

# CHILDcare

MATTERS

A publication of Uthabiti Africa

Welcome to the second issue of ChildcareMatters Newsletter.

As we come to the end of 2023, we have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for. First, Uthabiti has a new energetic Board that is finalising a new strategic plan that will see us expand collective action and impact not just in Kenya but across the continent.

The year has seen the successful conclusion of our 'test and learn' phase. This was a stage where we tested models of policy and regulatory reforms that would best guarantee the socio-economic empowerment of childcare workers. We also tested models of childcare workforce development that would drastically dignify childcare work. Furthermore, we tested the potential of collective action to advance collective impact on childcare.

As a market disruptor, we are delighted to see signs of a robust childcare ecosystem beginning to take shape. Counties such as Kakamega, Nyamira, Kericho, and Vihiga have quickly embraced childcare reforms. Nairobi is close to passing childcare regulations while Kisumu and Busia Counties are working on theirs. We celebrate all these counties even as we work with the Council of Governors, the Lake Region Bloc the National Council for Children's Services and other stakeholders to scale up reforms that provide direct socioeconomic benefits to caregivers and guarantee the hope for our children accessing quality childcare.

In this edition, we provide a spotlight on the positive changes happening in the childcare ecosystem in Kenya, and the opportunities that exist for further collective action. From progress with curriculum development with the National Industrial Training Authority to upcoming events, to activities undertaken by the National Council for Children's Services, we give you a taste of the positive changes particularly happening in Kenya, with opportunities for influencing action in other countries.

We also highlight progress made by the Collaborative Action for Childcare, the pan-African platform for scaling impact that emerged from the collective actions of childcare ecosystem actors in Kenya. We have a new microsite and are slowly bringing in new members from African countries.

We celebrate partners from Rwanda, Malawi, DRC, Uganda, Zambia, Burundi, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. We continue to explore ways to co-create, co-innovate and co-implement as we build a robust movement of actors in Africa who recognise that the childcare crisis in Africa requires urgent, collective action.

Please join us for our celebratory **Annual Christmas Gala Dinner on 8th December 2023**. Come and build new connections as we exhale. If you are not able to come, please have yourself a wonderful Christmas and look forward to Together, creating a strong foundation for Africa's future learners!

Thank you for your commitment to collective action and collective impact on childcare!

*Editorial Team, Uthabiti Africa*

## Christmas Gala Dinner

 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

 Golden Tulip, Westlands-Nairobi

**Ticket:** Kshs. 5,000

Scan here  
to register





# Updates from Uthabiti Africa

## Spreading Christmas Cheer: Sharing Joyful Moments with Children from Kibera at Agulu Lounge



In the spirit of gratitude and generosity, Agulu Lounge held a Thanksgiving event on the 23rd of November at the RFUEA Grounds that was nothing short of extraordinary.

Welcoming over 1000 members of the community, the event was a testament to unity and compassion. Among them were 147 children from daycares under the Uthabiti Africa Women in Childcare network, whose smiles and laughter filled the atmosphere with pure joy.

It was a heartwarming experience to witness the bonds formed between our team, the incredible women, and the children.

A special thank you to Agulu Lounge for their unwavering dedication and courage in spearheading this noble cause. Their commitment to serving 1,000 meals exemplifies the revolutionary power of hope and kindness.

## Women In Childcare Network



(Women In Childcare Network - Mathare)

Our Women in Childcare network has greatly grown this year. We have more women joining the Collaborative SACCO which empowers them financially and enabling them to grow their day care businesses.

These women in our networks have also received training on how to run daycares, first aid, business and financial management and digital skills for business training.



## Digital Literacy Training for Women in Childcare in Kisumu by Digital Opportunity Trust



We are excited to announce the successful conclusion of our digital literacy training program for women in childcare in Kisumu County. In collaboration with Digital Opportunity Trust, we embarked on a transformative journey with a dedicated group of 23 incredible women, 16 of whom now operate childcare micro-enterprises in Kisumu, who started their training on June 14th 2023 and graduated on the 30th of August.

