



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER,
WOMEN AND SPECIAL GROUPS**

Tanzania Malezi Summit (TMS) 2025
In line with
International Family Day Commemoration
May 23-24, 2025
Mwanza, Tanzania

Report



1. Introduction

Tanzania Malezi Summit (TMS) 2025, held from 23rd to 24th May 2025 at Rock City Mall, Mwanza City, was a landmark national event convened to commemorate the **International Day of Families** and reaffirm the nation's commitment to **parenting, early childhood development (ECD)**, and **family well-being** as foundational pillars for national development. The Malezi Summit was conceived as a national platform to galvanize action, dialogue, and investment in parenting and family well-being. It was uniquely aligned with the International Day of Families (15th May), a day recognized globally to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting them.

Tanzania has made commendable progress in positioning Early Childhood Development (ECD) and parenting as central pillars in its national development agenda. Recognizing that the early years of life, from birth to age eight, are the most critical for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development, Tanzania has invested in multisectoral approaches to ensure all children thrive. These efforts have been championed through the implementation of the National Multi-sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP) 2022-2026, which emphasizes nurturing care as a foundational principle, rooted in the five components: health, nutrition, early learning, responsive caregiving, and safety and security.

Organized under the leadership of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG), in collaboration with the other sector ministries, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (MoCDGEC) and partners including TECDEN and UNICEF. TMS 2025 served as a powerful multi-stakeholder platform to:

- i. Reflect on **progress and challenges** in delivering quality parenting and ECD services across Tanzania.
- ii. Showcase **innovations**, community models, and tools that support holistic child development and family strengthening.
- iii. Generate and adopt **evidence-based recommendations** to shape national and sub-national actions.
- iv. **Launch strategic national initiatives and campaigns** that will advance the rights and well-being of young children and families.

Under the national theme "**Mtoto ni Malezi: Msingi wa Familia Bora kwa Taifa Imara**" (A child is nurturing: the foundation of a strong family and nation), the summit highlighted the urgent need to invest in parenting, nurturing care, protect the rights of children and empower parents and caregivers through supportive systems. A landmark milestone of the summit was the **official launch of the National Child-care (Malezi) Campaign** by the **Deputy Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania**, Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko. The summit also witnessed the unveiling of three key national tools as follows:

- The National Parenting Guideline (*Malezi Bora, Taifa Imara*),
- The ECD Dashboard and Scorecard, and
- The Religious Sermons Guide on Positive Parenting and Nurturing Care

These tools represent the government's strategic commitment to scaling inclusive and equitable parenting and ECD services across Tanzania.

2. Goal and Objectives:

The overall goal of the **Tanzania Malezi Summit (TMS) 2025** was to elevate the parenting and family support agenda as a foundation for sustainable development, social cohesion, and child well-being in Tanzania. The summit was **a timely response to national and global calls for action to strengthen early childhood development (ECD), enhance parenting practices, and ensure every child has access to nurturing care**—particularly in underserved communities.

Specifically, the summit aimed to achieve the following six strategic objectives:

- i. **To reflect on progress made in the implementation of parenting programs, community-based childcare initiatives, and integrated ECD services at both national and sub-national levels, including showcasing best practices and lessons learned:**
This included sharing results from regional dialogues, lessons from the implementation of the National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP), and success stories from various ECD and parenting interventions supported by government, civil society, and development partners. Practical examples of community-led childcare solutions, parenting innovations, and integrated service delivery models were featured to inspire adaptation and scale.
- ii. **To provide a high-level dialogue platform for multi-stakeholder engagement on ECD and parenting, enabling open discussions on policy, financing, delivery mechanisms, and accountability frameworks that support families and caregivers:**
The summit convened national and regional leaders, parliamentarians, local government representatives, researchers, CSOs, private sector actors, media, and caregivers to jointly examine the enablers and bottlenecks to deliver quality childcare and parenting services. Dialogues promoted cross-sectoral collaboration and strengthened the role of non-state actors in supporting government-led efforts.
- iii. **To generate concrete policy and programmatic recommendations that strengthen the family unit, address caregiving gaps, and expand access to quality early childhood services for all children, especially those in underserved communities:**
These recommendations were grounded in evidence from national studies and consultations and built upon existing policy frameworks such as the National Parenting Guideline, NM-ECDP, One Plan III, and sectoral plans. The resolutions adopted aimed to inform future strategies, resource mobilization, and accountability mechanisms for improved family and child outcomes.
- iv. **To commemorate the International Day of Families, anchoring the global celebration in Tanzanian realities by showcasing cultural, religious, and community values that uphold family dignity and collective child-rearing responsibility:**
The event embraced Tanzania's diverse traditions and values around parenting, caregiving, and family solidarity, celebrating family-centered leadership and

community engagement. The cultural and spiritual significance of malezi (childrearing) was emphasized through exhibitions, performances, and plenary reflections from religious leaders and state and non-state actors.

- v. **To officially launch and disseminate national tools and innovations such as the National Parenting Guideline, the ECD Scorecard and Dashboard, and to consolidate and present resolutions from nationwide ECD and parenting stakeholders for national action and commitment:**

These tools reflect a major milestone in institutionalizing parenting and ECD within Tanzania's policy and program landscape. Their launch provided stakeholders with evidence-based instruments for planning, tracking, and improving parenting interventions and ECD service delivery across the country.

- vi. **To launch the national Childcare (Malezi) Campaign as a catalytic initiative to elevate childcare as a key pillar of national development—highlighting policy gaps, financing needs, and coordination mechanisms.**

The launch of the Childcare Campaign, officiated by the **Deputy Prime Minister on the second day of the Summit**, marked a bold step in rallying multi-sectoral action to improve access, quality, and visibility of childcare services. The campaign called for increased investment, cross-sector collaboration, and institutional ownership at national and sub-national levels. It also positioned childcare as both an economic and social development issue—critical for empowering women, strengthening families, and advancing children's wellbeing.

Participants

The summit brought together over 1,000 diverse participants, including high-level government officials, parliamentarians, policymakers, development partners, civil society organizations, faith-based actors, academic and research institutions, media representatives, private sector stakeholders, as well as parents, caregivers, and children. It marked a pivotal moment in aligning efforts from the community level to national policy, in pursuit of the country's vision: ensuring all children are nurtured, safe, and thriving within resilient families. The summit reaffirmed the nation's commitment to providing every child, regardless of background or geography, with access to quality care, and to equipping every family with the tools, services, and knowledge needed to raise the next generation in safety, dignity, and love

Program

The summit was strategically organized to ensure maximum participation and engagement. A variety of approaches were employed, including keynote presentations by leading researchers, panel discussions, and interactive break-out sessions structured around four key sub-themes. These sessions enabled researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to share their work and contribute meaningfully to parenting, childcare and ECD. The program also featured speeches and keynote addresses by distinguished guests and speakers, enriching the dialogue and fostering cross-sector collaboration

Day 1 Proceedings.

