

Convening Day 3- 10 October 2025

Overview of Day 3

The final day of the convening was dedicated to translating the week's reflections, narratives, and strategies into concrete, actionable national commitments. Each country presented a clear and time-bound action plan, demonstrating a decisive shift from dialogue to accountable implementation.

Country Commitments: A Tripartite Action Agenda

The three focus countries outlined distinct yet complementary pathways, each addressing their unique challenges while aligning with the cross-cutting priorities identified earlier in the convening.

- **Kenya** committed to **systematizing implementation at the county level**. Its action plan is focused on operationalizing its robust policy framework by 2030, strengthening functional coordination by 2026, securing and tracking domestic financing, building a centralized child data system, and investing in a large-scale capacity-building program for its frontline ECD workforce.
- **Mozambique** pledged to **institutionalize ECD within its core governance structures**. The government's commitments center on leveraging its integration into national development plans (ENDE and PQG) to drive a decentralized, service-delivery-focused agenda. This includes strengthening health systems as the primary ECD delivery point, scaling up social protection programs for young children, and building a national data dashboard to track progress.
- **Tanzania** focused on **scaling its efforts through stronger governance and strategic financing**. The commitments signal a move to solidify its high-level government ownership by reinforcing coordination structures, expanding community-based infrastructure, formally engaging the private sector, conducting a seminal analysis of ECD financing, and building a culture of data-driven decision-making.

A Collective Journey Ahead

The national commitments revealed a unified understanding of the path forward: success hinges on **functional coordination, targeted domestic financing, and robust data systems**. While the country-specific approaches differ—from Kenya's county-level empowerment to Mozambique's system-wide institutionalization and Tanzania's strategic scaling—they collectively represent a mature, next-phase agenda for ECD in the region.

Day 3 concluded the convening by solidifying a clear and collaboratively owned roadmap. The challenge now is to translate these commitments into uniformly financed and executed actions. The stage is set for a period of intensified, accountable implementation, with each country charting a detailed course toward a future where every child can thrive.

Country Commitments

Kenya

The Government of Kenya's action commitments for Early Childhood Development (ECD) are focused on **translating a robust policy foundation into a coordinated, well-financed, and data-driven implementation reality at the county level**. The plan prioritizes systemic strengthening and accountability.

The principal action commitments include:

- **Finalizing and Operationalizing the Policy Framework:** A primary commitment is to **finalize, disseminate, and implement key policies like the Integrated ECD (IECD) Policy and childcare standards by 2030**. This involves standardizing national initiatives across all 47 counties and clarifying the roles and mandates of different actors to ensure coherent action.
- **Strengthening Multi-Level Coordination Structures:** The government is committed to **making coordination functional at both national and county levels by 2026**. A key measure of success will be the regular convening of Technical Working Groups (TWGs), leveraging public-private partnerships (PPPs) to optimize ECD activities.
- **Securing and Tracking Domestic ECD Financing:** There is a strong commitment to **increase budgetary allocation, absorption, and accountability for ECD**. Key actions include developing an investment case, advocating for ring-fenced ECD funds, and tracking funding through the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) to ensure transparency and sustainability.
- **Building a Centralized Child Data System:** A significant technological commitment is to **develop and operationalize an integrated children's database system by 2030**. This involves investing in digital infrastructure, ensuring interoperability between systems, and creating a unique identifier for every child to improve the efficiency and equity of ECD service delivery.
- **Investing in the ECD Workforce:** The government is committed to a **large-scale capacity-building program for all ECD frontline workers**, including Community Health Promoters (CHPs), Children's Officers, and social workers, to be completed by 2030. The number of trained workers is a key success measure for this commitment.

In essence, Kenya's action plan charts a course toward a more unified, accountable, and data-informed ECD ecosystem, with a clear focus on empowering county-level implementation through standardized policies, dedicated funding, and a skilled workforce.

Mozambique

The Government of Mozambique has made several key institutional and policy commitments to Early Childhood Development (ECD), demonstrating high-level political will. These commitments are primarily articulated through national strategic documents and structural initiatives.

