



childwatch

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF ANPPCAN

No. 45, SEPTEMBER 2014

African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect

Delivering a secure environment for children in Africa



A consortium of three partners led by ANPPCAN set to address child trafficking in Nairobi's Mathare and Mukuru slums

Recognition of child trafficking has attracted several activities geared towards combating the problem



Child trafficking is a reality in Kenya and in the East Africa region. It increases vulnerabilities in children.

A new project to tackle child trafficking has been introduced in Nairobi County.

The project is implemented by a consortium of three partners, namely, ANPPCAN Regional Office, Child Line Kenya and the Centre for Domestic Training and Development with the support of Terre des Hommes. ANPPCAN Regional Office is the lead partner in the project.

Titled, "Contributing to the Elimination of Child Trafficking in Kenya," the project works to empower communities to prevent and respond to child trafficking in Mathare and Mukuru Communities in Nairobi. It is estimated to last 18 months.

Child trafficking involves movement of children for exploitation and is a crime that is often hidden, a multi-million industry that operates with the help of powerful individuals and cartels.

The objectives of the project are three fold, namely (a) to enhance knowledge on child trafficking (b), to strengthen systems at the national, county and community levels to respond and prevent child trafficking and

(c) to withdraw victims of child trafficking and provide them with interim care, re-integrate survivors and also extend support services to children at risk of trafficking.

In the July 2014 – December 2015 project period, the project partners will reach out to at least 22,620 beneficiaries. Of the number 11,050 are children either at risk or victims of child trafficking and 11,570 adults. The services will include, but not limited to withdrawal, vocational training, medical aid, legal aid as well as referrals for specialized care.

For instance, anticipated that at least 600 children who are at risk or victims of child trafficking will be referred to other service providers by Child Line Kenya.

Further, 30 service providers who will be trained by Child Line Kenya and at least 970 organizations who will receive Standard Operating Procedures from Child Line Kenya in Mathare and Mukuru slums, Nairobi, Kenya.

The other two partners will also provide additional services. CDTD will provide a safe house for rescued children and seek to reintegrate them. ANPPCAN will conduct national level advocacy on child trafficking, among other activities.

Some of the key outcomes of the project are:

- Improved knowledge on the scope and dynamics of child trafficking at county and local level.
- Increased awareness of child population
- Local anti-trafficking structures like child rights clubs, Area Advisory Councils, the anti Trafficking Village Committees are

established and supported.

- Capacity of key stakeholders - teachers, children, community leaders, District Children Officers to report and prevent child trafficking built.
- National Steering Committee on Counter Trafficking of Persons reactivated and supported.
- Nairobi County Steering Committee on Counter Trafficking of Persons is established and supported.
- The Nairobi County Action Plan on elimination of child trafficking will be developed and shared.
- Standard operating procedures on victim identification, rehabilitation and reintegration established.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this re-branded issue of childwatch.

It features stories from Regional Office and our national chapters across Africa.

Childwatch is now published monthly by the African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect.

It is the official journal of ANPPCAN.

All correspondence addressed to Childwatch is assumed to be intended for publication.

© ANPPCAN Regional Office, 2014



Reducing violence against children with a focus on sexual exploitation of children in Kenya

A synopsis of the project

ANPPCAN working in partnership with the Defence for Children International, ECPAT Netherlands, has initiated a project on violence against children whose focus is Sexual Exploitation of Children in Kenya.

The project, "Reducing Violence against Children with special focus on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Kenya," seeks to address child sexual abuse and exploitation in all its forms in Embakasi subcounty of Nairobi County. This is after our project on Partnerships for Community Child Protection Systems, 2013/14, revealed that cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children were high in Embakasi Subcounty.

The specific objective of the programme is to advocate and lobby for improved protection of children against violence, in particular sexual exploitation at the local and national level in Kenya.

The one year project that began in May 2014 is part of a larger multi-country project covering 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Middle East on sexual exploitation of children.

The project responds to sexual exploitation of children through different strategies in each country and regions and endeavours to build knowledge, share learning and emerging good practices on sexual exploitation of children.

In the project, ANPPCAN uses multi-faceted approaches to address sexual exploitation of children in Kenya. These include enhancing awareness and knowledge on sexual exploitation of children, strengthening advocacy and lobbying as well as enhancing cooperation, networking and linkages amongst the stakeholders and front line professionals in addressing sexual exploitation of



children.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, through the Defence for Children International - ECPAT Netherlands.