4. Opening Ceremony

The Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 commenced with a highly symbolic and dignified opening session that set the tone for the two-day national dialogue on parenting, family well-being, and Early Childhood Development (ECD). Hosted at the state-of-the-art Rock city mall in Mwanza, the ceremony reflected Tanzania's political, technical, and community-level commitment to strengthening the family unit as a foundation for national prosperity.

Welcome speeches

Remarks by Regional Commissioner

The session was officially opened with welcoming remarks from the **Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) of Mwanza**, who, on behalf of the Mwanza Regional Commissioner and the local leadership, extended a warm welcome to participants from across Tanzania and international guests. The RAS highlighted the significance of Mwanza hosting the Summit, noting the region's strides in ECD programming, multi-sectoral collaboration, and community-based parenting interventions. The RAS also emphasized Mwanza's readiness to serve as a model region in implementing key outcomes from the Summit, including the Childcare Campaign and strengthened district-level coordination for family-centered services.

Remarks by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG)

This was followed by **greetings from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoCDGEC) from the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar**, who acknowledged the growing collaboration between the Mainland and Zanzibar on ECD policy and programming. The PS stressed the importance of harmonizing efforts and sharing best practices across the United Republic of Tanzania and underscored the critical role of families in promoting child well-being and resilience.

Keynote speech by keynote speech by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG)

The climax of the session was the **keynote speech by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG)**, who officially opened the Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. In their address, the PS reaffirmed the Government's high-level commitment to advancing the rights and welfare of children and families, citing achievements under the **National Multi-Sectoral ECD Programme (NM-ECDP)**, the **Parenting Guideline**, and efforts to institutionalize coordinated parenting and ECD programming at national and sub-national levels.

The PS also outlined the Summit's strategic importance in promoting inclusive, evidence-based, and sustainable solutions to caregiving and child-rearing challenges in the country. Notably, the speech introduced key outcomes expected from the summit, including the **presentation of resolutions from ECD and parenting stakeholders**, the **launch of the national Childcare (Malezi) Campaign**, and the unveiling of tools such as the **ECD Scorecard and Dashboard**.

The opening session brought together a diverse representation of stakeholders—government officials, regional delegates, civil society leaders, development partners, media, academia, and parents—laying the groundwork for a participatory, high-impact summit. It was an inspiring and mobilizing moment, positioning parenting and child-care at the heart of Tanzania's national development agenda.

5. Key presentations

5.1 Key presentation 1: Early Childhood Development (ECD) highlights

This session aimed to deepen understanding of the current landscape of family and child well-being in Tanzania, highlight policy gaps, and inspire innovation and collaboration across sectors. The research presentations followed the official opening ceremony and served as the foundational learning block for the summit. They were delivered in plenary to all participants to ensure a shared evidence base among policymakers, practitioners, researchers, donors, and civil society. The session was moderated by **Dr. Deman Yusuph**, a senior academic and researcher from the **Institute of Social Work (ISW)**, who emphasized the importance of anchoring national discussions on family and child development in rigorous data and lived experiences.

The following studies were presented:

- i. **Dr. Esther Elisaria** from the **Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)** presented longitudinal findings from over 30 years of nutrition data, revealing significant improvements in child nutrition outcomes in Tanzania. According to TDHS 2022 data, stunting rates have declined from 50% to 30%, underweight prevalence dropped from 25% to 12%, and wasting reduced from 8% to 3.3%. Despite these gains, Dr. Elisaria raised concern that many national nutrition policies remain outdated and do not adequately address adolescents, caregivers, or children with disabilities. She underscored the limited inclusion of nurturing care components, such as responsive caregiving and early stimulation, in current policy frameworks. Furthermore, ***she called for the adoption of high-impact, multisectoral interventions—including fortification and WASH—and the generation of real-time data to guide strategic investment in nutrition.***
- ii. **Dr. August Joachim** presented findings from the **2022 Malaria Indicator Survey**, offering a critical lens on the survey's limitations in capturing holistic ECD indicators. While valuable in health surveillance, the survey lacked data on key domains of early childhood development, such as early learning, responsive caregiving, child protection, and play. The absence of insights into caregiver-child interactions, father involvement, and nurturing environments was highlighted as a missed opportunity for a more integrated and actionable understanding of child well-being. ***Dr. Joachim recommended the mainstreaming of ECD-related modules in household surveys and the adoption of***

mixed-methods approaches to capture the complexity of caregiving and child outcomes.

- iii. **Mr. Ally Omar**, the ECD Coordinator from **Zanzibar's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training**, shared results from a regional assessment on parenting knowledge, attitudes, and practices for children aged 0–6 years. The study revealed critical gaps in the quality of caregiving, with only **8%–14%** of fathers actively involved in emotional support and stimulation. Responsive caregiving was demonstrated by just one-third of caregivers, and disparities were noted between urban and rural caregivers in levels of engagement. Use of positive discipline strategies remained low—at **24%** for children aged 0–3 and **7.5%** for ages 4–6—while **responsive feeding practices were only reported by 14%** of respondents. ***These findings illuminated the urgent need for parenting interventions that are culturally relevant, equity-focused, and scalable across different contexts in Tanzania.***

Together, these research presentations provided a sobering yet enlightening snapshot of the ECD and parenting landscape in Tanzania. The session underscored the importance of evidence-based planning, the integration of ECD indicators into national data systems, and the need to prioritize responsive caregiving and male involvement in parenting. The presentations set the stage for deeper thematic discussions in the breakout sessions that followed and informed the stakeholder resolutions consolidated later in the Summit.

5.2 Key presentation 2: Assessment of ECD Program Implementation

5.2.1 The National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP)

A critical component of the Tanzania Malezi Summit (TMS) 2025 was the review of national progress in the implementation of the **National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP)**. This session was co-facilitated by Mr. Godwin Mongi, ECD Specialist from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG), and Dr. Deman Yusuph of the Institute of Social Work. It provided a holistic overview of the program's roll-out, milestones, and lessons learned across the five domains of nurturing care.

