



Nourish Life

Kenya

2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY SITUATION

Kenya has continued to make progress in reducing the burden of malnutrition. The recently released Kenya Demographic Health Survey revealed that the prevalence of stunting reduced from 26% in 2014 to 18% in 2022, while the prevalence of underweight reduced from 11% to 10%. Despite progress in some indicators, 21.9% of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia, with the condition exacerbated among pregnant women.

The government continued to prioritize and increase investments in nutrition, as well as increased efforts towards improving access to healthcare under the universal health coverage agenda. 2022, also saw general elections take place, resulting in a new government at the national and sub-national levels.

OVERVIEW OF WORK

Nutrition International partners with the Government of Kenya, subnational governments and community health leaders to implement programs focused on maternal, adolescent, child health and nutrition. At the national level, we work alongside the National Ministry of Health (MoH), Department of Family Health, Divisions of Nutrition and Dietetics and Neonatal Child Health to develop policies, guidelines and tools, as well as to build capacity development.

As of 2022, Nutrition International supported 11 county governments to implement evidence-informed, low-cost nutrition interventions through its domestic resource mobilization initiative, where counties match Nutrition International's funding and plan and budget towards achieving shared nutrition goals.

Our work in Kenya is supported by 13 staff members and 11 county project coordinators.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Technical expertise and financial support were provided to develop the Adolescent Nutrition Advocacy Strategy for the East Central and Southern Africa Health Community. The strategy aims to reduce anaemia, increase programming and advance advocacy efforts for adolescent nutrition.
- To effectively reach and engage with medium and small size maize millers, Nutrition International facilitated the formation of the umbrella body Grain Mill Owners Association, which consists of seven maize millers' associations.
- Nutrition International, in collaboration with the MoH and Global Alliance of Vitamin A, commissioned a national supply chain assessment on vitamin A capsules to identify the challenges and possible solutions.
- A gender equality factsheet and posters for 11 counties were developed for use in behaviour change interventions and advocacy efforts at the community level.
- The Vihiga County nutrition policy was launched in November 2022, with financial and technical support from Nutrition International.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



4.5M
additional people consumed
adequately fortified maize flour



1.3M
children aged 6–59 months
received two doses of vitamin A



346K
pregnant women completed
four antenatal care visits



296K
deliveries attended
by skilled birth attendants



296K
adolescents received nutrition
education



263K
newborns initiated on breastfeeding
within one hour of birth



228K
childhood diarrhoea cases treated
with zinc and low-osmolarity oral
rehydration salts



155K
adolescent girls received the full
scheme of weekly iron and folic
acid supplementation



12K
babies born with low birth
weights managed through
kangaroo mother care

KEY EVENTS

- At the inaugural Cross County Learning Forum on Domestic Resource Mobilization for Nutrition and Health in Kenya, the governors of 12 Kenyan counties signed a declaration to reinforce their united commitment to ending malnutrition.
- Advocacy events were held at the national and county level to mark World Prematurity Day to raise awareness on the challenges and burden of preterm birth in Kenya, as well as to advocate for additional investments to scale up neonatal interventions.
- The Annual Millers' Conference was held, with financial and technical support from Nutrition International, to discuss the food fortification agenda and strengthen self regulation on food fortification among millers.
- Nutrition International, in partnership with MoH and other stakeholders held a series of events in observance of World Breastfeeding Week 2022.
- A women leaders' forum was organized to bring together female governors and deputy governors from seven counties to champion for gender transformative nutrition and health interventions.

NEW FUNDING

Nutrition International was awarded CAD \$2,190,296 in funding from Global Affairs Canada to implement health and nutrition projects targeting women, adolescent girls and children under five years of age, for a period of five years in Elgeyo Marakwet.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nutrition International will continue to deepen ongoing engagement to at the national and county level in Kenya to extend financial technical assistance, as well as to influence the policy environment for nutrition. We will continue to support 11 county governments to implement evidence informed, low-cost, high-impact nutrition and health interventions through domestic resource mobilization initiative.