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# **USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya**

## **Final Report**

Fiscal Years 2020–2023



## About USAID Advancing Nutrition

USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project, led by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), and a diverse group of experienced partners. Launched in September 2018, USAID Advancing Nutrition implements nutrition interventions across sectors and disciplines for USAID and its partners. The project's multi-sectoral approach draws together global nutrition experience to design, implement, and evaluate programs that address the root causes of malnutrition. Committed to using a systems approach, USAID Advancing Nutrition strives to sustain positive outcomes by building local capacity, supporting behavior change, and strengthening the enabling environment to save lives, improve health, build resilience, increase economic productivity, and advance development.

## Disclaimer

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## Photo Credit

Redempta Mwendu Malusi, a nutrition champion in Kitui County, undertakes a food group sensitization session with ILuyva Village community members. Photo by Fridah Bwari/USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya

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Thank you to our academic partners, Maseno University and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, which were key to nutrition evidence generation for MSN advocacy. We also wish to extend our gratitude to local and international civil society organizations (CSOs) with whom we worked and partnered. We single out the 10 local CSOs for their collaboration across the three counties and whose leadership demonstrated MSN acumen and competencies to drive community action and prioritization for nutrition: The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance (CSA) and SUN Business Network (SBN) (which bring together more than 100 international and local CSOs in Kenya and hundreds of SBN businesses in nutrition in Kenya); Nutrition International, and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (which serve as the Chairs of SUN-CSA and SBN, respectively, and facilitate networks and partnership with diverse stakeholders in Kenya); United Nations Children's Fund; Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations; and the World Food Programme. USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya partnered with these United Nations organizations to advance nutrition policy work and the nutrition-sensitive agricultural components of our work. We also acknowledge the role played by more than 180 nutrition champions and their communities for their partnership in amplifying voices for increased allocation, prioritization, and accountability for nutrition in Kenya.

Last, we extend our sincere appreciation to USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya and global staff for delivering the program. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Save the Children in Kenya for leading this program. To all, we say “Asante Sana,” which is Swahili for “thank you.”

# Acronyms

ACSM	advocacy, communication, and social mobilization
ADP	annual development plan
ADS	Anglican Development Services
ANIS	Agri-Nutrition Implementation Strategy
AWP	annual work plan
BSc	Bachelor of Science
CA	County Assembly
CANIS	county agri-nutrition implementation strategy
CECM	County Executive Committee member
CIC	county investment case
CIDP	county integrated development plan
CNAP	county nutrition action plan
CNC	county nutrition coordinator
CNTF	county nutrition technical forum
COG	Council of Governors
CSA	Civil Society Alliance
CSG	County Steering Group
CSO	civil society organization
DEVCon	Devolution Conference
ECDE	early childhood development education
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
FTC	Farmers Training Center
FTT	financial tracking tool
FY	fiscal year
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GOK	Government of Kenya
H.E.	Her Excellency
iCCM	integrated community case management
IFMIS	integrated financial management information system
JKUAT	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KES	Kenya shilling

KNAP	Kenya Nutrition Action Plan
KNS	Kenya Nutrition Scorecard
KSA	Kenya School of Agriculture
KSG	Kenya School of Government
LREB	Lake Region Economic Bloc
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MMUST	Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology
MOALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH DND	Ministry of Health - Division of Nutrition and Dietetics
MSN	multi-sectoral nutrition
MSP	multi-sectoral nutrition platform
MTEF	medium-term expenditure framework
MTP	medium-term plan
MUAC	mid-upper arm circumference
NICC	Nutrition Interagency Coordination Committee
NIPN	National Information Platform for Nutrition
NPI	New Partnerships Initiative
NSA	nutrition-sensitive agriculture
PBB	program-based budgeting
PS	principal secretary
ROCA	rapid organizational capacity assessment
SBN	SUN Business Network
SME	small and medium enterprise
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TA	technical assistance
TOR	terms of reference
TWG	technical working group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	water, sanitation, and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

# Executive Summary

## Background and Objectives

USAID Advancing Nutrition sought to strengthen national and county-level capacity to plan, finance, manage, and implement multi-sectoral nutrition (MSN) interventions to improve the health of populations at risk of nutritional deficiencies in Kakamega, Kisumu and Kitui counties. To align project activities in Kenya, we facilitated co-creation exercises that identified priority areas of action for improved advocacy and resource allocation, planning, and coordination. We also undertook a rapid organizational capacity assessment (ROCA) that established strengths and areas for improvement for the county departments of health and agriculture in the domains of nutrition leadership and governance, financing, workforce for nutrition, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and partnership and coordination.

## Major Accomplishments

The Kenya program made significant progress in the areas of advocacy, planning, and government-led coordination for MSN at both national and county (subnational) levels. Figures 1 and figure 2 on maturation score provides a snapshot of achievements based on interventions per objective and annex 1 on project performance indicators.

### Objective 1: Improved advocacy for MSN

Advocacy for nutrition requires that key influencers and local organizations work together and are provided the right tools. We identified and built the capacity of 10 local civil society organizations (CSOs), and facilitated the establishment of the Kisumu Sun Business Network (SBN), which is comprised of 16 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the food and nutrition business value chain. We supported the adaptation and use of county MSN scorecards and financial tracking tools (FTT). Counties tracked nutrition financial allocations and expenditures across government departments and partners, thereby increasing accountability and resource efficiency. Across the three counties, we identified, trained, and supported 186 sector-wide nutrition champions engaged in prioritizing, securing funding for, and holding county governments accountable for the quality and coverage of nutrition services. The champions included former and current county First Ladies, Her Excellency (H.E) Prncilla Oparanya and H.E Prof. Janet Kassilly Barasa in Kakamega, respectively, and H.E Dorothy Nyong'o in Kisumu County, among others.

County executives and elected officials often lack concise tools to advocate for increased budget allocation and actions. Consequently, we developed county MSN investment cases and policy briefs that demonstrated the economic burden for malnutrition and priority actions across sectors. Addressing malnutrition requires a strategic shift in nutrition workforce development and general population awareness on healthy habits. In partnership with the Ministry of Health – Division of Nutrition and Dietetics (MOH DND), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD) Agri-Nutrition Unit, and Ministry of Education (MOE), we mainstreamed updated nutrition, health, agriculture, and physical education content of the competency-based curriculum for grades 10–12. Last, we supported Maseno University and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) to develop new curricula for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Nutrition and Food Security and a BSc in nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA), respectively.

### Objective 2: Improved planning for nutrition at the county and national levels

Traditionally in Kenya, donors and development partners fund nutrition with minimal government financing. This is due to limited capacity of technical officers in planning, budgeting, and advocacy with policymakers and legislatures. In the three counties and at the national level, we facilitated the training of 96 staff in program-based budgeting (PBB), joint work planning of MSN departments for their annual work plans (AWPs), county integrated development plans (CIDPs), and medium-term plans (MTP-IV) at



the national level. With nutrition-specific allocations and sub-programs being funded by the government for the first time, Kakamega County allocated Kenya shilling (KES) 60 million/US dollar (USD) 0.5 million for the school feeding program. In Kisumu, KES 11 million/USD 76,855 was allocated for MSN coordination, governance, and recruitment of nine agri-nutrition officers. In Kitui, KES 69.5 million/USD 485,590 was allocated for the school feeding program under the County Department of Basic Education, and procurement of anthropometric tools (mid-upper arm circumference [MUAC] tapes, height boards, and weighing scales ) worth KES 4.5 million/USD 31,440 for growth monitoring. At the national level, for the first time ever, NSA and nutrition in the Family Health and Strategic Public Health program were included in the Government of Kenya (GOK) MTP-IV (2022–2027) for MOALD and MOH DND, respectively. This means that they will always be funded under special programs in both ministries.

### Objective 3: Improved functioning of government-led MSN coordination platforms at national and county levels

Two years of MSN work in Kenya resulted in increased participation, ownership, and decision-making in the other nutrition-sensitive sectors of agriculture, education, social protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Nutrition was once perceived to be the preserve of the health sector and its partners only at national and county levels. We facilitated the development of MSN terms of references (TORs) with clear roles and responsibilities of actors, levels of government, and commitments from the Council of Governors (COG). We established functional government-led and funded county and subcounty MSN platforms in Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui. For the first time in Kitui, an Agri-nutrition Unit was established that coordinates nutrition in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and cooperative departments, and redeployed nine home-economics officers to the subcounties to coordinate and oversee activities. The project also mapped 107 food and nutrition coordination structures at the national level and in the three counties, which informed the alignment of and capacity strengthening support for the coordination structures. Last, in late July-early August 2023, county and national MSN forums hosted four close-out dissemination events attended by 316 delegates (145 M,171 F). Attendees included two county First Ladies; county MSN ministers from Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui; directors from the national MOH and MOALD, and representatives from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and CSOs, among others.

Figure 1: Baseline line maturation scores of MSN intervention by objective

QUARTER 2 FY22																					
USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION MILESTONES for MULTISECTOR NUTRITION (MSN)																					
OBJECTIVE	Improved capacity for nutrition advocacy							Increased multi-sectoral nutrition financial allocation				Improved planning					Improved functioning of government-led multi-sectoral nutrition coordination platforms			Overall score	
MILESTONE	Mapping	Assessment of Key MSN Institutions	CSOs strengthening	Nutrition Champions	Advocacy Key Messages	Average	Financial tracking tool adaptation	Nutrition budget reviews	Policy review/adaptation/ANIS/CNAP/KNAP	Average	MSN skills	MSN AWP's	Data review	MSN scorecard	Average	MSN TOR	County MSN Forum	Average			
Kakamega	3	4	2	3	2	2.8	2	2	3	1.7	3	3	2	2	2.3	3	2	2.5	2.3	2.3	
Kisumu	3	4	2	2	2	2.6	2	2	3	1.7	3	3	2	2	2.3	3	3	3.0	2.4	2.4	
Kitui	3	3	2	2	2	2.4	2	2	3	1.7	3	3	2	2	2.3	3	2	2.5	2.2	2.2	

Figure 2: End line maturation scores of MSN intervention by objective

QUARTER 3 FY23																					
USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION MILESTONES for MULTI-SECTOR NUTRITION (MSN)																					
OBJECTIVE	Improved capacity for nutrition advocacy							Increased multi-sectoral nutrition financial allocation				Improved planning					Improved functioning of government-led multi-sectoral nutrition coordination platforms			Overall score	
MILESTONE	Mapping	Assessment of Key MSN Institutions	CSOs strengthening	Nutrition Champions	Advocacy Key Messages	Average	Financial tracking tool adaptation	Nutrition budget reviews	Policy review/adaptation/ANIS/CNAP/KNA	Average	MSN skills	MSN AWP's	Data reviews	MSN scorecard	Average	MSN TOR	County MSN Forum	Average			
Kakamega	4	4	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4	4.0	4.0	4.0	
Kisumu	4	4	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4	4.0	4.0	4.0	
Kitui	4	4	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4	4.0	4.0	4.0	

Overall Milestone			
1	2	3	4
Nascent	Establishing	Consolidating	Achieving

## Key Evidence and Learning

MSN requires “a mindset shift” across individuals, departments, organizations, institutions, and networks. It thrives where there is committed local leadership with the right competencies guided by adequate policy frameworks and legislation. We learned that nutrition evidence plays a key role in influencing policymakers. However, county governments had limited capacities to undertake research; therefore, academic institutions were key in synthesizing nutrition data, research, and key findings from the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) into key advocacy messages used by nutrition champions. Two years of MSN work in Kenya shows that the MSN prioritized activities are now owned and well embedded in policies, such as county integrated development plans (CIDPs) and MTP-IV. Compared with the national level, Kisumu, Kakamega, and Kitui have the highest likelihood of sustaining and funding key MSN interventions beyond the life of the project due to top leadership commitment at the ministerial level (i.e., County Executive Committee members [CECM]). The sectors of agriculture, health, early childhood education, water and sanitation, and components of social services are fully devolved to the counties. Consequently, counties have the highest motivation to make MSN work. The MSN tools (i.e., scorecards, financial tracking, policy briefs, investment cases, and MSN platforms) are furthering the achievement of that responsibility.

## Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic began around the start of the USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya program. This delayed program activities at the outset, but we quickly adapted by observing MOH/World Health Organization (WHO) containment measures. Moreover, during this period, we experienced political transition in Kenya—far reaching leadership changes—from the presidency to two of the three governors and top leadership in our areas of operations.

## The Way Forward

Right from the beginning, our focus in Kenya has been to ensure sustainability and integration in existing structures and policy frameworks. Key interventions for nutrition governance and localization are well embedded in the CIDPs, AWP and MTP. The use of scorecards, financial tracking, and MSN coordination will outlast the USAID Advancing Nutrition project period in Kenya. At the county level, the inclusion of the county planning and budgeting department was a game changer because they hold the key to resource allocation and tracking. These are all critical sustainability measures that will hopefully continue promoting MSN coordination in Kenya.

# Overview

## 1. Project duration:

3 years

## 2. Project dates:

August 2020–October 2023

## 3. Geographic focus:

Counties of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui, and the national level

## 4. Project objectives:

USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya aimed to strengthen national and county-level government capacity to plan, finance, manage, and implement MSN interventions to improve the health of populations at risk of nutritional deficiencies. Our work aimed to achieve the following broad objectives:

- Improved MSN resource allocation at the county level.
- Improved planning for nutrition at the county level.
- Improved functioning of government-led MSN coordination platforms at national and county levels.

To contextualize the project with each stakeholder, we led a co-creation exercise in fiscal year (FY) 2021 that refined the objectives further and aligned our work plan with the policy frameworks in Kenya, such as the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP), Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP), the respective county nutrition action plans (CNAPs), and the Agri-Nutrition Implementation Strategy (ANIS). Consequently, the following objectives guided our joint action plans with the national government and the three counties.

### 1. Kakamega County

- Objective 1.1: Improved capacity for nutrition advocacy and implementation of resource mobilization, county leadership, County Assembly (CA), CSOs, and communities.
- Objective 1.2: Increased MSN financial allocation at the county level.
- Objective 1.3: Strengthened multi-sectoral governance, planning, and coordination in nutrition programming in the county.

### 2. Kisumu County

- Objective 2.1: Improved stakeholder capacity for nutrition advocacy and implementation.
- Objective 2.2: Improved capacity of stakeholders in tracking nutrition budget expenditure.
- Objective 2.3: Improved functioning of government-led MSN coordination platforms and planning at county and subcounty levels.

### 3. Kitui County

- Objective 3.1: Improved capacity to advocate for nutrition at the county legislature and community levels.
- Objective 3.2: Increased MSN budgetary resource allocation at the county level.
- Objective 3.3: Improved government-led MSN coordination in Kitui County.
- Objective 3.4: Improved planning skills and processes related to nutrition programming for multi-sector county government and relevant stakeholders at the county level.

#### 4. National Level

- Objective 4.1: Improved multi-sectoral planning for nutrition.
- Objective 4.2: Strengthen nutrition mainstreaming in sectoral programs.
- Objective 4.3: Enhance resource mobilization and allocation to nutrition programs and activities.
- Objective 4.4: Strengthen government-led multi-sectoral coordination.

# Background

## Country Context

In 2010, Kenya enacted a constitution that paved the way for the decentralization of 47 county governments, each semi-autonomous to drive its own development agenda. As of 2019, the population of Kenya was 47.6 million<sup>1</sup>, with a poverty rate of 36 percent. The agriculture sector contributes about 33 percent of gross domestic product and 65 percent of total export earnings. The burden of malnutrition is heterogeneous across the country, driven by different social and economic characteristics specific to each county. Paying attention to both the specificity and sensitivity of nutrition actions is a common approach adopted by the government for optimal and long-lasting impact in the country. This led to a notable improvement in nutrition indicators as reported in 2022 KDHS<sup>2</sup> compared with the 2014 KDHS (stunting was 18% down from 26%; underweight was 10% down from 11%). However, the increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity add to the existing risk (increase from 33% to 45%). The wasting rates slightly increased from 4 percent to 5 percent, and were attributed to increased food prices caused by climatic changes and the impact of COVID-19. The Government of Kenya is committed to attaining good health for its population and is guided by the National FNSP (2012) and Implementation Framework (2017–2022), Agricultural Policy 2021, Health Policy 2014–2030, Vision 2030, and the 2010 Constitution. To address the burden of malnutrition, state and non-state actors have addressed undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies by promoting more diversified diets, food fortification, bio-fortification, vitamin and mineral supplementation; developing strategies to address diet-related non-communicable diseases; and enhancing health care services, childcare practices, WASH, and social protection services for vulnerable people to improve their nutrition outcomes. USAID Advancing Nutrition supported the government’s MSN agenda by engaging both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive sectors at the national level and in three counties (Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui). The sectors included health, agriculture, and food security (food system), water and sanitation, education, social protection and gender, planning and budgeting, CSOs, and the private sector.

## Introduction

USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya worked in partnership with the national level and with local governments in the three counties (Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui), USAID funded partners, United Nations agencies, and other key stakeholders to promote MSN engagement and collaborative activities. In FY21, in collaboration with USAID Advancing Nutrition, each county and the national government facilitated a co-creation process that resulted in MSN action plans with priority activities for USAID Advancing Nutrition’s technical support. These action plans formed the basis of the FY22 work plan, upon which the activities aligned with the Government of Kenya FY23–24 work plan. The three counties were selected based on the following five criteria: high rates of malnutrition; urban and rural areas; an established CNAP and policy environment; progressive leadership and governance structure; and the presence of CSOs, private sector, and other USAID nutrition programs.

## Project Goal and Objectives

USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya aimed to strengthen national and county-level governments’ capacity to plan, finance, manage, and implement MSN interventions to improve the health of populations at risk of nutritional deficiencies. The work aimed to achieve the following objectives:

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<sup>1</sup> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS); <https://www.knbs.or.ke/download/2019-kenya-population-and-housing-census-volume-i-population-by-county-and-sub-county/>

<sup>2</sup> Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022 Summary Report; KNBS and MOH

- Improved MSN resource allocation at the county level.
- Improved planning for nutrition at the county level.
- Improved functioning of government-led MSN coordination platforms at national and county levels.

The sections following, we present USAID Advancing Nutrition results in Kenya based on objectives and interventions undertaken following the co-created work plans with the three counties and the National government.

# Accomplishments

## Overarching Implementation: Localization, CSO strengthening, and private sector engagement

Our work in Kenya was guided by three key overarching stakeholders under the umbrella of localization; namely, working with and through key county departments responsible for improved nutrition outcomes (health and agriculture), local CSOs, and the private sector. At the outset, we undertook a ROCA of the two departments with the most influence on nutrition in Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui. In addition to the performance indicators reported in annex 1, the project conducted ROCAs in the three counties that provided a baseline for the County Departments of Health and Agriculture capacities to implement MSN in the three counties. Capacity improvement plans were then developed and implemented for each county. As shown in figure 5( ROCA assessment) Kakamega County moved to 71 percent from a baseline of 53 percent; Kisumu from 58 percent to 70 percent; and Kitui from 35 percent to 63 percent. Figure 5 provides a summary of the ROCA assessment findings at baseline and endline for the counties. Notable progress in nutrition governance was achieved across the three counties in the areas of improved coordination and partnership, and financing of nutrition, as evidenced in the nutrition allocations in their CIDPs (2023–27) and the establishment of MSN platforms that incorporated CECMs/ministerial forums for decision-making. We also identified and built the capacity of 10 local CSOs (Box 1) in nutrition governance, coordination, resource mobilization, and compliance, and in various technical areas of nutrition through training, mentorship, and linkages to county MSN departments and partners as demonstrated by figure 3;CSO TA interventions. Five of the 10 CSOs (Box 1) were supported to be operationally ready to implement donor-funded nutrition programs, as shown in figure 4. Based on ROCA, three areas were identified as needing strengthening; programme management(3.13/4), Finance( 3.2/4) and human resource management(3.1/4). Consequently, we supported the local CSOs to review and update their financial and human resource management policies, and conducted training sensitization on resource mobilization and USAID rules and regulations. In addition, the private sector has played a critical role in increasing access to and consumption of safe nutritious foods to households. In Kisumu County, USAID Advancing Nutrition, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), and the county government established the County Chapter of SBN. The SBN brought together 16 local SMEs engaged in agricultural value chains that contribute to nutrition.

## CSOs Supported by USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya

10 CSOs in Kenya

Kitui County

Anglican Development Services (ADS Eastern)

Catholic Diocese of Kitui Caritas

Kakamega County

ADS Western

Shibuye Community Health Workers

Eshinamwenyuli Youth Group

Sustainable Organic Farming and Development Initiatives

Kisumu County

Make Me Smile

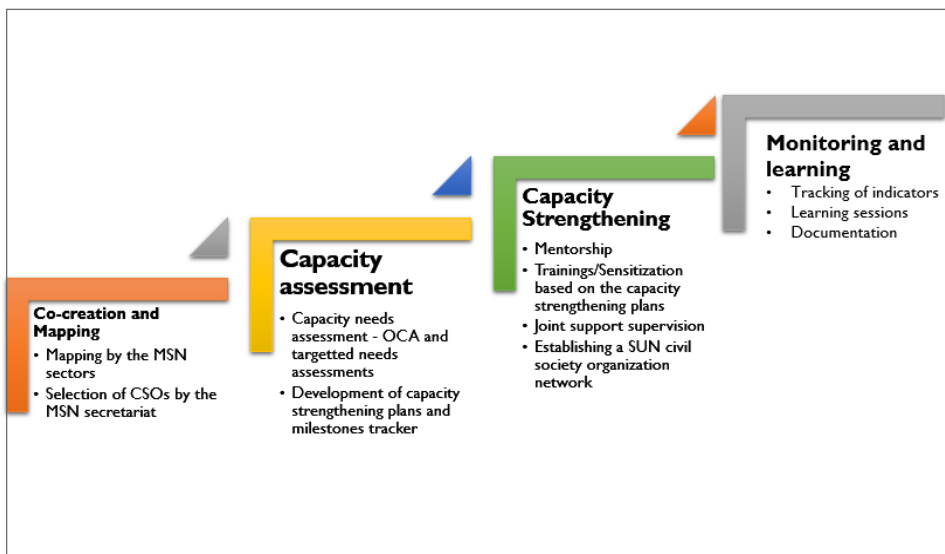
Kidogo Early Years

Jiu Pachi Community Based Support Centre

Kisumu Urban Apostolate Programmes

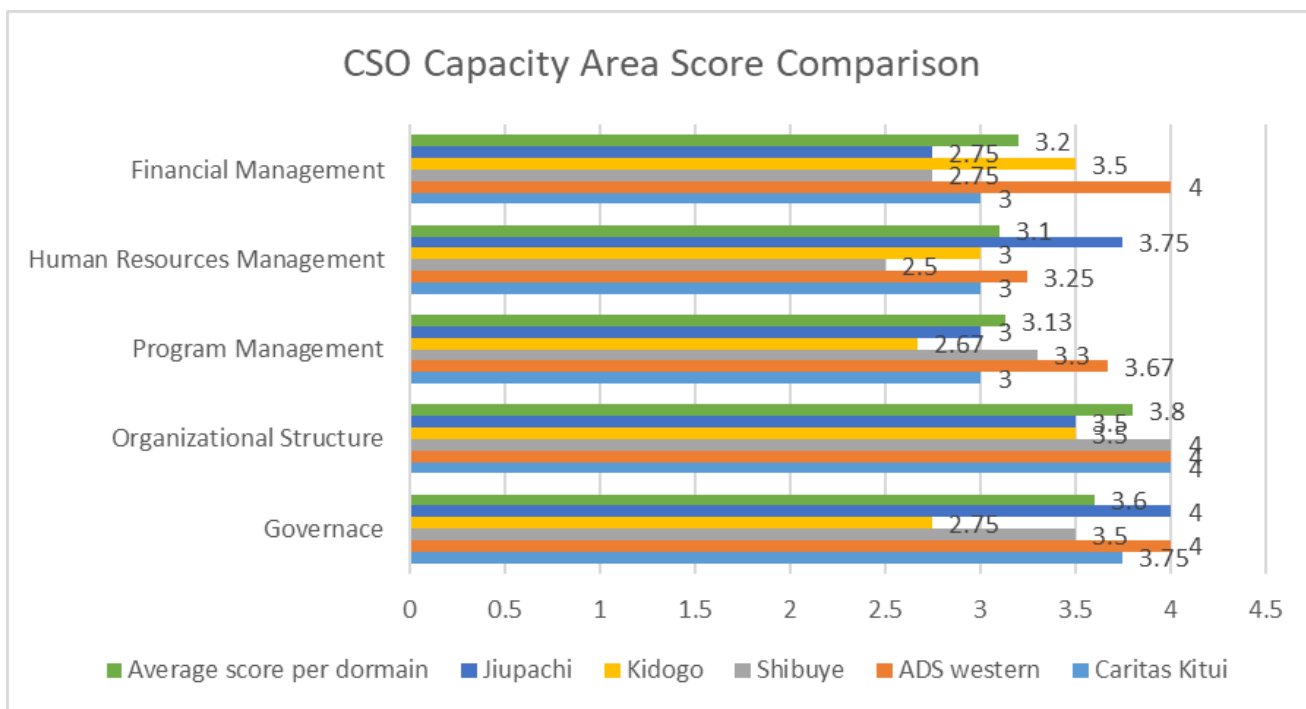
Figure 3: CSO Technical Assistance strengthening interventions in Kenya.

