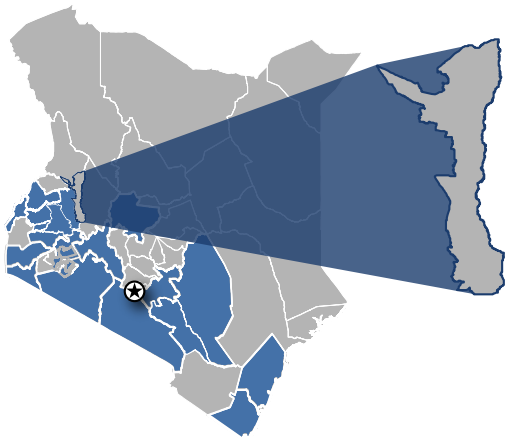


# ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

## NUTRITION PROFILE

≡ KENYA



### ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY AT A GLANCE

**Total population:** 454,465  
(KNBS 2019)

**Poverty Index:** 43.6%  
(KHIBS 2018)

**Main economic activity:**  
Agriculture

**Number of health facilities:** 129

### THE NEED

The Government of Elgeyo Marakwet County (EMC) has been implementing nutrition interventions under various programs with support from partners to improve the nutritional status of its population. This has improved access to basic nutrition services and uptake of recommended practices for women and children; 75% of women take iron folic acid (IFA) supplements for 90 or more days during pregnancy and 90% of newborns are initiated to breastmilk within the first hour (KHIS 2019). For the first six months of life, 62% of infants are exclusively breastfed (ENRICH Midterm Evaluation 2019). A majority (85%) of children are fully immunized in the first year of life and 84% of children under five receive zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS) for the treatment of diarrhoea (KHIS 2019).

Despite this progress, nutrition and health indicators are still alarming in EMC. Almost 30% of children under five are stunted, which is higher than the national prevalence of 26%. Nearly one out of 10 children are underweight and only 21% of children are fed according to the minimum acceptable diet/food groups for their age (KDHS 2014). Only 24% of women make the recommended four antenatal care visits during their pregnancy, and 56% give birth in the presence of a skilled birth attendant, which is much lower than the national average of 62% (KHIS 2019). About 25% of the population experience seasonal food insecurity (CIDP 2018).

Visibility and prioritization of nutrition and food security in EMC planning and budgeting has improved in recent years due to concerted efforts of stakeholders. The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018-2022 puts considerable emphasis on investments in nutrition and food security interventions across multiple sectors.

## THE APPROACH

While progress has been made, significant work is still required to improve nutrition and health indicators in EMC. The Department of Health has led the development of the County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP) 2019-2023. Aligned with the Kenya Nutrition Action Plan 2018-2022, the CNAP identifies priority nutrition interventions across sectors, estimating cost of implementation and setting realistic targets in a common results and accountability framework. The CNAP recognizes the role of nutrition as a fundamental human right and a driver to accelerating economic development as envisioned in Vision 2030 and defines a coordination mechanism for various actions across sectors, including health, agriculture, education, water and sports. The multisectoral approach of the CNAP is promoted by projects such as Enhancing Nutrition Services to Improve Maternal and Child Health (ENRICH), Transforming Health Systems (THS) and Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH).



## PROGRAMS IN ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

PROGRAM/THEMATIC AREA	KEY RESULTS 2019
<b>Maternal and Newborn Health and Nutrition</b> Supported by ENRICH and THS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77 health workers trained on essential newborn care, Kangaroo Mother Care and the use of Chlorhexidine for cord care</li> <li>• 35 health service providers trained on IFA supplementation and birth package</li> <li>• IFA tablets and Chlorhexidine procured by the county government</li> </ul>
<b>Infant and Young Child Nutrition</b> Supported by ENRICH and THS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 Health managers and 625 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) trained on Baby Friendly Community Initiative</li> <li>• 755 men and 6,376 women sensitized on nutrition through care groups</li> <li>• 118 health workers and 399 CHVs trained on micronutrient powders program implementation</li> <li>• 2,500 children aged 6-23 months provided with micronutrient powders</li> <li>• Biannual Malezi Bora (Child Health Days) campaigns conducted</li> <li>• Zinc and ORS procured by the county government</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition</b> Supported by ENRICH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 health managers and 85 health workers trained and active referrals at the community</li> <li>• Budget allocated for procurement of therapeutic feeds at ward level</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition in Agriculture and Food Security</b> Supported by ENRICH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 759 kitchen gardens established</li> <li>• 265 farmers provided with biofortified crops seed for orange fleshed sweet potatoes and iron-rich beans</li> <li>• Food demonstrations conducted in health facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b> Supported by ENRICH and THS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly data quality audits, supportive supervision and data review meetings conducted for all health facilities to inform decision making</li> </ul>
<b>Governance and Policy</b> Supported by ENRICH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Nutrition Action Plan and Advocacy Plan developed</li> <li>• Members of County Assembly sensitized on importance of increased budget allocation for nutrition activities</li> </ul>

To accelerate and scale up efforts towards the elimination of malnutrition in EMC, there is need for increased investment (as well as coverage of) nutrition across all relevant sectors. Multisectoral approaches are key in addressing the basic, underlying and immediate causes of all forms of malnutrition and ensuring a healthier population, better quality of life and economic growth in the county.

## ENRICH

The ENRICH project aims to improve the health and nutrition status of mothers, newborns and children by taking a comprehensive approach to: i) improve delivery of essential health services, including basic nutrition specific and nutrition-sensitive services; ii) increase production, consumption and utilization of nutritious foods and micronutrient supplements; and iii) strengthen gender-responsive governance, policy and public engagement in maternal, newborn and child health.

The project is implemented by a consortium of five organization, led by World Vision Canada with Nutrition International, the Canadian Society for International Health, Harvest Plus and the University of Toronto. ENRICH is implemented in Bangladesh, Kenya, Myanmar and Tanzania and funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.

In Kenya, the ENRICH project is implemented in 11 out of 20 wards in EMC and directly benefits some 324,200 people – 80 per cent are children under two.

The ENRICH project comes to an end in March 2021. The CNAP has been developed to foster sustainability by ensuring the county has a roadmap and the commitment to continue addressing the problem of malnutrition.

## 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, Nutrition International experts conduct cutting-edge nutrition research, support critical policy formulation, and integrate nutrition into broader development programs. Since 2016, Nutrition International has been working in partnership with the Department of Health in EMC to strengthen existing health systems to improve the delivery of basic nutrition services. The CNAP was developed with the technical and financial assistance of Nutrition International through ENRICH and its other projects –Right Start and the Nutrition Technical Assistance Mechanism (NTEAM)'s Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) project, funded with UK Aid from the UK Government.

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Nourish Life