



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

NATIONAL POLICY ON FAMILY PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

Happy and Stable Families For a Strong Society

October, 2023

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AU	African Union
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IYF	International Year of the Family
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund
OPCT	Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution

KEY POLICY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Child: Any person below the age of 18 years.

Child-headed household: A household without an adult caregiver, which is headed by the eldest or most responsible child who assumes parental responsibility.

Cohabitation: An intimate union in which two consenting adults of the opposite sex stay together without any contractual agreements, with or without children.

Dysfunctional family: A family in which unresolved conflict, misbehaviour, neglect, or abuse occur continually or regularly.

Extended family: A multigenerational family that may or may not share the same household.

Family: A societal group that is related by blood (kinship), adoption, foster care or the ties of marriage (civil, customary or religious) of two persons of opposite sex.

Family Enrichment: Programs for prevention and overcoming of existing obstacles and challenges to foundational relationships within the family through various intervention means.

Family policy: Comprehensive plan of action by the state formulated to reflect common social values and attain preferred objectives and goal concerning the Nation's families.

Family protection: Support that focus on family resilience in order to strengthen families, so as to keep families together as far as possible.

Family promotion: The deliberate process of giving families the necessary opportunities, relationships, networks, and support to become functional and self-reliant.

Family Resilience: the ability of families "to withstand and rebound from disruptive internal and external life challenges.

Healthy family: a family characterized by good interpersonal relations and a good state of physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being among all members.

Household: A household is composed of one or more people who occupy a housing unit (and share the same cooking arrangement)/to form a functioning domestic unit. Not all households contain families.

Intergenerational solidarity:- Reciprocal care, support and exchange of material and non-material resources between family members, typically younger and older generation.

Marriage: A voluntary union of a man and woman whether in a monogamous or polygamous union (Marriage Act 2014).

Nuclear family: a family group consisting of parents with their biological or adoptive children only.

Primary educator: is the principal/foremost provider of instruction or education.

Older Person: a person who has attained the age of sixty years and above

Skip-generation households: A family type where grandparents raise their grandchildren (without the grandchildren's parents).

Social capital: resources embedded within a person's social network that influences decisions and outcomes by shaping a personal identity while delineating opportunities and obstacles within a person's social world.

Social cohesion: a process of building shared values and communities of interpretation, reducing disparities in wealth and income, and generally enabling people to have a sense that they are engaged in a common enterprise, facing shared challenges, and that they are members of the same community.

Social protection: policies and programmes that protect people against risk and vulnerability, mitigate the impact of shocks, and support people from chronic incapacities to secure basic livelihoods.

Vulnerability: inability of individuals, communities and societies to withstand adverse impacts from multiple stressors to which they are exposed.

Work-family balance: is a term that refers to an individual's perceptions of the degree to which s/he is experiencing positive relationships between work and family roles, where the relationships are viewed as compatible and at equilibrium with each other.

Youth: persons in the age bracket of 18 and below 35 years.

FOREWORD

The Constitution of Kenya Chapter 4, Article 45 recognizes the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society and the necessary basis of social order and should therefore enjoy the recognition and protection of the State. It further states that, every adult has the right to marry a person of the opposite sex, based on the free consent of the parties.

In Article 45(3), the Constitution states that parties are entitled to equal rights at the time of the marriage, during the marriage and at dissolution of the marriage. In addition to the Constitution, at national level there are various legislations which are relevant to the family in general and to specific family members and issues affecting them.

The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection will provide a coherent and comprehensive framework for the implementation and monitoring of policy and programmes to ensure that the protection and support of the family is ingrained in them. This will enable the family to play effectively its vital role in the country's development.

It is envisaged that this Policy will facilitate the existence of an environment that will strengthen the capacity of families to enhance and support the socio-economic empowerment, nurturance and protection of individuals and vulnerable members.

This Policy is built around the recognition of the family as a fundamental social unit and of the various educational, nurturing and caring functions they perform towards their members. It identifies issues/challenges facing families, and also provides a broad-based framework for implementing strategies that will enable families make meaningful participation in the development processes. It is a product of wide stakeholders' consultations, both internally and externally. The policy is aligned to the Constitution, Kenya's national development blueprint, Vision 2030, the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

This Policy is also a commitment by the Government to provide services and protection to families while according them a conducive environment for the enjoyment of their freedoms, liberties and pursuit of happiness.

The support of various stakeholders in the implementation of this Policy will be critical. The Government therefore welcomes partners, stakeholders and other players in the implementation of this Policy.

I believe this Policy will help to positively transform the lives of the Kenyan people.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Policy was developed during a process that involved widespread consultations and the participation of stakeholders, thereby engendering ownership by the people of Kenya. I wish to thank all those who gave their input either individually or through their organisations and institutions.

I wish to commend the Director for Social Development, Mrs. Josephine Muriuki for providing leadership in the process of developing the policy. The National Steering Committee Members; The Technical Working Group members; Key stakeholders in the policy development process include: The Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government; Department for Children Services; Council of Governors; Judiciary (Family Division); Attorney General; National Gender and Equality Commission(NGEC); University of Nairobi; Kenyatta University; Strathmore University; Interreligious Council of Kenya(IRCK); Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM); Hindu Council of Kenya (HCK); Kenya Christian Professionals Forum(KCPF); National Agency for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse, Kenya(NACADA); Tanari Trust; United Nations Department for Economics and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Council of Elders to mention a few.

The implementation of this Policy will, without doubt, require huge financial outlays. I have no doubt that all stakeholders will work in partnership to help mobilise these resources as well as fully participate in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the programmes that will be inspired by this Policy.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Constitution of Kenya Chapter 4, Article 45 recognizes the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society and the necessary basis of social order and should therefore enjoy the recognition and protection of the State.

Along with the economy, governance and education, the family is universally viewed as one of the foundation of civil order without which no society can function. As the setting for demographic reproduction, the seat of the first integration of individuals into social life, and the source of emotional, material and instrumental support for its members, the family influences the way society is structured, organised, and functions. It is essentially through the family that each generation is replaced by the next; that children are born, socialized and cared for until they attain their independence; and that each generation fulfils its care responsibilities to minors, older persons, the sick and other vulnerable members.

This Policy intends to realize the vision of “**happy and stable families for a strong society**” with the associated positive outcomes. These include higher levels of self-esteem; lower levels of antisocial behaviour such as crime, violence and substance abuse; higher levels of work productivity; lower levels of stress; and more self-efficacy to deal with socioeconomic hardships. To this end, it is envisioned that happy and stable families will demonstrate high levels of social capital and resilience, and contribute to smooth functioning of society and, hence, to social cohesion.

The overall goal of this Policy is to provide an environment that recognizes and facilitates family well-being, and empowers families to participate in the socio-economic development of the country. The specific objectives of the Policy are to:

- a) Enhance the caring, nurturing and supporting capabilities of families so that their members are able to contribute effectively to the overall development of the country;
- b) Develop the capacities of families to establish social interactions that contribute towards promoting a sense of community, cohesion and national solidarity;
- c) Empower families and their members by enabling them to identify, negotiate and maximize socio-economic and other opportunities available in the country for sustainable development;
- d) Enhance programs that support families with persons with disabilities and other vulnerable family members to participate in every sphere of society;

- e) Monitor and evaluate the State of the Family periodically through research;
- f) Mainstream interventions that promote and protect the family in all policies, strategies, programmes and projects.
- g) To promote intergenerational transfer of societal knowledge, norms, taboos etc.

