

Global, regional, national and sub-national perspectives

Kenya

Delivery of Integrated
Nurturing Care at sub-
national level



**The Role of Education
in Advancing the Health
Sector Gains in Nurturing Care for
ECD – Makueni County Perspective**



**GOVERNMENT OF
MAKUENI COUNTY**

OUR INTERVENTIONS:



Adequate Nutrition

- Provision of nutritious home-grown fruits such as mangoes and bananas to learners
- Partnering with the county Department of Health to administer deworming and Vitamin A supplements,



Good Health

- Growth monitoring of learners by trained teachers equipped with anthropometric tools provided by the health sector
- Parental sensitization on matters health, immunization, growth and development
- Educate children on hygiene and personal care
- Engage families and communities in promoting health activities in the ECDE centres.
- Safe drinking water and storage through installation of water tanks to ECDE centers(It's a policy that all ECDE infrastructure MUST have water harvesting installed) .
- Initiated hand washing facilities in all ECDE centres.
- Construction of Child friendly pit latrines to enhance sanitation within the ECDE centres.





Opportunities for early learning

A child's learning environment shapes their future.

- Makueni County has invested in better classrooms, child-friendly play areas, age-appropriate chairs and tables, learning materials for activity areas and digital learning tools to improve the overall development of the young child
- ECDE learners get full sponsorships to participate in the Kenya Music Festival(KMF), encouraging creativity and self-expression



Safety and security

- Safe play spaces for the learners
- Installation of guard rails in the structures for safety
- ECDE teachers and officers participate in Child protection forums.
- Reporting identified cases of child abuse to the Children's Office and relevant authorities for appropriate action.

Social policies in place

- Makueni county children policy 2021
- Makueni Social protection policy 2024
- Makueni PWDs policy 2024





Responsive Care Giving

- Better terms of employment(Permanent & Pensionable) for ECDE teachers(the caregivers)

The impact of these Interventions

- Increased enrolment from 37,810 in 2023 to 39,246 in the year 2024—a growth 3.66%
- 957 ECDE teachers converted to permanent and pensionable terms, increasing their salary by 100% and ensuring motivated caregivers
- 1,188 ECDE centres equipped with teaching and learning materials worth Kes 10M so far
- 39,000 learners across the county Benefit from the KMF activities .
- 346 centres now have improved classroom infrastructure .
- 84.3% of children aged 1-5 years are dewormed in the county.
- 81.5% of children aged 6-59 months have received vitamin A supplementation







COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUSIA

ECDE – SCHOOL MEALS AND NUTRITION INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Nurturing the Future Technical Meeting to Enhance Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in the Health Sector

25th -28th Feb 2025



**World Health
Organization**

unicef 
for every child

Presenter: BEATRICE.N.NAKHOLI
CECM - Education and Industrial Skills
Development Busia Co



The County Government of Busia Early Childhood Development Education School Meals and Nutrition Intervention Policy (Draft) is a flagship project by H. E Dr. Paul Nyongesa Otuoma, targeting a population of 46,000 ECD learners in the 461 ECD centres within Busia County.

The policy is anchored in the **Constitution of Kenya (2010)**, **Kenya School Health Policy 2018**, the **National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy 2017-2022**, the **ECDAN Strategy 2024-2028**, and the **Nurturing Care Framework**, ensuring a holistic approach to child well-being.

This initiative aims to:

- Improve the **health and nutrition status** of children.
- **Increase pre-school enrolment** and stabilize attendance and concentration, including children with disabilities.
- Provide a **safety net** for learners from food-insecure households.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN INTERGRATING NCFECD

Adequate Nutrition

- Reached 47,300 ECD learners and 430 children living with disabilities with porridge & hot meal.
- Dept of Public Health conduct food inspection and provide dietary advice.
- Parents' engagement in the food contribution for sustainable management.



Good Health



- Community Health Promoters support ECDE centers with growth monitoring and screening for malnutrition.
- Parental sensitization on matters health, immunization, growth and development.
- Provision of Vit A supplements and deworming of our learners.

