

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



GOVERNMENT OF MAKUENI COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF ICT, EDUCATION & INTERNSHIP

MAKUENI COUNTY ECDE TEACHERS CAPACITY BUILDING REPORT



THEME: Retooling for efficient curriculum Implementation and improved care giving.

APRIL 2025

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FOREWORD



Early Childhood Development (ECD) remains a cornerstone of Makueni County's commitment to nurturing a well-educated, healthy, and empowered generation. We recognize that investing in the early years of a child's life yields the greatest returns for society, both socially and economically.

The recent two-day capacity building programme for 959 ECDE teachers, supported by UNICEF, marks a significant milestone in our journey towards achieving quality foundational education. This training

aligned with the Rationalized Curriculum developed by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), ensuring that our teachers are not only compliant with national standards but are also equipped to effectively deliver holistic learning experiences.

Moreover, the focus on the Nurturing Care Framework (NCF) with its five pillars of good health, adequate nutrition, responsive caregiving, opportunities for early learning, and safety and security signifies a shift from viewing ECDE purely as a teaching responsibility to embracing it as a multidimensional care system that involves parents, caregivers, teachers, and the wider community.

The County Government of Makueni continues to prioritize ECDE through deliberate investments in infrastructure, teacher recruitment, learning materials, and collaborations with development partners. We have also initiated inter-sectoral efforts to integrate nutrition, health, child protection, and responsive caregiving into our ECDE programming. On behalf of the people of Makueni, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to UNICEF Kenya for supporting this transformative programme and for walking with us in championing the rights and wellbeing of every child in the county.


H.E Mutula Kilonzo Junior, CBS
Governor
Government of Makueni County





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



It was a great honor to preside over the official opening of the two-day ECDE teachers' capacity-building programme. I wish to express my deep appreciation to UNICEF for generously supporting this initiative and for being a consistent partner in early childhood development.

I also acknowledge the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) for leading the training sessions with depth and professionalism, and all the facilitators who contributed their

knowledge and expertise on curriculum delivery and the nurturing care components. Your guidance has empowered our teachers with the tools and confidence to implement child-centered practices in our learning spaces.

To the 959 ECDE teachers and county ECDE Coordinators who participated with energy, passion, and commitment, your dedication is what drives our vision forward. You are the true champions of the child. As a county leadership, we remain steadfast in supporting you to realize the full potential of every learner under your care.

H.E Lucy Mulili
Deputy Governor; Government of Makueni County





As the implementing arm of this important programme, I take this opportunity to thank UNICEF Kenya for not only supporting the training but also for the broader collaboration in strengthening ECD in Makueni County. Your support reflects your unwavering belief in our shared vision to provide quality, inclusive, and responsive early childhood development services.

This programme was not only timely but vital. It retooled our teachers to meet the demands of the newly rationalized curriculum while embedding principles of holistic development anchored on the Nurturing Care Framework. The facilitation by KICD and child development experts made the content highly practical, participatory, and relevant to our teachers' day-to-day experiences.

I also commend the County Assembly Committee on Education, the Chief Officer for Education, the Director for ECDE, and the 11 Sub- County ECDE Coordinators for their coordination and support in making the programme successful.

As a department, we reaffirm our commitment to implementing the lessons and strategies developed during the training. We will continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure that the gains made are cascaded to every corner of our county. We look forward to further collaboration with UNICEF in developing a school feeding programme policy, conducting ward-level teacher sensitizations, and expanding the scope of nurturing care integration across all ECDE centers

Elizabeth Muli
County Executive Committee Member; - ICT, Education and Internship



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Makueni County is located in the southeastern region of Kenya, covering an area of 8,176.7 km² with an average population density of 186 persons/Km². It borders Machakos to the north, Kitui to the east, Taita Taveta to the south, and Kajiado to the west. The county is largely an Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL), making it vulnerable to recurrent droughts due to unreliable and erratic rainfall patterns.

According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC), the county had a population of 987,653 comprising 489,691 males, 497,942 females and 20 intersex persons. With an annual growth rate of 1.1%, the projected population is expected to reach 1,065,482 by 2025 and 1,087,776 by 2027. Children under five years were 96,425 in 2019 and are projected to rise to 112,849 by 2025, underscoring the growing demand for quality early childhood development services.

Following the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) was devolved to the county governments under the Fourth Schedule. In response, County has made significant strides in promoting ECDE through investments in infrastructure development, human resources, and learner support. The county currently has 1,187 public ECDE centers with an enrolment of 39,246 children comprising of 20,388 boys and 18,908 girls. To support these learners, the county has employed 959 qualified ECDE teachers. However, there remains a shortfall of 1,415 teachers, a gap currently filled by parent-hired teachers, placing financial pressure on families.

