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## NYAMIRA COUNTY CHILD POLICY

2022

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## FOREWORD

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Since assuming office as the Nyamira County Governor in December 2020, remarkable development has taken place across the county. This has contributed to the well-being of our people. Some of the achievements include the setting up of a pilot vocational training Center of Excellence in textile and dressmaking at Nyaigesa, employing of ECDE teachers on permanent basis and upgrading of roads in every ward. The County initiated athletics activities across the five Sub-Counties with the aim of tapping and nurturing young talent and establishing a sports training academy.

However, the County is still experiencing several challenges including poverty, high levels of youth unemployment, inadequate nutritional food, unpredictable weather patterns, crop and human diseases and many others. Therefore, the County of Nyamira is devoted to developing policies and legislations that will address the interests of our people, including promotion of food security and enhancing socio-economic and political development.

In light of the above, it has been an intentional wish by my government that a child policy is developed to safeguard and enhance the rights and wishes of children across the county, and even be a best practice that other county governments, national government and even other institutions with interest on children will borrow from.

This child policy outlines policy objectives and interventions as well as monitoring and evaluation for policy implementation. This is critical in addressing issues affecting our children. In safeguarding the interests of the children, this policy will go a long way to protect the interests of other members of society because if the child is safe, the rest of the society is well guarded too.

At the execution stage, this policy will support other Sub-Sectors of the county and national government in other aspects such as passing legislation, monitoring and evaluation, child protection, attraction and retention of private/public partnerships and improving public participation and civic education on child security among others.

I would ask that all those who will be required to have their input in this policy, including the members of the public during the public participation stage, to put their best and ensure that every element is included to safeguard the Nyamira Child. Through this policy we hope our children will benefit.

I commit to ensure that relevant resources are attached to see that this policy goes full cycle from our part until it reaches cabinet and forwarded to the County Assembly then passed. That is my commitment.

Thank you all.

**H.E AMOS NYARIBO**

**GOVERNOR**

**NNYAMIRA COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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The Nyamira County Child Policy 2022 outlines the background and situation analysis of the children, guiding principles, the objectives and interventions as well as the implementation and evaluation. In developing this policy, the Department of Gender, Youth, Culture and Social Services (GYSC&SS) reflected on the challenges affecting our children and devised strategies for redress. The Social Services Sub-Sector in the department involves empowerment of the vulnerable groups. It also encompasses the social protection of children. This Sub-Sector has strong linkages with other sectors in departments across the County. However, the County is still facing a myriad of challenges, including high unemployment and school dropout rates, early marriages and teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and malnutrition among others. To overcome these challenges, there is a need to come up with best practices to deliver sustainable development. Therefore, this policy will provide an opportunity to approach stakeholders, both nationally and internationally to help us raise our children in a desirable and acceptable manner.

The County Government of Nyamira is in full support of the creation and operationalization of this child policy. This policy will be expected to establish a working formula that will ensure that our children are well protected both at home and away from home by providing mechanisms through which they will be nurtured. Moreover, the Kenya Constitution provides for child protection as well as highlighting the privileges that children should be afforded. However, this Policy looks at Nyamira County and develops a customized system that will:

- Oversee children's safety across the County,
- Operationalize the child protection framework,
- Ensure that all laws that are meant for the good of our children are adhered to,
- Build capacity of those charged with the responsibility of nurturing children,
- Equip institutions that deal with children matters, and,
- Continuously educate parents and guardians on the best practices on matters child protection.

The preparation of this document went through several stages including stakeholder consultations and validation of the document. I, therefore, wish to acknowledge and thank various stakeholders, including Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC), USAID Boresha Jamii, Directorate of Children Service, the Nyamira

County Assembly Committee members, technical committee members drawn from departments across the County and Child protection partners who supported the process.

The department of GYSC&SS will continue to monitor the progress of this policy and will always support all aspects that concern children and their well-being. This Policy will contribute greatly in filling the gaps that have been existing in regard to children's issues and will be a relevant reference material in cases of instilling discipline and giving direction to officers on matters concerning children.

I, therefore, look forward to the implementation phase of this policy.

**Dr Grace Nyamongo (PhD)**

**County Executive Committee Member**

**Department of Gender, Youth, Sports & Social Services**

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

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ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ANC	Ante-natal Care
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CCI	Charitable Children Institution
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
DCS	Directorate of Children Services
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
HTS	HIV Testing and Services
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KHIS	Kenya Health Information System
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
NCCS	National Council for Children Services
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
VAC	Violence Against Children
GYSC&SS	Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture & Social Services

## KEY DEFINITIONS

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**Child:** any person below the age of 18 years as per the Constitution of Kenya and international instruments

**Child protection:** all measures taken to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect exploitation, and all other forms of violence against children.

