



Press Release

Joining Forces for Children in Kenya Project Launch

Nairobi, November 5th 2020 – The Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya - whose members are ChildFund Kenya, Plan International Kenya, Save the Children Kenya, SOS Children's Villages Kenya, Terre des Hommes and World Vision Kenya - has today launched a three-year child protection project funded by the European Union, that focuses on protecting children during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

The launch was presided over by Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya, Ambassador Katrin Hagemann and the Principal Secretary State Department for Social Protection, Mr. Nelson Marwa Sospeter, CBS.

The 2.3 Million Euro (approx KSh.291,741,185) project specifically seeks to reduce levels of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect among children and adolescents in Nairobi, Bungoma and Busia Counties, as well as the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. These locations were chosen based on high pre-existing needs and vulnerability to multiple forms of violence for children.

This new project in Kenya, is part of a cumulative 10 Million Euro Grant for the Joining Forces for Africa project being implemented in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali and Senegal.

Promotion of child-led initiatives and participation is core to the project and a total of 78,210 children will be involved as direct beneficiaries. In addition, 13,125 parents and caregivers and 1,016 government officials will be involved directly in the project implementation.

Key focus areas of the project are to strengthen child protection and response systems, ensure improved protection in resilient families and increase capacity of children to prevent and respond to violence against them during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

The project comes at an opportune moment, when the Government of Kenya has begun implementation of its National Prevention and Response Plan to End Violence against Children. There is therefore a great opportunity to strengthen collaboration with the Government of Kenya in ending all forms of Violence against children.

The Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya acknowledges the prevention and response measures that the Government of Kenya has taken to stop the spread of COVID-19. However, the Alliance also recognises, that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to evolve and has both social and economic impact to communities, families and directly affects the lives of children by increasingly exposing them to violence.

The Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya appreciates the support from the European Union for the project funding that will contribute immensely towards ending all forms of Violence against Children.

Ends

**Notes:**

For more information on the National Prevention and Response Plan to End Violence against Children, read: <https://www.socialprotection.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/National-Prevention-Response-Plan-on-VAC-WEB-v5-July-3-2020.pdf>

About The Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya

The Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya (JFA-Kenya) is a coalition of six child focused non-governmental organizations whose members are ChildFund Kenya, Plan International Kenya, Save the Children Kenya, SOS Children's Villages Kenya, Terre des Hommes and World Vision Kenya.

The six agencies are building on combined experience and expertise and working in the best interest of children, while strengthening collaboration with Government of Kenya and its partners. The Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya works to ensure that substantial progress is made towards the realisation of children's rights and reduction of violence against children.

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