



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

**Speech by Hon Harriette Chiggai at the Launch of Commemoration of the World
International Day for Care and Support at the Tamarind Tree Hotel Nairobi,
Kenya**

31st October 2023

Ministry of Gender

KNBS

My office team

Civil society groups

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me such joy that in a month we have had the Time Use Survey that speaks into care work released

In the same month we are celebrating the International Day of Care and Support for the first time .

This events make November a special month.

Advancing a care economy requires a comprehensive gender data agenda. This agenda begins with regular data collection and I want



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

to believe that the Time Use Survey is being disseminated will serve as a baseline for regular research on paid and unpaid care work.

Why is this important? If you have read His Excellency the President's Women's charter and the Women's Agenda you will see that he has recognised Care work as a key driver of GDP. The data just helps us quantify this fact.

We must acknowledge that Care work in Africa is not a foreign conversation, our mothers labored and it seemed normal yet they were contributing to the economy just not in the 'formal' way.

As the world endures multiple, intersecting crises of unprecedented proportions—including climate change, ongoing and worsening conflicts, and the COVID-19 pandemic—the resilience of care systems and the care economy is being tested.

I understand that in this room we have women who emerged from Covid and have succeeded through the care work economy. Could you please stand up we recognize you.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

I must say that gender data is needed to monitor the impacts of such crises on the amount, distribution, and conditions of paid and unpaid care work, and the wellbeing of care providers and recipients.

Building the evidence base across the full spectrum of paid and unpaid care issues will require significant financial investment and political will. Yet, the costs of inaction are even greater.

Across all aspects of care, a key priority is to ensure that data is adequately disaggregated by multiple dimensions and characteristics

- Gender - how many women, Men, Boys and Girls,
- Age - We know that there are grandmothers who do care work, how do we quantify this in the GDP? How best do we collect this data? Restricted sampling means that we know most about the unpaid care work performed by women of 'reproductive age' (15-49) or 'working age' (15-65), but little



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

about girls and older women who are often framed only as recipients of care

- Geography - We have seen the difference between Marsabit and Nairobi as the survey has shown us

Looking into other dimensions like disability and religion will enable us to do intersectional analysis of care work and inequalities. We need to capture women's unpaid care responsibilities across their life course. This is a challenge I am giving for the next Time Use Survey

The government is committed to build an evidence-based care economy that will drive lasting change for women, girls, and all those who provide and receive care.

The time use survey has helped us Recognize care work by measuring both paid and unpaid care work. We are one of the 92 countries that have collected time use data in line with the SDG indicator 5.4.1



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

Now that we have the data, we now need to Reduce and Redistribute care work.

The assumption that households, particularly women and girls, will provide care work for free has contributed to the chronic neglect and under-funding of care systems in many countries. The COVID-19 pandemic shined a light on this reality and the urgent need for increased public policies and investments in the care economy.

I am therefore looking forward to the policy that is being developed to help us consider promote a more equitable redistribution of unpaid care work from women to men, and from households to the state. This will also generate important social and economic returns in terms of women's employment outcomes, fiscal revenue, job creation in the care sector, human welfare, and gender equality.

For us to Reward and Represent care work, we must document the size and characteristics of the paid care sector, in both the formal and informal economy.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

The paid care sector encompasses individuals who look after the physical, psychological, emotional, and developmental needs of others within an employment relationship. This includes workers in childcare and early childhood education, domestic work, long-term care, health care, and disability care. Documenting the size and characteristics of the paid care sector is important to ensure decent work for care workers, and to promote the sustainability and retention of this essential workforce.

Ladies and gentlemen, the political will is there. As a government the time use survey is a start. Care work is on the president's agenda. The next step is to build the infrastructure through policies as is currently ongoing by the State Department of Gender followed by ratification of ILO C189 safeguard and secure the well-being of care providers. The other step is through parliament to ensure budgets align and finally through you and I to ensure this conversation is understood across board.

I commit to championing for public policies and investments in the care economy which include:



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

care services (e.g., public healthcare, childcare, early childhood education, long-term care);
care-responsive infrastructure (e.g., piped water, electricity, public transit);
care-supporting workplace policies (e.g., paid sick leave, flexible working, equal paid parental leave);
and social protection benefits related to care (e.g., public pensions, child benefits, disability benefits, old age benefits, cash transfers for carers).

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge all the organisations and government agencies in this room that have contributed to this work. I want to acknowledge Oxfam's Care Policy Scorecard that was developed to assess the extent to which government policies related to care are adopted, budgeted for, and implemented, and whether they have a transformative effect on care. I am proud to say that to date Kenya has been one of the few countries that has utilized this tool. Ladies and Gentlemen let's make care work make Shillings and cents.

Happy International Care and Support Day