The principal commitments include:

- **Mainstreaming ECD into National Development Agendas:** The government has formally recognized ECD as a fundamental pillar of national development by **integrating it into the National Development Strategy (ENDE) 2025-2044 and the Five-Year Government Plan (PQG) 2025-2029**. This elevates ECD from a sectoral issue to a national priority.
- **Establishing a Common National Framework:** The government has adopted the **National Plan for Child Action (PNAC)** as the common structure for coordinating action and mobilizing resources for ECD. This provides a unified framework for all stakeholders.
- **Prioritizing ECD in Fiscal Policy:** The government has committed to **maintaining social sectors that contribute to ECD as priorities in its financial allocations**, even within a constrained fiscal environment.
- **Decentralizing Implementation:** There is a clear commitment to **decentralized leadership**, empowering provincial and district levels in the planning, coordination, and implementation of ECD actions in collaboration with civil society.
- **Strengthening Service Delivery Systems:** The government is committed to using and strengthening public systems for ECD, notably by:
 - Making **health units the primary delivery point** for ECD services.
 - **Integrating ECD components (like early stimulation)** into primary health care.
 - **Introducing and scaling up social protection programs**, including cash transfers, specifically for children aged 0-2 years.
- **Integrating birth registration into health units** to improve vital statistics.
- **Building a Robust Measurement System:** The government is committed to evidence-based planning through:
 - The **inclusion of ECD indicators in national surveys** like the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).
 - The development of a **national ECD indicator system and a dashboard** to track progress.

In summary, the Government of Mozambique's key commitments revolve around institutionalizing ECD within its core development plans, leveraging and strengthening its public service delivery infrastructure (especially health and social protection), and building a decentralized, data-driven system for implementation and accountability. The current challenge, as noted, lies in translating these strong policy commitments into coordinated, adequately financed, and effectively implemented action across all levels.

Tanzania

The Government of Tanzania's key commitments revolve around **systematizing and scaling** its Early Childhood Development (ECD) efforts through stronger governance, strategic financing, and enhanced data-driven accountability. The commitments signal a move from foundational policy work towards more integrated and actionable implementation.

The principal commitments include:

- **Strengthening the Architecture of Leadership and Coordination:** The government is committed to **reinforcing the central coordinating role of the PO-RALG and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**, reviewing the national ECD program, and ensuring new political leaders are engaged to maintain consistent high-level support for ECD.
- **Deepening Community-Based Service Delivery:** There is a clear commitment to **expanding the physical infrastructure of ECD** by establishing more community day care centres and to **strengthening the community workforce** by revising the training and tools for Community Health Workers (CHWs) to cover all nurturing care components.
- **Formally Integrating the Private Sector:** The government has committed to **actively convening the private sector** to develop a concrete plan for their contribution to ECD outcomes, moving beyond ad-hoc engagement to a structured partnership.
- **Advocating for Strategic and Trackable Domestic Financing:** A major commitment is to **conduct a seminal analysis of cross-sectoral ECD financing** and use the findings, along with the ECD Investment Case, to advocate for and track explicit ECD budget lines within ministry and local council plans.
- **Building a Robust Data for Decision-Making Culture:** The government is committed to **re-establishing population-level ECD data** through new surveys, **improving routine data quality**, and, critically, **building the capacity of officials to use data** from dashboards and scorecards for planning and accountability.

In essence, Tanzania's pathway forward focuses on creating a more cohesive, financially backed, and evidence-informed ECD ecosystem, with a strong emphasis on local government and community-level implementation. The overarching challenge will be to translate these

coordinated plans into uniformly financed and executed actions across all sectors and levels of government.

Conclusion

The 2025 Hilton Foundation ESA ECD Partners' Convening concluded not as an endpoint, but as a decisive launchpad for a more integrated and impactful phase of early childhood development work in the East and Southern Africa region. The dialogues over five days crystallized a powerful consensus: the foundational ECD policies and programs are largely in place. The critical task now is to translate this potential into tangible, scaled impact for every child. This requires a relentless focus on systems, financing, and accountability.

The path forward is clear. The key takeaways from country reflections and cross-cutting analysis demand a disciplined shift in mindset. Success will be measured by our collective ability to **operationalize policies, institutionalize coordination, secure and track domestic financing, build robust data ecosystems, and empower communities**. The national commitments articulated by Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania provide a concrete framework for this work, outlining specific, time-bound actions to address their most pressing challenges.

The spirit of the Convening was unequivocally forward-looking and collaborative. In this next critical phase, the Hilton Foundation reaffirms its role not merely as a funder, but as a steadfast partner in this journey. As the Foundation develops its strategy for the next five-year funding cycle, its approach will be guided by the insights and priorities that emerged from this gathering. This means aligning its support directly with the country-led action plans, providing targeted technical assistance and capacity building to address complex bottlenecks, and using its convening power to foster the cross-learning and advocacy necessary for systemic change.

The journey ahead is complex, but the collective resolve is stronger than ever. By walking together—governments, partners, and the Foundation—anchored in a shared commitment to systemic change and measurable outcomes, the vision of a future where every child in East and Southern Africa thrives is within reach. The work continues, now with a clearer map and a renewed sense of shared purpose.