The Policy is based on key guiding principles which include: stable marriage, responsible parenting, family diversity, family resilience, community participation, human rights and partnerships.

The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection identifies challenges affecting the family and undertakes to address them by providing guidelines on what the Government in collaboration with stakeholders will do to realize the policy goal.

The implementation of the Policy will involve a multi-sectoral approach. The Ministry responsible for Family, which is currently the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, will play a coordination role. Other key players include line Ministries, Departments and Agencies, County Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Faith-based Organizations and Development Partners.

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection emanates from the Government of Kenya's aspiration to promote and protect the family unit as the natural and fundamental unit of society and basis of social order as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010. This will enable the family to play effectively its vital role in the country's development. It is envisaged that the Policy will facilitate the existence of an environment that will strengthen the capacity of families to enhance and support the socio-economic empowerment, nurturance and protection of individuals and vulnerable members.

The family is an integral component of the society, as the basic agent of socialisation, intergenerational values of a nation are passed on through the family unit. The contribution of the family in society and in the achievement of global, regional and national goals has been largely overlooked and underemphasised over the years. This has seen the rise in social, economic and cultural upheavals manifested at the family level in terms of child headed families, families in the street, skip generation families, divorces and separations, HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse etc.

The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection will be a springboard to address these issues in recognition of the potential of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society and basis for social order.

1.2 Policy and Legal Framework

1.2.1 Global Context

The Constitution of Kenya provides that all international laws, treaties and conventions, among other instruments which Kenya has ratified, form part of Kenya's laws. In December 1989, by its resolution 44/82, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family (IYF) with a view to: creating greater awareness on family issues and promoting activities to support it; strengthen national institutions; enhance the effectiveness of local, regional and international efforts; improve collaboration and partnerships; and build upon the results of international activities concerning women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and the family as a whole. A major principle underlying the proclamation of the Year was that the family constitutes the basic unit of society and, therefore, warrants special attention. These objectives reflect the multi-dimensional approach on issues affecting the family in the process of development. In order to keep the momentum of the IYF and in keeping with the growing consensus in the global community on the integrated, holistic nature of economic and social progress and development, Kenya has continued to commemorate the International Day of the Family annually on the 15th of May.

UN General Assembly Resolution on the 'Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond encourages Governments“ to invest in a variety of inclusive family-oriented policies and programmes, which take into account the different needs and expectations of families, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 which defined the family as "the natural and fundamental group of society," the International Community has continued to give special consideration to the needs and challenges facing the family and its role in development. These concerns have been articulated in a number of blue-prints including; The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children and the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing to mention but a few.

1.2.2 Regional Context

The principle of human rights, individual rights and freedom are enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. These regional instruments among others require Member States to: respect the rights of the family; up-grade family welfare services and integrate family in effective development; enhance the capacity of the family to enable it play its meaningful role in sustainable development; highlight the problems of the family and the need to have a holistic approach to ensure the protection of the family, help the family cope with HIV/AIDS, educate and inform the family on its role towards children.

The AU Plan of Action on the Family in Africa 2004 requires Member States to:

1. Formulate, implement and monitor policies and programmes to ensure protection of and assistance for the family;
2. Create structures and mechanisms for responding to problems affecting the family;
3. Develop a Management Information System (MIS) on the African family, for data collection, analysis, utilization, dissemination, storage and retrieval at all levels;
4. Develop capacity for the improvement of the standard of living of the family;
5. Share experiences and disseminate information on the family;

6. Create a conducive environment for all family members regardless of sex, age, status or disability, with special attention to the rights of women and girls; and
7. Ensure the survival, development, protection and participation of vulnerable groups such as children, youth, women, the elderly, the disabled, the terminally ill and families in difficult circumstances such as, displaced persons and refugees.

Kenya as a member state has implemented the AU Plan of action in a number of initiatives; social protection safety nets, affirmative action programmes. The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection is the hallmark for a holistic approach on family issues.

1.2.3 National Context

The Constitution of Kenya states in the preamble that we the people of Kenya are, “committed to nurturing and protecting the well-being of the individual, the family, communities and the Nation. The Constitution acknowledges the role of the family in the socio-economic, political and cultural development of an individual and society. Article 45 recognizes the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society and the necessary basis of social order and should therefore enjoy the recognition and protection of the State. It further states that, every adult has the right to marry a person of the opposite sex, based on the free consent of the parties. In Article 45(3), the Constitution states that parties are entitled to equal rights at the time of the marriage, during the marriage and at dissolution of the marriage.

The other provisions in the Constitution that touch on the family include:

- Article 26 of the Constitution which states that every person has a right to life. This protects the youngest member of the family from conception up to death.
- Article 10 which defines national values as patriotism, national unity, sharing the rule of law, human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized, transparency and accountability that should be replicated at family level.
- In Article 53, the Constitution provides for the right of the child to a name and nationality, basic healthcare, education, shelter, the right from detention (unless really necessary) and equal care from both parents. A child’s best Interests are considered paramount.
- In Article 55, the Constitution talks about the youth and the government ensuring education and training, their right to be represented and to participate in all areas of life; economic, social and political and the right to be protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.
- In Article 57, the Constitution describes the rights of the older persons. The Constitution gives them a right to be catered for by the state and their families, the right to personal development and participation in the affairs

of society. They are also protected from abuse and the lack of dignified treatment.

- In Article 60 of the Constitution, it protects individuals from the discrimination in law, customs, practices related to Land and property in land.
- Article 68 of the Constitution speaks about the protection and regulation of the matrimonial property particularly the matrimonial home during and in the case of termination of marriage.

Sessional Paper No. 8 of 2013 acknowledges the role of the family in mainstreaming National Values and Principles of Governance, as provided for in Article 10 of the Constitution, into their day-to-day programmes and activities, and ultimately ensure that the values become a way of life for the Kenyan people. That all families, being natural and fundamental units of society, shall undertake the following responsibilities towards the realization of the National Values and Principles of Governance:

- i. Parents and guardians shall embrace the national values and act as role models;
- ii. Parents and guardians shall provide basic needs for their children and create a conducive environment for positive socialization;
- iii. Parents shall mentor and nurture their children into functional and useful members of the society who uphold national values.

In addition to the Constitution, at national level there are various legislations which are relevant to the family in general and to specific family members and issues affecting them, among which are:

- The Marriage Act 2014
- The Matrimonial Property Act 2013
- The Protection Against Domestic Violence Act 2015
- The Children 's Act 2022
- The Social Assistance Act, 2013
- The Persons with Disabilities Act 2003
- The Sexual Offences Act 2006
- The Employment Act 2007

1.3 The Family Policy Linkage to Kenya's Development Agenda

1.3.1 The Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation

Agenda (BETA)

Kenya's national development blueprint, Vision 2030, guides the country's development in all its forms. The Vision is anchored on three interrelated pillars - Economic, Social and Political. These aim at transforming Kenya into a globally competitive and prosperous nation, providing a high quality of life in a clean and secure environment. It further aims to transitioning the country to

a newly industrialized, middle level income by 2030. The Vision is implemented in five-year medium term plans.