**Child abuse:** is defined as the deliberate act of ill-treatment that can harm or is likely to cause harm to a child's safety, well-being, dignity, and development. Abuse includes all forms of physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional ill-treatment.

**Child trafficking:** is defined as the giving out of children for monetary gain. Children who are trafficked may be used for child labor, to traffic drugs, for commercial sexual activities, pornography production, and for scientific experimentation. In some instances, trafficked children are offered for adoption to unsuspecting adoptive parents.

**Child labor:** refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially, or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their growth and schooling. Such action may include but is not limited to: slavery, sexual exploitation, forced labor, hard work, and other tasks that are beyond the mental and physical stages of the child.

**Child exploitation:** is defined as the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification, or profit that often results in the unjust, cruel, and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical and mental health, education, and moral or social-emotional development.

**Child with disability:** means a child with mental retardation, hearing impairments including deafness, speech or language impairments, visual impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments or specific learning disabilities who, by reason thereof need special education and related services.

**Early marriage:** means marriage or cohabitation with a child or any arrangement made for such marriage or cohabitation.

**Education:** means the giving of intellectual, moral, spiritual instruction or other training to a child.

**Emotional abuse:** This is any harm to a child's emotional or intellectual functioning which include and not limited to humiliation, uncaring attitudes, absence of praise, ridiculing, denial of time to play, scolding or rebuking child in a manner that demoralizes the child etc

**Female Genital Mutilation:** means the cutting and removal of part or all of the female genitalia and includes the practices of clitoridectomy, excision, infibulation, or other practice involving the removal of part, or of the entire clitoris or labia minora of a female person.

**Foster care:** means the placement of a child with a person who is not the child's parent, relative, or guardian and who is willing to undertake the care and maintenance of that child.

**Harmful cultural practices:** are cultural activities that impact negatively on a child's physical, emotional and behavioral development, their general health, his/her family and social relationships, self-esteem, educational achievements, and aspirations.

**Neglect:** this is deprivation of child basic needs such as food, clothing education medical care, parental/guardian care and love etc.

**Parent:** means the mother or father of a child and includes any person who is liable by law to maintain a child or is entitled to his custody.

**Physical abuse:** it is intentional and unreasonable use of violence or force on a child which may result in physical injury of a child. This includes and is not limited to hitting, burning or caning, biting, cutting among others.

**Sexual abuse:** is defined as all forms of sexual violence including incest, early and forced marriage, rape/defilement, involvement in child pornography, and sexual slavery. Child sexual abuse also includes indecent touching or exposure, using sexually explicit language towards a child, and showing children pornographic material.

**Sexual exploitation of children:** is the abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes.

**Caregiver:** a person or guardian who is charged with responsibility for a child's welfare.

**Care reforms:** refers to the changes to the systems and mechanisms that promote and strengthen the capacity of families and communities to care for their children, address the care and protection needs of vulnerable or at-risk children to prevent separation from their families, and ensure appropriate family-based alternative care options are available



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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

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Children are a very critical category of people in our society. They need extra attention and care for their holistic growth and development. Their well-being is the responsibility of the state, parents or caregivers, families, communities, civil society organizations, and the state with each playing a distinct role in their lives. Service delivery is at the heart of Nyamira County to ensure that children grow in a safe, nurturing, and caring environment.

The County Government of Nyamira, through its commitments, has adopted measures to advance and advocate for the rights and welfare of children by domesticating international, regional, legal, and national instruments on child protection.

However, in order to realize the holistic growth and development of children, the county has no budget set aside to specifically deal with issues affecting children. Children have, therefore, been subjected to an array of risks including child labour, teenage pregnancies, violence against children, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) etc. Similarly, these issues have not been prioritized and infused in the County government plans, exacerbating the problem further, with children's issues not being adequately prioritized, hence, lacking implementation of child related programs and service provision.

County Government action and commitment is therefore, needed by ensuring that a policy is in place to bring to the fore issues affecting children and define strategies how to address the issues. More importantly, the policy will ensure that children's rights are protected and advanced so that children in the County have a chance of realizing their full potential by growing in a safe and nurturing environment. The policy goal is a county where budgetary allocation for children is prioritized to ensure a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment

To achieve this goal, the following objectives will be pursued:

- (i) To increase the number of children in Nyamira County accessing quality social services for their well-being.
- (ii) To increase the number of vulnerable families accessing economic empowerment activities within Nyamira County to able to meet basic needs and prevent child labour.
- (iii) To increase the number of children accessing quality healthcare services in Nyamira County.

