

## CRS IS SUPPORTING THE NURTURING OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The IDEA (Intellectual Disability Empowerment Agenda) project jointly implemented by CRS and Special Olympics Kenya is supporting children with intellectual disabilities and their families in informal settlements in Nairobi. In its implementation, the project is incorporating children with disabilities into early childhood development programming and strengthening health and social services to care for their needs. This unique program targets children with intellectual and physical disabilities in public early childhood development institutions and in the communities around the project sites.

On 23 September 2021, Rebecca Hallam the Country Representative of CRS in Kenya and Raphael Nyabala the National Director of Special Olympics Kenya visited to Gatina Primary School and Babadogo Primary School, two of the seven sites.

Gatina Primary School with a population of 1,300 learners provides support to 60 children with disabilities from the school and from the community around the school. Judy Ogembo one of the community health volunteers in Gatina area helps identify children with disability and encourages parents to bring them forth for physiotherapy sessions. "I get to know the families that have children who are abled differently during the polio immunization campaigns" She explains. She adds that some parents fear to bring their children out of the house due to stigma attached to having a child with disability.

Once a week, caregivers take their children to Gatina primary school for physiotherapy sessions, and they observe how this is done so that they can do the same for the children at home. "After two months of physiotherapy,

my daughter Tracy can play, hold a pen and use the toilet without assistance". Explains Lucy, Tracy's mother.

At Babadogo Primary School, Rebecca thanked the parents and caregivers of children with disability for courageously bringing the children forth for physiotherapy as she offered that CRS would make efforts to ensure that the critical support to the children and their families is sustained.



***A girl participates in a physiotherapy session at Gatina Primary School.***

CRS funded the refurbishing and equipping of physiotherapy rooms and the hiring of physiotherapists who work in the seven project sites. Additionally, CRS provides transport to the caregivers so that they can bring their children for physiotherapy.

CRS funded the renovation of the project sites and the equipping the sites with physiotherapy and play equipment. Physiotherapy sessions take place on site, including play for the children. Additionally, caregivers' days during which they are trained on caring for the children take place on site while trained community health volunteers conduct home visits.