Kenya is implementing the Fourth Medium Term Plan which has successfully mainstreamed the SDGs and the Social-Economic transformation of Africa- Agenda 2063. At the centre of the plan is the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) whose main objective is to improve the livelihoods and welfare of Kenyans. This will lead the Government to implement policies and structural reforms in five pillars that are expected to have the highest impact at the bottom of the economy where majority of the families of Kenya fall. These are: Agricultural Transformation and Inclusive Growth; transforming the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) Economy; Housing and Settlement; Healthcare; and Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy, which are a convergence of the vision 2030, SDGs and Agenda 2063. The family is the smallest unit of production and consumption where economic capabilities of individuals is nurtured. The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection primarily will contribute to the Social Pillar of the Kenya Vision 2030 which seeks to create a just, cohesive and equitable society living in a clean and secure environment by investing in the people of Kenya and the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) that among its enablers is social protection. The policy will indirectly address the five pillars by giving more impetus on the social protection as an enabler to the five pillars.

1.3.2 The Sustainable Development Goals

In the light of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the policy has endeavoured to mainstream the relevant SDGs, targets and indicators within its thematic areas and interventions. These SDGs include:

- SDG1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improve the nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- SDG 5: Achieve Gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

CHAPTER TWO: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1. Defining the family

A family is a unit of people connected by natural genealogical links. Usually the family can be classified into either nuclear or extended whereby the former consists of only parents and their children while the latter consists of other relatives such as aunts, uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers. Therefore, for the purpose of this Policy “family” will be defined as: *“A societal group that is related by blood (kinship), adoption, foster care or the ties of marriage (civil, customary or religious) of two persons of opposite sex.”*

The primary function of the family is to ensure the continuation of society, both biologically through procreation, and socially through socialization. The role of men in ensuring family fulfils this primary function is paramount. Empirical evidence has made abundantly clear that involved and caring fathers are important to the optimal development of children. Whether it is biological, adoptive or stepfathers, living in or outside of the home, fathers impact their children at every stage of development, and their absence has long last repercussions.

Consequently, Women whose partners are involved prenatally use more health services on average, experience lighter workloads, and have a lower risk of post-partum depression (Levtov, van der Gaag, Green, Kaufman, & Barker, 2015). One overlooked beneficiary of involved fatherhood are fathers themselves. In fact, research shows that involved fatherhood makes men happier and healthier (Levtov, et al 2015).

The Analytical Report on Household and Family Dynamics prepared by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics revealed that according to the 2009 population census, the number of conventional households has grown from about 6.3 million in 1999 to about 8.8 million in 2009. The average household size declined from 5.7 in 1969 to 4.5 in 1999 and to 4.4 in 2009 respectively. About 9 percent of households are headed by youth age group 15-24 while 15 percent of the households are headed by elderly persons’ age 60 and above.

The most prevalent family type is the nuclear although non family households are beginning to emerge in the urban centers. Most households whose heads have ever been married are either nuclear or extended. Males who are divorced or separated tend to live alone compared to women, irrespective of place of residence. The median age at first marriage among women age 25-49 is 20.2 years; the median age at first marriage among men age 30-49 is 25.3 years. Median age at marriage has remained stable in the past 10 years for both women and men. (KNBS 2009)

The family concept as defined in this analytical report limits relationships between children and adults to direct first-degree relationships that is between parents and children. The report has not considered skip generation household. The United Nations recommendations for expanded census enumeration and tabulation have made a number of countries to collect more

detailed demographic and socio-economic characteristics of families since 1950s. However, despite collecting information on characteristics of families, Kenya has never tabulated data on the characteristics of the family (KNBS 2009). The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection therefore recommends the generation of a report on the state of the family after every five years to present key trends on the well-being of families.

2.2 Types of Families in Kenya

Rapid social changes occurring worldwide have generated considerable changes in the formation, composition and structure of families. In Kenya, there are different types of families. Statistics from the 2009 Kenya population census shows that the nuclear family (which consists of parents with their biological or adoptive children only) is the most common type. Over the last few decades there has been a rising trend in cohabitation or 'living in an arrangement in which an unmarried couple lives together in a long term relationship that resembles a marriage'. Single-parent family have also been on the rise. This is as a result of imprisonment, migration, death, abandonment, divorce or separation.

Skip- generation or grandparent headed households, where grandparents live with, and are responsible to care for, their grandchildren is another type of family in the country. These households have often been described as "fragile" largely because the grandparents in the households often simultaneously struggle with their own personal health, financial constraints and obligations as well as with the psychosocial and behavioural issues they face with their grandchildren.

Polygamous households are one of the types of families found in Kenya. Polygamy is defined in the Marriage Act 2014 as, "the state or practice of a man having more than one wife."

Child-headed households can be described as households with no adult members, where children live without parents or prime-aged adults. These households are at risk of having to cope not only without adults, but also with poorer living conditions than children in mixed-generation households. Blended families can arise from various situations such as divorce, being widowed or from adoption of children into a family that had children of their own. Finances, parenting, couple relationship are some of the conflict areas that may be experienced in such families.

Extended family – family group consisting of not only the nuclear family but also includes aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and sometimes more distant relatives.

2.3 Challenges Facing Families

Changes in family structure have been a major force behind poverty and family poverty in particular. Families have undergone fundamental demographic, economic and sociological changes that have stretched and, in some cases, exhausted, the socio-economic support mechanisms that were traditionally offered by extended families.

Poverty is the greatest challenge faced by households. A report by KNBS on well-being of Kenyans (2018) indicates that households: Headed by females are likely to be poorer than those headed by men. 42.8 percent of households whose headship is in a polygamous union are poor compared to 27.2 per cent of their counterparts in monogamous unions. The poverty rate (45.5%) is worse for households headed by females in a polygamous union. Widow headed households recorded a poverty incidence of 36.6 per cent and contributed a share of 14.8 per cent to overall poverty. It is worth noting that even though the poverty rates were lower in households whose head was in a monogamous union, these households registered the highest number of the poor which is in tandem with their large share of households.

Analysis of poverty by the age of the household head revealed that poverty rate increases as the age of the household head increases, except for households headed by persons in 15-19 age group. Households headed by older persons (60 years and above) recorded a 36.3 per cent poverty rate and also contributed a higher share (of 22.9 per cent). The poor registered the lowest poverty incidence of 15.9 per cent. (KNBS 2009).

Unemployment is another constrain facing the family in Kenya. According to survey by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in 2018, 7 million Kenyans were unemployed with 1.4 million out of this figure desperately looking for jobs. The survey indicated that, in 2016, there were about 25 million Kenyans in the working-age bracket of between 15 and 64 years.

Hunger is an ever-present challenge in Kenya, due to drought, famine, corruption, extreme poverty, family breakdown, among other factors. According to Economic Survey, 2018, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing posted a decelerated growth of 1.6% in 2017 compared to 4.7% in 2016. This was occasioned by drought, depressed long rains and early cessation of short rains pests and disease incidence which resulted in reduced crop and livestock production. Food insecurity headcount rate stood at 32.0 percent of the population, the equivalent of 14.5 million people and 9% of women aged 15-49 are thin or undernourished.

Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family followed by peers, schools, faith based organizations, community and media. Some of the challenging cultural issues observed in

the family context include; degrading discrimination that emanates from our cultures that affect and seriously harm particular categories of women e.g. childless wives, separated or divorced women, and unmarried mothers; Harmful traditional practices including widow inheritance and cleansing, female genital mutilation, and child marriages; Social and cultural conditions that have easily encouraged a father to be less concerned with his family or at any rate less involved in the work of education; Wrong superiority of male prerogatives which humiliates women and inhibits the development of healthy family relationships; Over empowering one part of gender at the expense of the other e.g. negligence of the boy or girl child.