- (iv) To reduce the number of school drop-outs, enhance access, retention and transition of children in basic education in Nyamira County.

## 1.1 VISION

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A county where children grow in a healthy, safe and nurturing environment to meet their full potential.

## 1.2 MISSION

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To promote well-coordinated strategies that will ensure adequate and effective service delivery for sustainable plans and programs that will promote healthy, safe, and nurturing environment for children in Nyamira County.

## 1.3 GOAL

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A county where budgetary allocation for children is prioritized to ensure a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment

## 1.4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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This policy shall be guided by the following key guiding principles:

**Best interest of the Child:** The best interest of the child is of paramount importance in all situations.

**Participation:** To ensure full and effective participation and inclusion of children in all issues that affect them.

**Do no harm:** Give thoughtful consideration to how your actions will affect the children that you serve.

**Non-discrimination:** All children regardless of race, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or health status should be treated with respect, recognizing the dignity and worth inherent in all humans.

**Protection and survival:** commit every individual adult to take responsibility to protect the rights of the child regardless of the individual relationship to the child.

## CHAPTER TWO: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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### 2.1 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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Kenya is among the states that have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and taken steps to pursue policies aimed at the progressive realization of those rights and welfare. Despite global and national recognition of children's rights and welfare, Kenya still faces many challenges such as poverty, violence against children, access to healthcare, limited access to drinking water, child marriage, and Female Genital Mutilation, teenage pregnancies, according to Violence Against Children (VAC) survey report 2019.

Article 53 of the constitution of Kenya 2010, provides for the protection and safeguarding the rights and welfare of children without giving very clear roles to the county government in child matters. The Children Act 2001 was enacted to protect the rights of Children in Kenya and created structures for protection of children. However, there is little mention in the Act on how the devolved unit will provide for the children at the county level.

Child protection is subtly mentioned in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) especially on how they will be protected from the aforementioned challenges. Due to high poverty, programs of cash transfer to the vulnerable members of society have been set up to assist vulnerable groups including children. However, these programmes are limited in coverage due to the limited resources and enhancement (Source: Social service, Children & NCPD offices-National government Nyamira). This has left a gap that necessitates the County Government of Nyamira to develop a policy to support service delivery and response towards children matters in the county. The Child policy will guide the engagement of Nyamira County Government with stakeholders and partners in a coordinated way to address these key issues affecting children welfare and needs by providing a structured, documented engagement that is monitored and evaluated. Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) data shows that 48% of child protection cases reported in Nyamira in 2020-2021 Financial Year are child neglect cases. Custody battles account for 16.5% of the reported cases, which points to disintegration of families leading to custody battles between the parents. CPIMS data for the financial year 2021-2022 currently shows 47.1% of cases reported as neglect cases and 13.6% as custody cases

(DCS). This is a demonstration that parents have abdicated their parental responsibilities of ensuring that they protect their children. Parents have violated the rights of the children whom they have responsibility to protect.

### **2.1.1 TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, FGM AND CHILD MARRIAGES**

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Approximately 12 million girls aged 15–19 years and at least 777,000 girls under 15 years give birth each year in developing regions (WHO 2020). In Kenya, between June 2013 and June 2014, 378,397 adolescents and teenage girls (aged 10-19 years) pregnancy cases were reported, and specifically 28,932 cases among girls aged 10-14, and 349,465 cases among girls aged 15-19 (UNPF 2019). KDHS data asserts that 28% of children were pregnant (KDHS 2014), a situation attributable to violence against children, retrogressive cultural practices and low awareness of sexual reproductive health. Annually, 13,000 teenage girls drop out of school in Kenya because of pregnancy (KDHS 2014). In 2021, Nyamira County had 4,461 girls with teenage pregnancy out of the 107,771 enrolled in primary and secondary schools, which accounted for 4.2% of school going children.