To guide the development of the ECDE sector, the County Government formulated the Makueni County Training and Education Policy (2020), aligned with national frameworks. The ECDE directorate also promotes the Nurturing Care Framework, which emphasizes five pillars: good health, adequate nutrition, responsive caregiving, opportunities for early learning, and safety and security.

Despite these efforts, evolving educational demands and emerging child development challenges have revealed a critical need to enhance teacher capacity. With the introduction of the Rationalized Curriculum by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and the growing emphasis on holistic child development, it became

evident that teachers require updated skills and knowledge to effectively implement these new approaches. This created the urgent need for a structured capacity-building initiative to retool ECDE teachers across the county

INTRODUCTION

The Department of ICT, Education and Internship, as mandated by Executive Order No.1 of 2022, oversees the implementation of pre-primary education in Makueni County. Recognizing the evolving landscape of early childhood education, the County Government, in collaboration with UNICEF, organized a two-day capacity-building programme for 959 ECDE teachers.

The training aimed to align teaching practices with the Rationalized Curriculum developed by KICD while embedding the principles of the Nurturing Care Framework. The sessions were conducted on April 7th and 8th, 2025, with the first day held at Kibwezi Teachers College and the second at Makueni Boys High School.

This report presents a detailed overview of the training objectives, methodology, participants, key outcomes, and proposed areas for future collaboration and support



During the launch of the training by H.E the Deputy Governnor at Kibwezi Teachers College



1.1. Objectives of the programme:

1. Equip teachers with practical knowledge and skills on the Rationalized Curriculum to improve lesson planning, content delivery, learner engagement, and assessment in ECDE centers, in line with KICD guidelines.
2. Strengthen teachers' understanding of Early Childhood Development concepts including the Nurturing Care Framework for ECD (NCfECD)
 - (a) Good health
 - (b) Adequate nutrition
 - (c) Responsive caregiving
 - (d) Opportunities for early learning
 - (e) Safety and security



1.2. Methodology

The training sessions were designed to be highly participatory and practical, featuring:

- (a) Expert-led presentations from UNICEF and KICD
- (b) Best practices from developed countries

Community sensitization training focused on:

- (a) Maternal and newborn care

- (b) Parental involvement in early learning
- (c) How children learn through play
- (d) Social behavior change
- (e) How to nurture children's' growth and development during the first 1000 days and the next 1,000 days in children's' life.



During the training sessions



Media briefing



1.3. Participants and facilitators

The participants included:

- (a) 959 County ECDE teachers
- (b) 11 ECDE coordinators

Facilitators Included:

- (a) Experts from Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD):- Facilitated on retooling and rationalization of CBC curriculum
- (b) Oscar Kadenge (ECD Network Kenya, ECDNeK facilitated the session on ECD and the nurturing care framework.
- (c) Springboard consultants, Esther Kariuki and Rehema Muniu from Springboard did the SBC Campaign "Kuwa Kocha"

Other stakeholders in attendance included

- (a) The County Assembly committee in charge of education
- (b) H.E the Deputy Governor
- (c) County staff lead by County Executive Committee Members from various departments
- (d) UNICEF team ; -Jayne Kariuki (Social and Behavior change specialist with UNICEF) who was the team lead and Kennedy Mwangi - ECDE and Nutrition Officer

1.4. KEY OUTPUTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The two-day ECDE teachers' capacity-building programme was successful and yielded the following notable outputs and achievements;

- (a) **Enhanced understanding and implementation of the rationalized Curriculum:** 959 ECDE teachers were retooled to align with the rationalized Curriculum developed by KICD, enhancing the quality and consistency of curriculum delivery across ECDE centers. Teachers reported improved confidence and clarity in planning, delivering, and assessing learning activities.
- (b) **Strengthened Knowledge of the Nurturing Care Framework for Early Childhood Development (NcfECD):** Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the five pillars of Nurturing Care Framework, promoting a holistic

approach to child development that integrates health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, safety, and early learning. Teachers were equipped with strategies to incorporate nurturing care in daily classroom routines.

- (c) **Promotion of multi-sectoral Collaboration:** The training emphasized on integrated approach in supporting holistic child well-being.
- (d) **Motivation and empowerment of Teachers:** The participatory and interactive nature of the training rekindled the morale and passion of ECDE teachers, positioning them as change agents and champions of child well-being in their communities.
- (e) **Strengthened coordination among various sectors in the county government:** Engagement with the County Assembly Education Committee and other County departments during the training fostered political goodwill and support for future ECDE policy initiatives, including infrastructure and feeding programs

1.5. Expenditure overview

The success of the two-day ECDE teachers' capacity-building programme was made possible through the generous financial support provided by UNICEF. The entire amount donated was exclusively utilized to facilitate key aspects of the training including conference facilities. The County Government deeply appreciates this contribution