The Constrain of HIV/AIDS to the family in Kenya cannot be ignored. According to The National AIDS Control Council ,Kenya has an average HIV prevalence rate of 6% and with about 1.6 million people living with HIV infection, it is one of the six HIV ‘high burden’ countries in Africa. The western part of the country through Homabay, Siaya and Kisumu are the most affected with HIV with rates of 25.7%, 23.7% and 19.3% respectively. The counties with the least infection rates are Wajir, Tana River and Marsabit with rates of 0.2%, 1% and 1.2%. The pandemic has contributed to fragile families” (that is skip generation households and child headed households). According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, about 9 percent of household heads are youth age group 15-24 while 15 percent of the households are headed by elderly persons. Child headed households are one of the most widely discussed social consequences of the HIV epidemic in Africa.

While access to quality health care is a constitutional right, millions of Kenyans cannot afford to pay for health services in public or private clinics. Even with public health insurance being available since 1966 through the National Health Insurance Fund, only 20% of Kenyans have access to some sort of medical coverage. With a population at over 44 million and rising, it means as many as 35 million Kenyans are excluded from quality health care coverage.

Alcohol and drug abuse is a social behaviour that is embedded in communities and cultures. When an individual has alcohol or drug problem the whole family is affected. NACADA (2017) indicates that prevalence of alcohol abuse stands at 12.2%; tobacco 8.3%; khat 4.1% and cannabis 1.0%. Of these 10-14% will develop substance use disorders with the males at most risk. The challenges of substance use disorders (addiction) are initiated at the ages of 15 – 24 years with the peak ages being 25 – 35 years. This is a threat to survival of families and contributes to the health care burden.

If these challenges are to be efficiently addressed, an integrated approach that places the family at the centre of development programmes both at the National and County levels should be adopted.

2.4 RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY

The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection is based on the requirement in the Constitution that the family shall enjoy the recognition and

protection of the State. The policy will enable a more comprehensive and focused approach in ensuring that;

- i. The family as the most fundamental unit of society provides the platform for human capital development that will propel the development of the nation. This will be achieved by developing and implementing policies, strategies, programmes, services, and the supporting infrastructure to empower families through their inherent strengths.
- ii. There is a total and holistic direction for family well-being that encompasses physical, mental, economic, social, psychological and spiritual development at every stage in the family life cycle.
- iii. Formation and strengthening of the family institution so that each family member can be empowered to perform, jointly and fairly, their roles in terms of family relationships, economy, career and lifestyle in order to improve stability, harmony and well-being.
- iv. Efforts to guide and nurture families with skills to inculcate, internalize and practice good moral and family values. These values can be the catalyst for success and self-protection. The practice of moral values by each individual family member will be reinforced in educational institutions, the community and at the workplaces.
- v. Efforts to strengthen inter-generational ties where the elderly are valued and are critical in transferring positive values to future generations. Hence, a culture of a close-knitted family having the attributes of loving, caring, commitment will be enhanced to review and restructure policies, objectives, strategies and programme development to be more family-friendly.
- vi. Enhancing the implementation of family wellbeing programs. Service facilities and infrastructures will be expanded and coordinated to support programs targeted for different family types. These include widow(er) headed families, single-parent families, impoverished families, hardcore poor families, vulnerable families (neglected or street families), families having children with special needs, families with Persons with Disabilities family members and families caring for frail older persons.

2.4.1 VISION

“Happy and Stable Families for a Strong Society”

2.4.2 MISSION

To promote and protect families through innovative policies, strategies, programmes, projects and services that strengthen society.

2.4.3 GOAL

To provide an environment that recognizes and facilitates family well-being, and empowers families to participate in the socio-economic development of the country.

2.4.4 OBJECTIVES

- a) Enhance the caring, nurturing and supporting capabilities of families so that their members are able to contribute effectively to the overall development of the country;
- b) Develop the capacities of families to establish social interactions that contribute towards promoting a sense of community, cohesion and national solidarity.
- c) Empower families and their members by enabling them to identify, negotiate and maximize socio-economic and other opportunities available in the country;
- d) Enhance programs that support persons with disabilities and other vulnerable family members to participate in every sphere of society.
- e) Monitor and evaluate the State of the Family periodically through research.
- f) Mainstream interventions that promote and protect the family in all policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

2.4.5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Policy is informed by the following guiding principles:

i. Stable marriages

Marriages are essential for the stability of families and society's well-being. Efforts will be made to promote and strengthen them.

ii. Responsible parenting

Family stability hinges on responsible parenting. Parents and caregivers are expected to play their roles in the upbringing of their children.

iii. Family diversity

Recognize diversity of families in terms of social-cultural and religious background. This will guide the Government and other stakeholders in their engagement with the family

iv. Family resilience

Families have inherent capacities and strengths that sustain them in times of prosperity, as well as adversity. Interventions therefore should recognise these qualities and enhance these attributes.

v. Community participation

The family is an integral part of the Kenyan society. To this end, Government and other actors will promote active participation of the community in actions that safeguard and support the family.

vi. Human rights

This policy will be guided by basic human rights principles, including equality and non-discrimination, and the protection of the rights of individual family members, notably those that might find themselves in a situation of vulnerability.

vii. Partnerships

This implies the Government and other stakeholders (e.g. faith-based institutions, civil society, private sector and NGOs) working together to promote and protect families.

2.4.6 BUILDING BLOCKS**Family Values**

Family values constitute the moral and ethical principles upheld and transmitted within a family. The family values advocated in this policy include: family unity, family care, inclusiveness of all, selflessness, self-mastery, honour to God, resilience, joy and courage.

Protection of the Vulnerable

This policy will ensure the protection of vulnerable members of the family against all kinds of discrimination, violence or abuse.

Family Education and Empowerment

Parents and caregivers are the primary educators and empowerment agents of their children.

Family Cohesion

Family cohesion is founded out of the unity of the spouses. Family cohesion extends to the children when they see the unity demonstrated by their parents. The warmth and unity of the parents and children then extends to the greater extended family, the village, and community and to the nation as a whole.

Safety and Security

Families thrive in an environment that assures them of their safety and security from all forms of danger, exploitation, violence and abuse, neglect, physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or financial abuse.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

While conflicts within family settings cannot be avoided, ADR and Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms have been effective in managing conflicts within family such as disputes in divorce, custody matters and matrimonial property dispute resolutions and settlement.

CHAPTER THREE: THEMATIC AREAS

Family issues cut across all sectors requiring a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach to address them. This Chapter identifies the following thematic areas and presents them in the form of policy issue(s), policy objectives and policy statements:

- i. Marriage
- ii. Parenting
- iii. Religion and Culture
- iv. Family Education
- v. Family Health
- vi. Economy
- vii. Vulnerability and Social Protection
- viii. Media
- ix. Family Safety and Security
- x. Environment

3.1 Marriage

3.1.1 Policy Issue

The Kenya Constitution in Article 45 (3) acknowledges the family as the fundamental unit of society and a basis of social order and further provides in Article 45(4) for the enactment of laws on marriage and family. Laws enacted include the Marriage Act and the Matrimonial Property Act. These Acts have placed focus on guidelines around how marriage is conducted but not provided for how to strengthen the marriage.

The key policy issues are related on how to promote a culture of marriage and family by ensuring that the family that emerges from marriages becomes a true foundation for social order in Kenya. Strong marriages will help to confront the different challenges experienced in families today.

3.1.2 Policy Objective

- To promote, encourage and protect a culture of healthy marriage.

3.1.3 Policy Interventions

The Government will in collaboration with relevant stakeholders: -

- i. Promote gender responsive and age appropriate programs that help people understand sexuality framed in the context of marriage as the best option.

