

Financial Resource Availability and Implementation of Child Protection and Safeguarding Programs in Kwale County, Kenya

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Abstract:- The Kenya child protection data on Kwale County revealed an increase of child negligence cases from 49.6% in 2020-2021 to 61.7% in 2022-2023. This has led to the establishment of various child protection and safeguarding programs to curb child protection and safeguarding menace in the county. Despite this effort, implementing such child protection and safeguarding programs has experienced problems. Thus the purpose of this study was to establish the influence of financial resource availability in the implementation of Child Protection and Safeguarding Programs in Kwale County, Kenya. The research was grounded in complexity theory and implementation theory. A descriptive research approach was employed to accurately depict the target population, which included key program personnel such as social workers, government officials, and child/probation officers involved in child protection programs in Kwale County. The sampling frame encompassed personnel from 11 NGOs, 2 government agencies, and 3 rescue centers currently implementing child protection programs in the county. Proportionate and simple random sampling were used for the NGOs and CBOs, while census sampling was employed for the government agencies and rescue centers. Of the 141 selected participants for the sample, 132 responded to the open and closed-ended questionnaires. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS, including descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations) and inferential statistics (correlation and multiple linear regression). Correlation analysis revealed that a financial resource availability showed a correlation of ($r=0.859$, $p=0.000$). Multiple linear regression indicated financial resource availability had a significant positive impact ($B=0.351$, $p=0.00$). To enhance child protection programs in Kwale County, the study recommends that organizations diversify funding sources, Implement clear reporting mechanisms and independent oversight committees can enhance transparency and accountability. Long-term financial planning, including emergency funds and scenario planning, along with stakeholder engagement, will help create a stable financial environment for implementing child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County.

Keywords:- Program Implementation, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Financial Resource Availability, Determinant, Funding, Project Management.

I. INTRODUCTION

➤ Background of the Study

The PMBOK® Guide (2021) asserts that a program is made up of similar projects that are handled in an organized way to achieved benefits that would not be attainable if they were run independently. According to Azmat and Siddiqui (2023), Projects are used by organizations all over the world to achieve what they want to accomplish. They argue that project managers and senior management agree that projects is successful when it is completed within the planned boundaries of scope, cost, time, quality, resources, and risk. This is what most project managers expect but at times this is not the case due to certain determinants or factors that have a great influence, especially in the implementation phase of projects. Shabir (2023) argues that the successful completion of a project relies not only on having a competent project manager and solving differences effectively but also on a number of other factors such as Financial Resource Availability. Without taking into account like factors such as financial resource availability can have an influence on how a project is implemented if they are not addressed carefully.

➤ Thus this may at Times Slow Track a Project.

Leshinka and Nyaberi (2023) agree that effectiveness in implementing projects increases the likelihood of having successful projects. This is a crucial component because it is related to the quality of the implementation of projects. According to Canavan, Devaney, McGregor, and Shaw (2021), the protection and welfare of children is a complex matter and a significant policy, political, and societal challenge. Thus the complexity of child protection and safeguarding. The Complexity theory will be used in this study to explain why it is necessary to approach child protection in relation to this perspective to develop effective child protection and safeguarding measures. This theory recognizes the complex and interacting forces involved in protecting and safeguarding children. It helps professionals understand the non-linear consequences of their interventions. Furthermore, it encourages a culture of continuous learning, innovation and adaptation to effectively address the complex challenges and uncertainties inherent in child protection practices. On the other hand, the implementation theory will be used in this research to address the critical gap between research findings and practical application, ensuring that evidence-based practices are effectively put into action to protect and safeguard children. It provides a structured approach to understanding financial

resource availability and the gaps in it that influence the successful implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs, enabling stakeholders to identify obstacles and strengths while tailoring strategies to local contexts.

Kenya established the Children's Act of 2001 and embedded the rights of children in its constitution to protect and safeguard children. The Kenyan coast is one of the regions in the country with the highest issues to do with child protection and safeguarding. Thus numerous government and non-government programs have been set up to address various issues in relation to child protection and safeguarding in the region. Kwale County is one of the counties in Kenya with the highest cases of child protection and safeguarding with cases going unreported. The Kenya child protection data on Kwale county shows that there was an increase of child negligence cases from 49.6% in 2020-2021 to 61.7% in 2022-2023 with 2019-2020 recording the highest percentage of cases at 63.2% which during the Covid-19 period. Other cases such as defilement, teenage pregnancies, children under custody, and Orphaned children are also on the increase in the county and some go unreported. There are also programs in the county that have been set up to deal with such child protection and safeguarding issues. Despite these efforts implementation of such programs has been a challenge due to financial Resource availability that influence the implementation phase of such programs. When not addressed such programs become ineffective and do not meet their goals. Thus it is important to address the financial resource availability as a determinants of implementation of such programs and gaps in it to ensure that child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County are successful.

➤ *Statement of the Problem*

The Kenya Child Protection Report (2016-2019), categorizes Kwale County as marginalized with the highest number of child abuses cases per capita going unreported. The Kenya child protection data on Kwale County revealed an increase of child negligence cases from 49.6% in 2020-2021 to 61.7% in 2022-2023. This has led to the establishment of various programs to curb child protection and safeguarding menace in the county. Despite this effort, the programs face many challenges that have hindered the effectiveness of their implementation. Vihaka (2020) noted that inadequate resources such as funds to increase motor vehicles for police to access each child abuse crime scene due to inadequate financial resource availability were influencing implementation of programs in Kwale county. Thus the need to study how financial resource availability influences the implementation of child protection programs in Kwale County.

