



**USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION KENYA**

**Kitui County Multi-Sectoral Nutrition (MSN) Investment Case**

**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 **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**



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 Kitui have not completed primary school.

**276 million KSh** (1.95 million USD);  
**0.27% of GCP** estimated amount lost in Kitui county in 2022 due to undernutrition

**Cost-Effectiveness of MSN Interventions and Investments**

