

MURANG'A

COUNTY PROFILE

≡ KENYA

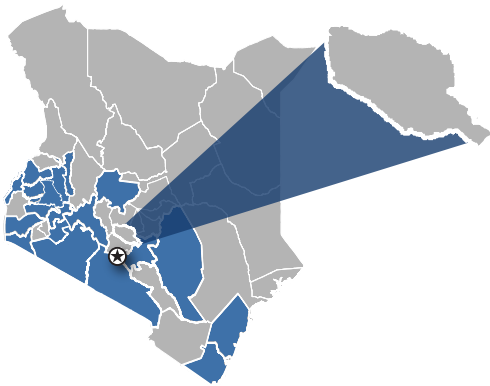


THE NEED

While health and nutrition indicators reveal progress has been made, Murang'a County remains committed to further improving the nutritional status of its population. Rates of stunting and wasting in children under five are 20.1% and 5% respectively, below the national averages of 29.9% and 13% (KIHBS 2015/16). According to a survey conducted by Nutrition International in 2020, 62.6% of pregnant women received at least four antenatal care visits while 56.9% of mothers of infants zero to five months of age consumed at least 90 iron/iron folic acid supplements throughout their previous pregnancy preceding the survey period. Exclusive breastfeeding for infants zero to five months of age stands at 85.3%, while minimum acceptable diet and minimum dietary diversity for children six to 23 months of age is 33% and 50.8% respectively. Nutrition International works closely with the Department of Health to implement a multi-faceted program to improve nutrition services in Murang'a County. The maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition (MNCHN) project, designed to improve nutrition and health outcomes for women and young children, is a key component of this work.

OUR APPROACH

Nutrition International has been working closely with the government of Murang'a County since 2010 to help improve the nutritional status of its 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, Health Accountant, Nutrition, Reproductive Health, Child Health and Community Health Strategy Coordinators. At the sub-county level, the implementation team consists of departmental heads who work closely with the CHMT and community health workers. The Nutrition International County Program Coordinator oversees program implementation and facilitates the provision of technical support from the national office.



MURANG'A COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Total population: 1,056,640

Poverty Index: 28.5%

Main economic activity:

Agriculture

Number of health facilities:

225

PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Program	Key Result(s)
<p>Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN)</p> <p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the capacity of frontline health workers to promote and deliver quality MNCHN services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 county and sub-county managers, and 210 healthcare workers trained on Anzilisha Plus interventions, including iron and folic acid supplementation, birth package and antenatal care Improved quality of care at Kangaroo Mother Care unit at Maragua Hospital 54 health managers and community health extension workers trained on Anzilisha Plus social behaviour change and communication 36 mother-to-mother and 36 father-to-father support groups established
<p>Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN)</p> <p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the capacity of health service providers and community health volunteers (CHVs) to deliver optimal IYCN care at the community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 health managers sensitized on IYCN 210 health facility officials sensitized on IYCN 360 CHVs sensitized on IYCN Continuous education provided to 210 health workers on improved delivery of maternal, infant and young child nutrition
<p>Diarrhoea Management Using Zinc and ORS</p> <p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the capacity of facility health workers and CHVs to deliver quality diarrhoea management services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72 facility health workers trained on Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses 18 trainers-of-trainers and 375 CHVs trained on Integrated Community Case Management Stop gap stock of zinc and ORS co-packs donated by Nutrition International to the county government
<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 under 5 with two doses of VAS each year Strengthen health systems to support delivery of vitamin A and other maternal, child health and nutrition services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 health managers and 210 frontline health workers trained on VAS technical support for the implementation of Malezi Bora (Child Health Days) Murang'a South sub-county VAS coverage for children 6 to 11 months improved from 52.3% in 2017 to 104.3% in 2018, and in Kandara sub-county, coverage improved from 19.2% to 82.3% Murang'a South sub-county coverage for children 12 to 59 months improved from 64.3% in 2017 to 133.5% in 2018, and in Kandara sub-county improved from 17.6% to 90.4% Demonstration project on optimizing VAS through the platforms recommended by the vitamin A policy guidelines in Kenya
<p>Advocacy for Budget Allocation for Nutrition</p> <p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure commitments from political leaders for increased investments in nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the County Anzilisha Implementation Team for health leadership at the county level

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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