

BUSIA

COUNTY PROFILE



KENYA



THE NEED

While nutrition and health indicators in Busia County are still alarming, the County has committed to improving these numbers. Stunting prevalence is 22%, 9% of children are underweight and only 20% access the minimum dietary requirements. Nearly half of pregnant women get four or more antenatal care visits during their pregnancy and only 40% give birth in the presence of a skilled birth attendant, well below the national average of 62%. However, the County government has set targets to increase both by 2020, aiming for 58% and 55%, respectively. Busia County recorded the highest number of adolescent pregnancies in the country in 2018, with 42% of girls becoming pregnant before the age of 18. In addition, 32% of pregnant women were anaemic. In partnership with Nutrition International, Busia County has made significant investments to promote primary health care. Nutrition International's programs in Busia County target both the first window of opportunity (the First 1,000 days) and the second window (adolescence) for child development.

OUR APPROACH

Nutrition International has been working closely with the County government of Busia 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, 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.

BUSIA COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Total population: 899,596

Poverty Index: 69.3%

Main economic activity:

Subsistence farming,
trade and fishing

Number of health facilities:

129

PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN BUSIA COUNTY

Program	Key Result(s) 2019
<p>Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the enabling environment for the delivery of quality MNCHN services to ensure the sustainability of the interventions Build the capacity of frontline health workers to promote and deliver quality MNCHN services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 health managers and care providers trained on a high-impact package of interventions targeting the first 1,000 days 30 health workers trained on the Baby-Friendly Community Initiative and 25 health workers trained on Kangaroo Mother Care 6 mother-to-mother and 6 father-to-father community groups established County-wide media promotion of Anzilisha program interventions
<p>Advocacy for budget allocations for nutrition</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure commitments from political leaders for increased investments in nutrition Lobby county management for inclusion of nutrition activities in county strategic plans to ensure sustainability of the projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement and distribution of 6,000 Chlorhexidine gel tubes, used for cord care to reduce neonatal sepsis, a major cause of infant death Establishment of the County Anzilisha Implementation Team for health leadership at the county level County Integrated Development Plan for 2018-2022 completed with nutrition priorities County Nutrition Action Plan in progress
<p>Vitamin A supplementation (VAS)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 6-59 months with two doses of VAS per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 115 health managers, frontline health workers and community health volunteers trained on VAS Malezi Bora mainstreamed within the early childhood development school calendar and other community outreach programs such as immunization
<p>Adolescent Nutrition</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce anaemia rates among adolescent girls by providing weekly iron and folic acid supplementation (WIFAS) in schools Sensitize principals and teachers on the importance of adolescent nutrition Promote nutrition education and health among adolescent girls and boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 million iron and folic acid tablets purchased and distributed to 567 (90%) schools in Busia county 567 teachers trained on adolescent nutrition and weekly iron and folic acid supplementation 7 county curriculum support officers, 7 nutritionist and health records officers, and 7 quality assurance support health officers trained on the provision of WIFAS

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

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