- ii. Encourage and promote dispute resolution mechanisms that safely keep couples together.
- iii. Promote positive cultural aspirations while discouraging those that are inconsistent with the dignity of men and women in a marriage.
- iv. Promote values and life skills programmes that encourage chastity and strengthen the marriage institution.
- v. Protect the family institution from disruption by not allowing emerging cultures.
- vi. Encourage and fund research to establish the stability of the marriage institution.

3.2 Parenting

3.2.1 Policy Issue

Parenting is the process of promoting and nurturing the physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual development of a child from conception to adulthood. Motherhood and fatherhood is made up of both a biological and foster parents. Several factors including existing economic and social trends may contribute to parents failing to take responsibility for their children, this tendency is a cause for concern given the significant body of evidence showing the positive effect of presence and active involvement of parents/caregivers in a child's life. Children brought up by loving parents/caregivers develop a sense of self-esteem and belonging, family values, religious and cultural identity. They learn to interact better with the community and to face life challenges better. All efforts need to be made to support parents to raise their children and, if this is not possible, to place a child in a family-based alternative care arrangement, such as kinship care, foster care, guardianship or adoption.

3.2.2 Policy Objectives

- To promote and appreciate equal parental responsibility at home and in the public sphere.
- To foster healthy and respectful family relationships by improving skills and knowledge of parents.
- To enhance parents' positive parenting skills to nurture and protect children from exposure to, and participation in activities that may be detrimental to their physical, emotional, psychological, moral, spiritual and intellectual well-being.

3.2.3 Policy Interventions

The Government will in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Promote strategies and programs that reinforce a positive culturally relevant role of men, women, youth and children in safeguarding the wellbeing of their families.

- ii. Promote the development and implementation of National Guidelines on Parenting.
- iii. Promote, design and implement parenting education programmes.
- iv. Promote policies that will favour harmonization between work and family.
- v. Encourage and invest in programmes that will facilitate the interaction between the different generations in a family.
- vi. Promote and strengthen alternative family care mechanisms and support measures for family placement of all children in need thereof.
- vii. Provide and promote establishment of recreational facilities in communities to enhance family interaction

3.3 Religion and Culture

3.3.1 Policy Issue

Religion considers the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society and the necessary basis of social order. Religion teaches the importance of family spirituality. It creates awareness on the dangers of negative laws, conflicts to the family unit and strongly defends family values.

Culture is defined as the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behaviour that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations. The family plays a crucial role in the preservation of cultural identity, traditions, morals, heritage and the value system of society.

All institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other caregivers to nurture and care for children in a family environment.

3.3.2 Policy Objective

- To promote positive religious and cultural practices

3.3.3 Policy Interventions

The Government will in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Document, publish, and disseminate information on religious and cultural practices supportive of the family.
- ii. Facilitate development and review of policies and legislation that eliminate harmful cultural practices.
- iii. Promote and emphasize marriage preparation and enrichment programmes at both civil, cultural and religious levels.
- iv. Promote and encourage participation in the celebration of Family Days
- v. Provide opportunities for individual members of the family to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential.
- vi. Encourage annual celebration of the International Family Day.

3.4 Family Education

3.4.1 Policy Issue

Family education is about making parents aware of their responsibility, informing them about the role that they must play towards their children as regards to transmission of family values and hence turning the family into a fundamental social institution through which morals and values related to the family order are conveyed. Promoting family education is eliminating all social, cultural and economic barriers to allow access of all family members to quality education, as regards to cleanliness, hygiene, family planning, reproductive health, adult literacy and community participation in education.

Functional education targeting the family as a whole is an integral part of family enrichment. We all start this life with a family, whether that family is composed of blood relatives, adopted parents, a close-knit neighborhood, or a foster family. This family that we acquire when we are born influences every aspect of our lives, from our first moments to our last.

Our family affects who we are and who we become, for better and for worse. We learn our vocabulary, our habits, our customs and rituals, and how to view and observe the world around us.

We also learn how to love and how to interact with others from these first important relationships.

3.4.2 Policy Objective

- To Promote family education to enhance capabilities for stronger family relations and cohesion

3.4.3 Policy Interventions

The Government will in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Promote and encourage direct parental/guardian involvement in the socialization process of children
- ii. Sensitize and empower caregivers to provide family education to those under their care
- iii. Design and enhance family enrichment programs with the family and community institutions
- iv. Promote and develop age appropriate family education programs, networks and initiatives
- v. Provide opportunities for individual members of the family to identify and nurture talent and intellectual potential
- vi. Promote and establish resource centres for promoting family education and networking
- vii. Document best practices on family enrichment and education Initiatives.
- viii. Sensitize and create awareness to families and communities on guidance and counselling

3.5 Family Health

3.5.1 Policy Issue

The family has an important role in healthcare. Health affects the family first, being the core unit of the society. It is the family that bears the burden of mortality and morbidity. In case of an infectious disease the family members are most vulnerable. Disease prevention measures are best taken within the family, for instance; ensuring, balanced diet, child immunization, hygiene and sanitation care of people with disabilities and the elderly. Good health is a prerequisite for socio-economic development and therefore, it is important to put in place both preventive and curative measures in term of policies, programmes, systems and strategies to ensure a healthy nation.

3.5.2 Policy Objective

- To enhance and promote the highest attainable standard of health care for families

3.5.3 Policy Interventions

The Government shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Sensitize families and the community on primary health care
- ii. Promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging proper nutrition, behaviour change and physical exercise
- iii. Promote programs on family mental health and well-being
- iv. Encourage parents/guardians to take a lead role in mentoring, teaching and counselling their children on responsible sexual behaviour founded on family values
- v. Promote community outreach programmes on family health issues: mental health, maternal, neonatal and child healthcare, nutrition, physical health, reproductive health, personal hygiene and retrogressive cultural practices
- vi. Promote and encourage uptake and registration of the National Health insurance
- vii. Promote and encourage affordable rehabilitation and re-integration of family members with substance use disorders
- viii. Promote and encourage the development of recreational and sports facilities within neighbourhoods

3.6 Economy

3.6.1 Policy Issue

The economy plays a significant role in advancing the welfare of the family. Whilst the country realises economic growth and development, the positive effects trickle down to the families. In times of high inflation, unemployment and macroeconomic instabilities, savings are wiped out and incomes are

therefore depleted. This puts a lot of strains on families and deviant tendencies are likely to emerge as individuals look for coping mechanisms.

Economic planning should therefore be done with the family's wellbeing in mind so that strategies devised work to advance the welfare of families for a stronger society.

3.6.2 Policy Objective

- To promote family wellbeing through social economic initiatives

3.6.3 Policy Interventions

The Government shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Integrate family needs in planning and property/assets acquisition and disposal.
- ii. Promote social economic inclusion for social protection of families
- iii. Enhance community groups development for social economic empowerment of families
- iv. Promote and nurture entrepreneurship skills and savings as a culture amongst families early in life
- v. Enhance funding for economic inclusion for social protection programs for the vulnerable families
- vi. Encourage organizations to develop and adopt policies on flexible working hours with the aim to provide extra assistance to persons with family responsibilities
- vii. Encourage employers to implement the existing legislation regarding maternity and paternity leave
- viii. Promote and encourage the creation of day care centres for family members
- ix. Encourage the creation of suitable lactating rooms in the workplace for women with small children
- x. Undertake regular research studies to acquire an information base for key trends on family well-being

3.7 Vulnerability and Social Protection

3.7.1 Policy Issue

Families have undergone fundamental demographic, economic and sociological changes that have stretched and in some cases exhausted, the socio-economic support mechanisms that were traditionally offered by extended families. Changes in family structure have been a major force behind poverty and family poverty in particular. To mitigate against the inability of families to provide support to their vulnerable members, countries have designed social protection interventions. Constitution of Kenya (2010) Article 43 confers on all persons the right to social security and commits the State to providing appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependants.