Moreover, there are no studies done specific to Kwale County showing how financial resource availability influences the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in the county. Empirical studies done on the same topic by Korir (2017) and Vera (2014) are mainly specific to Nairobi and Kilifi with no research done that is specific to the Kwale context. In addition, their research did not show the magnitude or strength of how financial resource

availability influences the implementation of child protection programs. Other Empirical studies done by Mula (2013) and Apoko (2015) only investigated determinants of effective M&E on public health programs and national safety net programs in relation to children in Kwale County. These studies did not investigate the influence of financial resource availability in the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County. Thus there is a need for this research.

Therefore the study aims to show how financial resource availability and the gaps in it influences the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County. The research also aims to answer the magnitude of how financial resource availability in the study influences the implementation of such programs in Kwale County. The study also aims to show how financial resource availability if taken into consideration contribute towards successful implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County. In retrospect, what is the influence of financial resource availability in the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County, Kenya?

➤ *Objectives of the Study*

The study sought to establish the influence of financial resources availability in the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County.

➤ *Research Question*

The study was guided by the following research question:

- To what extent does financial resources availability influence the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

➤ *Introduction*

The study explores financial resource availability as a determinant of implementation in child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County. The chapter explores the relevant studies that have been conducted in connection with the topic. It includes theories which are complexity theory and implementation theory, empirical studies, and the conceptual framework. The literature review and knowledge gaps are also summarized in the chapter.

➤ *Theoretical Framework*

The study was founded on the Complexity theory and the Implementation theory.

➤ *Complexity Theory*

The complexity of child protection stems from the various interrelated factors that place children at risk, such as financial issues leading to inadequate caregiving and exposure to unsafe environments. Canavan et al. (2021) describe child protection as a complex and significant societal challenge due to the numerous interacting variables. Complexity theory, rooted in the work of the Santa Fe

Institute (SFI) in the 1980s, provides insights into understanding these interconnected systems, emphasizing the need for an approach that accounts for multiple stakeholders like families, social workers, and communities (Vigni, 2022).

Child protection involves a broad range of issues, including violence, child labor, and abuse, which are handled by various government agencies, highlighting the complexity of safeguarding measures (UNICEF, 2020). Lee and Wolf-Branigin (2023) describe complex adaptive systems (CAS) as dynamic entities composed of interacting components that adapt and influence each other. This non-linear understanding is crucial in child protection, where minor changes can lead to significant or unexpected outcomes.

Complexity theory also emphasizes self-organization within CAS, where patterns emerge as agents with similar concerns come together (Lee & Wolf-Branigin, 2023). This perspective highlights the unpredictability of child safety issues and the importance of managing uncertainty effectively. The theory advocates for continuous learning and innovation within the workforce, ensuring adaptability in response to shifting demands. According to Turner and Baker (2019), complexity theory and CAS are predominantly associated with open systems. CAS is unordered, chaotic, and complex in which patterns can emerge (open system) CAS are open systems that are organic and dynamic as an entity. In the traditionally accepted Systems theory, an input to the system produces a similar output. This is not the case with CAS. They are also far from equilibrium and therefore vulnerable to sudden changes. Though they could be receptive to feedback, the quality of the input to the system cannot guarantee equal outcomes. For instance, a small tweak in a particular part of the CAS can result to large unexpected/unforeseen tweaks, or can result in no tweaks According to UNICEF (2020), there isn't a singular "budget" for child protection; rather, funding is distributed among a number of MDAs' programs, subprograms, and activities.

Child protection and safeguarding programs have had controversies in relation to funding that have affected their implementation, especially when it comes to public finance. UNICEF (2020) establishes that as a result of the old emphasis regarding response services, a widespread misbelief that only a small number of children require child protection services in comparison to global services such as health and education is in existence. As a consequence, this sector receives inadequate funding. According to complexity theory, financial resources are interrelated with other aspects in the system. Child protection organizations need to evaluate how financial decisions affect the overall dynamics of the system, as inadequate funding may burden the system and impede successful implementation. Complexity theory is criticized because it might not provide the precise formulas needed to fix social problems, but it still offers a fresh perspective on examining and justifying why these issues are so challenging.

➤ *Implementation Theory.*

Implementation theory, emerging from implementation science in the 1990s, focuses on bridging the gap between evidence-based practices and their application in real-world

settings (Lantta et al., 2023). It seeks to guide program managers and implementation actors on effectively applying interventions to achieve intended outcomes by understanding the factors that influence success or failure (Keith, Crosson, & Damschroder, 2023). The theory addresses gaps between research and practice, emphasizing the importance of making implementation research accessible to practitioners to ensure successful outcomes for children and families (Jensen, Metz, Disbennet, & Farley, 2023). It highlights the importance of comprehending implementation determinants—factors such as financial resource Availability that can either aid or hinder implementation efforts—and using these insights to guide strategies in child protection (Rangarajan, 2023).