### Approach to Strengthening Local Civil Society Organizations

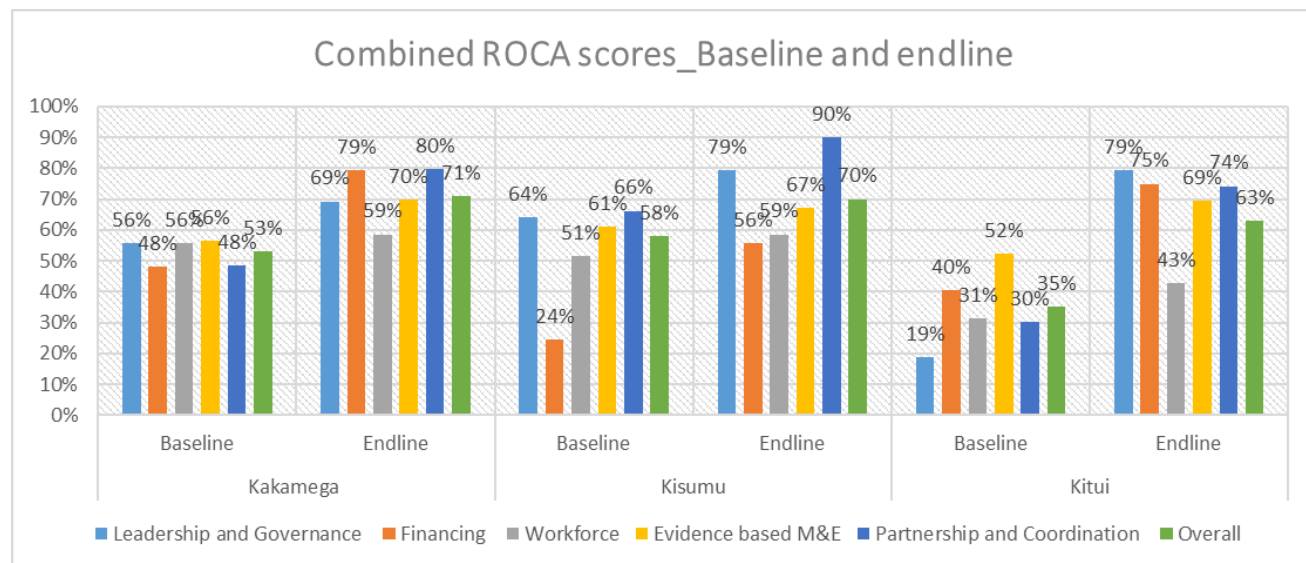




**Figure 4: ROCA capacity score 5 CSOs that received operation capacity support**



**Figure 5: ROCA assessment at baseline and endline for Kakamega, Kisumu and Kitui**





Left : Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance (CSA) Kakamega; Right: SBN Kisumu Chapter

## Kakamega County

### **Objective I: Improved capacity for nutrition advocacy and implementation of resource mobilization, county leadership, CAs, CSOs, and communities**

To improve capacity for nutrition advocacy, the project identified and trained 94 sector-wise<sup>3</sup> nutrition champions, including former and current county First Ladies, H.E Mrs. Pricilla Oparanya and H.E Prof. Janet Kassilly Barasa, respectively. Clear TORs were prepared stipulating the selection criteria, recruitment of new members, and nutrition tasks of champions. We also trained women members of the CA (local parliamentarians), deputy and assistant county commissioners, administrators, and chiefs to ensure that the nutrition champions were recognized in the communities and allowed to speak on and advocate for prioritizing nutrition during village barazas (meetings) and community dialogue days, and to ensure public participation. Nutrition champions participated in different nutrition forums to sensitize and advocate for improved nutrition, such as Malezi Bora (maternal, child, and nutrition weeks), World Breastfeeding Week, and CIDP public participation sessions. CSOs are critical to strengthening capacity for nutrition advocacy and resource mobilization. The project facilitated the identification and capacity strengthening efforts of four local CSOs in Kakamega (Shibuye Community Health Volunteers, Sustainable Organic Farming and Development Initiatives, Eshinamwenyuli Youth Group, and ADS Western). We fostered a partnership for advocacy with the existing USAID Advancing Nutrition’s New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) CSOs in Kakamega—the Center for Behavior Change and Communication and the OGRA Foundation—to plan, track, implement, and advocate for improved nutrition services. Together with MMUST, we developed key messages and influenced increased budget allocation for nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions in the Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Education for early childhood development education (ECDE).

<sup>3</sup> sector-wise nutrition champions- a person who promotes and advocates for nutrition in their respective sectors of interest and community. For example, a nutrition champion in the health sector is not the same as a champion in the agriculture or education sectors.



Left; H.E Prof. Janet Kassily Barasa, County Nutrition Champion launches Malezi Bora week by providing Vitamin A supplementation: Right: A nutrition Champion sensitizes Chiefs and administrators in Kakamega County

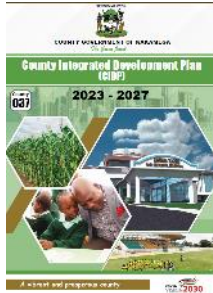
I want mothers in Kakamega County to breastfeed their babies because it sets a good foundation for the health and brain development of children. I am proud to be a champion of breastfeeding and Vitamin A supplementation.” H.E. Prof. Janet Kassily Barasa during Malezi Bora Week 2023

### Enhanced engagement of county leadership, the media, and academic and research institutions for MSN

With MMUST, local CSOs, and the County Government MSN Secretariat, we facilitated sensitization training and meetings for newly appointed CECMs and chief officers in health, agriculture, education, WASH, and social services. We also sensitized newly elected members of the CA and women representatives on the health and agriculture committees, and local media personalities, on the importance of nutrition and sought their support to prioritize nutrition plans and budgets for approval whenever tabled in the CA, as required by law. To enhance the advocacy avenues of nutrition champions, we facilitated that MMUST—an academic partner in the county with extensive knowledge and experience in research, nutrition, and agri-nutrition—lead the development of nutrition advocacy key messages, which informed food and nutrition security situations in the county. To rally different actors and sectors to take up their roles in addressing malnutrition through advocacy and accountability, we supported Kakamega to adapt the national advocacy, communication, and social mobilization (ACSM) strategy to a county strategy (ACSM 2023–2027) that required the involvement of the CA.

### Objective 2: Increased MSN financial allocation at the county level

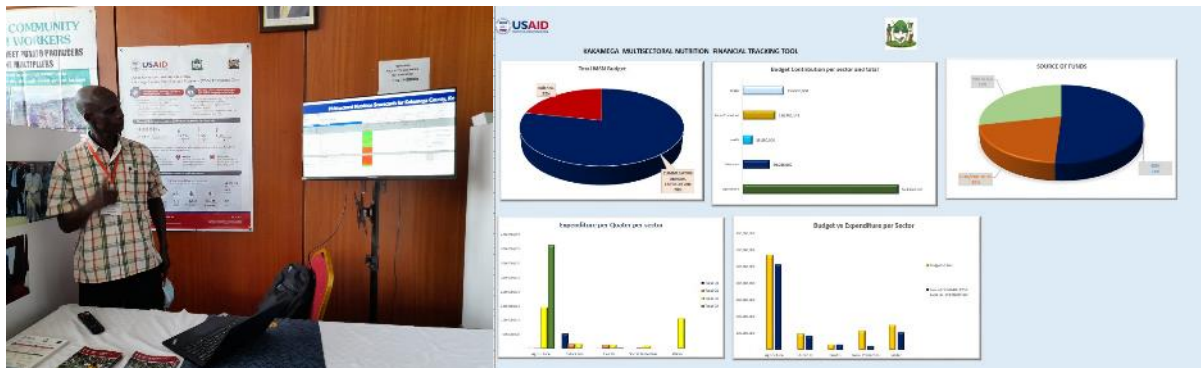
We facilitated the prioritization of nutrition through inclusion of key interventions in the development of the CIDP (2023–2027), 10-year sector plans, and annual development plans (ADPs) across the sectors. We facilitated the adaptation and use of three key tools—the MSN FTT, scorecard, and MSN investment case infographic and policy brief—to advocate for increased allocation for nutrition. For the first time, Kakamega County allocated KES 60 million/USD 410,000 and KES 10 million /USD 69,873 for school feeding programs and agri-nutrition activities, respectively, which were previously funded by development partners. In addition, the County Department of Health increased its budget allocation for nutrition for FY 23/24 from KES 80 million/USD 558,950 to KES 200 million/USD 1.39 million and initiated recruitment of additional nutritionists to address gaps in human resources for health and nutrition identified in the baseline ROCA. The County Department of Social Services expanded its low-cost housing package to include the establishment of kitchen gardens in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water and Sanitation to the 1800 households earmarked in the program.



Left: Kakamega County CIDP. Middle: Nutrition champion sensitizes Checheni School pupils on food groups. Right: County public service board recruitment notice that includes agricultural officers that will serve as agri-nutrition officers

## Strengthened the capacity of county and subcounty MSN teams on increased financial allocation and tracking of expenditures for nutrition

For three Government of Kenya fiscal years in a row (FY 21/22–FY23/24), we supported the development of MSN joint action plans with clear activities, output indicators, and budget lines. We facilitated the sectors to undertake performance reviews of their nutrition AWP that informed their next AWP. In partnership with County M&E, planning and budgeting, and MSN sector leads, we facilitated Kakamega County to adapt and use the MSN FTT and MSN scorecard as tools for evidence-based advocacy for increased resource allocation and accountability. The tools proved useful during quarterly MSN sector performance reviews. It was easy for Kakamega to undertake the constitutional process of second and third stages of prioritization in the ADP steps as prescribed in the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF). The County MSN scorecard, FTT, policy brief, and investment cases provided evidence that county policymakers required for action.



Mr. Michael Ruto, Kakamega County M&E, Officer showcasing the use of the scorecard, FTT, and investment case

...Due to the health sector performance review using the FTT and scorecard, health was able to demonstrate the need for more money for nutrition in its 2023/24 budget based on absorption rate and performance.  
Loreen Omwakwe, County Planning and Budgeting Officer, Kakamega County

### Objective 3: Strengthened multi-sectoral governance, planning, and coordination in nutrition programming in the county

In partnership with Kakamega County, we established MSN coordination platforms in the county and 12 sub counties comprising five sectors (health, education, water and sanitation, social protection, planning, and agriculture), and with CSOs, nongovernmental organizations, sector-wise nutrition champions, and local administrators. To aid their functionality, MSN TORs were developed and signed by the respective sector chief officers who are the accounting officers in the county. The MSN platforms introduced a leadership forum that convened every quarter and was chaired on a rotating basis between the CECMs for health and agriculture, thereby increasing the participation, decision-making space, commitment, and ownership of the other nutrition-sensitive sectors. The MSN platform served as a mechanism for joint planning and MSN sector performance reviews. The MSN stakeholders collaboratively supported the dissemination, customization, and review of key national and county policies and strategies, including the CNAP, ACSM, county agri-nutrition implementation strategy (CANIS), MSN investment case, and the policy brief. In addition, through coordination, the county (the biggest employer of graduates from universities) provided feedback and participated in the development of the new BSc. in NSA for MMUST. It is envisioned that the NSA program will generate more nutrition-sensitive aligned professionals to address the gap in the nutrition workforce in Kakamega and nationwide. Agriculture and health are two of 13 services devolved to county governments. To foster agriculture interventions that support nutrition, we supported skills training of 30 county and subcounty agricultural extension staff, nutrition champions, and local CSO staff in NSA at Bukura Farmers Training Centre (FTC). The training focused on NSA approaches, cooking demonstrations, food preservation, and 10 agricultural kitchen garden technologies. With the skills acquired in NSA, the county staff will promote the production of nutritious and diversified diets by communities.



