

# VIHIGA

## COUNTY PROFILE



### KENYA

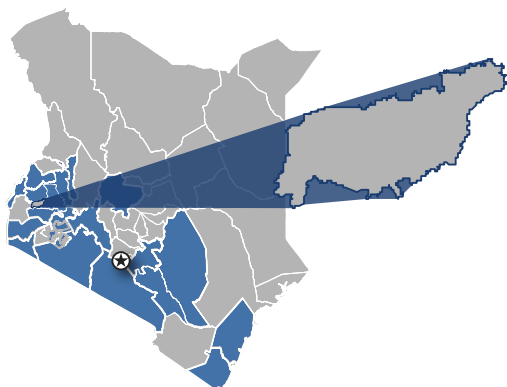


### THE NEED

While progress has been made, significant work is still required to improve nutrition and health indicators in Vihiga County. Even though Vihiga is considered a food secure county, with subsistence farming as the main source of livelihood, one quarter of children under five years have stunted growth, with 6% of children underweight. While 61% of women get four or more antenatal care visits during their pregnancy only half give birth in the presence of a skilled birth attendant, far lower than the national average of 62%. Political commitment to nutrition is evident with food security and nutrition included as a key priority of the County Development Plan 2018-22. The focus of Nutrition International's program in Vihiga county is the promotion behaviour change interventions to improve maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition practices. We 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 Vihiga 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.



### VIHIGA COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Total population: 649,246

Poverty Index: 41.3%

Main economic activity:  
Agriculture

Number of health facilities:  
137

## PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN VIHIGA COUNTY

Program	Key Result(s) 2019
<p><b>Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN)</b></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the enabling environment for the delivery of quality MNCHN services</li> <li>Build the capacity of frontline health workers at facility and community levels to promote and deliver quality MNCHN services</li> <li>Improve demand for, and use of MNCHN services by pregnant and postpartum women, caregivers of newborns and children under 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 550 health care workers, community health volunteers and community health extension workers trained to deliver nutrition interventions</li> <li>Two functional Kangaroo Mother Care units established</li> <li>Stopgap procurement of essential commodities such as combined iron folic acid and Chlorhexidine gel</li> <li>20 mother-to-mother and two father-to-father community groups established</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advocacy for budget allocations for nutrition</b></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure commitments from political leaders for increased investments in nutrition</li> <li>Lobby county management for inclusion of nutrition activities in county strategic plans to ensure sustainability of the projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US \$7,000 (KSH 700,000) allocated to nutrition activities in the county in the 2018-19 fiscal year</li> <li>29 new nutrition officers recruited and deployed</li> <li>50 height boards and 45 weighing scales procured and distributed for monitoring nutritional status of women and children</li> <li>County Nutrition Action Plan in progress with support from Nutrition International</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vitamin A supplementation (VAS)</b></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve nutrition, survival, health and development of children under 5 through VAS, which prevents blindness and boosts immune systems.</li> <li>Reach at least 80% of children 6-59 months with two doses of VAS per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical support to implement Malezi Bora (Child Health Days)</li> <li>100 Health care workers trained in revised VAS policy</li> <li>In June 2019, 43% of children under five years were reached with VAS</li> </ul>

### 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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Nourish Life