In child protection, implementation theory helps identify obstacles and facilitators to the successful application of policies and programs, focusing on variables such as financial resources. It also stresses the need for continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of programs to ensure they remain effective over time. Despite its strengths, implementation theory has limitations. It often assumes the availability of adequate resources such as finances, which may not be the case in child protection, where funding is often constrained. This can limit the ability to implement sophisticated strategies and adapt solutions to specific contexts (Beidas et al., 2022).

➤ *Empirical Studies*

Influence of Financial Resource Availability in the Implementation of Child Protection and Safeguarding Programs in Kwale County.

Korir (2017) conducted research on the determinants of implementation of Child Protection Programs in Kilifi County. Korir's (2017) study in Kilifi County, Kenya, involved a population of 12 organizations and a sample of 90 staff members out of 901. Using a five-point Likert scale, the research examined two indicators: flexible, need-based budget allocation and periodic fund distribution for child protection programs. The findings revealed that a majority of respondents disagreed with the former indicator and strongly disagreed with the latter. Korir employed a chi-square test at a 95% significance level, which showed a significant relationship between the availability of financial resources and the successful implementation of child protection programs in Kilifi County. However, the study did not quantify the magnitude of this relationship or specify the sampling technique used.

Ong'uti (2014) conducted a study to investigate the factors influencing the implementation of Child Protection Programs (CPP) in Nairobi County, surveying 20 staff members from five organizations using a 5-point Likert scale. The findings indicated that a majority of respondents recognized the importance of donor funding, flexible budget allocation, regular fund disbursement, and managerial control over funds as critical indicators for effective program implementation. Although the research established a significant influence of financial resources on CPP implementation, it did not quantify the specific relationship or the magnitude of this influence. Ong'uti's study highlighted

the availability of financial resources had a significant influence on the implementation of CPP in Nairobi County. However, her research could not demonstrate the relationship and the magnitude of the influence.

Aron and Mokaya (2018) conducted research on factors affecting project implementation in NGOs in Arusha, Tanzania, using an explanatory research design with a sample of 30 respondents from a population of 200 NGO staff. The study employed questionnaires, group discussions, descriptive and inferential statistics, and Pearson correlation to analyze the relationship between funding and project implementation. The findings showed a significant positive correlation between funding and project implementation, but the magnitude of this relationship was not shown. Woretaw, Lakew, and Astewale (2021) investigated the factors affecting health project implementation in South Gondar public hospitals, employing descriptive and explanatory research designs with a sample of 116 respondents selected through stratified random sampling. The study found a strong positive correlation between project funding and successful implementation, indicating that effective funding

significantly enhances project success. Additionally, multiple regression analysis revealed that project funding had the largest beta value among the factors studied, highlighting its critical role in the implementation process.

➤ *Summary of Literature Review and Knowledge Gaps*

Most studies revealed there was a relationship between independent variable Financial Resource Availability the independent variables and dependent variable: Implementation of programs. However most studies failed to show the magnitude or strength of the relationship. In other cases the sampling technique was not clearly stated. Moreover, most studies were not specific to Kwale County. Therefore this study did not only examine the relationship between the independent variable and dependent variable but it attempted to show the magnitude and strength of the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. In addition the sampling technique was clearly stated and the study will be specific to Kwale country where few studies have been done.

➤ *Conceptual Framework*

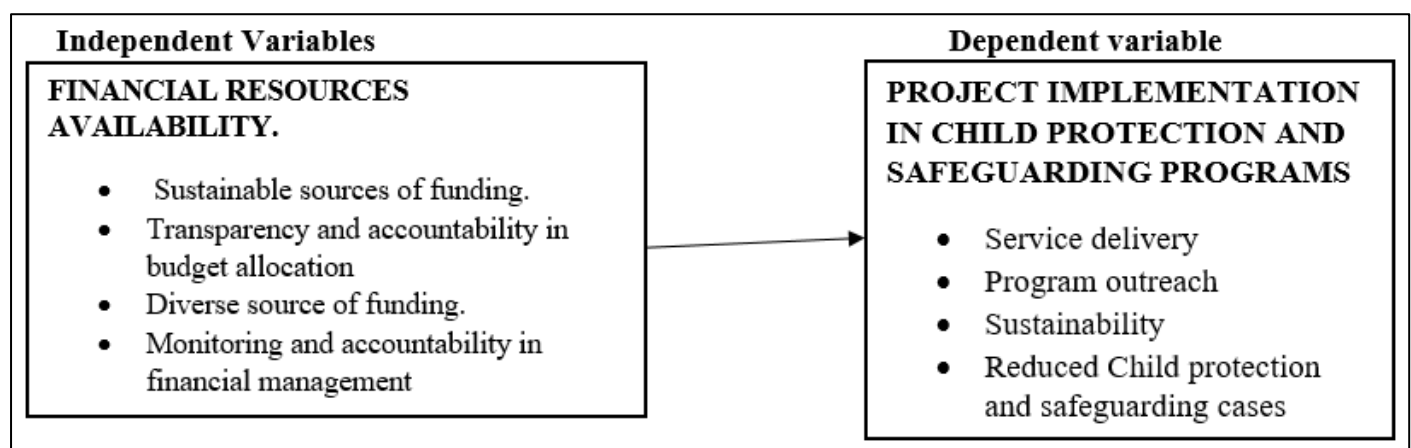


Fig 1 Conceptual Framework

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Kothari and Garg (2019), the organization of conditions for collecting data and analysis it in such a manner that seeks to merge relevance to the purpose of study with technique efficiency is referred as a research design. In this study, the descriptive research design was applied. The approach was ideal for this research since it maximized data collection reliability and provided adequate protection against bias. In addition, surveys are quite simple to create, conduct and require little effort to produce. Moreover, it is a method of acquiring data on the qualities, views of an extensive population. In addition, surveys can collect information from huge samples of the population.