Data from the Kenya Health Information System 2020 and 2021 indicated that 9,864 children between 10-18 years presented with pregnancy at First ANC Visit in health facilities across the county, amongst these 4% accounted for new infections of HIV. The HIV prevalence in Nyamira County is at 3.5% against 4.2% national prevalence. Mother to Child transmission rate is at 8.7% against 10.8% national prevalence (2021 Estimates). Children below 18 years old and People Living with HIV and are on care are respectively 1,397 and 16,159 (KHIS, 2021). The HIV Stigma index for Nyamira County is at 23% (PLHIV Stigma Index Survey 2021). A total of 3,731 cases of sexual violence were managed in hospital facilities within Nyamira County among this 1,002 were children between 0-17 years. Forty percent of survivors were presented within 72hrs at the facilities while 4% had poor outcomes of the interventions received. GBV has become a fueling force for HIV/STI and teenage pregnancies.

Nyamira County has a child rich population, where 0–14-year-olds constitute 44% of the total population. This is due to high fertility rates among women as shown by the highest percentage household size of 4-6 members at 48%. The current number of Children in Nyamira County is 391,709 while vulnerable children in the county are estimated at 115,599 children (Statistical Abstract 2019). The

high percentage rate of children at 44% of the population has seen a rise in the cases of child labour, FGM, teenage pregnancy and child marriages.

Other reasons for high rates of teenage pregnancy in Nyamira county includes peer pressure, absence of sexual and reproductive health education in schools, poor parenting skills among parents and care givers, care givers inability to provide for the basic needs of their children and thus the need to have a policy in place to address the above issues and their effect on children overall wellbeing.

Nyamira County like many other rural parts of the world, children living in rural areas and those from poorer households are more likely to be malnourished. Both acute and chronic malnutrition of children less than 5 years old is at 9.6 % (KDHS 2014). By December 2021, 599 children under 5 years had faltering growth, 242 were severely malnourished and 458 were underweight (KHIS 2021).

Vulnerable children according to KIHBS in Nyamira County is estimated at 115,599 children. Children receiving support from the government and various partners in the county are at 44,856 while the remaining 70,743 children are not supported. Evidence from KDHS 2008/2009 shows that FGM prevalence in Nyamira is at 96%.

Regarding the issue of child labour, the number of children in workforce has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years. In sub-Saharan Africa, rapid population growth, extreme poverty, and inadequate social protection measures have led to an additional 16.6 million children who are engaged in child labour over the past four years. Additional economic shocks and school closures caused by COVID-19 means that children already in child labour are likely pushed into working longer hours or under worsening conditions. Many more children are likely to be forced into the worst forms of child labour due to their parents' job and income losses, especially among vulnerable families.

According to the Ministry of Labour child protection report 2016-2019, out of the 6,051 child protection cases recorded for 2018/2019. Although Nyamira county accounted for less than 1% child labour case as per the report, there are known rampant cases of child labour reported in tea estates, brick making industry, farming activities, quarry as well as children selling merchandise in the market. These cases are not officially documented in the government records. The introduction of tea picking machines have rendered several parents jobless resulting in increased vulnerabilities and children dropping out of

school. Therefore, there is need to conduct a baseline survey or research on child labor to inform decision making, allocation of resources and interventions to curb the problem. This baseline survey should be included in this child policy.

Among the many issues affecting quality of life of children include drug and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, and sexual and gender-based violence, which affect the health of children, and which in return leads to unemployment, peer pressure, and poverty. The most abused drugs in the county are Bhang and illicit brew (Chang'aa). Child neglect, school drop-out, high HIV prevalence, abortions and child labour affect the social wellbeing of children within the county. The Child policy will thus guide the engagement of Nyamira County Government with stakeholders and partners to address these key issues affecting children welfare and needs by providing a structured, documented engagement that is monitored and evaluated.

## **2.2 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

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This policy draws its context from the existing international, regional and national instruments and legal frameworks that support the realization of the rights and welfare of children. Key among these include: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), The African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the Child (1990), The Constitution of Kenya 2010, The Children Act (2001) and the National Children Policy (2010). Others include: the Sexual Offences Act (2006), Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011, Employment Act 2007, Basic Education Act 2013, Marriage Act 2014, Protection Against Domestic Violence Act 2015 and Evidence Act. The UNCRC and the ACRWC are international legal documents which provide the framework under which states commit to protect the interests of children within their borders. These legal instruments to which Kenya is a signatory provides the basis for child protection services. Kenya has domesticated these legal instruments through different national legislation.

Article 53 of the Kenya Constitution gives the state a big role in the protection and taking care of children. The Constitution further points out the rights that children should enjoy as well as the responsibilities parents to their children. The Constitution established County Government structures to decentralize resources and services to the lower levels up to the grassroots. The Children Act 2001 brings together all legislation around children and gives direction of how the state shall protect children in Kenya. It gives



mandate to the Director of Children services to coordinate child protection in the country while establishing coordination structures for child protection such as the Area Advisory Councils.

