While health and nutrition indicators reveal progress has been made, Murang’a County remains committed to further improving the nutritional status of its population. Rates of stunting and underweight in children under 5 are 19% and 6% respectively, below the national averages of 26% and 11%. Sixty one percent (61%) of pregnant women received at least four antenatal care visits and 86% of births had a skilled birth attendant present, while nationally the averages are 58% and 62%, respectively. Nutrition International works closely with the Department of Health to implement a multi-faceted program to improve nutrition services in the County. The Anzilisha Plus program, designed to improve nutrition and health outcomes for women and young children, is a key component of this work. Anzilisha Plus is being implemented at the County level with intense community-level interventions in the sub-counties of Kandara, Murang’a South and Gatanga. In areas where community health volunteers (CHVs) have been trained on integrated community case management, the county government is providing them with zinc and oral rehydration salt (ORS) co-packs to treat cases of diarrhoea.

**OUR APPROACH**

Nutrition International has been working closely with the County government of Murang’a since 2010 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, Health Accountant, Nutrition, Reproductive Health, Child Health and Community Health Strategy 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 Program Coordinator oversees program implementation and facilitates the provision of technical support from the national office.
<table>
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<th>Program</th>
<th>Key Result(s)</th>
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| **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN)** | • 45 county and sub-county managers, and 210 health care workers trained on Anzilisha Plus interventions, including iron and folic acid supplementation, birth package and antenatal care  
• Improved quality of care at Kangaroo Mother Care unit at Maragua Hospital  
• 54 health managers and community health extension workers trained on Anzilisha Plus social behaviour change and communication  
• 36 mother-to-mother and 36 father-father support groups established |
| **Objective:** | • Build the capacity of frontline health workers to promote and deliver quality MNCHN services |
| **Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN)** | • 45 health managers sensitized on IYCN  
• 210 health facility officials sensitized on IYCN  
• 360 CHVs sensitized on IYCN  
• Continuous education provided to 210 health workers on improved delivery of maternal, infant and young child nutrition |
| **Objective:** | • Build the capacity of health service providers and community health volunteers to deliver optimal IYCN care at the community level |
| **Diarrhoea Management Using Zinc and ORS** | • 72 facility health workers trained on Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses  
• 375 CHVs and 18 trainers-of-trainers trained on Integrated Community Case Management  
• Stopgap stock of zinc and ORS co-packs donated by Nutrition International to the county government |
| **Objective:** | • Build the capacity of facility health workers and CHVs to deliver quality diarrhoea management services |
| **Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS)** | • 45 health managers and 210 frontline health workers trained on VAS  
• Technical support for the implementation of Malezi Bora (Child Health Days)  
• In Murang’a South Sub-County, VAS coverage for children 6-11 months improved from 52.3% in 2017 to 104.3% in 2018, and in Kandara Sub-County, coverage improved from 19.2% to 82.3%  
• In Murang’a South Sub-County, coverage for children 12-59 months improved from 64.3% in 2017 to 133.5% in 2018, and in Kandara Sub-County improved from 17.6% to 90.4%  
• Demonstration project on optimizing VAS through the platforms recommended by the vitamin A policy guidelines in Kenya |
| **Objectives:** | • Improve nutrition, survival, health and development of children under 5 through VAS, which prevents blindness and boosts immune systems  
• Reach at least 80% of children under 5 with two doses of VAS each year  
• Strengthen health systems to support delivery of vitamin A and other maternal, child health and nutrition services |
| **Advocacy for Budget Allocation for Nutrition** | • Establishment of the County Anzilisha Implementation Team for health leadership at the county level |
| **Objective:** | • Secure commitments from political leaders for increased investments in nutrition |

**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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