Undernutrition increases the risk of illness and death in children
- Undernutrition is the single most important contributor to child mortality.
- Malnutrition is associated with an estimated 50% of childhood deaths.
- Recent studies demonstrate that underweight children have a 2.74% higher risk of dying.

Stunting caused by undernutrition can lead to low progression in life
- Children stunted before the age of 5 are more likely to underperform in school.
- Stunted children have a higher risk of repeating grades.
- Stunting in children has a negative impact on their productivity later in life.

Effects of Child Undernutrition on Productivity, Health, and Education
- Out of 249,145 children under 5 in Kakamega, 11.5% are stunted, 1.5% are wasted, and 6.4% are underweight.
- The economic impact associated with underweight and stunted children is significant with far-reaching effects on:
  - **Productivity**: The current workforce has been impacted by increasing child mortality rates and reduced adult productivity.
  - **Health**: Increased child illness and death from undernutrition can strain already limited health resources.
  - **Education**: Most stunted people of working age in Kakamega have not completed primary school.

Cost-Effectiveness of MSN Interventions and Investments
- Total cost for 5 years: 2.15 billion KSh (20.62 million USD) cost of county interventions (2023-2027)
- Projected health cases averted:
  - 4,536 cases of stunting
  - 579 child deaths
  - 16,129 cases of adolescent anemia
  - 10,326 cases of anemia in pregnancy
- Projected cases of health gains:
  - 4,536 cases of stunting
  - 579 child deaths
  - 16,129 cases of adolescent anemia
  - 10,326 cases of anemia in pregnancy
- Cost per DALY averted: 45,581 KSh (437.61 USD)
- Benefit-cost ratio: 8:1

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Kakamega County Multi-Sectoral Nutrition (MSN) Investment Case

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