Over two enriching months, these aspiring entrepreneurs delved deep into the world of digital tools and strategies. They gained essential digital skills to run their businesses online and enhance their marketing efforts. Through this initiative, these visionary women not only acquired digital marketing skills but also learned the intricacies of business registration, ensuring their ventures are on a solid legal foundation.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Digital Opportunity Trust for their invaluable partnership in nurturing the talents and ambitions of these women in childcare. Let's continue empowering individuals, bridging gaps, and creating opportunities for sustainable progress in the childcare sector.



## Consultative Meeting with Childcare Microentrepreneurs

On July 17th, 2023, Uthabiti Africa, in collaboration with a team from the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), held a consultative meeting with childcare microentrepreneurs (Home based and Centre based childcare facilities) in Nairobi, Embakasi South-Dandora area. The primary objective was to understand the challenges faced by childcare microentrepreneurs and discuss topics such as financial inclusion, training, empowerment, and licensing issues.

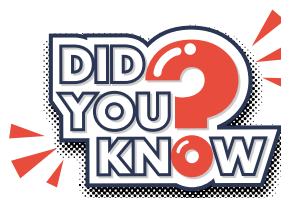


The meeting involved visits to three childcare facilities in Dandora and a large group discussion with childcare workers and entrepreneurs. This consultative meeting served as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving among childcare microentrepreneurs, Uthabiti Africa, and WUSC. The insights gained from this meeting are crucial for shaping future initiatives that support and uplift these essential providers of childcare services.

## Consultative Meeting on the Role of Domestic Worker Placement Agencies in Promoting Quality Childcare in Kenya

Uthabiti in collaboration with WUSC, Nyarai Homecare, Domestic Professional Association of Kenya (DPAK), and Centre for Domestic Training and Development convened a meeting of domestic worker training and placement agencies in Kenya at the Royal Tulip Canaan Hotel-Nairobi on the 18th of July 2023.

The workshop sought to gain insights into the state of domestic workers' placement agencies in Kenya, identifying challenges and opportunities associated with these agencies in enhancing quality childcare services, proposing collaborative measures for advancing quality childcare within households, and discussing the potential for self-regulation, possibly through the formation of an association.



Training and placement agencies serve as a bridge between employers seeking domestic workers and workers seeking job opportunities. In the context of domestic childcare, these agencies play a vital role in linking

skilled caregivers with families. They understand the concerns of both parties, elevating the standards of childcare in households. Additionally, they contribute to fostering respect, dignity, and fair compensation for these workers.

## Scoping Visit to Malawi



In July, Uthabiti accompanied a team from World University Services of Canada on a scoping visit to Malawi to explore the potential for scaling up the Collaborative Action for Childcare model to Malawi. In-depth consultations shed light on gaps in caregiver skills, insufficient policy reforms, inclusion issues, and SGBV of domestic workers. Uthabiti built new connections with state and non-state officers and we look forward to building on this in future.

## Uthabiti Africa at the Women Deliver 2023 Conference



Uthabiti Africa participated in the Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023), which was held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2023. The conference was convened by Women Deliver, a leading global advocate that champions gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women.

This monumental event was attended by 6,000 delegates, both in person and virtually and marked a significant stride towards advancing gender equality across sectors.

# Updates from the Collaborative Action for Childcare

Following Uthabiti's highly participatory strategic planning process, it was agreed that while Uthabiti will deepen its work in Kenya, the Collaborative Action for Childcare model will be used to scale up its impact in Kenya and beyond. As a result, we are slowly building out the Collaborative Action for Childcare initiative as a member-led platform that continues to accelerate the quest for quality, affordable childcare for all in Africa.

Following feedback from members, we have launched a new Collaborative Action for Childcare (CAC) microsite. Here, you can learn information about the CAC, subscribe to be a member and join one of or more of the four Technical Working Groups which include the Childcare Policy and Regulatory Reforms TWG; the Women in Childcare TWG; the Disability and Inclusion TWG and the Maternal and Child Health TWG.

The CAC is a growing pan-African initiative that brings together state and non-state actors committed to accelerating quality, affordable childcare for all in Africa. The CAC is a platform for cooperation, co-creation, co-innovation and learning. Membership is open to individuals and organisations across Africa.

To advance collective action in Kenya and beyond we are constantly designing a menu of activities and events.

To learn more and join the CAC, click here: [Join Today](https://uthabiti.org/JoinToday) | Collaborative Action for Childcare ([uthabiti.org](https://uthabiti.org)).