An example of a neighbourhood Care Centre. Spaces such as this one help to protect children from abuse

Sexual violence high in urban communities, community conversations reveal

Educating the community will help in addressing sexual violence

One feature of the traditional African society is that children belonged to the community. As such children never just belonged to the nuclear family – father and mother - alone.

In this setup, therefore, responsibility for care and protection of children from violence rested on every member of the community.

However, today's urban communities report high incidences of sexual violence against children perpetrated by the very people who are supposed to protect them. The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) and the End Child Prostitution and Tourism (ECPAT), Netherlands, through the Violence against Children programme whose focus is on reducing sexual violence sought to understand the prevalence

of sexual violence in two urban communities in Nairobi.

Sample the following scenarios as narrated by children and adults in the two communities.

In the first scenario, a case of sexual abuse of a girl, 12, in class 6 in Mukuru kwa Njenga Primary school was reported. Her father was known to be a violent person, especially when drunk. He frequently abused the mother and the children could only watch helplessly. One day, the mother abandoned the family due to the incessant violence from the husband. Later, the girl was raped by her father, who was drunk at the time. The girl was found bleeding and in severe pain in the house by the neighbours. The girl was subsequently taken to the local dispensary for medication and also to the police station to record a statement. Upon the father's arrival in the evening, he was

arrested and taken to the police station. After a while the girl went 'missing' from the house. Her friends learnt that she had been transferred to her rural home, to 'kill the court case' and protect the family name. The father was released after 4 months.

In the second scenario, a girl who was returning from school at around 6.30 pm was attacked by a gang of boys near the Matopeni village of Mukuru Community. The boys raped her repeatedly and left her in great pain. Some good Samaritans took her to St. Mary's Hospital, Langata, where she received treatment.

The objective of the discussions was to gain understanding of the child rights concerns in the area and, especially sexual violence against children in the two communities to inform training of the communities on the same.

Discussions involved children





Children who took part in the community conversations on sexual violence against children in Mukuru community, Nairobi. The Children drew a poster that said it all: don't trust anybody, including your parents; do not accept gifts from strangers; abstain from sexual immorality, say no to drug abuse, stop sexual abuse.

aged 6-17 years and adults. The children pointed out the kind of people who meted sexual violence on them.

'Most of these violence, abuse and neglect cases are perpetrated by parents, older siblings and children, business people, teachers, aunts and uncles, and peers' they said.

In all the instances, no concrete action was taken on the perpetrator with the perpetrator escaping to his rural home to escape arrest.

One child observed, 'a child was raped and impregnated by a teacher in Tassia Hill Academy and the teacher ran away.'

The children lamented that many of their colleagues in Tassia and Mukuru communities spent a lot of time watching pornographic videos in the video shops or at their homes. Children who watched the videos tended to be aggressive towards other children.

The children identified areas

that posed danger to their safety. Such areas include roadsides especially later in the evening and at night, vicinity around disco halls, video shops, dark and isolated paths and forests and at the *Muguka* joints, commonly known for men who chew *khat*.

When asked to whom they reported abuse, the children mentioned teachers and in particular the school matron, parents, trusted relatives (uncles and aunts) and the police.

The findings from the adults' session corroborated those of the children on their protection concerns. They identified defilement of children as an issue of concern in Tassia and Mukuru communities. They further noted that parents, relatives and older children wielded the power in the violence.

One member said, 'Sometimes last year, a class six female pupil lost her way in the community on her way to school. In the process, a man pretended to be a good Samaritan and offered to escort her to school. He however led her into his house and defiled her. Fearing arrest, the man ran away from the community. The girl was taken to Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital where she was treated. She is currently continuing with her education.'

The adults intimated that violence made children to run away from their homes – where violence was meted out by an elder member

of the family. They added that violence created low self esteem in the children and also perpetrated the cycle of violence.

The adults suggested ways to help the community to respond to sexual violence against children, including holding outreach activities and sensitizing the local administration.

'You (ANPPCAN) can initiate dialogue with communities on ways of addressing sexual violence against children.'

On educating the local administration, a participant noted 'it is important for the local government authorities to intervene on child rights violations. In particular, the area chief should take up and intervene on child rights violations in the community.'

While it is evident that defilement and prostitution are high in Tassia and Mukuru communities, deliberate measures need to be put in place to help victims get medication and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Also, educating the community will go a long way in addressing sexual violence against children.