➤ *Target Population*

The target population for this study was 204 key personnel from child protection and safeguarding bodies' NGO's and CBO's, government agencies, and rescue centers that implemented child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County. The sampling frame encompassed 11 child protection and safeguarding organizations, 2 government agencies, and 3 rescue centers in Kwale that specifically deal with child protection and safeguarding issues. The list of NGO and CBOs, Government agencies and rescue centers was obtained from the Directorate of child services in Kwale County that were currently implementing child protection and safeguarding at the time of the study. The selected respondents were individuals with specific information as key informants. This included heads of departments, managers, and other key personnel in such child protection and safeguarding agencies, organizations, and institutions. In addition, questionnaires were disseminated to the selected sampled personnel.

Table 1 Target Population

CATEGORIES		POPULATION
NGOS/ CBOS	Plan International	20
	Sauti Ya Wanawake	48
	World Vision	6
	Hapa Kenya	10
	Tuko na Hope	10
	CHED	10
	G for Girls	6
	Samba Sports	13
	Compassion international projects	48
	Kidscare	12
	Haki Yetu	10
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	Directorate of children services	4
	Probation and aftercare services	4
RESCUE CENTRES	Henry children home	1
	Kabene children home	1
	Alwaydin girls and boys rescue centers	1
TOTAL		204

Source: Directorate of Child Services Kwale County

➤ *Sample Size and Sampling Procedures*

Proportionate sampling was used to select the number of personnel per NGO and CBO. This ensured that each NGO and CBO was represented in the sample according to its size relative to the total population of NGOs and CBOS. The simple Yamane's (1967) streamlined formula was used to pick 130 samples. Then, simple random sampling was

employed to select individual personnel from the selected samples per NGO/CBO. This gave each member of the group an equal chance of being selected, minimizing bias. Additionally, census sampling was done to select the sample from the government agencies and rescue centers because the population was small.

Table 2 Sample Size

CATEGORIES		POPULATION	SAMPLING APPROACH	SAMPLE
NGOS/ CBOS	Plan International	20	Proportionate Sampling	$0.1036 * 130 = 13$
	Sauti Ya Wanawake			$0.2487 * 130 = 32$
	World Vision	48		$0.0311 * 130 = 4$
	Hapa Kenya	6		$0.0518 * 130 = 7$
	Tuko na Hope	10		$0.0518 * 130 = 7$
	CHED	10		$0.0518 * 130 = 7$
	G for Girls	10		$0.0311 * 130 = 4$
	Samba Sports	6		$0.0674 * 130 = 9$
	Compassion international projects	13		$0.2487 * 130 = 32$
	Kidscare	48		$0.0622 * 130 = 8$
		12		$0.0518 * 130 = 7$
	Haki Yetu	10		
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	Directorate of children services	4	Census sampling	4
	Probation and aftercare services	4		4
RESCUE CENTRES	Henry children home	1	Census sampling	1
	Kabene children home	1		1
	Alwaydin girls and boys rescue centers	1		1
TOTAL		204		141

Source: Directorate of Child Services Kwale County

➤ *Data Collection*

The research utilized structured closed-ended and a few open-ended questionnaires, administered both physically and through online Google Forms, to ensure all respondents received and responded to the same series of questions. The questionnaires maintained the same wording, order, and

structure to guarantee standardization. They were administered physically to respondents without network access and via email to those with network access, with a few research assistants assisting in the physical delivery and collection of the questionnaires

➤ *Data Analysis*

According to Zikmund, Babin, Carr, and Griffin (2017), the process of using logic to interpret information obtained having an objective to identify consistent patterns and summarizing the crucial details and information learned from the research is known as analysis of data. The research is planned to generate qualitative and quantitative data. As a result, analysis of data will employ both descriptive and inferential statistics.

The researcher will also take into account time and budget as explained by Kothari and Garg (2019) when carrying out the research. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) will be employed in analyzing data and will be presented using the preferred presentations.

➤ *Diagnostic Tests*

In this research, Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient was applied to test the reliability of the instrument using SPSS, with an internal consistency coefficient of at least 0.7 being the standard. The study incorporated a Likert scale, for which Cronbach's alpha was used to assess reliability. Content validity was also applied, involving judgmental and intuitive assessments by the university supervisor or research personnel in the organization ensure the instrument's validity and make necessary changes.

➤ *Significance Tests*

Statistical tests of significance that were used were correlation. Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation will be used to show or investigate relationships between the variables. On the other hand, the multiple linear regression analysis was used to establish the statistical significance of the prediction to be made as well as the strength of the relationship between project implementation and the many independent variables.