Vulnerable persons are mainly Orphans and Vulnerable Children ((OVC), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), older persons, street families, offenders and

ex-offenders, widows and widowers, internally and externally displaced persons, marginalized persons and pastoralists living in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL), among others.

All the aforementioned vulnerable groups require adequate mechanisms to address their concerns through programmes and projects to alleviate their conditions and enable them and their families to get equitable opportunities to participate in socio-economic activities.

3.7.2 Policy Objective

- To promote and provide social protection to cushion vulnerable families

3.7.3 Policy Interventions

The Government shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Sensitize and create awareness to community and family members on issues of vulnerability.
- ii. Promote and Strengthen alternative family care mechanisms.
- iii. Encourage involvement of Persons with Disabilities and their families in the design and implementation of rehabilitation programs.
- iv. Promote measures that will enhance integration of offenders and ex-offenders to their families and the community.
- v. Recognize and initiate empowerment programs for widows, widowers and the boy-child alongside the girl-child.
- vi. Facilitate the review of existing legislation to be responsive to the plight and protection of street families and establish family strengthening, rehabilitative and integration programmes for street families
- vii. Promote establishment of rescue centres and shelters for survivors of abuse and violence.
- viii. Promote prioritization of vulnerable members of the society in the affordable housing program.

3.8 Media and Technology

3.8.1 Policy Issue

The extraordinary growth of the communications media and their increased availability has brought exceptional opportunities for enriching the lives not only of individuals, but also of families. At the same time, families today face new challenges arising from the varied and often contradictory messages presented by the mass media.

While the media provides virtually unlimited opportunities for information, education, cultural expansion, and even spiritual growth, it also has the capacity to do grave harm to families by presenting an inadequate or even deformed outlook on life, on the family, on religion and on morality. Family

and family life are all too often inadequately and at times negatively portrayed in the media. Infidelity, sexual activity outside of marriage, and the absence of a moral and spiritual vision of the marriage covenant are depicted uncritically, while positive support is at times given to vices. Such portrayals, by promoting causes inimical to families, are detrimental to the wellbeing of society.

3.8.2 Policy Objective

- To enhance and promote a responsible and supportive media to the family institution.

3.8.3 Policy Interventions

The Government shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Partner with the media in promoting positive family values and issues.
- ii. Encourage media to disseminate data on the state of the family periodically.
- iii. Promote parental control and appropriate use of technology by family members.

3.9 Family Safety and Security

3.9.1 Policy Issue

Family or domestic violence is one of the most insidious forms of violence and is prevalent in all societies. Under the Protection against Domestic Violence Act 2015, this violence includes child marriage, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, widow inheritance, interference from in-laws, sexual violence within marriage, virginity testing and widow cleansing and trafficking of children. Incidents of violence within the family setting contribute to jeopardizing the traditional family solidarity and security. The Children's Act requires that all children be protected "from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation" in the family context.

3.9.2 Policy Objective

- To promote the safety and security of every member of the family.

3.9.3 Policy Interventions

The Government will in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Sensitize and educate families on their rights and relevant laws on family security and access to justice.
- ii. Promote and encourage peaceful coexistence within the family
- iii. Promote the speedy conclusion of cases on family violence.
- iv. Develop programmes to address and minimise family conditions that would lead to violence.

- v. Promote and strengthen alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism for family cases except for criminal cases.

3.10 Environment

3.10.1 Policy Issue

Article 42 in the constitution of Kenya 2010, states that, “Every person has right to clean and healthy environment, which includes the right- a) to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures, particularly those contemplated in Article 69 and b) to have the obligations relating to the environment fulfilled under Article 70.

A clean and healthy environment is critical for families to thrive. Most environmental problems include pollution, water contamination, waste disposal, technological hazards, and chemical poisoning. These directly affect families through diseases, chemical poisoning, and low food production thus leaving families vulnerable.

3.10.2 Policy Objective.

- To promote a clean, healthy and a sustainable environment for families

3.11.3 Policy Interventions

The Government shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Engage relevant institutions on the need to protect families on the negative environmental effects of extractive and other industries.
- ii. Sensitize families on adopting appropriate and safe agricultural practices.
- iii. Promote social risk Management assessment during infrastructural development
- iv. Promote tree growing and environmental stewardship to combat the negative effects of climate change

CHAPTER FOUR: FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The implementation of the National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection will require additional expenditure of public funds. These will be factored in the annual budget of the Ministry responsible for Family Issues. However, additional resources shall be sought from NGOs, the Private Sector and Development Partners.

The policy identifies the following modes of funding and support for family promotion and protection programs in Kenya;

4.1 National and County Government

Article 20 (5) of the Constitution declares that it is the duty of the State to

allocate sufficient resources to ensure the achievement of constitutional rights. In the case of any right listed under Article 43 (Economic and Social Rights) and in allocating resources, the State shall give priority to fund and provide support to enhance family promotion and protection programmes.

The Government will;

- i. Establish and support the coordination and implementation structures
- ii. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated to family promotion and protection programmes;
- iii. Encourage the use of devolved funds to support family promotion and protection programmes;
- iv. Provide funds for periodic review of the Policy and formulation of relevant legislative frameworks based on emerging issues.

4.2 Non - state Actors

- i. Private sector
- ii. Development partners
- iii. Civil Society/ NGOs and Faith Based Organizations
- iv. Academia/ Research Institutions
- v. Communities and Families

Management of Finances

The finances allocated to family promotion and protection programmes shall be managed efficiently and according to the Government Financial Management Regulations.

CHAPTER FIVE: COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

The administration of the National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection will be the responsibility of both the National and County Governments. It requires an interdepartmental and multi-sectoral system and mechanism for it to be realised.

5.1 IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

The realisation of the objectives of this policy will require the participation of all Kenyans. Government will provide leadership in the implementation of the National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection, while also developing partnerships with civil society and the private sector. Such partnerships would be based on an integrated approach to social service delivery.