Upcoming Event - The Nairobi Global Conference on Child

Labour

The Date
23- 25 August 2015

Venue
Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi,
Kenya

The themes
Taking Stock of Child Labour in
Africa while Revisiting the Role
of Education in Eliminating Child
Labour

Sub-Themes
• The role of education in eradi-
cating child labour

- What history provides on child labour
- Role of governments and trade unions in eliminating child labour
- Experiences in enforcement of laws and policies in combating child labour
- Eradicating child labour through area based programmes
- Socio-economic factors in child labour efforts
- Contribution of research to combat child labour

Registration Fee

- Kenya students - USD 20
- International students - USD 50
- Kenya delegates - USD 100
- Delegates from Africa and other developing countries - USD 150
- Delegates from the rest of the World - USD 200

Hurry and register today to book your place at the Conference.



Woman sets up a mini bakery; sells cakes to support the care and education of orphans

Child participation project's Village Savings and Loans Association empowers parents to access loans to start businesses

An elderly lady living with orphaned children in Busia County, Kenya, has successfully initiated a business with the help of ANPPCAN to support the education of the children and meet her household needs.

Ms Namudairwa, a grand-mum, is a member of ANPPCAN's Child Participation project's Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) introduced in Busia County in December 2013. Her and other members have access to loans from the association to start a business of their choice.

Through the association, parents – majority of who are poor – access loans to start businesses. In this way, the parents generate monies to support the education of their children, besides improving their household incomes. The parents accepted and welcomed the idea of the VSLA with enthusiasm and great zeal.

In 2013, ANPPCAN trained parents in project schools of Busia County on the Village Savings and Loans Scheme and encouraged them to save and access loans to run their own businesses.

But, Namudairwa's case is a transforming one and a success story to many people. She lives with six orphaned children who are under her care and is one of the people the Child Participation programme trained on the VSLA. Today, Namudairwa has successfully setup a bakery unit that makes cakes. The cakes are perfectly baked and packed as Namudairwa Food Products and then sold at the neighbouring shops and supermarkets in Busia town.

Ms Namudairwa started in a small and grew exponentially. She initially took a loan of Kshs 500 from the scheme and began baking cakes with the help of her grand-daughter in a room in her compound. She was hesitant

that due to old age she would not manage the venture successfully and repay back the loan. However, starting on a small scale, she gradually increased her stock and managed to sell her cakes on time.

This motivated her the more and she took another loan of Kshs 3,000, then Kshs 5,000 and then Kshs 15,000 from the association to boost her business. And indeed, the business has grown ten-fold.

Besides Namudairwa, other association members are also involved in pig farming, fast food businesses and vegetables and clothes vending.

Loans given to members are repaid back to the group with a small interest. On its part, the group has started to re-invest the accumulated interest in IGA projects such as tents for hire and accessing goods and wares in bulky at a lower price and selling it to the members at a reduced price. According to records, the group's total savings currently stand at Kshs 1.2 million.

At the inception of the project in December 2013, the project covered 5 schools from which 8 groups were formed with a membership of 390. In July 2014, the project trained 6 field facilitators and looped in 7 more schools into the programme. The later schools had 140 members. In total, therefore, the project has 530 members. Of this number, 111 members have been trained on VSLA and in particular skills on establishing and running of income generating activities.

The objective of the VSLA is to empower families economically for them to meaningfully support the education of their children. It addresses the problem of school drop-out and improves retention of children in schools. Parents who are running IGAs now pay school levies for their children, thanks to



Ms Namudairwa at work at her bakery unit. The cakes are sold in neighbouring shops and supermarkets in Busia town



Shadrack Muthama, ANPPCAN, Ms Namudairwa and a member of the association display cakes baked by Ms Namudairwa. Other association members are involved in pig farming, fast food business and vegetables and clothes vending

the VSLA programme.

It has also been observed that levels of child abuse of children have also reduced – notably child prostitution and child labour. This is because the conditions that led to child abuse have been addressed by improved household incomes realized from the projects initiated by parents or guardians.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child marks 25 years this year

Celebrating the UNCRC @ 25: Gains and Prospects for Children in Kenya



Protecting children from violence, abuse and mal-treatment is every-one's business

Kenya is one of the countries of the world that have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the global standard nations ascribe to for meaningful child protection.

The country ratified the Convention on 30 July 1990.

This action meant that the country endeavours to commit resources, both human and financial as well as other measures to protect and enhance the lives of children within its borders.