1.6. Way forward

- (a) Wider dissemination of the Kuwa Kocha campaign package to community-level platforms, ensuring broader awareness on the Nurturing Care framework for ECD
- (b) The trained teachers are now expected to champion best practices in nurturing care within their communities
- (c) Organize ward-level trainings to extend the knowledge and skills to 1,415 ECDE teachers (employed by parents) who were not part of the initial cohort of 959, ensuring uniform standards across all centers.
- (d) Develop school feeding policy
- (e) Mobilize resource for school feeding implementation



- (f) Prioritize the construction and upgrading of ECDE facilities, water access, sanitation, handwashing stations, kitchens, and safe play areas to support holistic learning environments
- (g) Institutionalize the Nurturing Care Framework in county ECD policies and guidelines to ensure sustained impact

2.0. Areas for further collaboration and support

We propose the following areas for continued partnership with UNICEF among other partners:

- (a) Development of a County ECDE School Feeding Programme Policy. To address the nutritional needs of learners and improve retention.
- (b) Development of Child care policy
- (c) Support for School Feeding Programme implementation; - Which currently require annual budget of Ksh. 53,227,387.50 to provide at nutritious porridge across all ECDE centers in the county
- (d) Ward-level cascading of the training: To ensure that teachers who were not part of the two-day programme are also empowered.
- (e) Construction and rehabilitation of ECDE Infrastructure: Including water, sanitation, and kitchen facilities.
- (f) Provision of teaching/learning materials
- (g) Capacity building of ECDE officers on curriculum supervision

CONCLUSION

The two-day ECDE teachers' capacity building programme was a great success and a crucial step towards the transformation of early childhood education in Makueni County. Through UNICEF's support, our teachers are now better prepared to deliver a learner-centered, inclusive, and nurturing ECDE experience.

We remain committed to scaling these gains across the county and look forward to deepening our partnership with UNICEF and other stakeholders.

ANNEXES:

Annex 1: Photos



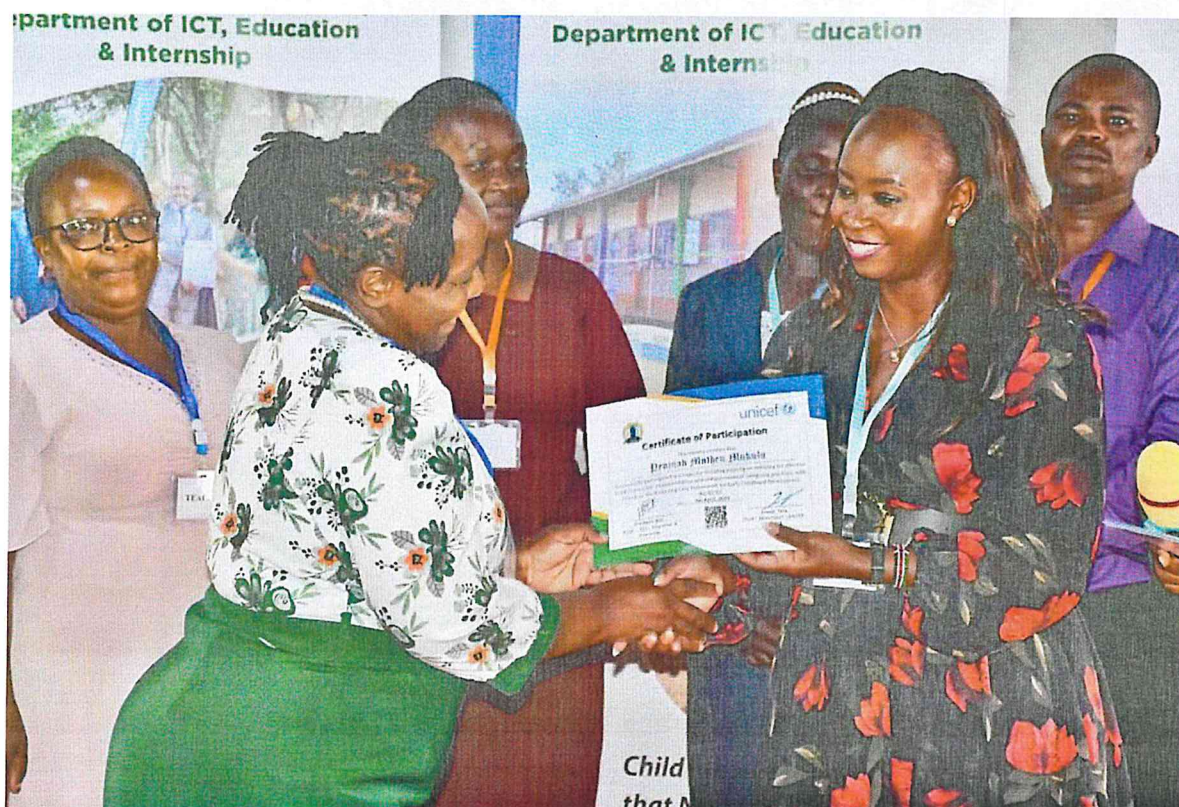
H.E the Deputy Governor giving her opening remarks



Elizabeth Muli; CECM ICT, Education and Internship giving her remarks



UNICEF SBC Specialist, Jayne Kariuki, delivering her remarks



ECDE teachers receiving certificates after completion of the training



Rehema Muniu (left) and Esther Kariuki (right), preparing their presentation on "Kuwa Kocha", an NCfECD SBCC campaign.