In preparation for the 1st Africa Childcare Forum we are co-hosting in Mombasa in 2024, we have introduced monthly Sessions dubbed CAC 365 sessions to advance learning, sharing and capacity building amongst members across Africa.

Our first session was held in November, it was about Children of Incarcerated mothers. Please find the recording [here](#). (Passcode: Y0x^?M^8)

These events are curated by members and facilitated by the CAC Secretariat hosted by Uthabiti.

Do you want to run a CAC 365 Session on a topic related to childcare? Contact [cac@uthabiti.org](mailto:cac@uthabiti.org).



## Upcoming Events

### COLLABORATIVE ACTION FOR CHILDCARE Annual Conference

6th to 7th March 2024

Ciala Resort - Kisumu County

The Collaborative Action for Childcare (CAC) Annual Conference aims to provide a space for reflection on the progress made in the past years within the childcare ecosystem. The Conference will bring together the National Government, Governors from the 47 Counties, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Corporates, and Grassroot Organisations/Groups to share learning experiences and knowledge on how to accelerate quality, affordable childcare in Kenya.



16th to 19th October 2024

Mombasa City

The 1st Africa Childcare Forum (ACF2024) is a global event aimed at catalysing investments in the childcare ecosystem on the continent. We expect at least 500 participants across the globe to share learning and explore ways to accelerate the building and strengthening of the childcare ecosystem across Africa. The Conference's theme is *Strengthening Evidence, Strengthening Action*.

For more information feel free to contact [cac@uthabiti.org](mailto:cac@uthabiti.org)



## Steering Committee Meeting on the Finalisation, Launch and Piloting of the Childcare giver III Curriculum in Kenya



On the 22nd of November, the CAC co-hosted the first meeting of the Steering Committee on the finalisation of the Childcare Training, Certification and Licencing Curriculum for Kenya. The meeting was facilitated by the National Industrial and Training Authority chaired a meeting at the Royal Tulips Hotel in Hurlingham. This followed an initial meeting - a 2-day workshop on the training skilling, certification, and licencing of the childcare workforce in Kenya, held on the 21st and 22nd of July 2023, at the Royal Tulip Canaan in Nairobi.

During the meeting, participants reviewed a roadmap on the finalisation of the curriculum and agreed to mobilise resources for the finalisation of the process from across the sector. Speaking at the event, the Convenor of the Collaborative, Asayya Imayá reiterated the importance of training and certification in dignifying childcare and making it more fulfilling for the hundreds of the many childcare workers in Kenya. Dr George Owino from the Africa ECD Network has the potential to unlock millions of jobs for childcare workers not only in Kenya but also in Africa.



Speaking at the event, George Munene from NITA pointed out that a curriculum in Childcare will create millions of jobs while Noah from Uthabiti Africa remarked that a curriculum will pave the way for Childcare to be studied as a course in universities and dignifying childcare work.

This meeting was a collective effort between the Africa Early Childhood Network for Kenya, The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Uthabiti Africa, and the ECD Network for Kenya. Contributions were made by members of the Collaborative Action for Childcare including, Nyarai Homecare, The Action Foundation, KUDHEHIA Workers Union, Africa Special Needs Network, Africa Population and Health Research Centre, The Aga Khan Foundation, Centre for Domestic Training and Development, Kenya Institute of Special Education, The ECD Network for Kenya, Community Initiatives, OXFAM, PATH Kenya and Kidogo.

This meeting was a huge step for the childcare ecosystem in Kenya. Resources permitting, the curriculum will be launched and piloted in 2024.



### Finalization, Launch, and Testing of the Child Caregiver III Syllabus in Kenya



“Childcare training has the potential to open over 40 million jobs: its a chance for professional childcare givers and parents will also be free to contribute to the economy.

**Amina Mwit**  
The Aga Khan Foundation.

The Finalization, Launch and Testing of the Child Caregiver III Syllabus in Kenya still needs your support. The Collaborative Action for Childcare is calling for all members who can support this important cause to support in kind, technical assistance and or funds.

Reach out to the Collaborative Action for Childcare via email at [caceuthabiti@frica.org](mailto:caceuthabiti@frica.org).