The NM-ECDP was lauded as a groundbreaking initiative for embedding ECD within national development structures and for galvanizing multi-ministerial and stakeholder collaboration. Presenters highlighted several key achievements under the program, including:

- i. **Training and Capacity Building:** Over **5,000 pre-primary teachers, 2,000 community health workers, and 925 regional and council ECD focal persons** were trained on nurturing care, integrated service delivery, and parenting support. These frontline workers play a pivotal role in delivering essential services to children and families.
- ii. **Infrastructure and Access:** A total of **1,316 pre-primary classrooms** were constructed or upgraded, expanding access to early learning opportunities in underserved areas. Moreover, **4,000 daycare centers** were registered nationwide, collectively serving more than **400,000 children** aged 0–8 years.

- iii. **Nutrition and Health:** The program contributed to improved child nutrition outcomes, with over **6.7 million children** benefiting from school feeding programs and more than **15,000 villages** regularly organizing integrated health and nutrition days—critical for early detection and prevention of child malnutrition and illness.
- iv. **Policy Tools and Innovations:** To facilitate evidence-based planning and accountability, the NM-ECDP developed the **ECD Scorecard** and **Dashboard**, now used at national and sub-national levels for tracking progress, informing decisions, and advocating for increased investment.
- v. **Advocacy and Engagement:** More than 97 Members of Parliament (MPs) and 234 religious leaders were engaged in the program’s advocacy strategy, supporting its implementation and popularizing key parenting messages within their constituencies.

Despite these notable accomplishments, the session underscored persisting challenges—particularly in **investment tracking, inter-ministerial data sharing, and subnational coordination**. The fragmentation of services and financing across sectors was cited as a major barrier to the delivery of cohesive and quality ECD services. As a response, the government and its partners have initiated the **Childcare (Malezi) Campaign**, which was officially launched at the summit, to harmonize policy action, improve financing mechanisms, and institutionalize the role of childcare within the broader ECD ecosystem.

Participants were called upon to maintain momentum by supporting the NM-ECDP through robust intersectoral platforms, evidence-informed planning, and sustained advocacy to secure political will and resource allocation.

5.2.2 The Zanzibar Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (ZM-ECDP)

The session also spotlighted the evolving ECD landscape in Zanzibar, with a presentation led by Dr. Maryam Juma and Mr. Hamad Bakari from the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ). They outlined the progress and vision behind the **Zanzibar Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (ZM-ECDP)**—a strategic initiative designed to respond to growing concerns over the status of young children on the islands.

Drawing attention to persistent challenges, including high rates of child malnutrition, limited access to quality early learning opportunities, and inadequate support for caregivers, especially in rural areas, the presenters emphasized the critical need for coordinated, systemic responses. The ZM-ECDP was formulated to address these gaps by promoting the nurturing care framework and fostering institutional alignment across health, education, nutrition, child protection, and social welfare sectors.

Key highlights and next steps shared in the session included:

- i. The **official launch of the ZM-ECDP scheduled for July 2025**, which will mark a new phase of program implementation with clear national ownership and partner support.
- ii. Plans to **disseminate baseline findings** from recent national and community-level assessments, which will guide targeted interventions and enable real-time monitoring of child outcomes.
- iii. Training of over **3,000 community health workers** to deliver integrated ECD services, particularly in under-resourced rural areas.

- iv. Introduction of **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** components within maternal and child health services, recognizing the growing need for emotional well-being in parenting and caregiving.
- v. Establishment of **ECD corners in key public spaces**, such as clinics, community centers, and marketplaces, to provide caregivers and children with access to age-appropriate learning materials, play spaces, and parenting information.

The Zanzibar delegation emphasized the importance of cross-learning and collaboration with the mainland, citing the summit as a valuable platform for experience sharing. The commitment of the President of Zanzibar, H.E. **President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** was acknowledged as central to the political momentum behind the ZM-ECDP, which reflects a broader vision of inclusive development and investment in the human capital of Zanzibar.

5.3 Policy Dialogue of Childcare: Tanzania Childcare Landscape Analysis

One of the flagship technical segments of the Tanzania Malezi Summit (TMS) 2025 was the presentation of the **Tanzania Childcare Landscape Analysis**, which laid a crucial foundation for the official **launch of the National Childcare (Malezi) Campaign**. This session provided a data-driven perspective on the current state of childcare services across the country and informed dialogue on reforming systems that support working families, caregivers, and children under age eight.

The session was jointly facilitated by Dr. Deman Yusuph of the Institute of Social Work (ISW) and Dr. Ignasia Mligo from the University of Dodoma (UDOM). Their presentation synthesized findings from a national mixed-methods study examining household childcare arrangements, institutional models, public and private sector involvement, and policy frameworks affecting children and caregivers.

Key insights and recommendations presented included:

- i. **Strengthening Financing Mechanisms:** The presenters emphasized the need to institutionalize childcare financing by fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) and incentivizing private sector contributions. They also advocated for inclusion of childcare within broader national financing instruments such as social protection schemes and local government budgets.
- ii. **Improving Infrastructure and Inclusion:** A major finding of the study was the inadequacy of physical infrastructure in daycare centers, particularly in underserved urban informal settlements and for children with disabilities. The team called for upgrading physical spaces to be child-friendly, inclusive, and safe, with priority placed on accessibility and play-based learning environments.
- iii. **Professionalizing and Supporting Caregivers:** A recurrent theme was the lack of professional development and support structures for childcare providers. The researchers recommended developing standardized caregiver training curricula, including inclusive practices, responsive caregiving, and basic health and safety knowledge. Licensing and quality assurance mechanisms were also proposed.
- iv. **Reforming Policy and Regulation:** The presentation underscored the absence of comprehensive childcare policies and minimum operational standards—especially for private and informal childcare providers. The team proposed the introduction of national childcare standards and accreditation systems, coupled with decentralized inspection and support services.

- v. **Community Engagement and Male Involvement:** Social norms continue to position childcare as the exclusive responsibility of women. The study advocated for national awareness campaigns to promote shared caregiving responsibilities, encourage male involvement, and mobilize communities to recognize the collective responsibility of child-rearing.
- vi. **Integration with Social Services:** The presenters emphasized the need to enhance linkages between daycare centers and the health, nutrition, education, and social welfare systems. A key recommendation was to develop referral and case management protocols to ensure children and families access holistic services tailored to their needs.

