

## BETTER COORDINATION OF PARTNERS

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Maria Ngali is a government representative who works for Children Services department in Tana River. For Maria, the online learning component of the programme was something



new to her, and taught her a lot of skills in digital learning, as well as Child Protection in Emergencies. *“When we had our first Skype call, I had to research and rehearse things. My son was teaching me how to use Skype, Blackboard and how to do webinars myself!”* Whilst she admitted it was a challenge, Maria is now able to guide people how to use the technology herself, and is frequently looking out for other online learnings.

Maria has found the programme useful as the teachings have been contextualised so that it applies to her area of operation. *“I see organisations responding, but I lacked the knowledge, so now I understand the context better and will be able to coordinate better now.”* This will hopefully lead to a much better response when Maria continues

her work.

When asked about a key moment on the programme, she was able to recognise that she had some knowledge gaps as a Children’s Officer, so started thinking differently after the Child Safeguarding module. Her workplace applies the principle of the Best Interest of the Child, and Maria feels that child safeguarding is an added value to this principle. She also said that *“I understand case management better now as I am more experienced.”*

As a result of the CPIE PDP, Maria feels that she is now able to input more in crisis coordination meetings: *“Normally, the country steering group meetings are headed by the National Drought Management Authority. They normally invite me, and food security is discussed, but never child protection. Now I can input what is expected in terms of Child Protection so it is a more holistic approach.”*

There have clearly been benefits for Maria, but she did face challenges along the way, with internet connectivity a real issue for elements of the distance learning.

That notwithstanding, overall, Maria said the programme was:

***“Knowledgeable, Fantastic, and Accommodative.”***