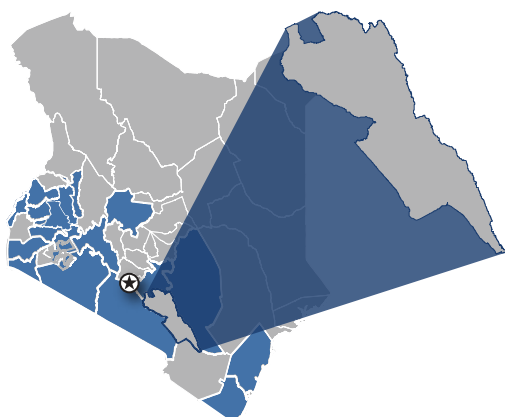


MAKUENI

COUNTY PROFILE

≡ KENYA



MAKUENI COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Total population: 992,637

Poverty Index: 60.6%

Main economic activity:

Farming

Number of health facilities:

245



THE NEED

Despite progress, health and nutrition indicators in Makueni County reveal a need for improvement and investment. At 60.6%, Makueni County has one of the highest poverty indices in the country. One out of four children under 5 are stunted and one out of 10 children are underweight. 10.6% of women aged 14-49 are also underweight, higher than the national average of 8.9%. More than half (55.5%) of pregnant women in Makueni suffer from iron deficiency anaemia, associated with an increased risk of low birth weight babies. Furthermore, 31% of adolescent girls became pregnant in 2018. In partnership with Nutrition International, Makueni County has prioritized the promotion of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition in their strategic plan. Behaviour change interventions to improve health and nutrition knowledge and practices are a key component of this work.

OUR APPROACH

Nutrition International has been working closely with the County government of Makueni 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, finance, education, 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.

PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN MAKUENI 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 capacity of community health systems to deliver MNCHN interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 frontline health workers trained on essential newborn care, Kangaroo Mother Care and the use of Chlorhexidine for cord care 63 health service providers trained on iron folic acid (IFA) and birth package Procurement of IFA tablets and Chlorhexidine by the county government 15 mother-to-mother and 15 father-to-father support groups established
<p>Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN)</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Build capacity of health service providers and community health volunteers to deliver optimal IYCN care at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling out of the Baby Friendly Community initiative (BFCl) to promote maternal infant and young child nutrition at community level through the orientation of 50 Health managers, training of 25 health care workers and 60 Community Health Volunteers, and formation of community level support groups
<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"> 3 additional nutritionists recruited and deployed in county health facilities Budgetary allocation to the Nutrition unit increased from KSH 331,000 in 2017/18 to KSH 3 million in 2018/19 Bi-annual quality assessments and data review meetings targeting 30 high-volume facilities to better inform policy and decision-making County Nutrition Action Plan in development with support from Nutrition International
<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. Accelerate VAS coverage to 80% of children under 5 receiving 2 doses each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89,000 children under 5 were reached with VAS Technical support for the implementation of Malezi Bora (Child Health Days)

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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