➤ *Ethical Considerations in the Study*

The researcher ensured that the study adhered to all ethical standards and protocols required for conducting social science research. First, she obtained a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI), which is a mandatory ethical and legal requirement in Kenya. She made certain that the research assistant carried the permit when meeting the respondents. An introductory letter was provided to inform respondents about the purpose of the research and to request their consensual participation. The researcher guaranteed that all respondents' identities would remain confidential and that names would not be required on the questionnaire.

➤ *Operationalization of the Variables*

Table 3 Shows the Operationalization of the Study's Variables.

Research Objectives	Variables	Indicators	Measurement scale	Instrument	Tools of analysis
To establish the influence of financial resources availability in the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County.	Independent Variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable sources of funding. Transparency and accountability in budget allocation Diverse source of funding. Monitoring and accountability in financial management Long-term financial planning including emergency funds. 	Ordinal scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open and Close-ended questionnaire 	Descriptive and Inferential statistics

IV. DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, AND DISCUSSION

➤ *Introduction*

This section shows the results of data analysis and interpretation of findings. The section specifically presents the analysis of the response rate, demographic information, descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

➤ *Response Rate*

Table 4 Response Rate

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Completed and Returned	132	94%
Not Returned	9	6%
Total	141	100%

Source: Field study (2024)

The questionnaires were administered to 141 respondents. Respondents sampled via the census method all responded. Therefore 132 of the respondents, completed and returned the questionnaires, resulting in a 94% response rate. According to Bryman and Bell (2014) response rates exceeding 70% are viewed as outstanding, demonstrating a

high level of participation in the research. The high response rate was attained because the researcher followed up with each respondent by phone, urging them to complete the questionnaires.

➤ Reliability

Table 5 Reliability

Variables	No. of Items	Cronbach Alpha coefficient
Implementation	5	0.858
Financial Resource Availability	6	0.882
Human capacity	6	0.919
Interagency Partnerships	6	0.908
Monitoring and Evaluation system	9	0.935

Source: Field Study (2024)

Table 5 indicates that all the variables had Cronbach Alpha Coefficients above 0.8, demonstrating strong reliability. The overall internal consistency and reliability differed among the various variables. This is consistent with the standards established by Sim and Wright (2005) and Madan and Kensinger (2017), which indicate that coefficients exceeding 0.7 are considered acceptable, and those above 0.8 are considered very good.

➤ Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The researcher began by analyzing the demographic information of the respondents in this project based on their gender, age group, educational level, work experience, the position they held at the organization, the duration they held the position, forms of training they had in relation to the position, and the sponsors of their training. The analysis of respondents' demographic data is presented in the subsequent sections.

➤ Gender

Table 6 Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Male	67	50.8	50.8	50.8
Female	65	49.2	49.2	100.0
Total	132	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Study (2024).

According to the results, the majority of participants were male, making up 50.8%, while females comprised 49.2%. This indicates that the gender factor was considered in the data collection process and that the study was not

biased, as respondents from both genders were included without any discrimination.

➤ Age Group

Table 7 Age Group

Age group	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative percent
20-30	25	18.9	18.9	18.9
31-40	55	41.7	41.7	60.6
41-50	39	29.5	29.5	90.2
51- Above	13	9.8	9.8	100.0
Total	132	100.0		

Source: Field Study (2024)

The results in Table 7 show that 41.7% of the respondents were aged 31-40 years, making this the largest age group. This was followed by respondents aged 41-50 years, who accounted for 29.5%. Those aged 20-30 years comprised 18.9%, while respondents aged 51 and above made

up 9.8%. This distribution indicates that the majority of the study participants were sufficiently mature to engage with and understand the research topic.

➤ Education Level

Table 8 Education Level

Education Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Certificate	21	15.9	15.9
Diploma	42	31.8	31.8
Degree	57	43.2	43.2
Masters	12	9.1	9.1
PhD	0	0	0
Total	132	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Study (2024)

Table 8 shows that the majority of respondents, at 43.2%, held degrees. This was followed by those with diplomas, who made up 31.8%. Respondents with certificates accounted for 15.9%, while those with master's degrees constituted 9.1%. None of the respondents had PhDs. This

distribution indicates that most study participants had a solid academic background, which enabled them to fully understand the research topic and the study.

➤ Work Experience

Table 9 Work Experience

Work experience	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
0-3 Years	10	7.6	7.6	7.6
4-6 Years	41	31.1	31.1	38.6
7-9 Years	31	23.5	23.5	62.1
10 Years and Above	50	37.9	37.9	100.0
Total	132	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Study (2024)

The results in Table 9 show that the majority of respondents, at 37.9%, had work experience of 10 years or more. This was followed by those with 4-6 years of experience, accounting for 31.1%. Respondents with 7-9 years of experience made up 23.5%, while those with 0-3 years of experience represented 7.6%. This distribution indicates that the majority of respondents had substantial work experience, enabling them to understand the research issues effectively. Therefore, they were well-positioned to provide valuable feedback on the study.