From the onset, it is worth to note that while the process of drafting the UNCRC was underway, scholars and practitioners in Africa set another key process for the region into motion – the development of the African Charter.

Few African countries were involved in the process of drafting the Convention in Geneva.

A team convened by ANPPCAN with the support of UNICEF, at the time, examined the draft Convention from an African perspective. This occasioned the development of the African Charter, borrowing heavily from the Convention.

Thus, reinforcing the Convention. Some 47 countries in Africa have ratified the African Charter.

As is the case for the Convention, States Parties to the

African Charter submit regular reports and receive feedback on areas they need to work on in providing children the much needed protection and care.

But, what has convention done to children in Kenya? Several things have been realized in policy and practice.

The Kenya government has enacted key legislations aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the child, including the Children's Act of 2001 (Cap 586 Laws of Kenya) and the creation of the National Council for Children's Services; Sexual Offences Act of 2006; and the Refugee Act of 2006. The Kenya constitution promulgated in 2010 also provides general guidance in matters pertaining to children.

The government has also put in place measures and programmes to coordinate children issues, including the creation of the National Council for Children's Services with a five year strategic work plan and the establishment of the advisory councils at the local level.

This has meant that children voices are heard and issues addressed at the point of care.

The country has promoted and respected the children's right to freely express their views and the process of drafting the national guidelines for child participation aimed at facilitating participation of children at all levels. A children parliament continues to play a critical role in giving views on critical matters affecting the child in Kenya.

On family environment and alternative care of children, it is important to note that Kenya has taken initiatives that focus on the family as part of social policy, in particular programmes in family counselling, parental education and support.

On June 1, 2013, the Government of Kenya launched a new policy of free maternity services in all public facilities in order to combat the country's persistently high maternal morbidity and mortality rates.

In the health sector, for instance, the state has instituted measures at policy and practical levels to give effect to the right to health and health services, including the national infant feeding policy and the distribution of treated nets for the prevention of malaria.

On harmful practices, there have been deliberate efforts made by the local administrative officers in collaboration with civil society to protect the girl child from forced and early marriage and or female genital mutilation, particularly prohibition of female genital mutilation (FGM) under the children Act and implementation of the right of passage with the goal of eliminating FGM.

There have been achievements in the education sector. Notable is the introduction of a policy of free primary education in 2013, which despite prevailing rates of children unable to access education, has resulted in a significant increase of school enrolment.

On administration of juvenile justice, there has been the successful piloting of the diversion programme for children in conflict with the law, as well as plans to avail child friendly transportation to child offenders.

Children are thus even when under criminal justice systems, treated with dignity and respect.

Similar outstanding achievements have been realized on other areas and sectors.

Hence, the more we need to give thumps up as we celebrate the 25th anniversary. However, it should not be lost that the government and actors still have gigantic work to do to ensure that children enjoy their full rights under the Convention.



Children services plummet in West Africa nations as the Ebola pandemic hits hard

The Ministry of Education in Liberia is planning to introduce radio lessons for the first time

The Ebola epidemic that has ravaged West African states has exerted a heavy toll in many families and cut off key services. Children and the youth have been affected by a big measure.

It is estimated that at least 2,288 people in the region have died from Ebola and some 4,269 confirmed or probable cases have been reported.

Liberia is worst hit with 1,296 deaths. In Guinea, the virus has claimed 568 lives, 445 died in Sierra Leone and seven in Nigeria.

Liberia has a population of 4.4 million people. Many families in Liberia are affected by the Ebola scourge. What is notable is that there is near total breakdown in systems in Liberia where 14 of 15 counties have recorded Ebola incidents.

All schools remains closed, a situation that is likely to remain for the next six months after which WHO predicts the disease could have been contained. As a result, the Ministry of Education is planning to introduce radio lessons for the first time in a nation that is struggling to rebuild institutions after decades of civil war.

Many hospitals have also been shut down as medical personnel stay away.

In the ensuing period of the epidemic, children will have to contend with confinement by their families. They will miss the times when they would gather at the playfields and play with other children in their neighborhoods, until such a time that their parents will be assured that the epidemic has been successfully managed.



We can only stand in solidarity with the children and their families and look to the day ahead when the epidemic will have been contained.

Health workers in Liberia screening people for the Ebola virus. Many children have been affected by the disease.

ANPPCAN Mauritius launches an initiative on young people and participates in a regional conference

ANPPCAN Mauritius was early this year selected to participate in 'the Decentralized Cooperation Programme (DCP)' regional networking platform for non state actors of the Indian Ocean region.

