2022, with an attendance of 31 registered members (21 individuals, 10 organizations). The members had an opportunity to elect the Board of Directors who took over from the interim board that was constituted in 2019. In accordance to the ACDE constitution, a Board of nine Directors was elected.

The Elected Board of Directors include: PATH represented by Beatrice Oyugi Chairing, ChildFund represented by Damaris Wambua member, Association of Sisterhood of Kenya (AOSK) represented by Sr. Joyce Nyagucha and Kidogo Innovations represented by Brian Ombayo. The Individual members elected include: Dr. Patricia Wekulo treasurer, Dr. Hudson Ouko member, Oscar Kadenge member, Joyce Wesonga Member, and Lilly Oyare member. Dr. Teresa Mwoma is an Ex-Officio and Secretary to the Board.



PATH - Board Chair



KIDOGO INNOVATIONS - Board Member



DR. TERESA MWOMA - Board Secretary



CHILDFUND - Board Member



ASSOCIATION OF SISTERHOODS OF KENYA - Board Member



OSCAR KADENGE - Board Member



ILLY OYARE - Board Member



DR. PATRICIA WEKULO - Board Treasurer



JOYCE WESONGA - Board Member



DR. HUDSON OUKO - Board Member

The National Policy Conference on ECCED

ECD Network for Kenya as a member of the Collaborative action on childcare a system wide flagship initiative of UTHABITI Africa, had an opportunity to participate in organizing the 1st ECCED policy conference. The collaboration designed the conference to turn the microscope on comprehensive policy and regulatory reforms needed to advance quality and affordable childcare in the era of devolution. The two days' conference was held on March 9 th and 10 th , 2022. The delegates were drawn from relevant government institutions (national and county), civil society organizations, funders, UN agencies, Philanthropists, Childcare entrepreneurs, Early Childhood front-line workers among others. The conference was held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. The ECD Network for Kenya members and the secretariat were among the delegates who attended the conference.



The National Early Childhood Education Committee (NECEC) Retreat

ECD Network for Kenya is a member of the National Early Childhood Education Committee (NECEC) coordinated by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education organized a four days retreat for the committee members in Naivasha. Dr. Mwoma represented ECD Network for Kenya in the retreat which was held at Lake Naivasha Resort from 20th and 24th June 2022. The retreat created an opportunity for members to share the milestones achieved in the last one year, challenges experienced and the way forward.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Regional Consultative meeting on implementation of global nurturing care in ECSA-HC region

The ECD Network for Kenya programmes Liaisons officer, Ms Sally Moraa attended the consultative meeting held in Dar-es-Salaam on 8th -9th February 2022. ECD specialists/focal persons from 8 East Central and Southern African Health community countries (ECSA-HC) member states and other experts who are part of the ECSA-HC Responsive Caregiving Experts' Committee including representatives from CSOs supporting the agenda attended and participated in the discussions. The meeting developed a shared understanding of the Nurturing Care Framework, learnings from country experiences, and exchange of ideas to accelerate the implementation of nurturing care in African countries.

Nairobi County chapter framework workshop in Nakuru County 22nd March

The Nairobi County ECD chapter meeting, organized by the ECD Network for Kenya, in collaboration with Nairobi City County Government and World Vision Kenya was held at Midland Hotel Nakuru from 22nd - 25th March 2022. The objective of the workshop was to develop the Nairobi County Chapter draft Framework to enhance multi-sectoral collaboration. Over thirty five participants took part in the four days' workshop drawn from ECD network for Kenya membership, partners implementing in Nairobi and government officials from Nairobi county government. Out of the workshop a county chapter framework was developed.



Learning/Sharing Meeting between ECD Network for Kenya and KANCO on Malezi Bora ya Awali

The ECD Network for Kenya Secretariat led by Dr Teresa Mwoma paid a courtesy call to KANCO office hosted by the Executive Director KANCO Mr Allan Ragi. The purpose of the courtesy call was to share insights on the implementation of Malezi Bora ya Awali in Nairobi, Kajiado and Kiambu Counties. The deliberations resulted to an action plan of scaling up the project further fundraising initiatives as well as support rendered to the ECDNEK secretariat through KANCO donating a laptop for use in implementing the project.



ECD Network for Kenya Internship Program for Mentorship of Young Scholars and Professionals

The ECD Network for Kenya has embraced the mentorship program as a strategy of mentoring young scholars and professionals into the ECD space. Since inception, the ECD Network has mentored three interns who are currently working in different organizations. The secretariat has also given a platform to over 10 volunteers who have served in various capacities such as national conference planning, rapportuering as well as participating and making presentation of their research work in various convenings and forums. As part of implementing the third national ECD stakeholders' Conference call to action, the ECDNeK secretariat received two new interns who joined the ECDNeK Secretariat on 1st March 2022. This has provided an opportunity for young scholars and professionals have hands on experience in the world of work within the ECD space. The network has also supported young scholars from local universities by involving them in the national ECD stakeholders' conferences as well as research.



