

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the second issue of the MEASURE Evaluation PIMA (MEval-PIMA) Activity Update, a monthly publication to share news on the project's work to strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems in Kenya.

This issue focuses on the theme of the Day of the African Child and highlights efforts in developing a child protection information management system in Kenya.



Photo by Jack Hazerjian, MEASURE Evaluation

Ending child marriage: using data to protect the young

NAIROBI, Kenya—Efforts to end child marriage in Africa were the focus of this year's observance of the Day of the African Child on June 16. In Kenya, despite legislation prohibiting marriage before the age of 18, under "customary" law – marriages according to customs of the community of one or both parties – and Islamic law there is no minimum age for marriage. Many young girls, especially in rural areas, are given in marriage by their parents in exchange for livestock or goods or because they are seen as an economic burden. [Read more](#)

Developing a child protection information management system in Kenya

National governments are legally obliged to ensure children's rights – including the right to health, education, family life, play and recreation, an adequate standard of living and protection from abuse and harm – through enactment of relevant laws and provision of services. In Kenya the Department of Children Services is charged with these tasks. The successful implementation of child protection and social welfare services is dependent upon the availability and use of relevant data.

This data should provide information on the magnitude of, and any trends evident in, child protection issues, as well as the impact of programs and interventions. Currently, however, Kenya does not have a functional national child protection information management system (CPIMS) capable of providing accurate, timely information on key child welfare concerns. [Read more](#)

Child protection through data use

The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Children sets out four pillars for children's rights: survival, development, protection, and participation. These are echoed in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which Kenya ratified and domesticated through the Children Act of 2001 and the Kenyan constitution. Protection includes protection of children from performing work that is dangerous or prevents them from attending school or inhibits their overall development. [Read more](#)

Child protection IMS development kicks off with stakeholder mapping and engagement

In early April, groups involved in child protection services in Kenya held a meeting in South Rift to discuss the development of an information system for child protection services, providing data to help secure child health and safety country-wide.

According to the Director of the Department of Children's Services, Mr. Ahmed Hussein, the meeting was an important step towards upgrading the Child Protection Information Management System and strengthening the department's use of quality data for evidence-based decision-making. [Read more](#)



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USAID-funded MEASURE-Evaluation PIMA (MEval-PIMA) is supporting the Department of Children Services (DCS) in the development of a Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) to strengthen the department's capacity for using evidence-based decision making. In April this year, the department, with the support of MEval-PIMA, held a stakeholder engagement workshop that included a field visit to several data collection points, such as a children's home, a children's remand facility and a police station. Meet some of the stories of people who would be beneficiaries of a functional CPIMS system.

Maggie was abandoned along with her twin sister and elder sister. All three were taken to a Charitable Children's Institution (CCI) Mission in Action Children's home in Nakuru. A functioning CPIMS could help in advocating for funding for children in need of protection and care. A functioning CPIMS also could track that the government meets its obligation of ensuring children are properly cared for, and protected from, violence, abuse, and neglect by their parents, or any caretaker, as detailed in Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Kenya is a signatory.



Faith: Children have the right to live with their parent(s), unless it is bad for them. Children whose parents do not live together have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt them. Faith, 13, has been in three different CCIs. Caretakers in her current home state that it has been difficult to trace her family due to these transfers. A functional CPIMS will help address some of the challenges in tracing records and information on children, especially when transferred from one institution to another. Children like Faith can be re-united with their families, thus protecting her right to family association.



"For Kenya to realize vision 2030, data will be key. Without the data on issues affecting children, it is difficult to know their status or argue a case for more resources for children," Robert Buluma (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics).



Meet **Dennis Wanjala** from the Directorate of Community Policing, Gender and Child Protection, at the Police Headquarters in Nairobi. Dennis' work involves advocacy, formulation of policy, and the development

of guidelines on such issues. The police play a vital role in apprehending culprits in child abuse cases including defilement, abandonment, physical, or mental abuse. They are key receivers of information as well as suppliers of information to the justice system to ensure proper protection of children. Dennis believes that a functional CPIMS will be useful for the police, especially in identifying the frequency of child abuse cases and the types of cases in different areas.

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