Subsequently, a regional conference was held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Mauritius. The regional forum formed part of DCP's efforts towards sustainable development and focused on the following priority themes which are deemed critical for the countries of the Indian Ocean region:

- ✓ Empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized children
- ✓ Sustainable management of marine resources
- ✓ Empowerment of youth
- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Gender equity

The conference aimed to provide a platform for NGOs engaged in the above thematic areas

to display their achievements, exchange information and establish collaborative links with counterparts in the region.

ANPPCAN Mauritius, with five other Mauritian NGOs have been selected to form part of the youth cluster with Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros Islands. During the Conference, the Executive Director of ANPPCAN Mauritius, Marie Josée Baudot, made a presentation on globalization and the youth, with special focus on Mauritius.

Elsewhere, the Chapter launched a new project entitled 'Empowerment of the young people of the Indian Ocean'. This project has two main approaches.

The first approach is entrepreneurship and the youth employment. This comprises training, capacity building and support for the creation or development of youth social enterprises and facilitating

them to access market through a regional fair.

The second approach is institutional development. This part aims at the institution of a favourable socio-economic and cultural environment. It will support the activities of the youth organizations, including creating and strengthening of a monitoring centre for the youth with a follow-up system in place. It also seeks to create or strengthen (for the case of the Comoros) a youth policy at country level as a build up to a regional policy. This will also include the setting up of educational facilities for the youth in the Indian Ocean.



ANPPCAN Sierra Leone turns a spotlight on children on the street, entrepreneurship and child marriage

Due to deep rooted cultural and religious practices, many children are still being given out in marriages in utter violation of the law



The ACRWC has a provision (Article 21) that protects children from harmful social and cultural practices including early marriage

Sierra Leone, a developing country, is experiencing challenges in many sectors, including that of children.

Due to the constant collapse of marriages, a high percentage of children are being catered for by single parents, usually mothers who have no defined source of income. The civil war forced many families away from their ancestral dwellings into the cities with no guaranteed means of survival.

ANPPCAN Sierra Leone is one of the organizations addressing the plight of children in the country. It is implementing a programme on children living and working on the streets, entrepreneurship clubs and child marriage campaigns.

On children living and working on the streets, the focus is on identifica-

tion and documentation of teenage commercial sex workers. The chapter has visited many popular points like downtown street corners, night clubs and beach bars. It has been able to identify those willing to return to their families and these were reunited. Some of these children received support in the form of business grants given to the mothers or guardians.

Due to their number and volume of resources required to make impact, Chapter could not do much in terms of enrolling and supporting them in schools. Most of them are still waiting to be assisted.

On women empowerment, the Chapter focuses on rural women, especially those in districts close to the boarders with Guinea and Liberia who face extreme poverty conditions. Due to the remoteness of these communities and distances from commercial towns, economic activities to support their families are difficult to operate.

The Chapter supports them with resources to improve their living conditions. Specifically, the Chapter organized communities in Kambia district (Madina Chiefdom) into farming

cooperatives and were supported with seedlings, animals and poultry.

ANPPCAN Sierra Leone is working with a training institution in Freetown to develop manuals for the establishment of entrepreneurship clubs in secondary schools across the nation. The project teaches students practical skills to help them be self employed and at the same time provide employment for others.

Due to deep rooted cultural and religious practices, many children are still being given out in marriages in utter violation of the law prohibiting marriage of children under 18 years. This law is not enforceable because the practice is widely supported by community leaders.

ANPPCAN Sierra Leone took further steps to sensitize local leaders and parents. in Tonkolili District on the dangers of early child marriage.

The campaign is currently ongoing and is hoped to culminate in a policy to protect children from early marriage.



ANPPCAN –Somaliland revamps itself and sets a bold roadmap on child protection in the country

“Our Strategic Plan is the first of its kind that exclusively addresses advancing the rights and wellbeing of Somali children ... ,” notes Yussuf

The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect - Somalia/Somaliland (ANPPCAN –SOM) has come of age. Despite being a young chapter of the ANPPCAN network in Africa, the outfit has indentified a niche on child protection and has also developed and rolled out a road-map of activities in the country.

Recently, the Chapter concluded and launched its ambitious and proactive Strategic Plan (2014-2018) and a Monitoring and Evaluation framework (2014 -2018) in Hargeisa, Somaliland.