*Following the core research presentations, Mr. Craig Ferla, Executive Director of Children in Crossfire (CiC), provided a powerful reality-based contribution that grounded the discussion in the everyday experiences of families living in **urban informal settlements**. Drawing from CiC's programmatic work in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, Mr. Ferla highlighted the compounded barriers these families face in accessing quality, affordable, and safe childcare services. These barriers include **overcrowding in informal daycare centers**, limited infrastructure, poor sanitation, and caregivers often working under **extreme stress with little or no training**.*

*He emphasized that these conditions not only **compromise child safety and development** but also limit women's economic participation, as mothers are often forced to choose between low-paid, insecure work and staying home to care for their children without support. Mr. Ferla called for the design of **community-responsive childcare models** that integrate with the lived realities of low-income households. He further advocated for **community-based caregiver training programs**, safe play spaces, structured parent support groups, and **multi-sectoral partnerships** between local governments, civil society, and private operators. These interventions, he argued, would promote **dignified, affordable, and quality childcare**, especially in informal urban settings where vulnerabilities are highest.*

*Complementing these grassroots experiences with innovation, representatives from the **National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR)** and the **Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG)** showcased the development of a **Parenting Mobile Application** as part of the national parenting support initiative. This mobile app, developed through consultative processes with parents, community workers, and health professionals, is designed to serve as a **free, accessible digital tool for parents and caregivers** across Tanzania.*

*The application features **age-specific guidance** for children and its content is culturally adapted and delivered in **user-friendly Swahili**, making it widely applicable even in rural and semi-literate populations. The app also offers **interactive features** such as checklists for child milestones, voice narration for low-literacy users, and direct links to nearby health and social welfare services. The presenters highlighted that, as digital penetration increases across Tanzania, this innovation provides a scalable model for **bridging information gaps**, reducing harmful practices, and empowering caregivers to make informed decisions about their children's well-being.*

*This digital innovation aligns with national efforts to **modernize parenting interventions** and **extend the reach of family support systems**, especially in regions where formal structures are limited or non-existent.*

5.4 Panel Discussion – Strengthening Childcare in Tanzania

One of the key highlights of the first day of the Tanzania Malezi Summit (TMS) 2025 was a dynamic, high-level **panel discussion** titled *"Strengthening Childcare in Tanzania"*, which brought together thought leaders, senior government officials, and civil society champions working at the forefront of early childhood development. The session was skillfully moderated by **Mr. Godwin Mongi**, ECD Specialist from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG), and served as a critical platform to unpack the complex realities, bottlenecks, and opportunities related to the childcare sector in Tanzania.

The distinguished panel included:

- i. **Dr. Susan Nyoni**, Rector of the Institute of Social Work (ISW),
- ii. **Ms. Subisia Kabuje**, Assistant Director of Social Welfare from the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), and
- iii. **Ms. Mwajuma Kibwana**, Executive Director of the Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN).

Each panelist shared perspectives rooted in research, policy, implementation, and community engagement.

Dr. Susan Nyoni opened the session by contextualizing the childcare landscape through a social development lens. She emphasized that strengthening childcare is not only a matter of child protection and early learning but also a **societal investment** that contributes to social cohesion, gender equity, and poverty alleviation. Drawing from ISW's experience in training social welfare professionals, she advocated for the **professionalization of childcare services**, including better recognition, regulation, and support for daycare workers and home-based caregivers. She called for the institutionalization of training curricula on childcare within professional institutions and proposed that **standardized certification** mechanisms be introduced for childcare providers to raise the quality of care across the country.

Ms. Subisia Kabuje, representing the government's operational and decentralization machinery through PO-RALG, highlighted the **critical role of Local Government Authorities (LGAs)** in operationalizing childcare services on the ground. She pointed out the significant progress made in developing bylaws and implementation guidelines at the regional and council levels, but noted that many councils still lack **dedicated budget lines**, technical staff, or data systems to support integrated childcare services. Ms. Kabuje advocated for increased **investment in infrastructure**, especially in underserved areas, and the importance of **tracking childcare financing** at sub-national levels through tools such as the NM-ECDP Investment Dashboard. She also emphasized the **Childcare (Malezi) Campaign** as a timely national initiative that can help rally local governments, religious leaders, and community-based organizations to prioritize childcare.

Ms. Mwajuma Kibwana, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations and TECDEN's 100+ member network, underscored the importance of **community ownership** and **multi-stakeholder partnerships** in delivering inclusive and quality

childcare. She highlighted successful models where civil society worked closely with LGAs and parents to provide low-cost, high-quality services tailored to community needs. However, she stressed that **informal childcare providers remain largely unsupported**, and without proper linkages to health, nutrition, and social welfare systems, these centers fall short of delivering the nurturing care children need. Ms. Kibwana urged for greater **coordination between sectors**, joint planning, and integration of parenting education into childcare programs to create more holistic and sustainable solutions. She also emphasized that the upcoming **National Parenting Guideline dissemination** and **Childcare Campaign** offer strategic entry points for community engagement and accountability.

Throughout the discussion, all panelists emphasized the importance of:

- i. **Integrated, evidence-based solutions** that respond to the diverse contexts of Tanzanian families;
- ii. **Improved data systems** for childcare mapping, quality assurance, and budgeting;
- iii. **Scalable innovations** such as digital parenting tools and community-led social accountability;
- iv. **Increased male involvement** and cultural transformation to normalize shared caregiving responsibilities.

The session concluded with a strong **call to action**: for Tanzania to achieve its development vision and truly support every child's right to thrive, childcare must be elevated as a **cross-cutting policy and investment priority**—not just in rhetoric but in action. The panel's outcomes laid a strong foundation for day two of the summit, where the **Childcare Campaign was officially launched**, building momentum for long-term systems transformation.



6. Break-Out Sessions

These sessions provided a unique platform for stakeholders from national and sub-national levels—including government institutions, civil society organizations, academia, development partners, community leaders, and practitioners—to engage in focused, thematic discussions. The objective was to generate practical insights, share innovations, and collectively reflect on the progress and persistent gaps in Early Childhood Development (ECD) programming and policy implementation across Tanzania.