Click [here](#) to find the concept note.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Nyarai Homecare Services (commonly referred to as 'Nyarai') is a thriving Nairobi-based domestic worker agency that helps homeowners across Kenya to access professional housekeepers, babysitting,

nannies, gardeners, drivers and home chefs, and they are committed to maintaining the dignity, independence and well-being of their employers while providing personalized home-care plans designed to meet their unique needs. At Nyarai Services, they advocate for the respect, recognition, and rights of nannies, housecleaners, and home care workers who do the essential work of caring for our loved ones and our homes. Nyarai is the home for domestic workers - a space to share information, build skills with training and resources, access benefits, get support, and organize to win rights to decent work.

Nyarai joined the CAC in June 2023.



**Dr. Amakove Wala**  
CEO/Founder - Nyarai Homecare Services

## ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT MALAWI



The Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi (AECDM) started as an Association of Pre-School Playgroups in Malawi (APPM) in 1970. The name was changed in order to reflect best practices and nomenclature in ECD.

It is registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1962. It is a member of the NGO Board and CONGOMA.

The Association has implemented a number of reforms and changes in order to effectively support the Government's ECD agenda as enshrined in the National Strategic Plan for ECD (2009-2014). It has changed its name from the Association of Pre-school Playgroups in Malawi (APPM) to the Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi (AECDM).

The development of our current strategic plan will form a foundation for income generation activities, lobbying and accessing funding from development partners.

In addition, AECDM has established good partnerships with both government and development partners such as the Roger Federer Foundation, Chemonics, UNICEF and World Vision. It is operating in an area that is receiving increasing attention from both government and development partners. Over and above, the association has well-established governance and management structures.

### Vision

To be the best provider of ECD training, and capacity development services in Malawi to promote the holistic development of children 0 - 8 years.

### Mission

Facilitate the provision of integrated ECD services for children at household and community levels; Build the capacity of ECD service providers at all levels for delivery of quality services; and Promote the holistic development (physical, mental, social, emotional, spiritual and moral development of children 0-8 years through parenting programs, capacity development of caregivers and ECD professionals.



## Technical Working Group Updates

### Inclusion Matters



In June 2023, the Women in Childcare (WiC) Technical Working Group (TWG), convened a virtual meeting. The meeting was graced by 12 participants representing 7 members of the CAC. The agenda of the meeting was to highlight the plight of domestic childcare workers with Uthabiti Africa's Status of Female Childcare Workers Report 2023 being the basis document of the meeting. The members present sought to understand how they could provide domestic childcare workers with spaces that would facilitate their thriving and further result in the best quality childcare. Furthermore, they discussed how they could empower them to make necessary adjustments to better their childcare work. The knowledge gained aided in steering a comprehensive action plan on how the CAC can collectively work together to support women in domestic childcare work.

### Women In Childcare Technical Working Group Meeting

In June 2023, the Women in Childcare (WiC) Technical Working Group (TWG), hosted by CAC, convened a virtual meeting. The meeting was a follow-up to the Women in Childcare Conference held on March 6th and 7th at ABSA Sports Club.



Status of Female Childcare Workers launch during the Women in Childcare Conference

The agenda of the meeting was to highlight the plight of domestic childcare workers with Uthabiti Africa's Status of Female Childcare Workers Report 2023 being the basis document of the meeting. The members present sought to understand how they could provide domestic childcare workers with spaces that would facilitate their thriving and further result in the best quality childcare. Furthermore, they discussed how they could empower them to make necessary adjustments to better their childcare work. The knowledge gained aided in steering a comprehensive action plan on how the CAC can collectively work together to support women in domestic childcare work.



The Collaborative Action for Childcare (CAC) is a Pan African platform for cooperation, co-creation, co-innovation, and learning initiated by Uthabiti Africa to accelerate quality, affordable childcare for all.

Join the Collaborative Action for Childcare today and be part of one or more Technical working groups working towards accelerating quality and affordable childcare in Africa. The 4 TWGs include:

- Women in Childcare
- Special Needs and Inclusion
- Childcare legal, policy and regulatory reform
- Maternal and Child health

To find out more about the Technical working groups and how to join the Collaborative Action for Childcare, click [here](#).