Left: NSA training in Bukura FTC. Right: Hon. Benjamin Andamah, CECM Agriculture, and H.E Prof. Janet Kassily Barasa launched the Kakamega CANIS.

### Strengthened government-led county MSN governance structures and coordination mechanisms

Following the establishment of the MSN platforms at the county and subcounty levels, we trained and mentored sector leads, local CSOs, and stakeholders to understand their roles and responsibilities. This increased their level of commitment to lead and cascade joint action plans and MSN activities to the 12 sub counties. We also supported routine quarterly performance reviews using the FTT and scorecard that brought MSN CECMs and the technical secretariat together. A notable result was the increased budget allocation and absorption discussed above, and advocacy for employment of more nutrition staff in the health and agriculture sectors. To facilitate learning and use of best practices, we developed a quarterly supervision checklist and reporting formats to increase MSN sector engagement and learning from supportive supervision visits that are mandatory in the public sector in Kenya.

## Kisumu County

### Objective 1: Improved stakeholder capacity for nutrition advocacy and implementation

In partnership with Kisumu County, academia, and key stakeholders, we identified and trained 66 nutrition champions at both community and policy levels to advocate for increased allocation to nutrition and accountability for nutrition services. With Maseno University, we developed key messages for evidenced-based nutrition advocacy for use with different audiences to amplify community voices and advocate for increased nutrition allocation and support. The project also identified four local CSOs across nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive sectors, and jointly created and implemented a two-year capacity strengthening plan. As a result, the local CSOs were linked with nutrition champions who advocated for the inclusion of nutrition priorities in the CIDP (2022–2027) during barazas. We supported Kisumu County to develop the ACSM strategy (2023–2027) as a guide for advocacy for increased nutrition allocation and accountability. In partnership with UNICEF, we developed the CNAP (2022–2024) and undertook a mid-term review to assess its implementation progress. CNAP is an essential policy for implementing nutrition interventions at the county level and is linked to the national KNAP.



Left: Kisumu First Lady, Dorothy Nyong'o, championing the importance of the use of mama MUAC in the early detection of malnutrition at a county forum. Right: Launch of the Kibuye Market Breastfeeding Center for use by breastfeeding mothers who are traders.

### Strengthened capacity for nutrition advocacy and resource mobilization at the county level

We mapped 32 nutrition partners, identified four local CSOs, and co-created and implemented a two-year capacity strengthening support program for Kidogo Early Years, Jiu Pachi Community Based Support Centre, Make Me Smile, and Kisumu Urban Apostolate Programmes. The local CSOs were linked to the MSN departments for technical backstopping in nutrition data reporting in the district health information system, incorporated in county MSN coordination platforms, and advocated for the inclusion of nutrition interventions in the CIDP (2023–2027). Nutrition International established a county SUN CSA that brought 17 local CSOs together in a network, which continues to hold the county government accountable for better services and community involvement.

We also trained sector-wise nutrition champions, including the County's First Lady, Dorothy Nyongo. Dorothy Nyongo established breastfeeding spaces at four markets (Kibuye, Ahero, Kombewa, and Kiboswa) and at six health facilities. We trained 19 local media personalities on nutrition, who have used various platforms in the county to disseminate nutrition messages targeting various age groups to demonstrate the value of MSN in improving nutrition outcomes. They now feature more stories and talk shows on nutrition during commemoration days, such as World Breastfeeding Week and Malezi

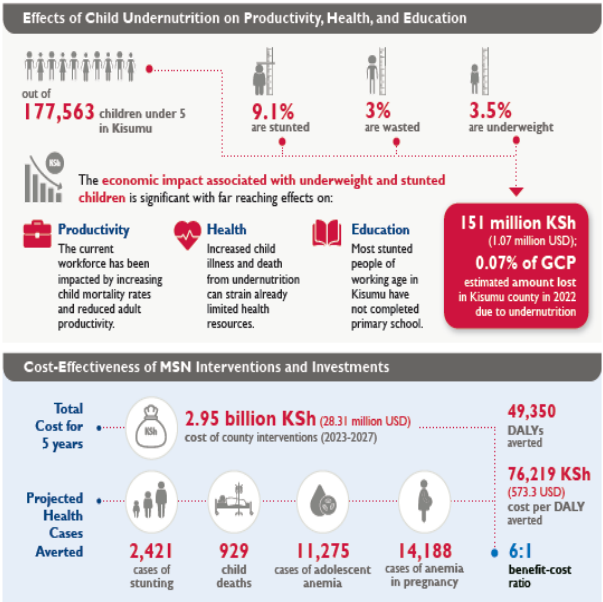
Bora, among others. To amplify the role of the private sector in increasing access to nutritious and diversified diets, we established Kisumu SBN with 16 SMEs. The SBN members were linked to the Department of Trade for support in business registration, compliance, and county funding for SMEs, and to the Health and Agriculture Departments for technical assistance with nutrition policies and information.



Quinta Anyango, EcoFarm, Kisumu SBN member

### Linked nutrition with development priorities to strengthen political commitment for nutrition

We supported the MSN stakeholders in evidence-based advocacy to inform the prioritization of nutrition financing. We developed and disseminated the MSN investment case and policy brief that demonstrated the economic burden of malnutrition and the policy options to address it. These tools were used by sector-wise champions, local CSOs, and MSN departments for budget advocacy. As a result, in the Kisumu CIDP (2023–2027), sectoral budgets that have components of nutrition have been significantly allocated by the executive. Some of the notable commitments in CIDP 3 include the county commitment of KES 5.35 billion/USD 37 million for improved agricultural inputs; Department of Education commitment of KES 2.5 billion/USD 17.4 million for a sustainable ECDE program that includes the school feeding program; KES 4.547 billion/USD 31.9 million for improved social services that includes cash transfers for the vulnerable and households with malnourished children; Department of Health commitment of KES 54.5 million/USD 380,780 for nutrition services; and a KES 9.6 billion/USD 66 million commitment by the Water Department to improve access to clean and safe water. In addition, together, the sectors have committed a total of KES 11 million/USD 76,860 to strengthen the MSN coordination platforms. The Department of Agriculture advertised to recruit an additional 103 positions, of which seven are earmarked for agri-nutrition. We observed the recognition of nutrition champions. For example, in the development of its 10-year sector strategic plan, the Department of Agriculture included key MSN nutrition interventions. For one, nutrition champions were permitted to submit ideas for interventions in agriculture that should be prioritized in their wards and villages.



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**JULY 2023**

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU  
KISUMU COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

**VACANCIES**

The Kisumu County Public Service Board is pleased to invite applications from suitably qualified, motivated and pro-active individuals to fill vacancies in the following department:-  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT & IRRIGATION.**

NO	JOB CADRE	VACANCY REFERENCE NO	NUMBER OF VACANCIES
1.	Agricultural Officer (General)	KSM/CPSB/1/28/2023	4
2.	Agricultural Officer (Agribusiness Officer)	KSM/CPSB/2/28/2023	3
3.	Assistant Agricultural Officer III	KSM/CPSB/3/18/2023	24
4.	Inspector (Agricultural Technician)	KSM/CPSB/4/18/2023	4
5.	Engineer I (Agriculture)	KSM/CPSB/5/08/2023	2
6.	Livestock Production Officer	KSM/CPSB/6/18/2023	2
7.	Assistant Livestock Production Officer III	KSM/CPSB/7/18/2023	14
8.	Fisheries Officer	KSM/CPSB/8/08/2023	4
9.	Veterinary Officer	KSM/CPSB/9/08/2023	2

For details on the above advertised positions and how to apply, applicants are asked to visit our website [www.kisumu.go.ke](http://www.kisumu.go.ke).

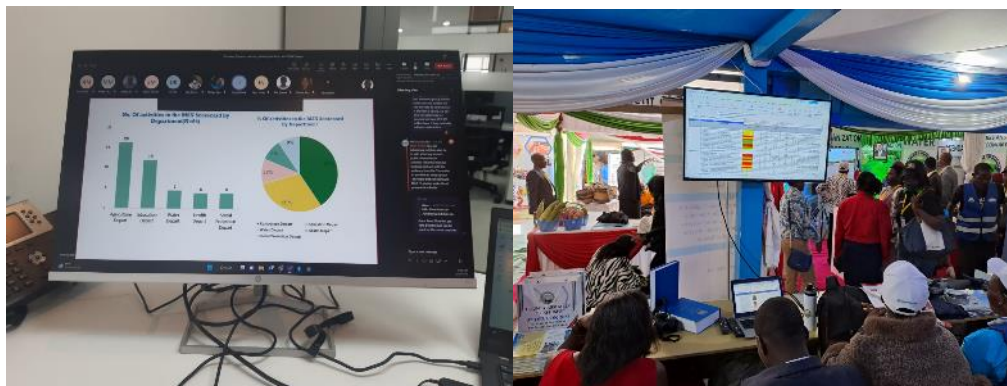
**HOW TO APPLY**  
The candidate should apply by downloading and filling application for employment form available on our website: [www.kisumu.go.ke](http://www.kisumu.go.ke) or [www.gpub.kisumu.go.ke](http://www.gpub.kisumu.go.ke), fill and submit together with copies of academic and professional certificates in pdf format as a continuous document, quoting the job title on the email subject to [kapsich@kisumu.go.ke](mailto:kapsich@kisumu.go.ke) on or before **24<sup>th</sup> August 2023** by 5:00pm. Please indicate the vacancy reference number and the position applied for on the employment form. **NOTE: No manual applications will be accepted.**

Left: Kisumu county investment case (CIC) used for MSN advocacy. Right: County Public Service Board (CPSB) advertisement of job listings that includes agricultural officers to serve as agri-nutrition officers.

## Objective 2: Improved capacity of stakeholders in tracking nutrition budget expenditures

Tracking the utilization of nutrition resources is hindered by the lack of practical tools for use by stakeholders and limited skills in planning and budgeting among public service staff in MSN departments. In partnership with Kisumu County and led by planning, budgeting, and M&E officers, the county developed an MSN joint action plan with clear activities, performance indicators, and budget lines drawn from the respective sectors' AWP. In partnership with the Kenya School of Government (KSG) and the national MOH, we trained 30 county and subcounty MSN staff, local CSOs, and nutrition champions on PBB and the Kenya Nutrition Scorecard (KNS). To facilitate performance-based nutrition expenditures and reporting, we supported the adaptation and use of a county MSN FTT and scorecard. Equipped with these tools and skills, the county reviewed and developed corresponding AWP and CIDPs, and used the evidence from scorecard performance and finance utilization to advocate for more resources for nutrition (as reported earlier). The scorecard was also used to track the implementation of the CNAP (2022–2024). Both the scorecard and FTT have been lauded as best practices in Kenya by USAID and the national government. Financial tracking for nutrition expenditures has been expanded to include development partners in the county who deal with nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. Kisumu County showcased financial tracking for nutrition at the Devolution Conference (DEVCon) on August 14–18, 2023, which brought together 47 county governments.





Left: MSN scorecard use session by Kisumu County at the North Eastern Kenya Counties learning forum. Right: Demonstration of the use of the scorecard at the DEVCon, August 2023.

