



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

REMARKS BY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS JOSEPH MOTARI, MBS DURING THE LAUNCH OF WORLD VISION'S ENOUGH CAMPAIGN: ENDING CHILD HUNGER.AND MALNUTRITION AT WORLD VISION CENTER IN KAREN ON TUESDAY 23RD 2024.

**Your Excellency Mama Racheal Ruto, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya,
Principal Secretary For State Department For Gender and Affirmative Action:
Madam Anne Wang'ombe**

East Africa Regional Director of World Vision: Lillian Dodzo

National Director for World Vision: Gilbert Kamanga

Development Partners Present

Children present

Government Colleagues Present

Your Excellency ,Esteemed guests,

In Kenya's northern pastoral counties, both children and adults are facing severe malnutrition, driven by prolonged droughts, failed rainy seasons, and desert locust swarms. Immediate action is imperative to alleviate this crisis and prevent further suffering.

To address this challenge, the State Department of Social Protection and Senior Citizens Affairs, in collaboration with the Kenya Social Economic and Inclusion Project (KSEIP), has launched the Nutrition Improvements through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) program. This initiative aims to enhance access to social and economic inclusion interventions, particularly focusing on improving the nutritional status of children in their first 1,000 days of life.

The NICHE program, initially piloted in five counties, has seen promising results, prompting its expansion to five additional counties with high rates of malnutrition. With support from international organizations like the World Bank, UNICEF, and DFID, this expansion aims to combat stunting and wasting among children.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While Kenya has made strides in reducing child malnutrition, significant disparities persist between counties. To address this, the Ministry of Health is providing a comprehensive package of high-impact nutrition interventions, including promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, supplementation, deworming, and hygiene promotion.

Crucially, nutrition counseling and education play a pivotal role in fostering health-promoting behaviors. Through initiatives like the baby-friendly community initiative and Social Behavior Change Communication, efforts are underway to empower communities with the knowledge and skills needed to improve nutrition outcomes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Collaboration between government departments, NGOs, and other stakeholders is essential in addressing the multifaceted issue of child malnutrition. By working together, from grassroots to national levels, we can effectively tackle this challenge and ensure the well-being and development of our children, in alignment with our Medium Term Plan IV.

In conclusion, it is paramount that county governments actively participate in financing and implementing the NICHE program nationwide. Together, we can achieve our vision of a healthier and thriving future for all our children.

With those few remarks its now my honor to invite our Chief Guest, H.E. Mama Rachael Ruto, to address us. **Karibu sana**