Laws and Policies are therefore a critical component of any child protection system as they establish the minimum standards for child protection and provide for the requisite protective and responsive measures that should be respected and adhered to by all stakeholders and child protection actors. The county is cognizant of the gaps of the implementation of these legal instruments key among them: weak enforcement, inadequate resources including personnel that has hampered effective implementation of the legislations and policies. Most legislation has mainly been done at the National level with no cascading efforts to the County, Sub- County and ward levels, no harmonization of structures for both county and national government functions for children. The county has a mandate to protect children through the department of Gender and Social Protection, however, there is lack of policy at the county level to ensure that children matters are implemented. Challenges abound including low budget allocation towards child related programs in the county, competing priorities where less concentration is on children matters and much more precedence is given towards other departments.

This policy will, therefore, serve as a guiding maxim by the County Government in achieving its commitments in the allocation of resources and implementation of the policy strategies mentioned therein.

## CHAPTER 3: POLICY STATEMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS

### 3.1 SOCIAL SERVICES

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The County, in its obligation to provide quality and sustainable services to children, needs a coordinated and multi-stakeholder approach between the National, County governments and non-state actors. The major issues that affect the social services include the need for a coordination structure for children services, inadequate data to inform decision making, resourcing and financing child welfare programs as well as setting up child friendly programs.

For prudent decision making and resource allocation for child welfare programmes, there is need for quality and reliable data through a well-documented research (data collection, analysis, processing) and management system for children. Ultimately, to achieve the wellbeing of children within the county, there is need for provision of child friendly programs through established safe spaces for children, campaign on the importance of family-based care and promotion of family strengthening interventions.

#### 3.1.1 POLICY OBJECTIVE

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To increase the number of children in Nyamira County accessing quality social services for their well-being.

#### 3.1.2 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:

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Establish a coordination structure in order to improve provision of quality social services to children.

#### 3.1.3 POLICY INTERVENTIONS:

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- (i) Formation of multisectoral coordinating committee/council at the county, ward and sub-ward level.
- (ii) Partner and collaborate with National Government, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to improve service delivery for children.

#### **3.1.4 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Establish data collection, processing and management system for children to determine the numbers and cost of implementing projects and programs.

#### **3.1.5 POLICY INTERVENTIONS:**

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- (i) Enhance ICT system in the county.
- (ii) Strengthen the capacity of ICT and M&E Directorates to collect, process and manage children's data.
- (iii) Collaborate and partner with national government, independent and academic institutions to conduct research and studies on children matters for effective service delivery.

#### **3.1.6 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Allocate budget towards children services

#### **3.1.7 POLICY INTERVENTIONS:**

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- (i) County government shall allocate funds for the implementation of the child policy.
- (ii) County government shall fund children services.

#### **3.1.8 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Enhance provision of child friendly programs to promote child welfare.

#### **3.1.9 POLICY INTERVENTIONS:**

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- (i) Establish safe spaces for children.
- (ii) Campaign on the importance of family-based care for children.
- (iii) Promote family strengthening interventions to ensure families function and provide adequate care to children.

## **3.2 HEALTH**

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The key issues in the health sector include HIV, child pregnancy, and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). This is demonstrated by the low access to age appropriate HIV Testing Services (HTS), high stigma, late disclosure amongst children and adolescents, further, inadequate access to information and services on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), menstrual hygiene management and low coverage of Antenatal Care (ANC) services. In relation to SGBV, late reporting and treatment, sub optimal forensic investigation management and documentation, and long reporting protocol during the entire (SGBV) management causes delay and mismanagement.

### **3.2.1 POLICY OBJECTIVE:**

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To increase the number of children accessing quality healthcare services in Nyamira County.

### **3.2.2 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Strengthen the existing community referral strategy of 2020-2025 in order to promote access of primary health care to vulnerable children.

### **3.2.3 POLICY INTERVENTIONS:**

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- i. Create a sustainable remuneration package for community level workforce; CPVs, LVCs and CHVs.
- ii. Operationalize and integrate community dashboards indicators.
- iii. Provide nutritional food supplements to school going children in order to keep them in schools

### **3.2.4 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Ensure increased coverage of integrated child specific health services in order to increase their access and uptake.

### **3.2.5 POLICY INTERVENTIONS**

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- i. Establish child friendly safe spaces.