“This project has improved very much needed soft skills in planning, budget execution, and advocacy. Surprisingly, with the right TA, counties are able to identify the actions needed and allocate more resources for nutrition. This suggests that it is the availability and use of appropriate tools that are key and are often lacking.” *Ruth Tiampati, USAID Kenya Activity Manager during FY23 Q2 performance review.*

### **Objective 3: Improved functioning of government-led MSN coordination platforms and planning at county and subcounty levels**

To support the functioning of government-led MSN coordination platforms, from the outset, the project supported the mapping of existing food and nutrition coordination platforms and partners at the county level. In Kisumu County, it established a committed leadership across sectors. Mapping also identified gaps that needed strengthening over the project implementation period. They included the lack of an inclusive MSN platform; irregular nutrition technical working group (TWG) coordination meetings and weak execution of deliberations; limited skills in leadership and coordination, especially at the subcounty level; and ad hoc participation of partners (especially local CSOs). Moreover, the existing forum— notably the county nutrition technical forum (CNTF)—was perceived to be in the health sector and with its partners, and had limited leadership involvement at the CECM level, other than with the health sector. Last, national-level policies remained suboptimal, lacking dissemination and contextualization for county use.

#### **Established and strengthened multi-sectoral coordination structures at the county and subcounty levels for nutrition**

To sustain MSN in Kisumu County, it was essential to take advantage of a committed leadership. We established MSN coordination forums at the county level and in the eight subcounties, with clear TORs; and sensitized 70 MSN members on leadership, coordination, and networking skills important for partnership building with stakeholders. The MSN forum became a key driver for joint MSN planning, the development of AWP and performance reviews, and nutrition finance tracking using the nutrition scorecard and FTT. To enhance the functionality of the forum, we supported the adaptation of the MSN supervision checklist used for quarterly joint MSN supervision visits. The supportive supervision visits proved essential for updating and verifying information that was fed to the county MSN scorecard and FTT. To further aid in strengthening coordination, the MSN coordination forums were linked to the sectoral committees that were in existence before and now played the role of MSN secretariat. They included the County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee, CNTF, County Steering Groups (CSGs), Food Liaison and Advisory Group, and County WASH forums. We also introduced an MSN leadership layer that met quarterly. The MSN leadership is chaired by the CECM for agriculture, with the CECM for health serving as the secretary, thereby enhancing participation and decision-making for nutrition-sensitive sectors in Kisumu County.

... by the time a patient and case of severe acute malnutrition reaches our health facilities, it means all other sectors and actors have failed the person. We treat the patient, but they go back home to a place with no food to eat or money to buy food..... I wanted agriculture and social protection to realize how much they ought to be involved. *Dr. Gregory Ganda, CECM for Health, Kisumu County*



Left: County MSN leadership, USAID, FAO, and Evidence Action launch the CANIS. Right: H.E. Dorothy Nyong'o, Mama County, and MSN leadership launch the Kisumu CNAP.

### Implemented MSN scorecard to monitor key CNAP indicators

We facilitated Kisumu County to adapt and start using the MSN scorecard quarterly. This increased sector performance monitoring and accountability linked to financial management, as reported in its FTT. Some key sets of indicators that improved over the life of the project in Kisumu included the increased number of ECDE schools with updated school health records and growth monitoring, from 300 to 726; increased number of ECDE schools with kitchen gardens, from 200 to 314; increased number of staff in the Agriculture Department trained on agri-nutrition technologies, from 9 to 22; and increased lactation spaces at public markets, from 1 to 5 (currently under development).

.. Due to poor nutrition and lack of food, I have seen cancer patients drop out of treatment. I was convinced when my minister for health and agriculture and county nutrition coordinator approached me to be a nutrition champion. ... this resonated well with my African Cancer Foundation work as well as being in the Governors Manifesto.” *H.E. Madam Dorothy Nyong'o, Kisumu First Lady*

## Kitui County

### Objective 1: Improved capacity to advocate for nutrition at the county legislature and community levels

Advocacy at legislature and community levels is key for recognizing nutrition as a development priority and the need for political commitment. Engaging community members to demand quality nutrition services has resulted in increased nutrition resource allocation. USAID Advancing Nutrition provided support to Kitui County to improve its capacity to advocate for nutrition at the CA level, and to empower the community through the engagement of nutrition champions to demand better nutrition services. Jointly with Kitui County, we identified and trained 26 sector-wise nutrition champions, comprised of technical officers and community representatives. We also trained county and subcounty

MSN stakeholders on PBB as an essential way of understanding how government funds are allocated and especially for nutrition.



Left: Redempta Mwendu Malusi nutrition champion sensitization session on food groups. Right: Josephine Nzila, a nutrition champion, tends her kitchen garden and vegetable nursery. She supplies leafy vegetable seedlings to her community, including the 15 nutrition champions in Kitui Central who have also established kitchen gardens.

### Strengthened capacity to package nutrition data and messages for advocacy

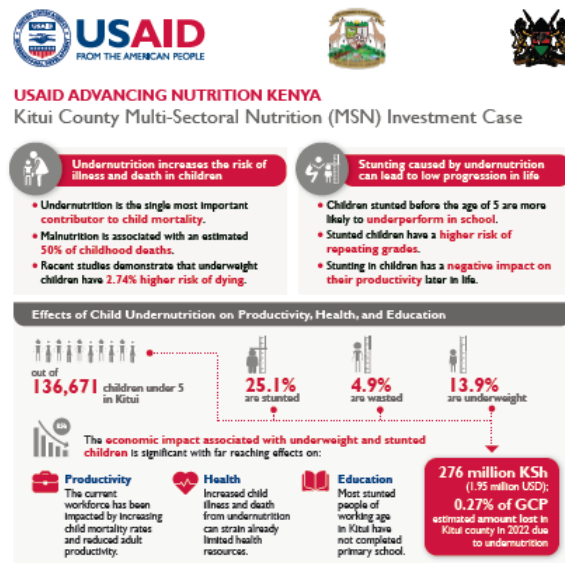
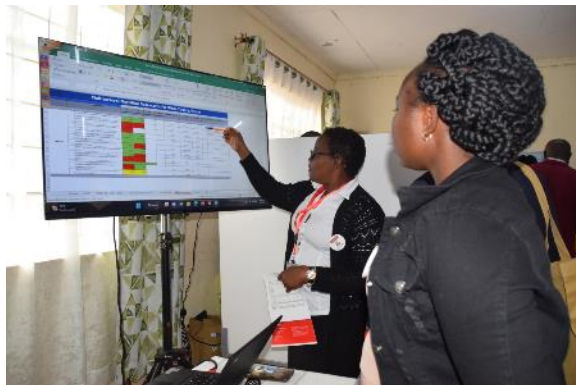
For advocacy to work, it needs to be evidence- and issue-based. We supported the MSN sectors of health, agriculture, education, social protection, and WASH to develop key messages for advocacy using 2014 KDHS results and 2017 county SMART survey data. The messages were later revised to incorporate the 2022 KDHS data. The messages were used to advocate with the CA, county executives, newly appointed CECMs, and with community members. MSN advocacy work in Kitui bore fruits, for example, out of three counties that USAID Advancing Nutrition operated in, Kitui lacked an agri-nutrition coordination unit and dedicated staff. Kitui established a new Agri-nutrition Unit with nine home economics officers redeployed from other county departments to the subcounty level. Agri-nutrition officers coordinate agricultural interventions that contribute to improved nutrition. With our support, the Agri-nutrition Unit led the development of the Kitui CANIS (2023–2027). The CANIS implementation finance allocation of KES 5.8 million/USD 40,523 in FY23/24 was included in the CIDP. Moreover, the Department of Education procured anthropometric equipment worth KES 4.3 million/USD 30,043 in FY23/24 and another KES 1.3 million/USD 9,082 was allocated for training of ECDE teachers on the use of the MUAC tapes, and weight and height scales by the health sector for growth monitoring of students. This helped establish a clear partnership between the education and health sectors. In addition, nutrition champions have increased awareness on nutrition and healthy diets at the community level. There is greater uptake of kitchen gardens to increase dietary diversity, knowledge about food groups, and the production and consumption of healthy foods.

### Supported the development and implementation of the county nutrition advocacy strategy

At the national level, we supported the GOK to develop the ACSM 2023–2027 and facilitated Kitui County to participate in the process for capacity building. Subsequently, we supported Kitui to contextualize the national ACSM strategy to a county ACSM 2023–2027. This will ensure that we sustain the gains made in county-level advocacy for resource allocation and accountability. The Kitui ACSM strategy's overall goal is to contribute to a malnutrition-free county by accelerating positive nutrition outcomes. It calls for the application of multi-sectoral approaches that will lead to strengthened governance, functional nutrition systems, empowered communities, and well-financed nutrition institutions (county MSN departments for social and economic development).

### Objective 2: Increased MSN budgetary resource allocation at the county level

To improve nutrition outcomes, financial resource commitments need to be put in place to facilitate the implementation of prioritized nutrition interventions in the CIDP and AWP. We facilitated the county to develop MSN joint work plans for three years in a row and prioritized in the newly launched CIDP 2023–2027. To enhance the Kitui County MSN sectors to track and advocate for more nutrition resources, we supported the customization and use of the MSN scorecard and FTT. For the first time since devolution in 2013, an Agri-nutrition Unit was established and allocated KES 5.8 million/USD 40,382 in FY23/24 for NSA interventions. The Department of Education procured anthropometric equipment worth KES 4.3 million in FY 22/23 and KES 1.3 million was allocated for capacity building on the use of the same in FY 23/24. The Health Department increased its nutrition allocation to KES 4.37 million/USD 29,938 in FY23/24 from KES 2.2 million in FY 22/23. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation allocated KES 213.49 million/USD 1.48 million for construction of sand dams, cluster irrigation, and solar powered irrigation in FY23/24 from KES 127 million in FY 22/23. This result followed sessions conducted on improved planning and advocacy using the MSN scorecard and FTT. We supported MSN sectors in Kitui to develop a policy brief and MSN CIC that demonstrated the economic burden of malnutrition and the investments needed to reduce Kitui’s stunting rate of 25.5 percent (2022 KDH), the fourth highest in Kenya.

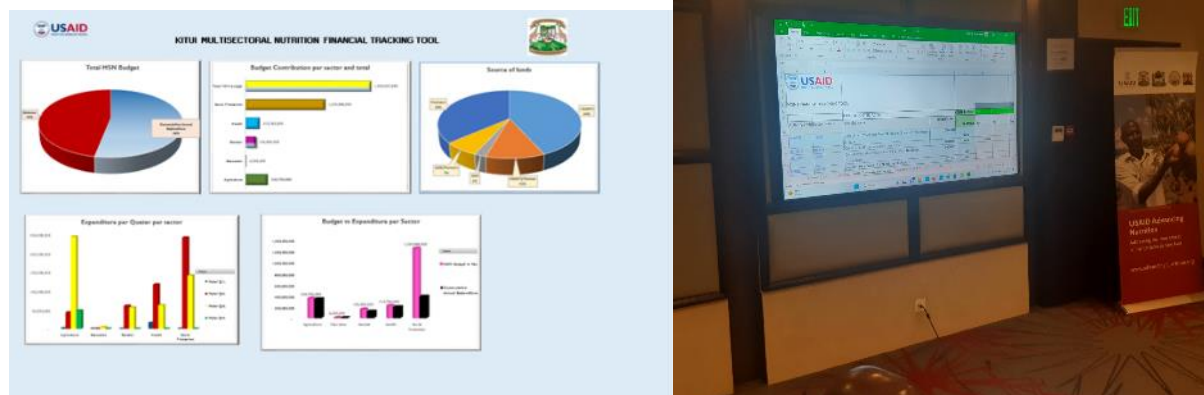


Left: Francisca Kavini from County Planning and Budgeting demonstrates how the scorecard works. Right: Kitui CIC for use in advocacy

### Strengthened nutrition mainstreaming, and tracking of county and partner allocations and expenditures for nutrition

Lack of robust tools available to the county to track nutrition allocations across sectors and stakeholders has hampered resource allocation and accountability. Working in partnership with the Kitui County Planning and Budgeting Department, we adapted an existing county integrated financial management information system (IFMIS) tool for MSN financial tracking across the three counties. Kitui was facilitated to undertake quarterly financial tracking of MSN joint action plans linked to the county’s aforementioned MSN scorecard. We learned from financial tracking that—contrary to the belief that a lot of nutrition financing was in the health sector in the county—56 percent of nutrition resources (KES 1.224 billion/USD 8.55 million) in FY 23/24 was with the Social Services Department due to the conditional cash transfer for the elderly, households with malnourished children, the vulnerable, and persons with disability. Therefore, social services was a key player in the county and needed to be fully

engaged in MSN activities. The FTT and scorecards were used to advocate for more budgetary resource allocations by the departments, and local CSOs and nutrition champions have used the information during public participation and calling for accountability for nutrition resources at community and ward levels.