5.1.1 Multi-sectoral Coordination Mechanism

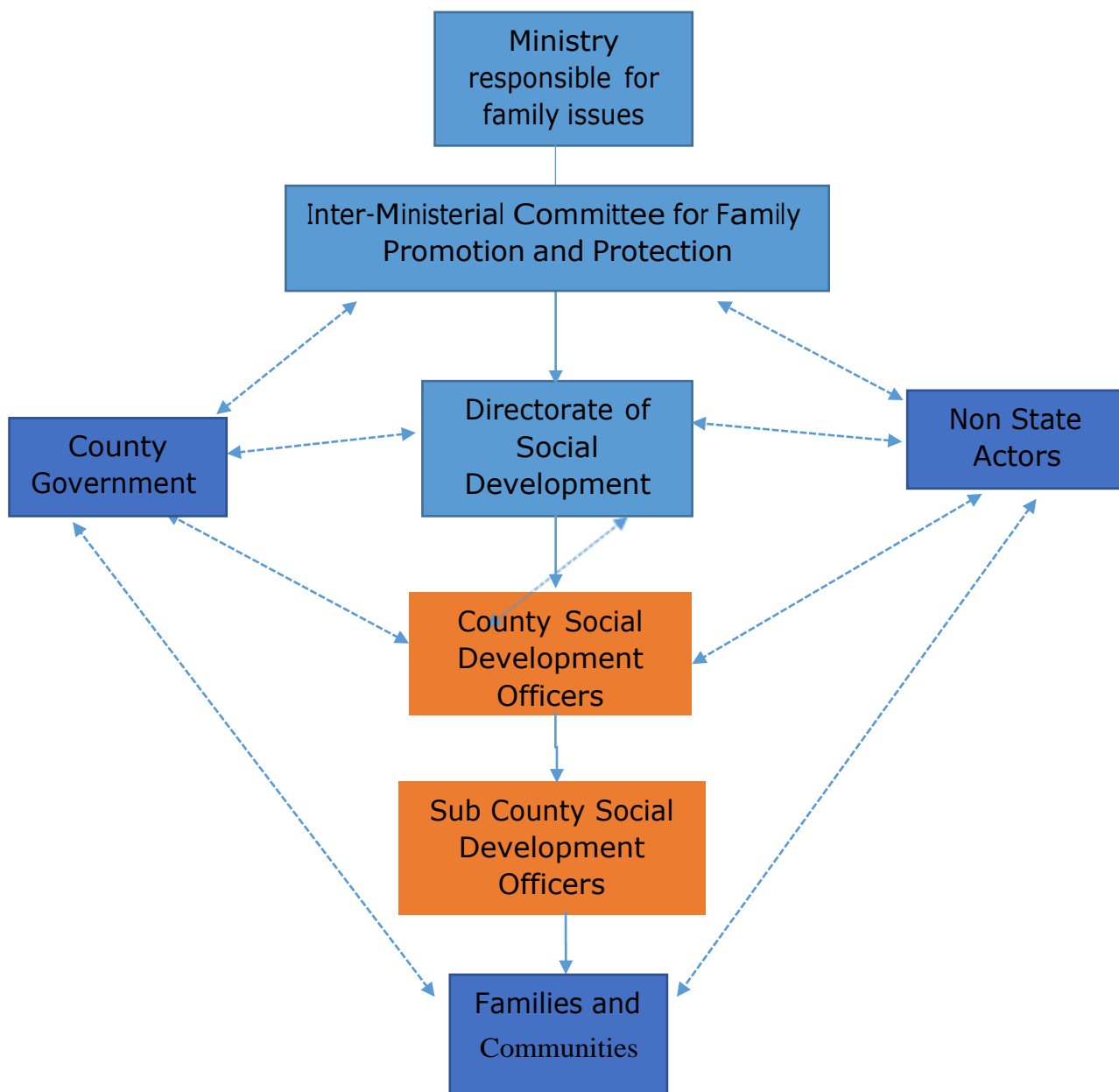
The successful development of a multi-sectoral coordination structure and system will determine the extent to which the whole policy is implemented effectively and efficiently.

This can be addressed through formalised institutional arrangements that facilitate co-ordination, collaboration and synergy in implementation.

The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection will be managed by formalised interdepartmental mechanisms at a national, county, and sub-county level to facilitate the multi-sectoral work required for its successful implementation. Each Ministry, Department and Agency, and participating civil society organizations will ensure that they plan and provide the integrated projects, programmes and services required of them in the Policy.

A national Inter-departmental structure for services to families will be established under the lead of the Ministry responsible for family issues. Other national departments and institutions will be invited to participate in the National Inter-Departmental Structure.

Figure 1: Coordination and Implementation Framework



The role of Non-State Actors in the implementation of the policy will be to;

- Provide additional financial and technical support to government
- Provide checks and balances to the government to ensure implementation of the policy
- Lobbying and advocacy for the policy
- Compliment government interventions

5.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The availability of reliable and consistent information is essential for planning and monitoring policies and programmes; making decisions about the support that should be provided to families and their members; as well as for providing focus for the different sectors and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the National Family Promotion and Protection Policy. To this end, the Ministry in charge of family shall be responsible for coordination of different government policies that promote family life and the strengthening of the family will be dependent on a clearly defined and executed Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) process. The M&E will then serve as an important stage for the implementation of the Policy as it will provide Government with the means for learning from past experience, improving service delivery, planning and allocating resources, and demonstrating results as part of accountability to key stakeholders.

The M&E of the Policy will also be consolidated by ongoing research through the identification of changing trends in families using, to the extent possible, the set of 'family indicators' developed by the United Nations (2003) which are related to household structures; patterns and rules of residence and associated indicators related to fertility, mortality, marriage, age distribution (first marriage, age at first birth); disruption and dissolution of the family; and migration.

The Department of Social Development will facilitate the M&E process and hence shall develop programme supervision and control mechanism which will be established at the national and county levels to assess progress made. To this end, all government departments will have elaborate information management systems to generate detailed data for regular situational analyses of families.

5.2.1 Monitoring

Monitoring will involve collecting data regularly to contribute positively to the successful implementation of the Policy. The results of the monitoring process

will be used to reflect on what is actually happening on the ground in relation to the implementation plan. The results of monitoring will feedback into the implementation process on a regular basis and will continually be utilised to improve services offered. This process will provide opportunities to learn from the actual and present options for adjustment and improved implementation.

5.2.2 Evaluation

Evaluation is the systematic appraisal system used to assess the quality and impact of implementation against the set objectives reflected on the integrated implementation plan of the National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection. The evaluation process will utilise diverse approaches using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

5.2.3 Policy Review

The National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection shall be reviewed after every five (5) years in order to bring on board emerging issues and new ideas that will inform timely and appropriate intervention.

Annex I: IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

THEMATIC AREA		MARRIAGE			
OBJECTIVE	To promote, encourage and protect a culture of healthy marriage.				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Promote gender responsive and age appropriate programs to understand sexuality framed in the context of marriage as the best option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive messages on sexuality and marriage • Happy and Stable marriages 	160M	MLSP MICNG MPSYG MoE NGOs/FBO/CSO/CBO Media Academia County Governments Judiciary Communities Families Development Partners MPs	July 2023- June 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable families • Reduced early marriage and teenage pregnancies. • Well informed communities/families/individuals on sexuality • Family cohesion • Social cohesion • National cohesion • Respect and high self-esteem among family members • Strong marriages
Encourage and promote dispute resolution mechanisms that safely keep marriages together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced GBV cases • Reduced separation and divorce cases 				
Promote positive cultural aspirations while discouraging those that are inconsistent with the dignity of men and women in a marriage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cases of forced wife inheritance. • Reduced cases of wife/husband swapping 				
Promote values and life skills programmes that encourage chastity and strengthen the marriage institution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life skills programmes • Community sensitization and awareness creation on positive marriage values • Livelihood skills programmes 				

Encourage and fund research to establish the stability of the marriage institution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of the Family Report 				
THEMATIC AREA	PARENTING				
OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To promote and appreciate equal parental responsibility at home and in the public sphere. To foster healthy and respectful family relationships by improving skills and knowledge of parents To enhance parents' positive parenting skills to nurture and protect children from exposure to, and participation in activities that may be detrimental to their physical, emotional, psychological, moral, spiritual and intellectual well-being. 				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Promote the development and implementation of policies that promote positive parenting skills and family-work balance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection Harmonised work and family policies Youth focused policies 	200M	MLSP MoE FBOs/CSOs Parents Children	July 2023- June 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable and happy families Responsible children Productive workforce Family Cohesion Healthy families Responsible parents, children and community Conducive parenting/family environment Reduced family conflicts
Develop and implement national guidelines on parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National guidelines on parenting 				
Promote, design and implement parenting education programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contextualized parenting educational programs appropriate and acceptable cultural parenting programmes Appropriate and acceptable religious values parenting programmes 				

Promote strategies and programs that reinforce a culturally relevant role of men and women in safeguarding the wellbeing of their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs on cultural events 				
Encourage and invest in programmes that will facilitate the interaction between the different generations in a family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridged intergenerational gap 				
Provide and promote establishment of recreational facilities in communities to enhance family interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of recreational facilities established and/or renovated • 				
THEMATIC AREA	RELIGION AND CULTURE				
OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote positive religious and cultural practices 				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Document, publish, and disseminate information on religious and cultural practices supportive of the family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentaries • Published religious and cultural materials • No. dissemination avenues 	100M	MLSP Min Culture Council of Elders FBOs CSOs	July 2023- June2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive behaviour change • Preserved positive culture • Informed communities • human dignity • Awareness creation of
Facilitate development and review of policies and legislations that eliminate harmful cultural practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and legislations in place. 				