Safety and Security

- Improved food security and economic status of farmers who supply the rice to the program.
- Collaboration with the Dept of Children's Service to ensure safety.
- Clean water available on site.



Opportunities for Early Learning

- Provision of child friendly furniture and playful environment
- Child-friendly learning materials, digital learning tools
- Assistive devices for learners with disabilities for improved learning environment.



Responsive Caregiving



- Caregivers have benefited from the "Kuwa Kocha" social and behaviour change training and materials to learn caregiving skills.
- Trained 25 TOTs trainers from all relevant stakeholders, namely: Education, Health, Children's rights, Social Protection departments in the County Government to strengthen social services to support families.

Good practices

- The Programme directly links **local farmers and vendors**, promoting economic growth while ensuring fresh, nutritious food for learners. This approach strengthens **community resilience, enhances food security, and creates employment opportunities** for smallholder farmers.
- The **community engagement**, where parents contribute food items and labour, has been a great success factor.
- Capacity building of the various stakeholders has enhanced multisectoral coordination among all stakeholders, and strengthened the supportive environment for families with young children.
- Scaling up of Childcare facilities will lead to women's empowerment, since it allows for the women to be socially active hence contribute to family income, which ultimately contributes to county's economy.

LESSONS LEARNED & OPPORTUNITIES

Lessons Learned and opportunities

- The program lacks a monitoring and evaluation framework as some of these indicators are not captured in the KHIS. This will offer an opportunity to identify and capture indicators targeted to the program, for informed decision making.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qcEW8Vp5ESjYNH1JTZ3z2L8WoEwROKeP/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=106941754622762502876&rtpof=true&sd=true
- Encouraging the County Governments to allocate funds for ECD and county budgets for sustainability.

SCALING UP FOR CHILDREN and CAREGIVERS

- Scale up childcare facilities through school network and through community-based care. For example, church-based childcare. Ensure adequate sanitation facilities with safe drinking water as well as age-appropriate play materials.
- Scale up the meals programme to reach all learners with meals every day targeting Childcare facilities.
- Support caregivers with seeds to increase crop production to enhance food security and feeding practice at home. Activate young farmers 4K clubs in Schools for vegetable growing.
- Formulate a monitoring and evaluation framework to enhance data collection and reporting. To support evidence-based information.
- Capacity building of teachers in the ECD centres to conduct growth and monitoring with screening of all learners while in school, child protection and mental health.
- Increase number of people trained in the Kuwa Kocha Social and Behaviour Change campaign, and disseminate the ECD messages through social media and media platforms



THANK YOU



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COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

STRENGTHENING THE MAINSTREAMING OF NURTURING CARE AND CAREGIVER WELLBEING IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES IN SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL

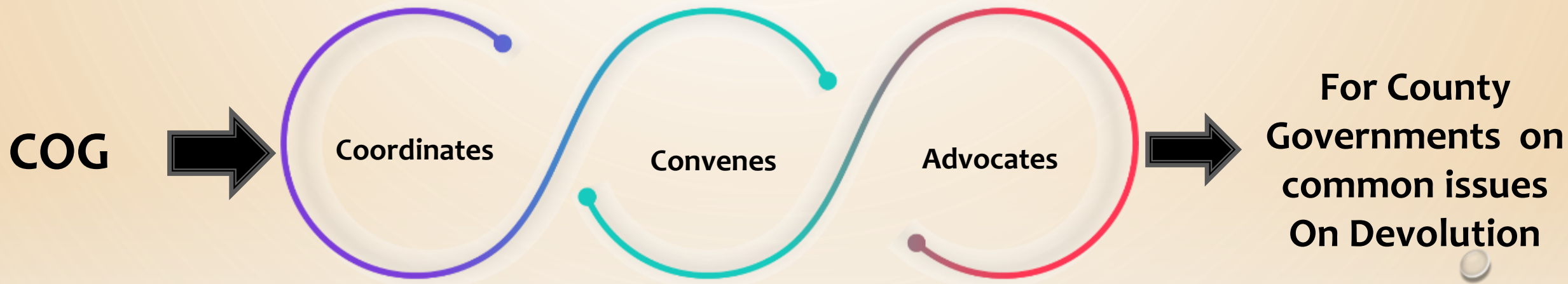
*Mr Kizito Wangalwa , Director Committees and Programmes
Council of Governors*





COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

COG is a public body established under section 19 of the IGRA(2012) and is composed of 47 County Governors. It convenes, coordinates and facilitates the forty-seven (47) County Governments on review and development of policy, legislation, administrative actions, and general, sector development matters.





SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS.....



3. Considering matters of Common interest



1. Consultation Forum and Capacity Building (Amongst County Governments)



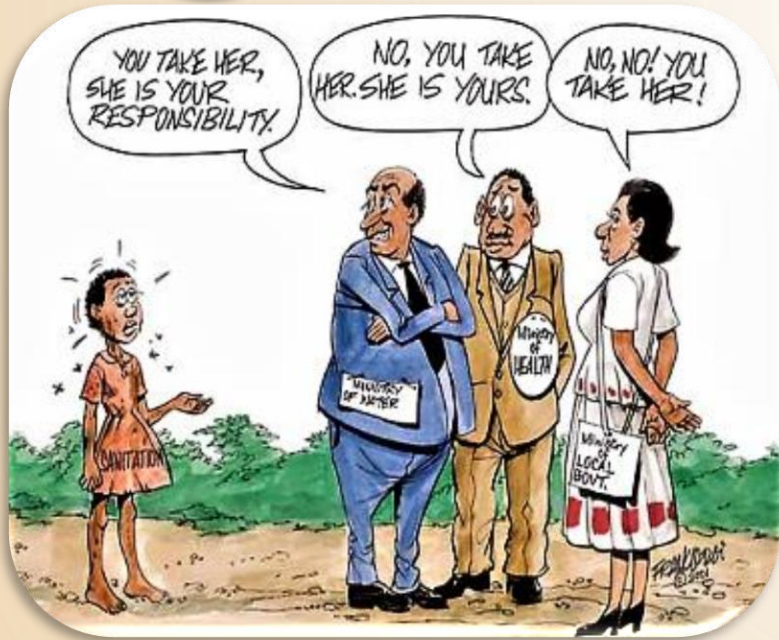
Maarifa Centre
Sharing Kenya's Devolution Solutions

2. Knowledge Management
- SODA
 - Evidence to policy/service delivery improvement
 - Compendiums
 - Publications





ECD ENTRY POINTS IN COUNTY GOVERNMENTS



Unbundling and delineation of functions between the National and County Governments

- What constitutes ECD?
- Who does what?
- Resources follows functions and what is the resource requirements

Integration into the County Planning Framework.

- CIDPS, ADPs/AWPs and Spatial Plans-
- Financing Model
- Briefs and Advisories
- Capacity Building





ECD ENTRY POINTS IN COUNTY GOVERNMENTS



Enabling Legislative Environment

- Model policies/ laws
- Capacity Building including Cabinet Level
- Linkages with the Assemblies
- Multisectoral Approach
- Regularization/Standards of Quality

Scheme of Service Development

- Professionalizing the sector workforce

Recognition of Prior Learning

- Recognition and assessment of skills
- Certification





POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS SUPPORTING NURTURING CARE FRAMEWORK

- The discharge of ECD services by County Governments is guided by key legal framework, including:
 - **Food and nutrition security policies** that ensure sustainable access to adequate and nutritious food for all, including young children.
 - **County nutrition action plans** that outline strategies to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, addressing malnutrition and stunting.
 - **Breast milk substitutes regulation and control act (2012)** that protects breastfeeding by regulating the marketing of breast milk substitutes.
 - **Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) Policies** – that support holistic child development, including health, nutrition, and early learning.





POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS SUPPORTING NURTURING CARE FRAMEWORK

- The discharge of ECD services by County Governments is guided by key legal framework, including:
- **Community Health Strategies** – that enhance the role of community health workers in delivering maternal, newborn, and child health services.
 - **Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) Policies** – that promote optimal maternal and child feeding practices.
 - **School Health Policies** – that provide guidelines on health interventions within schools, including nutrition and hygiene.
 - **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Policies** – that address key interventions for improving maternal and child health.





STRENGTHENING NURTURING CARE AND CAREGIVER WELLBEING IN COUNTIES

- **Strengthening policy and legislative framework:** This includes the development and implementation of County-Specific ECD Policies while aligning them to the Nurturing Care Framework. Importantly is the integration and prioritization of nurturing care and caregiver wellbeing in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).
- **Expansion of investments in Health & Nutrition Services for Young Children:** While Counties have made significant investments in the health and nutrition services for children, especially in the first 1000 days, there is need for improved investments in:
 - ✓ Supplementary feeding, micronutrient supplementation, and deworming for children under five.
 - ✓ ***Universal access to quality primary health*** specifically on maternal and child health services at County hospitals and Community health facilities.
 - ✓ ***Immunization coverage and scale up of outreach programs*** to ensure full immunization for all children
 - ✓ ***Integrate Health & Nutrition into Pre-primary schools*** to provide for growth monitoring, deworming, and health screening at ECDE centers.





STRENGTHENING NURTURING CARE AND CAREGIVER WELLBEING IN COUNTIES

- **Support programs for caregivers:** Development of a model strategy to guide County Governments in the establishment of caregiver support programs that:
 - ❑ Offer counseling, stress management, and peer support groups for parents and caregivers;
 - ❑ Provide economic empowerment initiatives: support caregivers through income-generating projects, microfinance access, and social protection programs;
- **Scale-up of models that promote community-based childcare services:** Including the establishment of safe and well-equipped childcare centers, training and deployment to provide home-based support, parenting education, and early stimulation activities, and conducting of parenting education programs to teach caregivers about early learning, positive discipline, and emotional bonding.
- **Improvement of infrastructure in pre-primary schools** to provide for provide safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, handwashing stations, and nutritious meals; and outdoor play areas and interactive learning materials.





STRENGTHENING NURTURING CARE AND CAREGIVER WELLBEING IN COUNTIES

- **Strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration including partnerships with relevant National Government Ministries and Agencies** to support nurturing care initiatives.
- **Integration of ECD interventions into County health & social protection programs** such as linking nurturing care services with **UHC, nutrition programs, and cash transfer initiatives.**
- **Private sector involvement** especially to supplement government's efforts in ECD centers, caregiver support programs, and childcare services.
- **Strengthening monitoring, evaluation & data use develop** specifically to track the health, nutrition, and education status of young children and leverage on technology to provide caregivers with parenting tips, immunization reminders, and nutrition advice.





CURRENT STATUS OF INTERGRATION OF NURTURING CARE IN COUNTIES

- **Community engagement and outreaches** that aim to have sustained behavior change communication which promotes exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate and timely complementary feeding.
- **Integrated delivery of essential nutrition and health services at both facility and community levels** to minimize missed opportunities in providing key micronutrients (iron and folic acid, vitamin A, multiple micronutrients, and zinc) to pregnant and lactating women, as well as children.
- **Engagement of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and Pre-primary teachers** in promoting handwashing, delivering micronutrients, and implementing supplementary nutrition programs.
- **School deworming programs and interventions** to children aged 2–5 years, ensuring two doses per year.

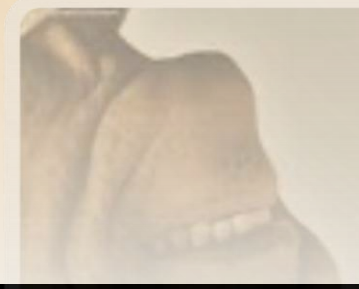




"Giving children a healthy start in life, no matter where they are born or the circumstances of their birth, is the moral obligation of every one of us"

Nelson Mandela

Thank You!



Faded text: "Giving children a healthy start in life, no matter where they are born or the circumstances of their birth, is the moral obligation of every one of us"