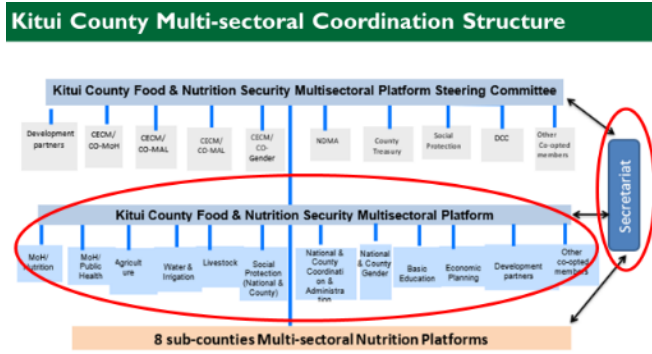


Left: FTT dashboard. Right: Quarterly county FTT session in progress.

### **Objective 3: Improved government-led MSN coordination in Kitui County**

Nutrition coordination has been mostly viewed as a health agenda, with minimal ownership by the other nutrition-sensitive sectors. To address the underlying causes of malnutrition in the county, functional MSN coordination structures are required to be in place. MSN coordination requires multiple stakeholders to collaborate, implement, and monitor joint interventions/approaches that address malnutrition. In partnership with Kitui County and nutrition stakeholders, we mapped and assessed existing sectoral and multisectoral coordination structures in the county to synchronize nutrition coordination mechanisms with other coordination structures in the county.

We also established multi-sectoral nutrition platforms (MSPs) at the county level and in eight sub counties. To enhance the MSP functionality, we facilitated quarterly meetings that served as mechanisms for nutrition performance reviews among the MSN CECMs, technical secretariat, and stakeholders. The forums served also as learning platforms for best practices in coordination and hosted the final project close-out dissemination on August 3, 2023. The aforementioned Agri-nutrition Unit came out of a presentation to MSN leadership. The ROCA findings showed a 30 percent score in the partnership and coordination domain, with the lack of a unit and staffing as a contributor to poor nutrition outcomes. The MSP platforms were also used by the county to disseminate and customize national policies, such as the CANIS, and undertook an end term review of the Kitui CNAP. In addition, the forums served to mobilize resources and rally partners to support Kitui to undertake the annual short- and long-rain performance assessments that gauged the rainfall impact on food security and triggered drought response because Kitui is among the 23 counties considered as an arid and semi-arid area.



Left: Kitui MSN platform. Right: CANIS launched by Dr. Stephen Kimwele CECM Agriculture and Elizabeth Kyalo, nutrition champion.

### Objective 4: Improved planning skills and processes related to nutrition programming for multi-sector county government and relevant stakeholders at the county level

Planning is the glue that creates cohesive coordination, advocacy, and resource allocation. In partnership with Kitui County, KSG, the national MOH, MOALD, and the county Department of Planning and Budgeting, we facilitated the following interventions for improved nutrition programming: identified and trained 42 county and subcounty staff on PBB that is used by the GOK for public sector financing; facilitated joint AWP reviews and the development and prioritization of activities in the CIPD; supported the training of 33 county, subcounty, local CSOs, and nutrition champions on NSA packages and the 10 kitchen garden technologies at Kitui FTC to enhance the integration of NSA in MSN sectors; and facilitated the development of a CIC and policy briefs that were used to increase resource allocation, as discussed earlier.

#### Implemented MSN scorecard to monitor key CNAP indicators

We facilitated the nutrition-sensitive sectors of agriculture, gender, social protection, and education to identify and develop nutrition-sensitive common key indicators that did not previously exist. These indicators informed the scorecard and FTT adaptation and use. The scorecard proved useful during routine and end term reviews of the Kitui CNAP.

### National-Level Strategies and Activities

#### Objective 1: Improved multi-sectoral planning for nutrition

National plans and policies guide nutrition in Kenya, specifically the KNAP and ANIS, among others. Although many national documents have been developed at the national level, they are hardly disseminated to the county governments, which have 13 functions fully devolved to them. This negatively affects the quality of nutrition services. The functions include health/nutrition, agriculture, water and sanitation, early childhood education, and components of social protection. USAID Advancing Nutrition employed several strategies to improve MSN planning at the national level. This included dissemination of relevant nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific strategic documents relevant to proper planning, such as the KNAP, FNSP, and ANIS to the three counties. This ensured nutrition policy and strategy coherence between levels of government. We also provided support for the finalization of some key

..... to the best of my knowledge, I cannot remember when our Department of Agriculture developed our work plan together with our health colleagues. Thanks to USAID Advancing Nutrition for making this possible. Now agriculture is very clear on its role in contributing to nutrition in Kenya.” *Madam Jane Wambugu, Director, MOALD/Agri nutrition Unit during national co creation workshop at Gelian Hotel, Machakos, September 2021*

documents, such as the school menu guide and the food and nutrition teacher reference manual. These documents were key to mainstreaming nutrition in the education sector in Kenya. We also improved the capacity of MOALD/Agri-nutrition Unit and MOH DND leadership staff on PBB through training. They subsequently used their acquired skills to develop their joint AWP (2021–2023) for two years in a row. For the first time in Kenya, NSA was included as a flagship program in the MTEF-IV (2023–2027). Last, nutrition in the health sector has clear reporting and tracking mechanisms; however, the nutrition-sensitive sectors of agriculture, education, social protection, and WASH have little to no indicators. In partnership with the Kenya National Bureaus of Statistics-Kenya National Information Platform for Food and Nutrition, MOH DND, and MOALD, we facilitated the identification of key MSN common indicators for tracking across sectors, which informed our work on the county-based MSN scorecards and FTT.



Left: GOK commitment for NSA as a flagship program. Right: Veronica Kirogo, Director, MOH DND, addresses a joint MSN work planning session with MOALD.

### Disseminated strategic nutrition-related documents to stakeholders for implementation and nutrition service delivery

We supported MOH DND and MOALD to convene dissemination workshops and events for the sectors of health and agriculture in the counties of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui and across departments of education and social protection at the national level. Policies disseminated included the ANIS and NSA training package, KNAP, and FNAP. This was followed by the counties undertaking end term review (Kakamega and Kitui) of their CNAPs, and those without a developed CNAP (Kisumu), to assess progress of implementation and draw lessons for the next generation CNAP (2023–2027). ANIS dissemination was followed by TA to the counties to customize their respective CANIS (2023–2027), thus integrating nutrition in agricultural interventions. Jointly with MOH DND, MOALD, and MOE, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development reviewed and incorporated updated content on nutrition, agriculture, health, and education in the science curriculum content for grades 10–12, and finalized the

food and nutrition teacher reference manual that guides nutrition in basic education as a strategy to influence healthy diets at an early age. We also facilitated the development of the school meals menu guides that direct schools to ensure dietary diversity and sustainability of school feeding programs.



Flowchart demonstrating the national ANIS customization to CANIS.

### Empowered key people in the budget-making process for nutrition resource allocation

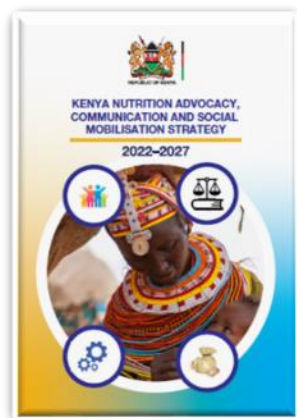
We supported the training of 26 officers drawn from the MOH DND and the MOALD on PBB. Trained officers then reviewed the performance of their AWP, and developed new AWP and concept notes for the flagship programs in NSA and community health and nutrition for the MTEF-IV. In FY 22/23 and FY23/24, national nutrition allocation from the GOK increased from KES 80 million (USD 554,751) to KES 204.7 million (USD 1.41 Million) of an annual national budget of KES 5.3 billion/USD 36.7million.

.... Before USAID Advancing Nutrition, we only developed our AWP and never came back to review our performance. The exercises helped the teams learn to interrogate themselves objectively and helped the teams grow in their reviews and planning processes for nutrition in Kenya.” *Leila Akinyi, Deputy Head, Division of Nutrition and Dietetics, during the national learning dissemination on August 8, 2023 at Sarova Panafric Hotel*

### Objective 2: Strengthen the mainstreaming of nutrition in sectoral programs



To strengthen nutrition mainstreaming in sectoral programs, in partnership with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics - National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) and the MOH DND, USAID Advancing Nutrition supported the national MSN departments and three counties to identify key common indicators to track performance and report across sectors of health, agriculture, social protection, education, and water. We facilitated the review of the National ACSM strategy (2016–2020). In partnership with UNICEF and other nutrition partners, USAID Advancing Nutrition helped develop the Kenya Nutrition ACSM (2022–2027) that was launched during the 4th Nutrition Symposium in Kenya in April 2023. The ACSM is a key tool that guides advocacy for increased resource allocation with parliamentarians, CAs, and executives, while at the same time providing key messages for use by community actors, local CSOs, and the general public to call for accountability for nutrition financing and services. Last, we supported the mid-term review of the KNAP (2018–2022), which demonstrated progress in implementation but limited funding by the government that hindered full implementation. This resulted in a call for the extension of implementation by one year and support to counties without CNAPs that link to the KNAP.



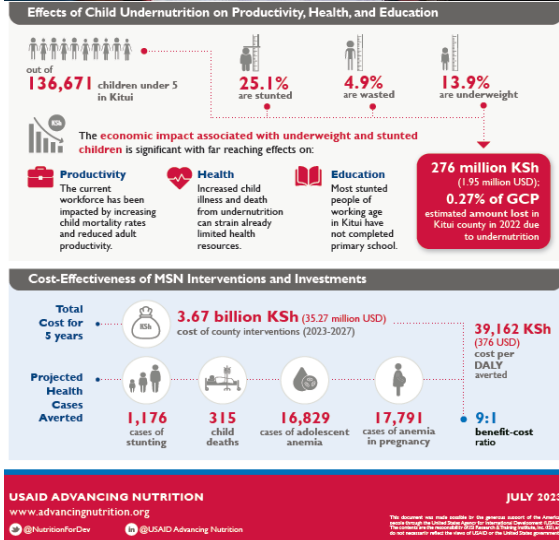
Left: Kenya nutrition ACSM policy. Right: Panel session on nutrition governance. County nutrition coordinators (CNCs) and CECMs for health in Kisumu participated as panelists at the 4th Nutrition Symposium in April 2023.

### Scaled up awareness creation among various stakeholders for nutrition advocacy and accountability

Nutrition in Kenya, including in counties, is guided by the KNAP, which is linked to the respective CNAPs. We facilitated the national MOH DND to undertake a mid-term review of the action plan and developed a concept note, with a roadmap and resource mobilization strategy for the development of the next KNAP (2023–2027). In partnership with WHO and the African Population and Health Research Centre, the project trained II committees responsible for the review and development of the marketing regulations for unhealthy foods in Kenya.

### Strengthened economic modeling for nutrition for advocacy with policymakers and leaders

Evidence-based advocacy is key for nutrition success in a country. We facilitated skills training for staff of the national MOH DND and MOALD in the areas of Optima Nutrition. We then facilitated the three counties to develop MSN investment cases and policy briefs that demonstrated the economic burden of malnutrition and the investments required from the counties. The MSN policy briefs were showcased at the 2023 DEVCon in Eldoret, where 47 county and national governments convened for learning about best practices.



DEVCon, August 2023: Top left: Kisumu CNC and ECDE director demonstrate the CIC with the Deputy Governor. Top right: USAID Advancing Nutrition at DEVCon at USAID Village. Bottom left: Kitui CIC. Bottom right: Demonstration of MSN scorecard.

