Embu County has made strides in improving health care and access to nutrition interventions, but there is still work to be done. While 62% of pregnant women have at least four antenatal care visits, which is above the national average of 58%, only 43% have a skilled birth attendant present for delivery, below the national average of 62%. Currently, 26.8% of the children in Embu County are stunted while 11.1% are underweight and this is not far from the national rates of 26% and 11%, respectively. Embu County has committed to improving the health and nutritional status of its population. Nutrition International supports the County Department of Health in implementing multi-faceted programs designed to improve the health and nutrition of women, girls and young children.

**OUR APPROACH**

Nutrition International has been working closely with the County government of Embu since 2017 to help improve the nutritional status of its population. This requires involvement, leadership and coordination of county officials from various sectors including health, education, finance, agriculture, gender and social protection. Planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of program activities is led by the County Health Management Team (CHMT), which includes the County Health Director, Nutritionist, Reproductive Health Coordinator, Health Accountant, County Child Health and Health Promotion, and Community Services coordinators. At the sub-county level, the implementation team consists of departmental heads who work closely with the CHMT and community health workers. A Nutrition International county nutrition coordinator oversees program implementation and facilitates the provision of technical support from the national office.
## PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN EMBU COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Key Result(s)</th>
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| **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN)**           | - Strengthen the enabling environment at the county and sub-county levels for delivery of quality MNCHN services  
- Improve delivery of quality MNCHN services provided by frontline health workers at facility and community levels  
- Improve demand for and utilization of MNCHN services by pregnant and postpartum women, and caregivers of newborns and children under 5  
- 2 data quality audit meetings and 2 in-depth meetings held  
- 36 health facilities received supportive supervision visits  
- 42 health managers sensitized on maternal, newborn and neonatal health and nutrition  
- 36 continuous medical sessions held  
- 148 health facility managers sensitized on MNCHN  
- 27 health workers trained on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC)  
- 2 KMC centres established  
- 339 community health workers sensitized on Anzilisha  
- 4 community units selected Community Mother Support Groups Committees |
| **Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN)**                            | - 27 health workers and community health extension workers training on the Baby Friendly Community Initiative (BFCI)  
- 89 community health workers trained on BFCI  
- 36 stakeholders sensitized on BFCI  
- 27 health workers and community health extension workers training on the Baby Friendly Community Initiative (BFCI)  
- 89 community health workers trained on BFCI  
- 36 stakeholders sensitized on BFCI  |
| **Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS)**                                    | - Nutrition International procured the entire supply of vitamin A capsules to guarantee no stock-outs  
- Technical and financial support for the implementation of Malezi Bora (Child Health Days)  
- Routine data quality audits on VAS data conducted to ensure improved documentation and reporting |
| **Behaviour Change Communication**                                     | - 34 health managers trained on social behaviour change communication  
- 289 CHVs trained on social behaviour change communication |
| **Advocacy for Budget Allocation for Nutrition**                       | - Establishment of the County Anzilisha Implementation Team for nutrition and health leadership at the county level  
- Establishment of County Nutrition Technical Forum to help the county manage its supply of commodities and bring other health stakeholders on board  
- Conducted high-level meetings with Budgetary Committee  
- Conducted high-level meetings with the County Secretary and County Executive Member for Health |

## ABOUT NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a global organization dedicated to delivering proven nutrition interventions to those who need them most. Working in partnership with countries, donors and implementers, our experts conduct cutting-edge nutrition research, support critical policy formulation, and integrate nutrition into broader development programs. Since 2006, Nutrition International Kenya has worked with government (national, and sub national) to support research, policy development and implementation of nutrition interventions. [www.NutritionIntl.org](http://www.NutritionIntl.org)

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