

Early Childhood Care and Gender Transformative Skilful Parenting (GTSP)



Goal: Assess the effects, cost, and cost-effectiveness of delivering GTSP through government workforce, to improve Caregiver wellbeing and ECD Outcomes for young children aged 0-3 born to adolescents 15-19 years.

► The Issue

Adolescent pregnancy remains a significant challenge in Kenya, 15% of girls aged 15–19 have had a child or are currently pregnant, and half of these pregnancies are unintended, resulting to significant social, health, and economic impacts on adolescent mothers, their families, and communities. In Kakamega County, adolescent mothers often: Lack access to essential health, social, and educational services, Face stigma, emotional distress, and risk of abuse, are at risk of dropping out of school with limiting future opportunities. Their children, in turn, often experience inadequate care, stimulation, and protection, perpetuating cycles of poor developmental and social-emotional outcomes. Despite the magnitude of the problem, *effective and scalable support programs remain scarce*, leaving adolescent parents and their families underserved.

► Our Approach in Addressing the Issue:

Investing in Children and their Societies (ICS-SP), in collaboration with the County Government of Kakamega, is implementing *Kuimarisha* (2023–2026) a program designed to strengthen government and community systems to support adolescent parents and their young children. The project builds capacity within county service delivery systems to implement GTSP, targeting:

- Adolescent mothers with children aged 0–3 years
- Their caregivers (parents of adolescent girls)
- Fathers of the children (where available)

► Strategic actions



Transform county government and community service delivery systems: Enhance the capacity of government leaders and frontline workers to deliver gender-transformative parenting programs and services.



Empower and engage adolescent parents: Strengthen the capacities, opportunities, and well-being of adolescent parents, their families, and communities.



Evaluate and share impact: Establish the effects and the costs of delivering the gender-transformative parenting program.



► What will success look like

1



100

county frontline workers trained and equipped to deliver and supervise gender-transformative parenting and ECD services.

2



2,000

resilient and empowered adolescent parents with improved parental wellbeing and capacity to take care of themselves and provide nurturing and responsive care for their children.

3



3,000

children aged 0–3 years with improved cognitive, motor, language, and socio-emotional development.

4



Evidence generated to inform county planning, budgeting, and scaling of parenting interventions that promote ECD outcomes and caregiver well-being.

► Project Facts as of September 2025



163

government leaders and frontline workers trained on GTSP and ECD: **96%** demonstrated improved capacity and action in delivering quality parenting and ECD services.



59.7%

of adolescent parents showed improved responsive caregiving skills and practices.



37%

reported improved parental well-being.



1,913

adolescent parents, **788** caregivers, and **523** male partners trained through GTSP peer groups.



1,031

adolescent parents received home visits from **74** trained Community Facilitators.

"I wanted to throw away my child, but during a home visit, the facilitator calmed me down and helped me reconcile with my child's father. Now, I manage stress better." Adolescent Parent, Shinyalu



606

adolescent parents linked to psychosocial, education and entrepreneurship.



Supported the development of Kakamega County Cross-Sectoral Referral Standards for AGYW and teen mothers, strengthening service access and delivery.



74

baby minders provide developmental stimulation and care to **1,300+** children during parenting sessions.



56

community leaders sensitized, reaching **4,356** caregivers (**2,532** men, **1,799** women) through barazas and dialogues.

"Through community dialogues, my husband learned to help care for our child something he never did before." Adolescent Parent, Malava

► Partnerships and Collaboration



- County Government of Kakamega (Social Development, Children Services, Education, and Health Departments)
- African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC)
- Community leaders and groups

► Target Region:



Malava and Shinyalu Sub-Counties, Kakamega County

► Project Duration:

September 2023 – October 2026

Our Vision

A world where every family and child thrives.

Our Mission

To enhance the well-being of children and families by fostering collaborative solutions that create safe, stable, and nurturing environments.

