



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE,
PRIVATE BAG 330, CAPITAL CITY: LILONGWE 3, MALAWI**

NATIONAL ECD POLICY 2016

FOREWORD

The foreword is for the CRS-SCORE ECD Curriculum to be used for training religious sisters in integrated ECD at the regional level. The draft curriculum was developed to meet one of the project objectives of CRS-SCORE ECD curriculum in Malawi, Zambia, and Kenya. The major objective of CRS-SCORE ECD curriculum is to support the Religious Sisters to provide ECD services to young children, parents, caregivers, families and communities with strong knowledge and skills on inclusive, holistic, and appropriate ECD services.

The Government of Malawi recognizes that the CRS-SCORE ECD curriculum was developed in a consultative manner using a participatory approach. Field assessment was conducted on technical ECD gaps and needs of Religious Sisters in Malawi, Zambia, and Kenya through individual, focus group meetings and discussions with Sisters, government, non-state actors and SCORE partners. The participatory assessments lead to the development of the draft curriculum. It is pleasing to note that the Malawi ECD Technical team was involved in the development and review of the curriculum and Malawi ECD instructional materials were utilized to develop the curriculum.

I accept and accredit therefore the CRS-SCORE ECD curriculum so that it can be utilized as resource ECD materials in the training of ECD workers and caregivers in Malawi. It can also be utilized by religious sisters for training of ECD workers, parents and caregivers. Nevertheless, if the CRS-SCORE ECD curriculum is utilized as training manual in Malawi, it should be used together with Malawi ECD manuals and guides to complement and harmonize in-country ECD trainings. Malawi recognizes the importance of integrated ECD to the national socio-economic development, thus child responsive ECD innovations are welcomed and supported.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to CRS for coming up with the Regional ECD Training Module. Gratitude should also go to the Hilton Foundation for funding the curriculum. Special thanks should also go to all those who made technical input to the important and child responsive curriculum.

I encourage all the workers in Sub-Saharan Africa and all over the world to make use of the CRS-SCORE ECD Curriculum to benefit children in different situations for their survival, growth, stimulation, development, protection and participation for a fair start in life for all children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Shawa'.

Dr. Mary Shawa

SECRETARY FOR GENDER, CHILDREN, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE