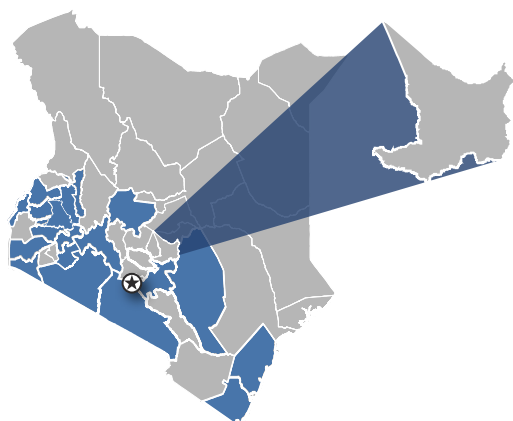


EMBU

COUNTY PROFILE

≡ KENYA



EMBU COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Total population: 622,993

Poverty Index: 35.3%

Main economic activity:

Agriculture

Number of health facilities:

209



THE NEED

Embu County has made strides in improving healthcare and access to nutrition interventions, but there is still much work to be done. Slightly above the national average of 58%, the number of pregnant women who have at least four antenatal care visits stands at 59.6%. Higher than the national average of 62%, women who have a skilled birth attendant present for delivery stands at 88.4%. Currently, 26.8% of children in Embu County are stunted, while 11.1% are underweight — 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 government of Embu County since 2017 to improve the nutritional status of the population. This requires the 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, Health Accountant, County Child Health and Health Promotion, and Community Service coordinators. At the sub-county level, the implementation team consists of departmental leads who work closely with the CHMT, health facility staff and community health workers. The 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

Program	Key Result(s)
Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two data quality audit meetings and two in-depth meetings held 46 health facilities received supportive supervision visits 42 health managers sensitized on maternal, newborn and neonatal health and nutrition 72 continuous medical sessions held 148 health facility managers sensitized on MNCHN 27 health workers trained on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Two KMC centres established 339 community health workers sensitized on Anzilisha Four community units selected Community Mother Support Group Committees
Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the capacity of health service providers and community health workers to deliver optimal IYCN care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 health workers and community health extension workers training on the Baby Friendly Community Initiative (BFCl) 89 community health workers trained on BFCl 36 stakeholders sensitized on BFCl
Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) Objectives: <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 under 5 with two doses of VAS each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the capacity of the community to take appropriate preventive action and treatment of women and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 health managers trained on social behaviour change communication 289 community health volunteers trained on social behaviour change communication
Advocacy for Budget Allocation for Nutrition Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen county-led resource mobilization and allocation for health and nutrition services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the County Secretary and County Executive Member for Health Committee

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 subnational) to support research, policy development and implementation of nutrition interventions.

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