### Objective 3: Enhance resource mobilization and allocation to nutrition programs and activities

In partnership with the MOH, UNICEF, MOALD, and African Leaders Malaria Alliance, we facilitated training in FTT, Optima Nutrition, and the KNS as tools for increasing accountability for nutrition financing across sectors and partners. The training targeted both the national level and the three counties of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui. We supported the GOK as part of its TA role as per the Kenya Constitution to mentor and gather lessons learned from the three counties from the adaptation and use of the FTT and scorecard. The lessons learned from the three counties will inform scale-up by the national government to the other 44 counties. We also facilitated the national GOK to support MMUST and Maseno University as they integrated NSA in their preservice curricula.

#### Facilitated curricula review for agri-nutrition and the ANIS monitoring performance tool for nutrition workforce development

The national MOALD/Agri-Nutrition Unit led and facilitated a curricula learning exchange visit and meeting for Maseno University and MMUST with the Kenya School of Agriculture (KSA) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). JKUAT and KSA have integrated NSA in their preservice and in-service curricula. Over the two-year period, Maseno University and MMUST developed new BSc curricula in Nutrition and Food Security, and NSA, respectively. Moreover, MOALD mobilized additional learning resources and support, such as NSA training packages and agricultural

education guidelines from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). In addition, it provided TA to three counties of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui to customize the national ANIS to CANIS (2023–2027). ANIS monitoring was adapted and automated to an online application that has been piloted in the three counties.

The universities, Maseno and Masinde Muliro University, came to MSN quite late, but have been key in supporting evidence generation. However, we gained the most as we ended up getting a baby [new course] BSc in NSA and nutrition and food security. *Dr. Rose Shikuri, Chair, Nutrition Department, MMUST*



Right: Dr. Pauline Adongo of Maseno University and Dr. Rose Shikuri, MMUST, lead curricula review sessions for BSc in Nutrition and Food Security, and NSA, respectively.

#### **Objective 4: Strengthen government-led multi-sectoral coordination**

We supported national stakeholders to map food and nutrition coordination structures at national and county levels (Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui) and developed an implementation plan to address the findings. Key recommendations included implementing coordination structures as proposed in the FNSP (2012) and more structures in other sectors of agriculture, education, and social protection to further the need to streamline the coordination between the two levels of government. In addition, for the national Nutrition Interagency Coordination Committee (NICC), the highest nutrition advisory committee to GOK to incorporate leadership at Director General Level in Health and National Drought and Management Authority and principal secretaries (PS) at a minimum in the sectors of Agriculture, Education, Social Services and National Treasury and planning for resource allocation. A good practice and experience was cited in the three counties where MSN platforms that mirror the NICC are convened, chaired, and managed by county leadership at CECM across the MSN departments. Last, in partnership with nutrition stakeholders, such as UNICEF and SUN CSA, we convened the 4th National Nutrition Symposium at which the ACSM 2022–2027 was launched, and county and national governments shared based practices in nutrition governance, coordination, and implementation.

#### **Strengthened intra- and cross-sector coordination structures for nutrition**

The GOK has the mandate to provide technical oversight of policy formulation, whereas counties are charged with service delivery in the sectors of health, agriculture, basic education, and components of social protection. Before USAID Advancing Nutrition, policy formulation was skewed due to limited county participation. We facilitated county participation in national-level nutrition dialogue. We also funded exchange visits to the counties between the two levels of government in the customization of the CANIS and the reviews of CNAP and county ACSM strategies. In addition, we facilitated the convening of the first Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) forum of 14 counties, which brought together

nutrition leadership at the national level, and CNC and Agri-Nutrition Officers. The forum shared best practices in CANIS customization for our counties of operation, nutrition in ECDE, and nutrition governance commitment and coordination in the three counties beyond the health sector. The forum served to share national (DND/Agri-Nutrition) and county work plans for coherence and joint implementation. To enhance institutional infrastructure for coordination, we equipped the national MOH DND, MOALD, and the three counties with laptop computers and cameras that are vital for MSN reporting and documenting best practices.



Top: Review report of the Kenya Nutrition Capacity Development Framework and mapping of Food and Nutrition Coordination structures. Bottom: LREB Conference. In attendance were the Heads of MOH DND and MOALD-Agri-Nutrition Unit, CECMs, and CO Agriculture. LREB forum on social media.

## Core-Funded Activity Accomplishments

### New Partnerships Initiative

The Centre for Behaviour Change and Communication (CBCC) and OGRA Foundation successfully implemented two 24-month grants focused on improving nutrition and health of women and children in the first 1,000 days in Kakamega County. CBCC reached a total of 4,577 caregivers through mother-to-mother support groups and disseminated key messages promoting priority maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) behaviors, including early initiation of breastfeeding; exclusive breastfeeding; and feeding children 6–23 months old a variety of age-appropriate safe, diverse, and nutrient-rich foods. OGRA Foundation, through community support groups, reached 1,562 caregivers and of those 1,340 completed a full course of quality antenatal care visits during the course of the project. Both organizations built the capacity of health workers through training and other methods, like supportive

supervision and mentorship. They also strengthened nutrition coordination at the county and sub-county levels by providing technical and logistical support to ensure coordination meetings were held regularly.

Both partners also increased their organizational capacity assessment (OCA) scores and described numerous ways in which the program helped them strengthen their skills, systems, and strategies. Partners developed their first strategic communications, knowledge management, and resource mobilization plans, raising the visibility of the organizations. Formalizing plans in these areas will allow them to increase their visibility, identify potential new funding opportunities, and potentially connect with other national and sub-national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and government structures.

Both organizations prioritized strengthening their SBC skills. TA offered in this area centered on use of the suite of quality SBC tools developed by USAID Advancing Nutrition, including the Behavior Prioritization Tool, which helped ensure a clearer technical focus.

Partners also deepened their understanding of how other key management areas link to both resource mobilization and overall sustainability—including the role of transparent technical and finance management, expert internal and external communication, and knowledge management. They also came to understand that successful resource mobilization requires planning their strategic approach well, framing the organization’s exceptional skills, and demonstrating sound management systems.

## **Strengthening community health volunteer service delivery**

We conducted this body of work over four years during which the associated activities were:

- PY 2, I.I.D.1: Conduct a pilot pneumonia-nutrition linkages activity to inform the application of nutrition in sick child services.
- PY3, I.I.F.1: Conduct formative research on community-level counseling on nutrition and pneumonia-related behaviors under the integrated community case management strategy of the Government of Kenya.
- PY4, I.I.E.1: Report on formative research study on community-level counseling on nutrition and pneumonia in Kenya.
- PY4, I.I.E.2: Memo summarizing learning from the formative research follow-on efforts.
- PY5, I.I.D.1: Submitted manuscript with proof of submission on sick child feeding.

In PY2, USAID Advancing Nutrition developed a protocol for the formative research study on community-level counseling on nutrition and pneumonia-related behaviors under the integrated community case management strategy of the GOK. In PY3, we began and completed data collection for the study, which we conducted in Turkana County. After analyzing the data with the Kenyan consultant who led data collection, we presented the findings to local and national government representatives, county and national integrated community case management (iCCM) TWGs, USAID Mission in Kenya, and USAID Washington.

In PY4, we organized a design workshop with the Turkana County iCCM TWG to develop a concept note for a follow-on activity. The workshop brought together directors, managers, community health extension workers/community health assistants, CHVs, and development partners. We originally expected the follow-on activity to focus on counseling, but workshop participants felt that implementation of iCCM in Turkana was weak and chose to develop a mentorship package for iCCM trainers to better support CHVs in implementing iCCM. We partially funded a second workshop for the

iCCM TWG to develop the mentorship package and shared available relevant resources with organizers of the workshop. We drafted an internal memo documenting learning from our work on the follow-on activity design process.

In PY5, we presented a poster at the International Union of Nutritional Sciences—International Congress of Nutrition in Tokyo, Japan. The poster was based on study findings related to sick child feeding counseling. The Kenyan consultant who led the data collection for this study won the Excellent Abstract Award from Overseas for this work. We also submitted a related manuscript to the journal, *Public Health Nutrition*.

## **Strengthen breastfeeding counseling training through implementation research**

Over the last two years USAID Advancing Nutrition in collaboration with the Kenya Ministry of Health Division of Family Health, Wellness, and Nutrition; the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) task force in Kenya; and other implementing partners co-created a breastfeeding counseling mentorship program to strengthen breastfeeding counseling competencies of health care providers in Kenya. The aim of this work is to contribute to the global evidence base on approaches to improve breastfeeding counseling quality and, within Kenya, to support the implementation of step 2 of the BFHI Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, which is to ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge, competence, and skills to support breastfeeding (WHO and UNICEF 2018).

A mentorship program was selected as the best approach to strengthen breastfeeding counseling competencies for several reasons, including that trainings, like the Kenya-contextualized BFHI Training Course for Maternity Staff, are limited in their ability to ensure long-term retention of skills and ensure integration of those skills into the day-to-day operations at a health facility. Mentorship is also a key approach for improving breastfeeding counseling practices as indicated by the Kenya Strategy for Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition 2021-2026 (Kenya MoH 2021).

Next, stakeholders co-created the design of the structure of the mentorship program, which included aspects such as, a facility-based structure, points of care to prioritize (i.e. antenatal care clinic), and the priority competencies and performance indicators of focus for the mentorship program. We developed a *Breastfeeding Counseling in Kenya: Guidance for Implementation of the Mentorship Program* (Kenya MoH 2022a) and a *Core Concepts in Mentorship Training* course (Kenya MoH 2022b) to prepare mentors for their role.

The Kenya MoH Division of Family Health, Wellness, and Nutrition; the BFHI task force in Kenya; Mbagathi County Referral Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya; and USAID Advancing Nutrition are currently testing the mentorship program at Mbagathi County Referral Hospital to examine the feasibility of implementing the mentorship program, as well as its ability to improve health worker breastfeeding counseling knowledge and practices and pregnant and postpartum women’s perceptions of breastfeeding counseling. To date, 79 health workers were trained in the BFHI Training Course for Maternity Staff and 14 were trained in the *Core Concepts in Mentorship Training* course. Seven mentors and 21 mentees from the antenatal care clinic and postnatal care wards were selected to participate in the mentorship program. Baseline data collection took place in April 2023 and subsequently mentoring meetings began. Mentoring meetings are ongoing through mid-September 2023 at which point endline data collection will take place.

## **USAID Nawiri Online Framework - 2.5.F.1 (PY5)**

Over a 4-year period, USAID Advancing Nutrition supported USAID Kenya Mission, BHA and Nawiri implementing partners in convening, documenting and disseminating their collaboration, and learning to generate evidence on the drivers of and solutions to addressing persistent acute malnutrition in

Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, and Turkana Counties. In PY5, this work culminated in finalizing an interactive online USAID Nawiri Framework that allows users to browse evidence of the drivers of and solutions to addressing persistent acute malnutrition identified in conducting a mix of desk reviews and formative and implementation research. In addition, we produced a technical brief describing the framework and summarizing some of the evidence presented throughout each component of the framework, at the immediate, underlying, and basic and systemic levels. The results from longitudinal studies and pilot approaches will continue to inform the second phase of the program (beginning in 2023), which focuses on systems-driven implementation and efforts to strengthen local government institutions.

## Key Evidence and Other Learning

During the two years of implementation, we developed three policy briefs on MSN investment cases at the county level in Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui. The policy briefs showcased to the counties' leadership the economic burden of malnutrition in 2022 and the prioritized actions for MSN sectors in health, agriculture, social protection, education, and water and sanitation. For example, in terms of productivity, health, and education, Kakamega lost KES 323 million/USD 2.27 million; Kisumu lost 151 million/USD 1.07 million; and Kitui lost 276 million/USD 1.95 million. The MSN policy brief and investment cases were key tools for evidenced-based advocacy with key decision-makers.