## Updates from Partner Initiatives

### Light Up Impact Days Annual Conference



Light Up Impact, a movement of over 100 young grassroots leaders across East Africa advocating for equality in health, gender, and opportunities, held its 2nd Annual conference themed "Shift the Power, Ignite Change" on September 10th and 11th at the Boma Hotel in Nairobi. The conference brought together over 140 participants from various grassroots organizations from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. For a long time, development has been spearheaded from the top; shift the power advocates for grassroots organizations to take up the mantle, championing the bottom-up approach. Participants were urged to embrace collaborations with each other in their work models, not only financially but on a technical level. Collaboration over Competition would be one way to sum up the entire conference.

Uthabiti Africa participated in the conference as one of the partners; Mr. Asayya Imaya (Founder and CEO) participated in a panel discussion where he shed light on collaborations are a catalyst to shifting the power to local organizations. He also spoke about Uthabiti Africa's initiative - The Collaborative Action for Childcare (CAC), a pan-African platform for cooperation, co-creation, co-innovation and learning to accelerate childcare for all in Africa.

### Consultative Stakeholders' Meeting on the Implementation of the Children Act, 2022



Uthabiti Africa attended a consultative stakeholders' meeting convened by the National Council for Children's Services on the Implementation of the Children's Act. The meeting was convened by NCCS in collaboration with UNICEF at the Nairobi Safari Club - Lilian Towers on the 14th of August 2023. The workshop was held to enable the NCCS to share with various stakeholders the progress of the implementation of the Children's Act of 2022 as well as discuss the work that needs to be done to further the implementation process. There was the creation of the council - The National Council for Children Services, as well as the separation of the council and the Directorate of Children Services, all within the Act. We also gave insights and views on the consolidated NCCS budget and the costings of the implementation of the Children Act. Various stakeholders identified regulations to support. Uthabiti Africa chose to support Childcare and Protection Regulations. This will be done through the Collaborative Action for Childcare.

### The 5th National ECDE Stakeholders' Conference

The ECD Network for Kenya held the 5th National ECDE Stakeholders' Conference between the 19th and 23rd of July 2023 at the Turkana University College, Turkana County. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the County Government of Turkana. The event brought together 1,193 participants including policy practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and leaders from various sectors, including national and county governments, research institutions, civil society, the private sector, donors, and the media.

Moreover, the conference called on all Early Childhood Development (ECD) State and non-state actors to embrace multisectoral collaboration and implement the Roadmap of Action on ECD. All ECD stakeholders were urged to engage in coordinated efforts and interventions to overcome fragmentation of services and unleash synergies.

The 6th Biennial National ECD Stakeholders' Conference will be held in 2025 in Garissa County.





# African Summit on Inclusive Early Childhood Care And Education



On the 20th and 21st of July at the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) in Kasarani, Nairobi, Kenya, The Action Foundation in collaboration with the African Disability Collaboration held the inaugural African Summit on Inclusive Early Childhood Care Education. The African Disability Collaboration (ADC), a collective of organizations from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi, envisions an inclusive Africa for children with disabilities.

The theme of the 2023 Summit was "Nurturing Care and Opportunities for Early Learning for Children with Disabilities." Delegates participated in learning visits to selected organizations in Nairobi, followed by a one-day interactive workshop session comprising breakout discussions, curated panels, and plenary workshops. During the conference, solutions and innovations in inclusive early childhood care education and lifelong learning, nutrition and children with disabilities, positive parenting for children with disabilities, holistic health services for children with disabilities, creating safe environments for children to thrive and strengthening institutions were presented.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**SPECIAL  
DISCOUNT**

**Kshs. 5,000**

### Christmas Gala Dinner

**Date: 8th December 2023**

**Venue: Golden Tulip  
Westlands**



### Annual Conference

**Date: 6th to 7th March 2024**

**Venue: Ciala Resort Kisumu**

*Save the Date:*  
**East African  
Conference On  
Early Childhood**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**  
**Dar es Salaam,  
United Republic of Tanzania**

Logos: AU CESA ECED CLUSTER, TECDEN (Technical Assistance for Childcare Development Network), AFECN



**Date: 16th to 19th October 2024**

**Venue: Mombasa**

*Let's Connect!*

+254714262626

[Uthabiti Africa](#)

[@uthabiti africa](#)

[@uthabiti\\_africa](#)

[Uthabiti Africa](#)

[info@uthabiti africa.org](mailto:info@uthabiti africa.org)

*quality and affordable childcare for all*