The break-out discussions were deliberately structured into **four thematic tracks** that reflect the holistic Nurturing Care Framework:

1. Child Health, Nutrition, Protection, and Well-being
2. Financing, Investment, and Multi-Sectoral Coordination in ECD
3. Childcare, Early Learning, and Inclusion
4. Parenting, Family Well-being, and Social Norms

Each session was facilitated by seasoned moderators and featured **evidence-based presentations, case studies, and reflections from practitioners**, followed by rich plenary dialogues. The following is a thematic summary of the sessions:

6.1 Breakout Session 1: Parenting, Family Well-being, and Social Norms

This session, moderated initially by **Dr. Joyce Nyoni** and later by **Mr. Manoah William** and **Ms. Farida Athumani Katunzi**, focused on shifting societal narratives and practices related to caregiving and family life. Stakeholders discussed deeply rooted gender norms, the limited involvement of fathers in child-rearing, and the widespread use of corporal punishment as barriers to nurturing care.

- i. **PACT Tanzania** presented promising approaches that actively engage male caregivers in parenting through structured play, storytelling, and safe spaces for peer exchange, showing improved bonding and shared caregiving roles.
- ii. **Ms. Wamilika Danford** shared lived experiences from rural communities where grandmothers and traditional birth attendants are key influencers in parenting practices, yet often lack updated knowledge on child development.
- iii. **Mr. Revocatus Sono** of **Amani Girls Organization** highlighted advocacy efforts in Mwanza to eliminate corporal punishment, combining school-based interventions with parental training and community-led dialogues.
- iv. **Save the Children, D-Tree International**, and **Oxford Policy Management** showcased digital innovations to promote responsive parenting—such as SMS nudges, parenting dashboards, and behaviorally informed content—that are scalable and accessible even in resource-limited settings.
- v. The **Thrive Disability Study** added a critical lens on disability inclusion, noting that stigma and lack of early identification often delay crucial interventions. It recommended strengthening community-based screening and empowering families with knowledge.

Key outcomes from the session called for culturally sensitive parenting curricula, mainstreaming father engagement strategies, and leveraging local influencers (including religious and traditional leaders) to shift harmful norms.



Photo: Various ECD stakeholders' exhibitions during Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025

6.2 Breakout Session 2: Media, Technology, and Community Engagement in Parenting and ECD

This specialized thematic extension, moderated by **Mr. Godfrey Boniventure**, examined how digital technology, mass communication, and community mobilization can enhance awareness and uptake of parenting and ECD services.

- i. **Grace James Mapunda** of **D-Tree** demonstrated the impact of mobile health tools such as parenting apps and automated voice messages in increasing parental knowledge, tracking developmental milestones, and linking families to services.
- ii. Discussions highlighted the use of **religious platforms and storytelling**—particularly through local radio, theatre, and community dialogues—as powerful vehicles for disseminating positive parenting messages.
- iii. Case examples from **Plan International** illustrated how locally produced media content aligned with Swahili idioms and cultural references can promote child rights and challenge gender-based violence in the household.
- iv. Participants also shared experiences with community-driven campaigns, emphasizing the importance of **co-designing messages** with caregivers, youth, and elders to ensure resonance and sustainability.

6.3 Child Health, Nutrition, Protection, and Well-being

This session was moderated by **Dr. Esther Elisaria**, with contributions from health professionals, nutritionists, and child protection officers. Discussions revolved around the interconnected nature of health and child development and the need for more integrated services.

- i. **Farida Katunzi** and **Fadhili Mtanga** presented integrated programming experiences that link antenatal care, child health clinics, and caregiver education on nutrition and stimulation.
- ii. **CUAMM** and **Aga Khan University** presented emerging models for improving neurodevelopmental outcomes in infants at risk, including early intervention protocols and parent-led rehabilitation.
- iii. A presentation by **UNICEF** emphasized the influential role of **religious leaders** in normalizing nurturing care practices and addressing harmful beliefs around disability, breastfeeding, and child discipline.
- iv. Participants flagged the urgent need to strengthen **micronutrient supplementation**, especially in food-insecure communities, and proposed strengthening **referral pathways between health, nutrition, and social services**.
- v. **Dr. Deman Yusuf** and **Elfrida Kumaliya** of **EGPAF** advocated for embedding ECD indicators into routine health information systems and using **community health workers** to scale nurturing care at household level.

6.4 Childcare, Early Learning, and Inclusion

Chaired by **Dr. Deman Yusuf**, **Ms. Mwajuma Kibwana**, and later by **Mr. Deo Medardi**, this session highlighted innovations and policy recommendations for enhancing early learning environments and inclusive childcare models.

- i. **Ms. Scholastica Olomi** presented **BRAC's play-based learning models**, focusing on community-rooted approaches that empower caregivers to create low-cost, stimulating home environments.
- ii. **Josephine Kayungilizi** and **Jackline Mrema** shared experience in mapping ECD stakeholders and supporting local governments to register and support home-based daycares.
- iii. A case study from **World Vision Tanzania** in Kagera demonstrated the success of ECD corners in health clinics, with uptake driven by caregiver groups, supportive LGAs, and strong data systems.
- iv. From Uganda, experiences with inclusive infrastructure and caregiver support for children with disabilities were shared, reinforcing the need for **Universal Design** in Tanzanian daycare centers.
- v. Presentations by **Janeth Malela** showcased **private-public partnerships** that offer early learning centers for adolescent mothers returning to school—an approach that supports both child development and girls' rights.
- vi. Panelists stressed the need for continuous **training of ECD caregivers**, simplified monitoring tools, and integrating **nutrition and protection components** into early learning settings.

6.5 Financing, Investment, and Multi-Sectoral Coordination

Moderated by **Frank Samson** and later **Mr. Manoah William**, this session delved into the systemic and financial dimensions of ECD. It explored how to better plan, coordinate, and finance ECD initiatives at scale.

- i. **Nelson Choaji** provided insights into LGA budget analysis revealing chronic underfunding for ECD services. He stressed the need for LGAs to develop specific budget lines and to leverage own-source revenue for community ECD projects.
- ii. **CiC** presented compelling evidence of **public-private partnership frameworks** in scaling affordable urban childcare, particularly in informal settlements. They demonstrated how mapping informal care providers and linking them to LGAs has improved quality.
- iii. **Mr. Manoah William** highlighted Zanzibar's innovative ECD investment strategy, which leverages **Community Health Volunteers (CHVs)** to deliver services while reducing long-term operational costs. This model offers a promising template for replication.
- iv. **Oxford Policy Management** demonstrated the **BEQI (Basic ECD Quality Index)** tool, which allows LGAs to assess and improve daycare service quality across public and private providers.
- v. Several speakers emphasized the value of **joint planning** among ministries (Health, Education, Community Development) and the urgent need to adopt **pooled financing** mechanisms, especially to implement the **Childcare Campaign** recommendations.