➤ Current Position Held in the Organisation / Agency

The respondents held various designations related to their roles as key personnel in the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs. These included

program managers, project officers/coordinators, project directors, social workers, accountants and finance officers, monitoring and evaluation professionals, field officers, government children/probation officers, team leaders, and children/youth advocates. Their diverse roles positioned them as key personnel capable of providing reliable information on the study topic.

➤ Duration Held in the Position

The respondents were asked to specify the duration they have held their current position or their period of service within the organizations where they worked on child protection and safeguarding programs. Their responses are shown in Table 10.

Table 10 Duration Held in the Position

YEARS	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
0-3 Years	47	35.6	35.6
4-6 Years	54	40.9	40.9
7-9 Years	12	9.1	9.1
10 years and above	19	14.4	14.4
Total	132	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Study (2024)

Based on the results, a significant portion of the respondents, 40.9%, had held their current positions for 4-6 years. Additionally, 14.4% had been in their positions for 10 years or more, 35.6% had held their positions for 0-3 years, and 9.1% had been in their positions for 7-9 years in child protection and safeguarding programs. This indicates that a considerable number of respondents had substantial experience working in these programs. Consequently, they were well-positioned to provide reliable information and had a strong understanding of the study topic.

➤ Forms of Training

The study aimed to determine the type of training respondents had received in relation to their positions within their organizations. According to the findings, all respondents (100%) indicated they had undergone training in various subjects, including leadership, management, child protection and safeguarding, funds management, financial planning and implementation, project management, fraud management, sponsorship management, self-development, counseling psychology, criminology and security studies, trauma

healing, project planning and management, the new Children's Act, mental health, and case management. This comprehensive trainings suggested that most respondents were equipped for their roles, indicating an understanding of

their job descriptions. Consequently, they could provide valuable insights into the study.

➤ Who Sponsored the Training

Table 11 Who Sponsored the Training

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent
Donor sponsored	14	10.6	10.6
Other	1	0.8	0.8
Organization/Agency sponsored	109	82.6	82.6
Partners	1	0.8	0.8
Self-sponsored	7	5.3	5.3
Total	132	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Study (2024)

Table 11 shows that the majority of respondents, 82.6%, had their training related to their position sponsored by the organization or agency they were with. Additionally, 10.6% of respondents received training sponsorship from donors, 7% had their training sponsored through individual efforts, and 1% had their training sponsored by partners of their organizations/agencies. Another 1% received training sponsorship from other sources such as NCC. This indicates that there were significant efforts at both organizational and individual levels to equip child protection organizations with

the necessary knowledge and skills for effective performance. Consequently, the respondents were well-positioned to provide valuable insights for the study.

➤ Descriptive Statistics

- *Implementation of Child Protection and Safeguarding Programs.*

Table 12 Implementation of Child Protection and Safeguarding Programs

STATEMENTS	SD (%)	D (%)	U (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	MEAN	S.D
The child protection and safeguarding program implemented is sustainable	5 (3.8%)	8 (6.1%)	5 (3.8%)	60 (45.5%)	54 (40.9%)	4.14	1.010
There is reduction in child protection and safeguarding cases since the implementation of the child protection and safeguarding program	3 (2.3%)	10 (7.6%)	7 (5.3%)	72 (54.5%)	40 (30.3%)	4.03	0.932
The staff are currently satisfied with the program outreach.	7 (5.3%)	12 (9.1%)	18 (13.6%)	57 (43.2%)	38 (28.8%)	3.81	1.113
There is effective service delivery of the program to the targeted program beneficiaries	5 (3.8%)	2 (1.5%)	16 (12.1%)	70 (53.0%)	39 (29.5%)	4.03	0.907
The program beneficiaries are satisfied with the program	0 (0%)	6(4.5%)	23 (17.4%)	56 (42.4%)	47 (35.6%)	4.09	0.842
Composite Mean/Standard Deviation						4.02	0.958

The results indicate a perception on the implementation of the child protection and safeguarding programs among respondents. In the statement, the child protection and safeguarding program implemented is sustainable. 40.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 45.5% agreed, 3.8% were undecided, 6.1% disagreed, and 3.8% strongly disagreed. The mean score of 4.14 suggests that a significant majority (86.4%) of respondents believe that the child protection and safeguarding programs implemented is sustainable. This is a strong indicator of confidence in the program's long-term viability and effectiveness. In the statement, there is reduction in child protection and safeguarding cases since the implementation of the child protection and safeguarding program. 30.3 % strongly agreed, 54.5% agreed, 5.3% were

undecided, 7.6% disagreed, and 2.3% strongly disagreed. With a mean of 4.03, the data indicates that over 84.8% of respondents perceive a reduction in child protection and safeguarding cases following the program's implementation. This reflects the program's effectiveness in addressing issues related to child protection.

In the statement, the staff are currently satisfied with the program outreach. 28.8% strongly agreed with the settlement, 43.2% agreed, 13.6 % were undecided, 9.1% agreed, 5.3% strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.81 shows that while a majority of staff (71.4%) are satisfied with the program outreach, there is still room for improvement. The relatively higher standard deviation (1.113) suggests variability in

satisfaction levels among staff, indicating that some may feel less positive about the outreach efforts. In the statement, there is effective service delivery of the program to the targeted program beneficiaries. 29.5% strongly agreed, 53% agreed, 12.1% were undecided, 1.5 % disagreed, and 3.8% strongly disagreed. A mean of 4.03 indicates that respondents believe there is effective service delivery to the targeted beneficiaries, with 82.5% expressing agreement. This is crucial for the success of any program, as effective delivery is essential for achieving desired outcomes.

