THE NEED

Though Kiambu County reports good nutrition indicators, the county faces the challenge of urban versus rural disparities with rural areas having poor coverage across all nutrition indicators. For instance, urban Thika and Kiambu Sub-Counties, which often serve populations from nearby Nairobi and Machakos Counties, report skilled birth attendance at 240% and 314% respectively, while rural Juja and Kabete Sub-Counties report coverage of 25% and 28%. Stunting in children under five is increasing, rising from 2.3% in 2017 to 3.2% in 2018. Iron and folic acid supplementation coverage ranges from 28% to 93.3%. In addition, due to the high population, even low percentages result in large absolute numbers, meaning many people are still being left behind. The health priorities that have been set in the Kiambu County Health Strategy and Investment Plan for 2019-2023 focus on reducing morbidity and preventable deaths from infectious and non-communicable diseases, improving the efficiency and quality of services, and adopting health care innovation. In this context, Nutrition International is supporting the county in implementing a multi-faceted program focused on improving the nutrition and health outcomes for women, adolescent girls and young children.

OUR APPROACH

Nutrition International has been working closely with the County Government of Kiambu since 2016 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, County Nutrition Coordinator, Reproductive Health Coordinator, Health Accountant, County Child Health Services Coordinator, County Health Promotion Officer and County Community Services coordinator. At the sub-county level, the implementation team consists of departmental heads who work closely with the CHM I, Community Health Extension Workers and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs.) Nutrition International’s County Program Coordinator oversees program implementation and facilitates the provision of technical support from the national office.
**PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN KIAMBU COUNTY**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Key Result(s)</th>
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| **Maternal and Newborn Health and Nutrition (MNHN)** | • 78 health managers and 276 health service providers trained on antenatal care, iron and folic acid supplementation, birth package interventions, postnatal care and high-impact nutrition interventions  
• 40 local leaders sensitized on the importance of maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition interventions  
• 300 CHVs sensitized on effective delivery of nutrition key messages  
• 2 Kangaroo Mother Care units established |
| **Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN)**        | • 30 frontline health care workers and community extension workers trained on the Baby Friendly Community Initiative (BFCl)  
• CHVs trained on improved delivery and quality assurance of BFCI intervention packages  
• Lactation station established at Gatundu level 5 hospital |
| **Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS)**               | • 30 health managers and 300 frontline health workers trained on VAS  
• Financial and technical support for the implementation of Malezi Bora (Child Health Days.)  
• Nutrition International advocacy resulted in Kiambu County allocating funds to support VAS.  
• VAS coverage for children 6-59 months improved from 40.7% in 2016 to 91.3% in 2019.  
• VAS coverage for children 12-59 months, usually a hard to find group, improved from 35.4% in 2016 to 89.4% in 2019. |
| **Advocacy for budget allocations for nutrition**  | • High-level advocacy forum conducted with county executives and political leaders to advocate for increased budget allocation for nutrition  
• 14 new nutrition officers recruited and deployed since 2016 |

**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)

**CONTACTS**

Nutrition International Kenya Country Office  
Avenue 5, 1st Floor, Rose Avenue, Off Lenana Road, P.O. Box, 22296 – 00505 Nairobi, Kenya  
T +254 709638000  
Email: mikenya@micronutrient.org