6.6 Overall Reflection of breakout sessions and the way Forward

The breakout sessions were rich with evidence, grounded in lived realities, and filled with practical solutions. Common themes across all groups included:

- i. The **urgency of community engagement** and localized interventions;
- ii. The **need for integrated ECD delivery models** that combine health, nutrition, parenting, protection, and early learning;
- iii. The **value of digital innovations, storytelling, and inclusive communication** in parenting, childcare and ECD interventions;
- iv. The **importance of robust financing and governance mechanisms** at all levels.

The sessions also reinforced the **critical role of the Childcare (Malezi) Campaign** in catalyzing and coordinating national action. Recommendations from these discussions fed directly into the national resolutions and were reflected in the Day 2 commitments read before the Guest of Honor.

The first day closed with a **plenary wrap-up** session, where moderators from each track shared synthesized insights and recommendations with all participants—setting the stage for high-level commitments and campaign launches on Day 2.



Photo: Participants during Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025

Day 2: Celebrating Families and Reaffirming National Commitments to ECD and Parenting

The second day of the Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 commenced with a vibrant and emotionally resonant **Opening Ceremony** held in commemoration of the **International Day of Families**. The session was anchored under the national theme: **"Mtoto ni Malezi: Msingi wa Familia Bora kwa Taifa Imara"** (*A Child is Nurturing: The Foundation of Strong Families for a Resilient Nation*). This powerful theme set the tone for a day of renewed dedication to family-centered policies, systems strengthening, and inclusive community engagement in Early Childhood Development (ECD).

The session served as both a **celebration of Tanzanian families** and a **national recommitment to elevating the role of parenting and nurturing care** as foundational pillars for social cohesion, inclusive development, and economic transformation. The event drew together a diverse and influential gathering of high-level **government leaders, development partners, civil society organizations, regional and council representatives, academia, religious leaders, media, and ECD practitioners**—all united by a shared vision for transforming the early years of Tanzania's children.

7.1 Children's Presentation – Voices from Mwanza

The session began with a vibrant and moving presentation by children from Mwanza, coordinated by the Regional Secretariat and Mwanza City Council. Through songs, poetry, and dramatic performances, the children communicated powerful messages about their rights, their dreams, and the responsibilities of parents, government, and society in ensuring a nurturing and protective environment for every child. They emphasized their need for love, education, food, safety, and opportunities to play and grow, making a compelling case for why childcare and parenting must remain a national priority. Their messages served as a direct reminder that **children themselves**

are powerful advocates and that their perspectives must inform policies and interventions.

7.2 Remarks

a) Remarks by Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN)



Chairperson of the Board of Directors at TECDEN, delivered a heartfelt address that called for a united national front in addressing ECD and parenting. She emphasized TECDEN's ongoing support to the government and underscored the need for transformative change. In her powerful message, she stated: *"If we want to change the story, we must begin by changing the way the story is written, who is allowed to tell it, and whose voices are included. True transformation begins when we shift not just the outcomes, but also the systems, perspectives, and power dynamics that shape those outcomes."* Her remarks elevated the urgency of aligning investments, narratives, and structures with children's needs.

b) UNICEF Tanzania

A representative from UNICEF, speaking on behalf of the Country Office, reaffirmed the agency's commitment to supporting Tanzania in scaling parenting programs. Emphasis was placed on the importance of innovation, accountability, and the use of real-time data and tools to monitor the impact of ECD interventions. UNICEF's support to the development of the ECD Dashboard was particularly acknowledged as a step toward institutionalizing evidence-based planning.

c) Hilton Foundation

A representative from the Hilton Foundation highlighted the organization's support for ECD models in Tanzania that demonstrate strong community ownership, gender-sensitive approaches, and inclusion of vulnerable children. They called for sustained financing mechanisms, stronger private sector involvement, and more structured partnerships to ensure the scale-up and sustainability of child development interventions.

d) Director of Child Development – MoCDGWSG

The Director called on Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to prioritize ECD and parenting in their development plans and budgets. He emphasized that summit resolutions must be **translated into district-level action**, highlighting the need to institutionalize the tools and strategies launched during the summit. He commended the national collaboration and urged stakeholders to maintain momentum beyond the summit.

7.3 Key notes remarks

Remarks by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoCDGEC) – Zanzibar:

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoCDGEC) in Zanzibar, Hon. Fatma Mussa, gave a warm and insightful address during the Day 2 opening session. She commended the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the organizing partners for convening such a timely and inclusive summit that elevated the importance of parenting and early childhood development (ECD) across both Mainland and Zanzibar.

In her remarks, she shared Zanzibar's unwavering commitment to strengthening parenting and ECD as key foundations of national prosperity. She highlighted how Zanzibar is finalizing its Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (ZM-ECDP) and emphasized the importance of aligning national and sub-national efforts in both Mainland and Zanzibar under a shared vision for nurturing care.

Hon. Fatma Mussa reaffirmed that families must be at the center of all development agendas and called for continued collaboration, cross-learning, and resource mobilization to close persistent gaps in access, equity, and quality of ECD services. She expressed hope that the resolutions and tools launched during the summit—including the Parenting Guideline, Dashboard, Scorecard, and Childcare Campaign—would be adapted and integrated into Zanzibar's policy and community systems.

Her address concluded with a message of unity:

"If we want to raise strong children, we must empower and support their families. A nurtured family is the strongest institution of any society."

Remarks by the Permanent Secretary, MoCDGWSG:

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG) addressed the second day of the summit with a compelling message reaffirming the government's high-level political and policy commitment to advancing Early Childhood Development (ECD), parenting, and the overall well-being of Tanzanian families.

He outlined the Ministry's strategic leadership role under the National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP), highlighting major milestones achieved through collaborative efforts. These included expansion of ECD services at community level, integration of nurturing care into sectoral plans, and strengthened coordination with civil society and development partners.