In the statement, the program beneficiaries are satisfied with the program. 35.6% of respondents strongly agreed, 42.4% agreed, 17.4 % were undecided, 4.5% disagreed but

none (0%) strongly disagreed. The mean score of 4.09 indicates that a large majority (78.0%) of respondents believe that program beneficiaries are satisfied with the services provided.

Lastly a composite mean of 4.02 reflects a generally favorable perception of the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs. The overall standard deviation of 0.958 indicates moderate variability in responses, suggesting that while most respondents view the program positively, there may be differing opinions.

- *Financial Availability.*

Table 13 Financial Availability.

STATEMENTS	SD (%)	D (%)	U (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	MEAN	S.D
There is a presence of reliable and consistent sources of funding to sustain child protection and safeguarding program	15(11.4%)	19(14.4%)	13(9.8%)	47(35.6%)	38(28.8%)	3.56	1.344
There is clarity and transparency in allocating funds and budgeting for child protection and safeguarding	12(9.1%)	7(5.3%)	10(7.6%)	56(42.4%)	47(35.6%)	3.90	1.210
There is the presence of more than one financial source provider to support child protection and safeguarding activities to ensure financial stability	8(6.1%)	18(13.6%)	16(12.1%)	56(42.4%)	34(25.8%)	3.68	1.174
Finances are effectively monitored and there is accountability to ensure efficient use of funds	7(5.3%)	1(0.8%)	16(12.1%)	51(38.6%)	57(43.2%)	4.14	1.025
Financial long term planning or emergency funds in case of disruptions in	7 (5.3%)	20(15.2%)	6(4.5%)	61(46.2%)	38(28.8%)	3.78	1.174

child protection and safeguarding activities.							
Financial availability is important for implementing successful child protection and safeguarding program	4(3.0%)	1(0.8%)	4(3.0%)	45(34.1%)	78(59.1%)	4.45	0.850
Composite mean /standard deviation						3.92	1.186

Investigating the influence of financial resource availability on the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs. The following are results on the responses of the respondents.

In the statement, there is a presence of reliable and consistent sources of funding to sustain child protection and safeguarding program. 28.8 % strongly agreed, 35.6 % agreed, 9.8% were undecided, 14.4 % disagreed, and 11.4 % strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.56 indicates a moderate level of confidence among respondents regarding the presence of reliable and consistent funding sources for the child protection and safeguarding program. The 64.4% agreement rate suggests that while many acknowledge some level of funding support, a significant portion (35.6%) expresses concern about the sustainability of these sources. The high standard deviation reflects a wide range of opinions, indicating that some stakeholders may have experienced funding challenges.

In the statement, there is clarity and transparency in allocating funds and budgeting for child protection and safeguarding. 35.6 % strongly agreed, 42.4 % agreed, 7.6 % were undecided, 5.3% disagreed, and 9.1% strongly disagreed. With a mean of 3.90, the results indicate that stakeholders generally feel positive about the clarity and transparency of the budgeting process. The 78.0% agreement rate is encouraging, as transparency is crucial for fostering trust among stakeholders. However, the 14.4% who disagree or are uncertain highlight the need for continued efforts in this area.

In the statement, there is the presence of more than one financial source provider to support child protection and safeguarding activities to ensure financial stability. 25.8 % strongly agreed, 42.4 % agreed, 12.1 % undecided, 13.6 % disagreed, 6.1% strongly disagreed, and the mean score of 3.68 suggests that while respondents recognize the presence of multiple financial sources, there is still uncertainty regarding the overall financial stability of the program. The 68.2% agreement rate indicates a moderate level of confidence, but the 31.8% who disagree or are uncertain may reflect concerns about the program's reliance on specific funding streams.

In the statement, Finances are effectively monitored and there is accountability to ensure efficient use of funds. 43.2% strongly agreed, 38.6% agreed, 12.1% undecided, 0.8 % disagreed, and 5.3% strongly disagreed. The high mean score of 4.14 reflects strong confidence in the program's financial monitoring and accountability practices. The 81.8% agreement rate indicates that respondents believe funds are being used efficiently and for their intended purposes

In the statement, the organization has financial long term planning or emergency funds in case of disruptions in child protection and safeguarding activities. 28.8% strongly agreed, 46.2% agreed, 4.5 % undecided, 15.2 % disagreed, and 5.3% strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.78 indicates that while there is recognition of the importance of long-term financial planning, there are still concerns about the program's preparedness for potential disruptions. The 75.0% agreement rate suggests that most organizations see the value in planning, but the 20.5% who disagree or are uncertain may have experienced past challenges due to insufficient planning.

In the statement, financial availability is important for implementing a successful child protection and safeguarding program. 59.1 % strongly agreed, 34.1% agreed, 3 % were neutral, 0.8% disagreed, and 3 % strongly disagreed. The exceptionally high mean score of 4.45 indicates a strong consensus among respondents regarding the critical role of financial availability in the success of child protection and safeguarding programs. The 93.2% agreement rate underscores the necessity of securing adequate funding to implement child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County

Lastly, the composite mean of 3.92 reflects a generally strong perception of the financial resource availability on the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs. However, the overall standard deviation of 1.186 indicates variability in responses, suggesting that while many respondents are optimistic, there are significant concerns that need to be addressed.