- ii. Capacity strengthening of community level workforce and relevant government personnel on child specific service delivery.
- iii. Integrated SRH /SGBV/HIV services at all service points.

### **3.2.6 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Provide a comprehensive medical cover to all Orphans and Vulnerable Children

### **3.2.7 POLICY INTERVENTIONS**

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- i. Mapping and identification of all uncovered OVC in the county to establish the number and provide medical cover.

## **3.3 EDUCATION**

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Children in Nyamira County are faced with two major challenges that hinder their retention and transition in school. These include child labor and high rates of teenage pregnancy.

### **3.3.1 POLICY OBJECTIVE**

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To enhance economic strengthening of vulnerable families to enable them to provide for the basic and educational needs of their children to prevent them from child labour.

To improve retention of children in schools and transition to enhance access to basic and educational needs of children.

### **3.3.2 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Establish economic empowerment programs targeting vulnerable households to enable them to provide for the basic and educational needs of their children.

### **3.3.3 POLICY INTERVENTIONS**

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- (i) Design and implement household economic empowerment program for vulnerable families.

### **3.3.4 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Establish boys and girls' empowerment programs to prevent teenage pregnancy and enhance retention in school.

### **3.3.5 POLICY INTERVENTION**

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- (i) To strengthen the private and public partnership to increase sustain retention in education.
- (ii) Initiate programs in collaboration with key actors to prevent teenage pregnancy.
- (iii) Initiate mentorship and life skills programs for boys.
- (iv) Providing teenage girls with sanitary towels every month to support retention of girls in school.

## **3.4 AGRICULTURE**

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Nyamira County is an agricultural zone and has demonstrated an increase in child labour. Due to poverty, children from vulnerable families are engaged in child labour in farms. This has led to children having limited access to quality education, exposure to high hazards and risks, and traditional attitudes towards children's participation in agricultural activities etc. This will require the county to come up with family strengthening strategies that will be integrated into government plans. The county also needs to prioritize awareness creation around child labour and put strategies in place to prevent exposure of children to child labour.

### **3.4.1 POLICY OBJECTIVE:**

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To increase the number of vulnerable families accessing economic empowerment activities within Nyamira County to able to meet basic needs and prevent child labour.

### **3.4.2 GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Enhance awareness to the community on child labour issues, customize and enforce child labour laws in order to create a conducive environment where children are not engaged in hazardous agricultural activities.

### **3.4.3 POLICY INTERVENTION**

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(i) Support of Child labour publicity by making available or improving training and education material on child labour issues for decision makers, agricultural extension services, farmers, children, youth and other groups

(ii) Provide subsidies to poor families prone to having working children so they can afford their children's schooling (income subsidies)

(iii) Promote Activities to encourage, develop, implement and monitor social protection interventions and projects that prevent child labour;

(iv) Establish partnerships of international organizations and other stakeholders dedicated to improving children's lives

### **3.4.4 COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Ensure that key economic, environmental and social considerations are integrated into sectorial policy implementation.

### **3.4.5 POLICY INTERVENTION**

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(i) Linkage with Civil society and medical private institutions useful for providing free legal, psycho-social support, medical support, and refreshers on child rights and child protection.

### **3.4.6 GOVERNMENT WILL:**

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Develop adaptation strategies to reduce exposure of children to child labour and to facilitate the transition to patterns of living that eradicate child labour.

### **3.4.7 POLICY INTERVENTIONS**

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(i) Establishment of child labour free zones

(ii) Linkages with TVETS to ensure the transitioning is done according to guidelines.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

### **4.1 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION**

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In order for Nyamira County to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the child policy, an implementation framework will be put in place. The implementation framework for the child policy will incorporate an integrated multi-stakeholder approach. An array of actors involving National Government, Child protection agencies, Universities with focus of child protection, Think Tanks, funding agencies, beneficiaries both in public and private sector will be incorporated to fully coordinate and implement the policy.

#### **4.1.1 IMPLEMENTATION**

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An implementation framework developed will guide effective implementation of the Children Policy. The implementation framework for the policy will take the form of an integrated multi-stakeholder approach, joint coordination, joint planning, joint budgeting and regular joint reviews of progress. This policy will also be in line with the County CIDP, Sectoral plans, Annual Development Plans and other plans laid down by the County Government. The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services (GYSC&SS) will coordinate and ensure harmony of these plans.