County assembly education committee



Annex 2: MEDIA COVERAGE

The event was covered live through two media stations namely; TV47 and K24

Below are some of the links to access covered sessions:

https://youtu.be/aprl_ANyHn4?si=4XM0euFL0cNjKW67

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BeMMFNawj/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

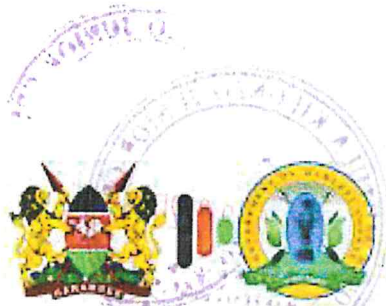
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/168PgZQbKc/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AqQ31h257/>

https://youtu.be/5fZj1_xeOls?si=droCXO6pc5iAuTdQ

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1H6ygaPsnz/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Annex 3: PROGRAM



Government of Makueni County
Department of ICT, Education & Internship



ECDE TEACHERS' CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP *Programme*

7th – 8th
April 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	MODERATOR
7:00am–8:00am	Arrival & Registration	ICT Team & ECDE Officers
8:00am–10:00am	Rationalized Curriculum KICD	Director ECDE
10:00am–10:45am	Health Break	CO Education & Internship
10:45am–12:00 Noon	Importance of the Early Years Oscar Kadenge	
12:00 Noon–12:30pm	Remarks Ismail Teta- Chief Nutritionist UNICEF, Kenya	
12:30pm–12:40pm	Remarks: ECM ICT, Education & Internship Makueni County Assembly – Education Committee	
12:40pm–1:00pm	Remarks Deputy Governor H.E Lucy Mulili	
1:00pm–2:00pm	Lunch	Director ECDE
2:00pm–3:00 pm	UNICEF –Social and Behavior Change (SBC)Team	
3:00pm–4:00pm	Rationalized Curriculum KICD	
4:00pm–4:30pm	Certification Official Closing of the Workshop	

Wauni Wa Kwika Nesa Na Ulungu

Annex 4: Support request letter



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



GOVERNMENT OF MAKUENI COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF ICT, EDUCATION & INTERNSHIP
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
P O BOX 78-90300, MAKUENI

Website: www.makueni.go.ke

Email: education@makueni.go.ke

REF: GMC/DIEI/03-2025 (43)

24th March 2025

To:

Ismael Teta
Chief Nutrition
UNICEF, KENYA

Subject: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING OF ECDE TEACHERS ON THE RATIONALISED CBC CURRICULUM AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT(NCFECD)

Greetings from the Government of Makueni County.

Our mission as a department is to innovate and nurture talent to transform the livelihoods of Makueni citizenry with our key pillars in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) being growth and development of our ECDE learners, ECDE infrastructure development and human resource development.

The Government of Makueni County will be facilitating Capacity building workshops for all our 959 ECDE teachers on the **rationalized CBC curriculum** and **Early Childhood Development** (The Nurturing Care for ECD- NCFECD) on the 7th and 8th April, 2025 at Kibwezi Teachers Training College (400 Teachers) and Makueni Boys High School (559 Teachers) respectively.

We write to request for your presence to enlighten our teachers on the Nurturing Care for Early Childhood development, Support for Training materials on the NCFECD and financial support to make this exercise a success (see below budget tabulation)

ESTIMATED BUDGET:

ITEM	AMOUNT- KSHS
1 Transport expenses for 959 teachers @ Kshs. 1000 each	959,000/-
2 1 day conference package for 959 teachers @ Kshs.2000 each	1,818,000/-
3 Facilitators	217,000/-
4 Facilitation for ECDE Officers and Secretariat	224,000/-
TOTAL	3,218,000/-

For any queries, further clarification and confirmations, please reach out to **Irene Mahau** – Chief Officer (Education & Internship) on Tel: **+254 0114693781** or Email: co.education@makueni.go.ke

Elizabeth N. Muli

CECM – ICT, Education & Internship

Copy to: Chief Officer- Education & Internship



Annex 5: Sample certificate issued



