



It takes us all
to end violence against children

World Vision
KENYA



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#ItTakesUsAllKE to promote #SDGs for children

Over one and half years since the World adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), not much has been done in Kenya to ensure that children understand what the SDGs mean for their well-being. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expired in 2015 at a time when majority of children had no idea what the MDGs were. This shouldn't be the case with SDGs.

During the period preceding the adoption of the SDGs, in the year 2015, World Vision Kenya in partnership with Child Fund Kenya, together with other likeminded Child focused organization, facilitated engagement sessions for children across various communities in Kenya, thereby providing an opportunity for some children to dialogue on the transition from MDGs to SDGs. The key issues and recommendations that were documented from such sessions were then utilized to inform the National and International conversations around SDGs. One of the key lessons we learnt during that period was that many children did not understand the MDGs and how they were to be involved in implementation.

Currently, World Vision Kenya has a target to ensure that children across the communities where we work are engaged in conversations around the implementation of SDGs. In our engagement with children, we have noticed that most of the critical public planning related documents such as *Kenya's Vision 2030, the Medium Term Plans, the various County Integrated Development Plans and the Republic of Kenya's National Plan of Action for Children* are yet to be summarized into Child friendly versions for these documents to be more meaningful to children. Additionally, the National Government Annual Budget and respective County Governments' Annual Budget documents are equally not formulated in a manner that children can easily interact with, and hence many children have very little information about government resource allocation.

Whereas the Government of Kenya has in place its Roadmap to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) i.e. Kenya's Transition Strategy (2016–2018) that should guide all stakeholders in the SDGs implementation process, the place of Children in the roll out of SDGs seem not to have been recognized. In as much the Government's led road map provides for advocacy and sensitization targeted at the general population for them to understand the essence of the SDGs, the commitments and role of the governments and their own roles and responsibilities for the sustainable development of their communities, it would have been more appropriate if children were recognized as a unique and sensitized on SDGs separately from the adult population.

Under the advocacy and sensitization section in the Roadmap the Government has made a commitment to ensure availability of technical skills to formulate communication and stakeholder engagement strategies and development of the right communication materials and targeted messages. In this regard, we highly recommend that a specific communication and engagement framework for children on SDGs should be developed. This will be one of the ways of taking forward the government's intention to *"use prioritized messaging customized for each target group and to effectively reach communities at the grassroots level – with an indication that there will be need to translate the SDGs advocacy and sensitization materials into local languages"*.

Against this backdrop, World Vision Kenya will continue to collaborate with Government Institutions and partners in disseminating the SDGs Framework to children and also enabling children to take their rightful space in the SDGs implementation in Kenya.



Adopted from www.globalgiving.org



#ItTakesUsAllKE to celebrate the #DayofAfricanChild

Every year on the 16th day of June, we remember the student from Soweto, South Africa who marched in protest against the poor quality of education they received and demanded to be taught in their own languages. During the protest, many children were shot dead while many others were injured. As guided by the Africa Union, during this day, we remember these children, to celebrate children in Africa as well as to inspire a sober reflection and action towards addressing the challenges that children in Africa face on a daily basis.

The 2017 theme is **“Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030”**.

In selecting the theme for the 2017 Day of African Child celebration, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) emphasized on the importance of linking the SDGs with child rights. The committee emphasized that there is need to increase accountability, strengthen coherence and alignment among various stakeholders, prevent inequitable outcomes, and invest in all children, and that the child rights commitments of States need to be made central to the implementation of SDGs.

In its concept note for the 2017 Day of African Child, the ACERWC properly highlights the fact that the protection of children from all forms of violence is integrated into all 17 SDGs ranging from gender equality to protection from economic exploitation. The committee notes further that the indicators or measures to accelerate the protection of children include the need to reduce all forms of violence and related death rates, including ending abuse, exploitation, torture, and trafficking of children, as well as promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensuring equal access to justice for all. The Committee reiterates the important responsibility of States to deal with all forms of violence affecting children.

