

State opens Child Protection Centres to protect vulnerable children.

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The State Department for Social Protection is setting up Child Protection Centres (CPC) in across the country that will identify, asses and address the needs of vulnerable children.

While officiating the opening of Kilifi Child Protection Centre, built by the government in collaboration with Plan International Kenya, the Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection My Simon Chelugui, said that the Centres will be information hubs that will primarily focus at serving children issues.

Mr. Chelugui said the setting of the centers within the community is to facilitate effective and efficient protection of vulnerable children against abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.

Mr. Chelugui said that already the government has established six child protection centres in Malindi, Garissa, Nairobi, Kakamega and Siaya. He said the some of the services offered include; individual assessment, counselling, psychosocial support, legal aid, tracing, reintegration and family reunion and rescue services among others.

The objective of child protection centres, the Cabinet Secretary explained, is to work with the community to provide comprehensive preventive and response services.

With the opening of Kilifi child protection centres, it is expected that the community awareness on child protection issues will be created to facilitate timely reporting, quick intervention and increased referrals to minimize plight of the children.

Data from the 2019 Survey Report on Violence Against Children, indicated that majority of the perpetrators of violence are people known to the children which means the assailants are within the community. Therefore the need to establish the centres within communities.