A key focus of her remarks was the **official launch and strategic importance of four key national tools**, which represent a significant leap in institutionalizing parenting support and childcare systems:

- i. **The National Parenting Guideline (Malezi Bora, Taifa Imara)** – Positioned as a transformative and context-specific resource to support caregivers and communities, this guideline offers practical approaches to nurturing care, positive discipline, and creating safe, supportive family environments for children aged 0–8 years. The PS emphasized that the guideline is a call to re-center parenting in national development priorities and is anchored in Tanzanian values and realities.
- ii. **The ECD Dashboard and Scorecard** – These digital accountability and planning tools were presented as crucial instruments for enhancing transparency, real-time monitoring, and evidence-based decision-making at both national and local government levels. The PS described the tools as vital for ensuring ECD investments are trackable, impactful, and aligned with equity and inclusion goals.
- iii. **The Sermons Guide on Positive Parenting and Nurturing Care** – Developed in collaboration with religious leaders and institutions, this guide harnesses messages from religious scriptures to promote positive parenting, non-violent discipline, shared responsibility between mothers and fathers, and faith-driven advocacy for child development. The PS emphasized its role in reshaping parenting norms through platforms of moral authority and social influence.
- iv. **The National Childcare (Malezi) Campaign** – Although the official launch was reserved for the Guest of Honour, the PS underlined its importance as a flagship initiative. He explained that the campaign aims to raise awareness, mobilize resources, and catalyze actions to address the existing gaps in childcare systems, especially for working parents and underserved families.

In his concluding remarks, the PS urged stakeholders to treat these tools not as symbolic products, but as frameworks for systemic transformation. He encouraged local governments, CSOs, and faith-based actors to ensure the tools are disseminated, used, and adapted within communities to deliver impact on the ground.

Remarks by the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG):

Hon. Mwanaidi Ali Khamis, Deputy Minister of MoCDGWSG, delivered a compelling keynote just before the Guest of Honour took the stage. In her address, the Deputy Minister emphasized the centrality of the family unit in shaping the nation's future and highlighted the government's progressive strides in promoting family-centered development.

She lauded the integration of the Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 with the International Day of Families, describing it as a powerful convergence of cultural values, policy dialogue, and citizen engagement. Hon. Mwanaidi acknowledged the growing body of evidence and innovations showcased during the summit, and she commended stakeholders—government institutions, CSOs, academia, faith leaders, and development partners—for their collective efforts in championing the nurturing care agenda.

Importantly, she set the stage for the official launch by the Guest of Honour by introducing the national tools and campaigns to be unveiled:

- i. **The National Parenting Guideline (Malezi Bora, Taifa Imara)**: which she described as “a compass for every Tanzanian parent and caregiver.”
- ii. **The ECD Dashboard and Scorecard**: “tools to ensure that ECD progress is visible, accountable, and data-driven.”

- iii. **The Religious Sermons Guide for Positive Parenting:** developed in partnership with faith-based institutions to integrate messages of care and compassion in parenting through sermons and religious teachings.
- iv. **The National Childcare (Malezi) Campaign:** a catalytic movement to institutionalize childcare across all sectors and levels.

She concluded with a passionate call to action:

"The time is now to go beyond commitments and turn our vision into reality. Let us reach every village, every ward, and every family with messages and services that support holistic child development. This is not just the work of the government—it is the duty of every Tanzanian."

Keynote Address by the Guest of Honour

Hon. Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko- Deputy Prime Minister

The keynote address delivered by **Hon. Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko**, Deputy Prime Minister, was a defining moment of the summit. In a rousing speech that combined political will, strategic insight, and moral clarity, the Deputy Prime Minister **officially launched the National Childcare (Malezi) Campaign** and unveiled a suite of national tools designed to advance the country's ECD ecosystem.

"Tukiwekeza kwenye malezi ya watoto, tutajenga Taifa imara la leo na kesho."
(*"By investing in the care of our children, we build a strong nation for today and tomorrow."*)

He emphasized that nurturing care during the early years is not just a developmental imperative, but a moral responsibility and a national investment in human capital and prosperity.

The National Childcare Campaign

The Deputy Prime Minister declared the campaign officially launched, describing it as a multi-year national movement led by MoCDGWSG in partnership with TECDEN and AfECN. The campaign aims to:

- i. Prioritize childcare as a core development, economic, and social protection issue.
- ii. Mobilize government ministries, LGAs, the private sector, and development partners to invest in scalable childcare models, infrastructure, and human resources.
- iii. Promote intergenerational caregiving models that respect tradition while modernizing care approaches.
- iv. Strengthen coordination and accountability mechanisms through regional dialogues and national ECD dashboard and scorecard.

He emphasized that the campaign is not merely a communications effort, but a **policy and investment drive** to address Tanzania's structural childcare needs.

National Tools to Catalyze Change

The Deputy Prime Minister also highlighted the symbolic and strategic value of the tools he launched during the summit:

- **The National Parenting Guideline** was praised for providing culturally grounded, actionable guidance to parents and caregivers across all regions. He

called upon local government authorities, CSOs, and media to ensure the guideline reaches every household and community.

- **The ECD Dashboard and Scorecard** were commended for enabling real-time data tracking and transparency in ECD planning, financing, and service delivery. The Deputy Prime Minister urged all regions to align their plans with dashboard indicators to ensure data-driven decision-making.
- **The Sermons Guide** was described as a milestone in engaging faith actors. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized its role in reshaping harmful norms and leveraging religious teachings to promote nurturing care, father involvement, and violence-free child rearing.



In his closing message, the Deputy Prime Minister called for **collective ownership** of these initiatives and reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child in Tanzania has the opportunity to thrive—physically, emotionally, intellectually, and socially.

"Tusisubiri bajeti pekee – tuanze na dhamira. Malezi ni wajibu wa kila mmoja wetu."

("We should not wait for budget lines alone – let us start with commitment. Childcare is everyone's responsibility.")



8. Call to action to elevate parenting, childcare, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) as critical pillars of Tanzania's development.

Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 concluded with renewed national momentum and unified determination **to elevate parenting, childcare, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) as critical pillars of Tanzania's development.** These resolutions are grounded in rich technical evidence, stakeholder consensus, and the voices of families, children, and communities. They provide a strategic roadmap for translating commitments into tangible results for children. Each resolution reflects a blend of policy direction, practical innovation, and the collective will of government institutions, CSOs, development partners, academia, and religious leaders across Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

The following **seven strategic resolutions** were officially adopted to guide national and sub-national planning, resource allocation, and programming:

1. Formalization and Expansion of Community-Based Childcare Centers

- i. Recognize, accredit, and support **community-run daycare centers** as a critical platform for delivering integrated early childhood services—including responsive caregiving, early learning, nutrition, protection, and health.
- ii. Promote **public-private partnerships** to establish affordable, inclusive childcare models in low-income urban and underserved rural areas, with special provisions for children with disabilities and working mothers.
- iii. Enforce operationalisation of **minimum quality standards** for childcare infrastructure, caregiver qualifications, and operational systems.