➤ *Inferential Statistics*• *Coorelation*

Table 14 Coorelation

		Implementation	Financial resource Availability
Implementation	Pearson Correlation	1	.859**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	132	132
Financial Resource Availability	Pearson Correlation	.859**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	132	132

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The coorelation is positive and statistically significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed), indicating strong relationship between the variable: Financial Availability that has a strong correlation with Implementation ($r=0.859$, $p=0.000$). This implies that the availability of financial resources is closely

linked to the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs.

➤ *Reliability*

Table 15 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.902 ^a	.814	.809	.33747

a. Predictors: (Constant), Monitoring and evaluation, Human Resource, Financial Availability, Interagency Partnerships

Table 15 shows R is 0.902, this shows a very strong positive correlation between the predictors (Financial Availability, Human Resource, Interagency, Monitoring and Evaluation) and the dependent variable which Implementation. R Square of 0.814 shows that approximately 81.4% of the variance in the implementation of child

protection and safeguarding programs can be explained by the predictors (Financial Availability, Human Resource, Interagency, Monitoring and Evaluation) suggesting a good line of fit. An 18.6% can be explained by other predictors/variables.

Table 16 Anova^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	63.445	4	15.861	139.272	.000 ^b
Residual	14.464	127	.114		
Total	77.909	131			

a. Dependent Variable: IMPLEMENTATION

b. Predictors: (Constant), Monitoring And Evaluation System, Human Resource Capacity, Financial Resource Availability, Interagency Partnerships

The model predicts how the Variables (Financial resource availability, human capacity, interagency partnerships, and monitoring and evaluation system) influence the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County, Kenya according to the significant value of 0.000 is less than 0.05. This confirms

that at least one predictor has a statistically significant effect on the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale county Kenya. The study the model was deemed significant as the calculated F value 139.272 exceeded the F critical value.

Table 17 Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	.571	.154		3.710	.000	.266	.876
Financial Resource Availability	.351	.067	.412	5.233	.000	.218	.484

a. Dependent Variable: IMPLEMENTATION

To ascertain the influence of financial resources availability, on the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County, a multiple linear regression analysis was done. In reference to the table created by SPSS

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + e$$

Becomes

$$Y = 0.571 + 0.351X_1 + 0.238X_2 + 0.103X_3 + 0.162X_4$$

From the table, Constant (B = 0.571) is the predicted value of Implementation and serves as the baseline. Financial Resource Availability was 0.351. This meant that for each additional unit of financial resource availability, Implementation score increases by 0.351 units. The independence variables: Financial resource availability had a strong positive significance with a B value of 0.351 and p value of 0.00 which less than 0.05.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of financial resource availability as a determinant in the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County revealed that a majority of 64% of respondents acknowledge the presence of reliable funding sources. However, the high standard deviation reflected a wide range of opinions, indicating that some stakeholders may have experienced funding challenges. In addition, and a significant portion expresses concerns about sustainability. This concurs with UNICEF (2020), there isn't a singular "budget" for child protection; rather, funding is distributed among a number of MDAs' programs, subprograms, and activities. As a consequence, this sector receives inadequate funding. However, there is generally positive sentiment regarding the clarity and transparency of the budgeting process. The diversity of financial sources is recognized though still a considerable number of respondents have concerns about the program's financial stability. From the findings, effective monitoring and accountability practices are seen as a strength, and this supports the complexity theory that financial resources are interrelated with other aspects in the system. Thus there is a need to evaluate how financial decisions affect the overall dynamics of the system, as inadequate funding may burden the system and impede successful implementation. In addition, long-term financial planning remains an area for improvement. The overwhelming consensus on the critical role of financial availability underscores the necessity of securing adequate funding for successful child protection and safeguarding program implementation. The strong positive correlation between financial resource availability and program implementation highlights the importance of prioritizing financial resources to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of child protection and safeguarding initiatives in Kwale County

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

To improve the implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County. It is suggested that: First, diversifying funding sources is crucial; organizations should explore government grants, private donations, and corporate partnerships to ensure sustainability. Transparency and accountability can be improved by implementing clear reporting mechanisms and establishing independent oversight committees to monitor financial practices. Additionally, cultivating relationships with potential funding partners will help create a more stable financial environment. Long-term financial planning should include establishing emergency funds and conducting scenario planning exercises to prepare for potential disruptions. Engaging stakeholders in discussions about financial challenges will foster a shared understanding of the program's needs. By taking these steps, organizations can bolster their financial resource availability in the implementation of child and safeguarding forms in Kwale County.

VII. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Another study can be done to investigate participatory M&E practices in enhancing the performance of child protection programs in Kwale County by assessing for instance Feedback Mechanisms. Another study can be done to explore the role of community engagement in implementation of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County, Kenya to assess their awareness, roles and understanding of child protection issues and the programs. Another study can be done to understanding how Management strategies influence the performance of child protection and safeguarding programs in Kwale County, Kenya.

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