Participation in the Launch of ChildFund Kenya Strategic Plan

ECD Network for Kenya was represented by Racheal Makena in the launch of Child Fund Kenya country strategic plan 2022-2026. The event was held at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) Nairobi on 7th April 2022. Child Fund Kenya is a member of the ECDNeK Board and has had a long-standing relationship with ECDNeK through supporting the network activities over the years. They implement programs on Child Protection, Household Economic Strengthening, Early Childhood Development, Education, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), Food Security, Emergency Response, Health and Nutrition, Climate Change and Resilience Building.



ECD Network for Kenya hosts its Board Chair PATH Kenya

PATH Kenya the Board Chair ECDNeK with a representative from PATH regional office paid a courtesy call to the ECD Network for Kenya secretariat on 5 th May. The visit was to establish contact with the secretariat at management level as well as share an understanding of the secretariat experience working for the Network. Dr Mwoma had an opportunity to share the history of the ECD Network and the activities the network is engaged in.



Comic Relief - Rise and Shine

The Rise and Shine project, focusing on early childhood development and being implemented in Kenya, Malawi and the United Kingdom from 2019 to 2023, falls under the Children Survive and Thrive theme of Comic Relief. In Kenya, there are eight funded partners and a learning co-ordinator. The results and changes arising from the project fall into four domains: (i) inclusive and enabling environment for children with disabilities (ii) nurturing and supportive families and communities (iii) access to quality, integrated early childhood development (ECD) services and (iv) policy and structural change. ECD Network for Kenya joined partners funded under the Rise and Shine umbrella to raise advocacy initiatives on the great input the various partners are impacting the sector. The umbrella brings together various representatives working multi-sectorally and echoing nurturing care through their implementation. The partners are coordinated by Upward Bound Kenya who convene the learning sessions annually. ECD Network for Kenya had an opportunity to share its presentation on 24 th - 25 th May on its achievements and the lessons encountered in the implementation of its various initiatives. What emerged strongly is that organizations have adapted their services and resources to meet new needs and are working with families and providing them with the capacity to strengthen their own problem solving within the family unit.



Strategic Partnerships; Hilton Grantee's convening

The ECD Network for Kenya was represented by Dr. Teresa Mwoma to join Conrad Hilton grantees in a convening that was held at Windsor Hotel Nairobi from June 8th - 10th June 2022. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (CNHF) facilitated its first country-specific, in person convening of its grantees and key partners in Kenya. Traditionally, the Foundation has supported multiple country teams to convene altogether but it opted for this approach given the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to reconnect more deeply at a country level.



Conrad N.Hilton Foundation Partners' Convening.
June 2022, Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club Nairobi-Kenya

Ministry of education convening at Boma Hotel

ECD Network for Kenya partnerships manager Racheal Makena participated in a convening hosted by Ministry of Education and supported by World Vision Kenya where the Ministry of Education shared a proposed work plan for collaboration among stakeholders. The convening was hosted at Boma hotel in Nairobi Kenya. The Ministry of Education convening brought together partners as well as government representatives from national and county government. The stakeholders resolved to support the Ministry of Education in implementing its work plan. The partners present were able to identify areas they can support the government and areas they can collaboratively work together as a sector.



Climate change

ECD Network for Kenya joined the Green education hub and Kenyatta University in a walk to commemorate Green Education day and raise awareness on various climate action initiatives. The efforts were flagged off by the University management and supported by various academic institutions invited. Dr Nyerere of Kenyatta University the lead in the project extended an invitation to the secretariat to join in the day's advocacy initiative on climate change.



Research

Dissemination of Child Study findings with APHRC

Dr Teresa Mwoma had an opportunity to represent ECD Network for Kenya in a panel during dissemination of study findings from collaborative studies conducted in Nairobi and Kajiado counties spearheaded by APHRC focusing on childcare and child development. The dissemination attracted participation from various stakeholders in the ECD space drawn from policy makers, researchers, Civil Society Organization among others. The dissemination occurred on 24th February.



Research and Advocacy: Dissemination of findings on a collaborative study on childcare in informal settlements in Nairobi (APHRC and KANCO)

Early Childhood Development Network for Kenya (ECDNeK), partnership manager Racheal Makena participated in a dissemination of study findings on Nairobi Early Child Care in slums (NECS) at Four Point by Sheraton hotel, Hurlingham on 17th March, 2022. The study aimed to understand both the use and supply of childcare in slums, and the underlying parental/carer and provider decision making and behaviors, in order to inform the development of intervention strategies.



Stakeholders Engagement; Advisory board convening (CNHF-MATHEMATICA)

The ECD Network for Kenya in collaboration with Mathematica the US based organization, are implementing a project funded by Conrad Hilton Foundation focusing on coming up with the ECD systems measurement framework. The project is implemented in three countries namely Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. The ECD Network for Kenya had an opportunity to host two convening's one for the advisory board on 25th May and the other for stakeholders on 27th June. The convening's enabled the stakeholders to give input to the ECD systems indicators in Kenya. The convened stakeholders representing national government, county government, implementing partners and ECD champions to engage and share in the preliminary conversations that begun in May to understand the ECD systems in Kenya. These deliberations were a continuation of the initial engagement that brought together input from the advisory board members.





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