#### **4.1.2 COORDINATION**

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The County Government under the department of GYSC&SS will form a coordination structure that will oversee successful implementation of the policy. The County Government will form a Technical Working Group (TWG) that will embark on successful implementation of the policy as per the timelines stated in the children policy. The County Government through the established structure will establish an integrated multi-stakeholder team drawn from various departments to jointly formulate projects and programmes in collaboration with other stakeholders. Conduct Monitoring and Evaluation of implementation of Child Policy, Review County Child Policy in collaboration with key Stakeholders.



## **4.2 RESOURCING AND BUDGETING**

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### **Resources for Policy Implementation and Coordination**

The resources for the implementation, coordination and sustainability of the policy shall be raised through collaborative and partnership approaches. These approaches will be put in place to jointly raise resources in mutual agreements. The administrative and coordination expenses for Policy implementation shall not exceed 10% of funds allocated. The Department of GYSC&SS will forge strategic alliances and partnerships from development partners to promote implementation of the child policy through various programs.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

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An effective policy implementation tracking framework will be developed to monitor implementation of the policy and assess timely delivery of policy objectives to ensure that they are achieved in a cost effective, coordinated and harmonized manner at all levels.

The Technical Working Group coordinated by the Department of GYSC&SS will lead the development and roll out of the policy implementation tracking framework and bring on board relevant actors. The policy implementation tracking framework will employ participatory approaches including mutual accountability systems to determine progress towards implementation of agreed and prioritized policy interventions and the realization of policy objectives based on the policy implementation matrix provided in Annex 1 of the policy.

The annual rolling work plans for various thematic areas will be developed by GYSC&SS to allow for robust implementation of the policy matrix. The data and information emanating from the policy implementation tracking matrix and the yearly work plans will constitute evidence for policy review and decision making. Periodic review of the policy will be done after every five years to ensure that emerging issues are addressed, and policy implementation challenges ameliorated.

## **ANNEXES**

### **ANNEX I: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

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1. Thematic Area/Policy Priority Area: **Social services**

**Policy Objective.**

To increase the number of children in Nyamira County accessing quality social services for their well-being.

<b>The County Government action</b>	<b>Policy Intervention</b>	<b>Lead/Key Responsible Institutions</b>	<b>Expected Outputs/ /Outcomes</b>	<b>Timeline Short-term (≤3 years) Medium-term (3-7 years) Long-term (7-10 years) Continuous</b>
The County Government will establish a coordination structure for children services in order to improve provision of quality services to children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Formation of multisectoral coordinating committee/council at the county level.</li> <li>(ii) Partner and collaborate with National Government, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to improve service delivery for children.</li> </ul>	Directorate of Social Services.	Quality and coordinated services to children.	Medium term.

<p>The County will establish data collection, processing and management system for children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Enhance ICT system in the county.</li> <li>(ii) Strengthen the capacity of ICT and M&amp;E Directorates to collect process and manage children's data.</li> <li>(iii) County will collaborate and partner with national government, independent and academic institutions to conduct research and studies on children matters for effective service delivery</li> </ul>	<p>Directorate of Social Services  Directorate of ICT  Directorate of M&amp; E</p>	<p>Quality data for decision making  Enhanced staff capacity to collect, process and manage data</p>	<p>Long term</p>
<p>Nyamira county government allocates budget towards children services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) County government shall allocate funds for the implementation of the child policy.</li> <li>(ii) County government shall fund children services</li> </ul>	<p>Finance and Planning</p>	<p>Availability of funds for children services</p>	<p>Long term</p>

<p>The County will enhance provision of child friendly programs to promote child welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Establish safe spaces for children.</li> <li>(ii) Campaign on the importance of family-based care for children.</li> <li>(iii) Promote family strengthening interventions to ensure families function and provide adequate care to children</li> </ul>	<p>Department of GYSC&amp;SS</p>	<p>Established child friendly environment/ programs</p>	<p>Long term</p>
<p><b>Thematic Area/Policy Priority Area: Health</b></p>				
<p><b>Policy Objective</b></p> <p>To increase the number of children accessing quality healthcare services in Nyamira County.</p>				
<p>The county government will strengthen the existing community referral strategy of 2020-2025 in order to enhance its sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Create a sustainable remuneration package for community level workforce; CPVs, LVCs and CHVs.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Health and DCS Department</p>	<p>Budgetary allocation for</p>	<p>Long term</p>

	<p>(ii) Operationalize and integrate community dashboards indicators.</p> <p>(iii) Provide nutritional food supplements to school going children in order to keep them in schools.</p>	<p>MoH.</p> <p>MoH/DCS/</p>	<p>renumeration package.</p> <p>Prompt surveillance and response to primary health care concerns.</p> <p>Budget allocation for continuous capacity strengthening</p>	<p>Long term</p> <p>Long term</p>