As from 1st to 16th June 2017, in solidarity with African children, World Vision Kenya in collaboration with other child focused organization, will undertake the following activities

- Organize Children sensitization and awareness forums on SDGs and Africa's Agenda for Children 2040, while at the same time support children to take stock of the progress made towards the progressive realization of children rights in Kenya. We will ensure that such forums are facilitated by children and documentation done by children themselves.
- Organize for media sessions and create awareness on how the implementation of SDGs will contribute to ending violence against children in Kenya. Through this, we seek to build a movement of media practitioners' that would champion efforts to end all forms violence against children in Kenya
- Organize for sessions with Faith Based Organizations / Religious organizations with a view to scale up their role towards ending all forms of violence against children in Kenya
- Engage with the Government of Kenya's Department of Children Services and seek to take stock of the milestones achieved in Kenya in alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Africa Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

- Engage with politicians with a view to make ending violence against children a political agenda in Kenya

#ItTakesUsAllKE to roll out CPIMS

In an effort to address the persistent challenge of inadequate quality data on children that would inform programmes and policy decision making, the Government of Kenya's Department of Children Services in collaboration with partners has been able to develop and begin the roll out of the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS). The objectives of the system is to provide comprehensive and quality national child protection data; enrich Case management of child protection cases; and strengthen coordination, monitoring and decision making in child protection programming.

With a functional CPIMS, all child protection actors will now find data to guide policy formulation, resource allocation and child protection programming.

The CPIMS will greatly contribute to the global movement to end violence against children, through enhanced data collection on the severity of violence against children, mapping of existing prevention and response strategies. Subsequently, the child protection sector will enjoy better coordination and collaboration of all actors, promoting effective child abuse prevention and response mechanisms at all levels.

World Vision Kenya is committed to playing a critical role in the implementation of CPIMS. At the onset, we will collaborate with the Department of Children Services in rolling out the CPIMS Kitui, Nyamira, Narok and Wajir counties in Kenya.

To ensure a sustainable functioning of the CPIMS, we highly recommend that the Government of Kenya provides adequate financial resources for the implementation CPIMS at all levels of governance. For instance, data collection from households and villages is one such area that would require committed personnel that should be recruited and remunerated by the Government.

We take note that the Programme Based Budget of the National Government of Kenya for the next Financial Year (the year ending 30th June, 2018), which was recently developed, does not



The Principal Secretary responsible for the State Department for Social Protection, Ms. Susan Mochache, presiding over the launch of CPIMS.

Photo / World Vision Kenya

explicitly provide for very specific outputs and key performance indicators in respect to CPIMS. After an analysis of the various Programme and Sub-programmes under the State Department of Social Protection, where the Department of Children Services falls, we are unable to establish how much budget has been allocated for the roll out and functionality of CPIMS.

While a number of partners have made commitment to support the roll out of the CPIMS, it is prudent that a CPIMS is highly profiled as part of Government deliverable. Such profiling should be by way of recognizing CPIMS in the Government's Budget Policy Statement and also by providing specific annual targets and annual budget for CPIMS.

By 1st of July 2017, when the new financial year begins, it is important that the Government issues to the public more details on how much resources is required to fully implement CPIMS; how much Government resources have been allocated for CPIMS, and the deficit; including strategies for mobilizing resources to meet the deficit. This is one of the ways of promoting accountability to the public and motivating partners to scale up resource mobilization efforts to support the functionality of CPIMS in Kenya.

#ItTakesChildrenAssemblies to end violence against children

In our efforts to ensure that Children are meaningfully involved as part of the key stakeholders in addressing violence against children in Nyamira County, World Vision Kenya's team based at Nyamusi Area Programme has been collaborating with the Department of Children services in strengthening the Children Assembly at different levels in the County. Among the forms of violence that we have been confronting together in Nyamira County are Child Neglect, Female Genital Mutilation, Defilements, Child Pregnancies and Child Marriage.

As a result of the support that World Vision provides to the Children assembly, a number of children have had an opportunity to engage directly with duty bearers, explored various options for addressing the issues that affect them and agreed on the measures that should be taken.

Part of our focus has been to strengthen the functionality of children assembly at the Ward level, this being a lower level administrative unit for enabling children dialogue sessions. The process also involves supporting children to consolidate their views, concerns and recommendations. Thereafter children leaders are assisted to use various avenues for making follow ups on the implementation of their recommendations within their respective wards, while at the same time channeling the issues that require higher level decision making to Nyamira County administrative and political leadership.