2. Integration of Parenting Education into Vocational and Informal Education Platforms

- Review and revise curricula in **vocational training institutions, folk development colleges, and other non-formal education centers** to include age-appropriate modules on parenting, family well-being, and nurturing care.

- Prioritize outreach to **adolescents and teenage mothers**, equipping them with parenting knowledge and life skills to disrupt intergenerational cycles of poverty, violence, and child neglect.
- Institutionalize parenting education in **youth development programs**, ensuring early exposure to positive parenting values, gender equality, and shared caregiving responsibilities.

3. Strengthening Early Identification and Response to Child and Caregiver Mental Health and Disabilities

- Scale up **early screening and referral systems** for detecting developmental delays, mental health concerns, and disabilities—including cerebral palsy—within routine maternal and child health services.
- Expand the establishment of **ECD corners in health facilities** to provide integrated parenting education, developmental counseling, and psycho-social support during antenatal and postnatal visits.
- Train frontline workers and caregivers in **mental health first aid** and nurturing care practices, including positive discipline and emotional responsiveness, especially in vulnerable and remote settings.

4. Leveraging ICT Innovations for Adolescent and Community-Based Parenting Education

- Scale the **Teenagers' Parenting Application Program**, ensuring its content is youth-friendly, culturally relevant, and accessible offline, to reach adolescent parents in urban and rural areas.
- Promote the development and dissemination of **digital parenting tools**, audio-visual learning materials, and mobile applications in Swahili language to democratize access to parenting education.
- Encourage partnerships with mobile networks, Tech innovators, and youth organizations to drive uptake, feedback, and continuous improvement of digital solutions.

5. Institutionalizing Religious leaders Engagement in Family Strengthening and Parenting Support

- Operationalize the newly launched **Sermon Guide on Positive Parenting**, using messages drawn from Christian and Islamic scriptures to promote love, non-violence, father involvement, and shared caregiving.
- Encourage **religious institutions to establish family support desks**, conduct parenting seminars, and integrate nurturing care messaging into routine worship, ceremonies, and outreach programs.
- Build the capacity of religious leaders to serve as **parenting champions** and agents of social norm change, especially in communities where harmful practices remain prevalent.

6. Review and Updating of the 2008 National Child Development Policy

- Undertake a **comprehensive and participatory review** of the 2008 National Child Development Policy to align it with emerging realities, such as digital parenting, disability inclusion, climate risks, and informal childcare.
- Ensure the revised policy positions **ECD as a foundational development priority**, reflecting international commitments such as the SDGs, the CRC, and the African Union Agenda 2040.

- Establish **clear policy implementation frameworks**, with indicators, time-lines, and roles of ministries, LGAs, and non-state actors, to track results and accountability.

7. *Capacity Building for Community-Based Childcare and Parenting Service Providers*

- Expand the national pool of **trained community-based childcare workers, community health workers, and parenting facilitators**, with emphasis on gender balance and representation from marginalized areas.
- Conduct **mapping of community platforms**, including women's groups, religious gatherings, VICOBA, and youth clubs, to deliver parenting education and mobilize demand for quality ECD services.
- Embed child **protection and safeguarding principles in all community outreach** programs, ensuring that caregivers and service providers are equipped to detect, report, and respond to abuse and neglect.

These resolutions not only reflect shared aspirations but also define practical and time-bound priorities for systemic transformation in how Tanzania invests in its youngest citizens. The summit closed with a unified call from all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of these resolutions through local ownership, adequate financing, political commitment, and evidence-based action.

As emphasized by Hon. Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko, Deputy Prime Minister, during the launch of the Childcare Campaign:

"Tukiwekeza kwenye malezi ya watoto, tutajenga Taifa imara la leo na kesho."
(*"When we invest in the care of our children, we build a strong nation for today and tomorrow."*)

As the Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 drew to a close, the energy, unity, and shared commitment among all actors—government, civil society, academia, religious institutions, private sector, and children themselves—reflected a collective remarkable commitment for parenting, childcare, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the country. The summit did not only serve as a space for dialogue, evidence-sharing, and policy reflection; it catalyzed bold commitments and strategic resolutions that will shape the national ECD agenda for years to come. With the formal launch of key tools such as the Parenting Guideline (*Malezi Bora, Taifa Imara*), the ECD Dashboard and Scorecard, the Sermon Guide for Parenting, and the National Childcare Campaign, the summit culminated in concrete milestones that will support the implementation of the National Multi-Sectoral ECD Programme and inspire action across all levels.

Conclusion:

The Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 stands as a historic milestone in the country's ongoing efforts to place parenting, family well-being, and early childhood development at the heart of its national development agenda. For two days, policymakers, practitioners, academics, development partners, civil society organizations, faith-based institutions, youth, and children themselves gathered with a shared purpose—to reflect, learn, and act. The summit created a dynamic platform where evidence met experience, policy met practice, and voices from across the country helped shape a new narrative for the nation's youngest citizens.

Through high-level commitments, groundbreaking research, powerful testimonies, and the launch of transformative tools—including the **Parenting Guideline (Malezi Bora, Taifa Imara)**, the **ECD Dashboard and Scorecard**, the **Sermon Guide**

for Parenting, and the official **launch of the National Childcare (Malezi) Campaign**—the summit advanced a coordinated, multisectoral vision for nurturing care in Tanzania. These tools will enable both national and local actors to plan better, track progress, inspire behavioral change, and ensure accountability across all levels of government and community.

The seven key resolutions adopted during the summit reflect a bold and actionable roadmap to scale up quality, inclusive, and sustainable childcare and parenting support systems. They signal a decisive shift from policy to implementation, from isolated efforts to coordinated investment, and from passive observation to active engagement of all stakeholders—including children themselves.

This summit also highlighted a fundamental truth: **early childhood is where the foundation of a peaceful, productive, and prosperous Tanzania is built.** By investing in nurturing care, responsive parenting, inclusive childcare systems, and early learning, the nation ensures not only better outcomes for children but also stronger communities and a more resilient economy.

As the summit concluded, one message echoed clearly and powerfully: the time to act is now. Every stakeholder—whether in government, the private sector, civil society, or within families—has a role to play in turning commitments into lasting impact. The Tanzania Malezi Summit 2025 is not the end of a conversation, but the beginning of a renewed movement to transform the early years of every child in Tanzania.

“Kwa pamoja, tujenge taifa imara kupitia malezi bora na maendeleo ya awali ya mtoto.” (*Together, let us build a strong nation through quality parenting and early childhood development.*)