The county government will ensure increased coverage of integrated child specific services in order to increase their access and uptake.	(i) Establish child friendly safe spaces	MOH/DCS	Budgetary allocation for construction/renovation and procurement of child play materials.	Long Term
	(ii) Capacity strengthening of community level workforce and relevant government personnel on child specific service delivery			
	(iii) Integrated SRH /SGBV/HIV services at all service points	MOH/DCS	Skilled workforce and improved access to child specific services.	Long Term
		MoH		Long Term



			Increased SRH/SGBV/HIV services uptake	
The county government will provide a comprehensive medical cover to all OVC	(i) Mapping and identification of all uncovered OVC in the county to establish the number and provide medical cover.	MoH	Budgetary allocation for all OVC Medical Covers  Increased access to health services and improved Child wellbeing.	Long Term
<b>Thematic Area/Policy Priority Area: Education</b>				
<b>Policy Objective:</b>				
To reduce the number of school drop-outs, enhance access, retention and transition of children in basic education in Nyamira County.				
Nyamira county government will establish economic empowerment	i) Design and implement household economic	MOALF Ministry of trade	Households are economically	Long term

<p>programs targeting vulnerable households to enable them to provide for the basic and education needs of their children.</p>	<p>empowerment program among vulnerable families to enable them to provide for basic and educational needs of their children to protect them from child labour.</p>	<p>Department of gender in collaboration with DCS</p>	<p>empowered and can provide for the basic needs of their children. 100% retention among school going children until completion. County labour laws adapted or formulated to prevent child labour</p>	<p>2-3 years</p>
<p>Nyamira county government will establish boys and girls' empowerment programs to prevent teenage pregnancy and enhance retention in school.</p>	<p>(i) To strengthen the private and public partnership to increase sustain retention in education.  (ii) Initiate programs in collaboration with key actors to prevent teenage pregnancy.</p>	<p>Department of trade Public service management, Gender, Education, and Health, Interior and Coordination</p>	<p>Improved access to Education</p>	

	(iii) Initiate mentorship and life skills programs for boys			
<b>Thematic Area/Policy Priority Area: Agriculture</b>				
<b>Policy Objectives;</b> To increase the number of vulnerable families accessing economic empowerment activities within Nyamira County to able to meet basic needs and prevent child labour.				
The county government will enhance awareness to the community on child labour issues, customize and enforce child labour laws in order to create a conducive environment where children are not engaged in hazardous agricultural activities.	(i) Support of Child labour publicity by making available or improving training and education material on child labour issues for decision makers, agricultural extension services, farmers, children, youth and other groups.	Department responsible for Agriculture Children department Education department Department of Gender services County Assembly	Nyamira Child policy created. Child labour laws customized	Medium term (3-7 years)
	(ii) Provide subsidies to poor families prone to having working children so they can	Department of agriculture	Reduced number of children	Act Short term (≤3 years)

	afford their children's schooling (income subsidies).	Department of Social service Department of health services	involvement in child labour activities	
	(iii) Promote Activities to encourage, develop, implement and monitor social protection interventions and projects that prevent child labour.	Department of social services Children department Education department Department of County Assembly	Reduced number of children involvement in child labour activities	Long time
	(iv) Establish partnerships of international organizations and other stakeholders dedicated to improving children's lives	Office of the Governor Department of gender services Department of children services	Appropriation of funds, to help promote activities to encourage more children to go to school and help	Medium term

			reduce malnutrition	
(b) The county government will ensure that key economic, environmental and social considerations are integrated into sectorial policy implementation.	(i) Linkage with Civil society and medical private institutions useful for providing free legal, psycho-social support, medical support, and refreshers on child rights and child protection.	Department responsible for Agriculture Children department Education department Department of Gender services Department of Health KNBS Office of the Governor Department of gender services Department of children services	Allocation of funds for food supplement to school going children  Reduced cases of malnutrition Increased school enrolment High rentation Reduced cases of child labour	Medium term

The county government will develop adaptation strategies to reduce exposure of children to child labor and to facilitate the transition to patterns of living that eradicate child labour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Establishment of child labour free zones</li> <li>(ii) Linkages with TVETS to ensure the transitioning is done according to guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>Department of social services Children department Education department Department of County Assembly</p>	<p>Child labour Free zones established  TVETS identified for possible partnerships</p>	Long time

## **ANNEX II: BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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