The Strategic Plan outlines the mandate and scope of the chapter and sets its vision, mission and organisational values. It also describes the Chapter’s strategic priority interventions.

“The Strategic Plan highlights our assessment of the trends informing future priorities”, says Khadar Ahmed, the Chairperson, ANPPCAN SOM.

“It also describes the vision, mission, goals, objectives and strategies for success and ongoing process for measuring progress and updating plans to reflect continued change and learning, ” add the chairperson.

In the foreword section of the Strategic Plan, chairperson notes the plan will help

them to deliver results to children in Somaliland.

“We believe that these aspirations will be realized if all the stakeholders, including the duty bearers, can fulfil their obligations; and if the rights-holders, mainly children, are empowered to demand for their rights,” remarks Ahmed.

Ahmed Hassan Yussuf, the Executive Director, ANPPCAN SOM, praised staff and management of the chapter for their efforts in developing the strategic plan and the M&E framework.

“Our Strategic Plan is the first of its kind that exclusively addresses advancing the rights and wellbeing of Somali children. We will work hard to realize our vision and strategic goals in partnership with all stakeholders, including children,” noted Yussuf.

“Most strategic plans fail because they have been developed simply for having a plan for its own sake, because they do not understand the external environment, because they are t complicated and detailed and because have unrealistic goals given level of resources – they try solve everything, ” he cautions.

He added that the Monitoring and Evaluation framework complements the strategic plan and will come



in handy in monitoring the performance of the chapter, measuring progress and evaluating impact being made in advancing the rights and well-being of Somali children.

The launch was attended by Mrs Wambui Njuguna, the Director of Programs, ANPPCAN Regional Office, Nairobi, and other high ranking officials from the government of Somaliland.

Ali Said Raygal, the minister of Youth and Sports makes remarks on the launch of ANPPCAN SOM Strategic Plan

Bottom: Staff of ANPPCAN SOM, with Wambui Njuguna (second left) during the launch of the Strategic Plan in August 2014



Desk review on the status and implementation of laws and policies on Child Protection in Eastern Africa region

The report presents knowledge on laws and policies that exist, an estimation of the progress made in implementing them, the gaps and challenges that exist.



ANPPCAN has published a report on the status and implementation of laws and policies on child protection in the Eastern Africa region.

The desk review was undertaken as part of a regional project that ANPPCAN is implementing on child protection systems strengthening. The project is supported by Save the Children International and its implementation facilitated by technical working groups in the seven countries in the East Africa region.

A child protection systems

includes coordinated series of functions and actions undertaken by a range of duty bearers at all levels, family, community, provincial, national and international that combine to prevent, respond to and mitigate, the multiple child protection risks children face

It provides a critical analysis of the status of the status and implementation of the policies and laws on child protection in the EA region towards enhancing the rights of children. The review identified gaps and recommended

measures for action.

The information and recommendations in the report will enable governments and child rights stakeholders in the eastern Africa region to share learning as well as initiate and sustain debate on the enactment and implementation of laws and policies to enhance child protection. Copies of the publication are available at ANPPCAN Regional Office.

A review of policies and laws affecting deaf children in Kenya Launched

The government needs to ensure proper implementation of the policies in force and monitor the services accessed by deaf children to ensure that they enjoy their rights



ANPPCAN November 2013 published and launched a desk review report on the policies and laws affecting deaf children in Kenya.

The review examines the extent of provisions of both the national and international child protection instruments on the rights of deaf children in Kenya.

The report entails a critical analysis of the extent to which national policies, laws and international instruments provide safeguards and enhance the rights of deaf children in Kenya and identifies the gaps for action.

For instance, in Kenya, there are policies and laws that make it a criminal

offense to discriminate against a deaf child. The 2010 Kenya Constitution outlaws discrimination against any person on the basis of disability, among many others factors.

Article 54 demands that a person with any disability shall be treated with dignity and respect, to access educational institutions and facilities.

This is in addition to other laws that have a bearing on deaf children and their families, such as the Children Act, 2001, Education Act and Disability Act. Some of the existing laws may not be in harmony with the new constitution and many times they are not known. There is need

to identify gaps and challenges and also advocate for their improvement and implementation.

The information and recommendations emanating from the review will enable government officers, law makers, educators, and development partners working with children to judge when deaf children are not enjoying their rights and to do all that is possible to plan, budget, implement and monitor the gains deaf children are making. Copies of the publications are available at ANPPCAN Regional Office



ANPPCAN CHAPTERS