Promote and emphasize marriage preparation and enrichment programmes at civic, cultural and religious levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-marital programs 				emerging family issues • Family cohesion and togetherness
Promote and encourage participation in the celebration of Family Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN International Day of the Family • Religious specific family days • Individual family days 				
THEMATIC AREA	FAMILY EDUCATION				
OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Promote family education to enhance capabilities for stronger family relations and cohesion 				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Promote and encourage direct parental/guardian involvement in the socialization process of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced performance • Well behaved and disciplined children • High self-esteem and confidence 	200M		July 2023- June 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong cohesive families • Innovations • Improved mental health
Sensitize and empower caregivers to provide family education to those under their care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed caregivers • Effective family care 				
Design and enhance family enrichment programs within the family and community institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family enrichment programs • Joint collaborative programs 				
Promote and develop age appropriate family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age appropriate programs and 				

education programs , networks and initiatives	initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family networks 				
Provide opportunities for individual members of the family to identify and nurture talent and intellectual potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champions • Tapped talents • Role models 				
Promote and establish resource centres for promoting family education and networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family resource centres 				
Document best practices on Family enrichment and education Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentaries 				
Sensitize and create awareness to families and communities on Guidance and counselling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed communities • Improved health seeking behaviour • Individual, family and community referrals 				
THEMATIC AREA	HEALTH				
OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance and promote the highest attainable standard of health care for families 				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Sensitize families and community on primary health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization and Awareness forums 	100M	MoE MLSP NDMA MICNG NHIF MoH NACADA MoE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed communities • Minimal suicide cases • Improved health • Healthy citizenry
Promote healthy lifestyle by encouraging proper nutrition, behaviour change and physical exercise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization and Awareness forums 				

Promote programs on family mental health and well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cases of stress and depression • Reduced cases of suicide and homicide 		Community Families Survivors of substance abuse FBOs		
Encourage parents/guardians to take a lead role in mentoring, teaching and counselling their children on responsible sexual behaviour founded on family values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization and Awareness forums 				
Promote community outreach programs on family health issues: mental health, maternal, neonatal and child health care, nutrition, physical health, reproductive health, personal hygiene and retrogressive cultural practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization and Awareness forums • Psycho-social support initiatives. • Recreational and sport facilities 				
Promote and encourage uptake and registration on the National Health Insurance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access and utilization of health Insurance and facilities 				
Promote and encourage affordable rehabilitation and re-integration of family members with substance use disorders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization and awareness creation • Strong family and community support systems 				

THEMATIC AREA	ECONOMY				
OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote family wellbeing through social economic initiatives 				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Undertake regular research studies to acquire an information base for key trends on family well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of the family report 	100M	Land board UFAA Private Sector FKE MLSP	July20 23- June2 027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective planning and programming Sustainable family income Reduced economic dependency. More VMGs in employment Quality family time Family cohesion
Promote and nurture entrepreneurship skills and savings as a culture amongst families early in life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitization and awareness of the culture of entrepreneurship and saving Trainings financial literacy skills 				
Enhance funding for social protection programs for the vulnerable families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social assistance program Health insurance Bursaries Food subsidies Pension/Gratuity Schemes Tax reliefs/rebates 				
Integrate family needs in planning and property/assets acquisition and disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation on family consent Wills Next of Kin forms 				
Encourage organizations to develop and adopt policies on flexible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation flexi-hours schedules 				

working hours.					
Encourage employers to implement the existing legislation regarding maternity and paternity leave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave schedules • 				
Promote and encourage the creation of day-care centres for family members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day care centres • Family IGAs 				
THEMATIC AREA	VULNERABILITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION				
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote and provide protection to cushion vulnerable families 				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Sensitize and create awareness to community and family members on issues of vulnerability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization and awareness creation forums • Affirmative action • Inclusive programs 	100M	MICNG- Probation Families Prisons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced stigmatization and discrimination • Social inclusion • Human dignity • Social Justice
Promote and Strengthen alternative family care mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cases of children in distress • Alternative family care mechanisms 				
Encourage involvement of Persons with Disabilities and their families in the design and implementation of rehabilitation programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client friendly services • Inclusive programs 				
Promote measures that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reformed citizens 				

will enhance integration of offenders and ex-offenders to their families and the community.	•				
Recognize and initiate empowerment programs for widows, widowers and the boy-child alongside the girl-child.	• Empowerment programs				
Promote establishment of rescue centres and shelters for survivors of abuse and violence.	• Rescue centres • Shelters				
Promote prioritization of vulnerable members of the society in the affordable housing program.	• Slum upgrading program • Universal design				
THEMATIC AREA	MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY				
OBJECTIVES	To enhance and promote a responsible and supportive media to the family institution				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Partner with the media in promoting positive family values and issues.	• Pro family programs • Gender responsive messages •	100M	Media CAK ICTA KFCB Parents Children FBOs Learning Institutions	2023-2027	• Informed community
Encourage media to disseminate data on the state of the family periodically	• State of the family report				
Promote parental control and appropriate use of technology by family	• Controlled access to inappropriate media content				

members.					
THEMATIC AREA	FAMILY SAFETY AND SECURITY				
OBJECTIVES	To promote the safety and security of every member of the family.				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Sensitize and educate families on their rights and relevant laws on family security and access to justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization forums • Reported cases 	100M	FIDA Judiciary FBO Elders	2023-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed community • Family cohesion • Family safety • Family cohesion • Peaceful coexistence
Promote and encourage peaceful coexistence within the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance and Counselling • Mediation 				
Promote the speedy conclusion of cases on family violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolved cases 				
Promote and strengthen alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism for family cases except for criminal cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADR committees • Resolved cases • Reduced backlog of court case 				
THEMATIC AREA	ENVIRONMENT				
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote a clean, healthy and a sustainable environment for families 				
Interventions/Activities	Indicators/Output	Resources/ Budget	Actors	Time Frame	Outcomes
Engage relevant institutions on the need to protect families on the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization meetings 	160M	NEMA Min Environment	2023-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and healthy

negative environmental effects of extractive and other industries.			Manufacturing Industries		environment
Sensitize families on adopting appropriate and safe agricultural practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization forums • Adoption of safe agricultural practices 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy families and communities
Sensitize the families on safe water, sanitation and health practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization forums • Safe and clean water 				
Promote social risk assessment during infrastructural development					
Promote tree growing and environmental stewardship to combat the negative effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased tree cover 				

National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection



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