Currently, World Vision Kenya is working directly with 60 girls and 60 boys who are the representative of other children to the Children Assembly in Nyamira County. These children have taken up the role of providing leadership and guidance to other children in Nyamira County. The assemblies have embraced a mentorship program that has so far had 237 girls and 232 boys being directly involved in the program roll out.

Some of the challenges we have noted while working with children assemblies in Nyamira County include; lack of child friendly



Children assembly session in progress - Nomination of children leaders.

Photo / World Vision Kenya

versions of key Government policies and budget documents that children should make reference to while engaging with duty bearers; Duty bearers not providing adequate time for consultations with children; Minimal community appreciation for child participation and weak feedback mechanisms that link the duty bearers to children.

As part of the campaign to end violence against children, World Vision's team in Nyamira County commits to strengthen collaborations with other partners and contribute to the unpacking government policies into child friendly summaries and disseminating the same to children; providing regular capacity development to the Children Assemblies at the Ward and County levels on various areas as guided by the identified capacity gaps; Providing capacity development to Area Advisory Councils and strengthening their engagement with Children Assemblies, supporting the roll out of the Child Protection Information Management System and Documenting best practices for learning and scale up.

#ItTakesBoys to end FGM

Boys in Kajiado County are increasingly standing up with the girls in the fight against FGM. World Vision has been facilitating a series of dialogue sessions for the boys with a focus on the dangers and effects of FGM. Through these sessions the boys now have a better understanding on why no girl should undergo FGM and why all girls & boys, should remain in school and complete their education. The boys have become more aware



"My sisters will never go through FGM and will not be married off before completing their education" Parmet, a young Maasai moran.

Photo / World Vision Kenya

of the stage at which marriage should take place and the fact it is not true that only girls who undergo through FGM would me married. The boys and girls dialogues sessions are part of World Vision's anti-FGM project in in Kajiado County, which has an inbuilt strategy of working directly with boys and girls with an objective of contributing to the improved knowledge on FGM and other Child protection issues; and improved attitude and practices that would ultimately ensure that all children remain protected from any form violence.

#ItTakesPartners to #endFGM and #ChildMarriage

In Partnership with UNFPA and UNICEF, World Vision is implementing a project that focuses on the Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence among which include Sexual Violence, FGM, Child Marriage and Forced Marriage - in Samburu, Marsabit, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, Kilifi, West Pokot and Nairobi counties.

So far we have been able to work directly with 12500 elderly persons (6500 female & 6000 male) and 13,300 youth (6700 female & 6600 male). The initiatives we have been undertaking include public education on various Universal Human Rights Instruments & Kenya's Constitutional & Legal provision that focus on gender and equality and thereafter enabling community dialogues for sustained advocacy and engagement with the duty bearers.

In Samburu County community dialogues have been embraced as one of the strategies for sustaining community conversations on what must be stopped and what must be done to end FGM and Child Marriages.

A chief from Samburu says that Community dialogues have proved to be an effective way to accelerate FGM/C abandonment with the sessions integrating health, education, socio-economic and spiritual matters and thereby increasing pupils' retention and helping girls to go back to school. According to the Chief, "The community is now able to freely discuss issues that were previously regarded as a taboo"

In West Pokot County, as a result of sustained community dialogues, the youth are now at the forefront in the fight against FGM and Child Marriage. Having acquired the right knowledge on the effects of FGM and Child Marriage, The youth are now engaged with the community leadership and elders to question and address some cultural ceremonies of example Sachata enker (transition from girlhood to womanhood ceremony), Mbaruwa (head dress ceremony), Ilpapit ceremony (head shaving ceremony), Eunoto ceremony (age set meeting ceremony), in which uncircumcised woman is not allowed to perform hence compelled to get circumcised to perform the rituals resulting to FGM and early marriage.

"We are made captives in our own culture and we need to kick out FGM," one of the youth had observed during their dialogue sessions.

Some of the young men in West Pokot have been able to make declaration not to get married to circumcised girls a trend that has renewed girls resilience in reporting FGM.

To end all forms of Violence against Children, Government and Stakeholders should enhance Public Investment and Accountability on the implementation of INSPIRE Strategies in alignment with the SDGs

INSPIRE: SEVEN STRATEGIES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

INSPIRE is a technical package. The seven strategies are based on the best available evidence.

Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and values



Safe environments



Parent and caregiver support



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Education and life skills



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