Localization is a growing concept. During a global webinar convened by USAID Advancing Nutrition, the Kenya program showcased local perspectives on capacity strengthening work with 10 CSOs (Box 1). The 10 local CSOs in Kenya received only TA (figure 3) compared with other USAID Advancing Nutrition CSOs in other countries that received TA and small grants. Key lessons learned included that networks, relationships, and opportunities to work with county Departments of Health and Agriculture were most valued, besides the seed funding. For example, the Shibuye CSO was able to host the governor's days with farmers to highlight the importance of NSA, support for promotion of kitchen gardens, and small stocks to increase the availability and consumption of nutritious foods. This would not have been possible before the USAID Advancing Nutrition project entered Kakamega. In Kisumu County, Kidogo Early Years is already piloting growth monitoring in informal schools by taking anthropometric measurements of weight and height, and referring malnutrition cases to health facilities and referral to social protection departments for cases that apply. In addition, we showcased milestone-based monitoring for nutrition governance work in Kenya to a global audience that included USAID. We also hosted four close-out learning and dissemination events in Kakamega, Kisumu, Kitui, and Nairobi. A total of 316 participants attended (M145;F171). They included key people and organizations in nutrition in Kenya. The GOK committed to sustaining MSN, primarily the forum and tools, such as the scorecard, FTT, and investment case.





Top left: Kisumu close-out plenary session. Top right: Policymakers panel discussion, national level. Bottom left: group photo-Kitui close-out MSN committee. Bottom right: Kakamega close-out scorecard session. Bottom: With USAID Kenya & East Africa, county and national leadership. Bottom right: subcounty and county administrators nutrition champions.



## Challenges

During the two years of implementation, the program experienced two major challenges, namely, the COVID-19 pandemic and political transition across Kenya at national and county levels of government. In the end, the project emerged stronger and more resilient. In FY 21/22, COVID-19 necessitated the complete shutdown of national and county departments, which delayed the implementation of our work plan activities. With mechanisms of hand sanitization, wearing face masks, social distancing, and virtual ways of working, the program was able to convene key meetings and workshops that delivered all key deliverables and kept participants safe. On the positive side, COVID-19 led to a change in attitude toward Internet-based virtual ways of working for government officials. To date, this persists in the Kenya public sector. Annex 2 on environmental mitigation and monitoring report provides details on the COVID-19 mitigation measures put in place. On August 9, 2022, Kenya elected new leaders, from the presidency down to the county level. This led to the counties of Kakamega and Kitui having a complete change of leadership, including the governor, county executive, and CAs. This affected the gains made and necessitated sensitization of the new leadership that had not been supportive of MSN. Because of the project's short two-year implementation period, the tools developed could not benefit from several rounds of use. Had the project period been longer, more lessons could have been learned.

# The Way Forward

Our work in Kenya has set a strong foundation for MSN at national and county levels (Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui). A key driver for the continuation of some of the novel interventions is that they are embedded in the broad policy frameworks for nutrition in Kenya (i.e., the FNSP, KNAP, ANIS, CNAPs, and CIDPs). The project has drawn useful lessons for MSN in Kenya that can be applied to any country with a similar context.

## Lessons Learned

- **MSN advocacy:** This is critical, but thrives in an environment of robust tools and empowered actors at policy and community levels. Our work with “sector-wise” nutrition champions demonstrated the concept that one needs to play to their strengths. We learned from the County First Ladies (Kakamega and Kisumu) that it is not enough to have one nutrition champion in a county. More nutrition champions are needed at the community level (villages and wards) to advocate for prioritization and accountability of nutrition services. In addition, MSN investment cases, policy briefs, scorecards, and FTT provide the evidence needed to seek and call for accountability.
- **MSN coordination:** In our experience, MSN coordination gained more traction at the county level compared with the national level for two main reasons. CECMs/ministers in the sectors of health, agriculture, education, social protection, water and sanitation, and planning and budgeting, were fully involved in and co-chaired the county-level MSN leadership forums. At the national level, coordination was left to the MOH DND and MOALD/Agri-Nutrition technical directors, who have limited authority in resource allocation. Second, based on devolved governance, counties have responsibility for delivering services in health, agriculture, ECDE, WASH, and components of social protection; therefore, they had the motivation and interest in the MSN approach because it furthered this constitutional requirement. We also learned about variations in county MSN coordination and how much is dependent on leaders' personalities and interests. For example, in Kisumu, CECM health allowed agriculture to chair MSN, for greater ownership and responsibility. Moreover, across the three counties, the executives aimed to receive results from a nutrition sector with multiple partners but missed opportunities to track sector performance. In our experience, Departments of Agriculture improved the most due to the awakened realization of their role in nutrition.
- **MSN planning:** For far too long, nutrition stakeholders have remained technical, with minimal inclusion of other stakeholders, such as planning and budgeting and local CSOs. We established that MSN advocacy should be tied to MSN planning, with the Department of Planning and Budgeting providing the evidence needed for advocacy. MSN financial tracking and the scorecard were vital in establishing how much was allocated and spent for nutrition at the subnational level in Kenya. One additional lesson was that county planning and budgeting are critical because they have control of the final resource envelope across sectors.
- **Academia:** They are key to the success of MSN in the counties after the end of the project. A university's core business is teaching, research, and community outreach, whereas counties are primarily service providers. Maseno University and MMUST brought their strength in research and training to integrate evidence from the 2022 KDHS in key advocacy messages for nutrition champions. Moreover, the integration of NSA in preservice curricula ensured that future nutrition professionals are nutrition-sensitive, which is a big departure from current professionals in Kenya who are clinical and curative biased.

- MSN learning and documentation: Counties with robust communication departments were able to “amplify and communicate ” their achievements. This ensured great visibility and leadership commitment. Kisumu County did this very well. The three counties were also able to learn from each other and apply what worked well. For example, MSN FTT customization traces its roots to Kitui County planning and budgeting. This county shared its existing IFMIS tool that was expanded to incorporate MSN across the three counties. Last, the CANIS and nutrition champions concept originated in Kakamega, but was later applied to the other two counties.
- Localization: We learned that local CSOs valued networks, linkages, and relationships with county MSN leadership and donors. This will further their mandate to service communities through inclusion in county prioritization of development interventions for nutrition. With donors, such as USAID and others, they had the opportunity to showcase their work with potential for future funding.

## Best Practices and Recommendations

The following is a list of best practices and recommendations for MSN in Kenya.

- Advocacy and resource allocation: County MSN scorecard and FTT are the answer to increased allocation and accountability for nutrition programming.
- Coordination: County MSN leadership forum is a best practice for ownership and scale-up to other counties in Kenya. It provides an avenue for increased participation and decision-making for other nutrition-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, education, WASH, and social protection.
- Preservice education: Integration of NSA by Maseno University and MMUST in new curricula for a BSc in Nutrition and Food Security and a BSc in NSA is a big step toward producing nutrition professionals needed for the workforce.
- Nutrition planning: Integration and inclusion of nutrition interventions as part of flagship county programs, CIDPs, and at the national level were included in the MTEF-IV for longer-term support.
- Localization: Support for grassroots CSOs needs to include both technical assistance in terms of nutrition programming; operational support to build strong finance, human resources, governance, and compliance; and seed grants to implement key MSN approaches (e.g. use of the MSN scorecard and financial tracking at subcounty and ward levels).

## Sustainability

MSN is well anchored in Kenya, with the counties of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui having made significant progress compared with the national level. Key MSN interventions are included and funded in their AWP and the five-year CIDPs (2023–2027). At the national level, nutrition is included in two approved key flagship programs in the agriculture and health sectors. The programs with nutrition are NSA and Family Health, and Strategic Public Health, respectively, under the MTEF-IV for Kenya (2023–2027). With CANIS established in each county, the policy framework provides the foundation for success because it guides the implementation of the prioritized interventions. Maseno University and MMUST are in advanced stages of registering the BSc in NSA and BSc in Nutrition and Food Security, respectively, with the Commission for University Education and Kenya Nutrition and Dietetics Institute. The first intake of trainees is expected in September/October 2023.

With regard to localization, we enhanced the capacity of 10 local CSOs for nutrition programming, and they are now linked with the counties’ governments. Moreover, the SUN CSA and SBN established in Kakamega and Kisumu, respectively, will outlast the program implementation period. Last, the investment case policy briefs and infographics, MSN scorecards, and FTTs are performance management

tools that the county government executives need to track performance; therefore, the motivation for their use is evident.

# Annex I. Performance Indicators

In addition to the performance indicators, a maturation index was developed and used to track milestones in project implementation per county and per objective. This helped track the progress of each activity in relation to the work plan. Progress was reported in stages, where the nascent stage was the baseline; establishing stage was where the project had started implementation; consolidating stage was where tangible gains had been made; and achieving stage where the objective had been achieved and the government was sustaining the intervention. The stages were shown using numbers where 1 was nascent, 2 establishing, 3 consolidating and 4 achieving.

The completed matrix is as show in the figures below:

QUARTER 2 FY22																					
USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION MILESTONES for MULTISECTOR NUTRITION(MSN)																					
OBJECTIVE	Improved capacity for nutrition advocacy						Increased multi-sectoral nutrition financial allocation				Improved planning				Improved functioning of government-led multi-sectoral nutrition coordination platforms			Overall score			
	Mapping	Assessment of Key MSN Institutions	CSOs strengthening	Nutrition Champions	Advocacy Key Messages	Average	Financial tracking tool adaptation	Nutrition budget reviews	Policy review/adaptation NIS/CNAP/KNAP	Average	MSN skills	MSN AWP's	Data review	MSN scorecard	Average	MSP/N ToR	County MSN Forum		Average		
Kakamega	3	4	2	3	2	2.8	2	2	3	1.7	3	3	2	4	2.3	3	2	2.5	2.3		
Kisumu	3	4	2	2	2	2.6	2	2	3	1.7	3	3	2	4	2.3	3	3	3.0	2.4		
Kitui	3	3	2	2	2	2.4	2	2	3	1.7	3	3	2	4	2.3	3	2	2.5	2.2		

The figure shows maturation score in Q2 of FY22 (baseline)

QUARTER 3 FY23																					
USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION MILESTONES for MULTI-SECTOR NUTRITION (MSN)																					
OBJECTIVE	Improved capacity for nutrition advocacy						Increased multi-sectoral nutrition financial allocation				Improved planning				Improved functioning of government-led multi-sectoral nutrition coordination platforms			Overall score			
	Mapping	Assessment of Key MSN Institutions	CSOs strengthening	Nutrition Champions	Advocacy Key Messages	Average	Financial tracking tool adaptation	Nutrition budget reviews	Policy review/adaptation CANIS/CNAP/KNA	Average	MSN skills	MSN AWP's	Data reviews	MSN scorecard	Average	MSN TOR	County MSN Forum		Average		
Kakamega	4	4	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4	4.0	4.0		
Kisumu	4	4	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4	4.0	4.0		
Kitui	4	4	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4	4.0	4.0		
<b>Overall Milestone</b>																					
1	2	3	4																		
Nascent	Establishing	Consolidating	Achieving																		

The figure shows the maturation scores in Q3 of FY23 (endline)

## Life of Project Performance Indicators

Indicator	FY22 (*)			FY23			Length of Project		
	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
Number of organizations supported in planning, assessment or design of nutrition programs or strategies Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP Indicator IR 2.5.35	10	14	140%	14	13	93%	14	14	100%
Number of evidence-sharing events hosted by USAID Advancing Nutrition, by type (webinar, workshop, expert consultations, etc.) Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP Indicator IR 3.3.45	16	36	225%	28	20	71%	44	56	127%

Indicator	FY22 (*)			FY23			Length of Project		
	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
Number of participants at evidence-sharing events hosted or supported by USAID Advancing Nutrition, by type (webinar, workshop, expert consultation, etc.) Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP Indicator, IR 3.3.56.	1500	1846	123%	600	954	159%	2100	2831	135%
Number of individuals receiving nutrition-related professional training through U.S. Government-supported programs, disaggregated by sex. Source: MSNS M&L IR 2.3; HL.9-4 USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP Indicator IR 2.1.25.	210	347	165%	150	143	95%	360	490	136%

Indicator	FY22 (*)			FY23			Length of Project		
	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
<p>Average percentage point change in score between pre- and post-tests of participants of trainings</p> <p>Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP (FY22) Indicator IR 2.1.59</p>	20%	19%	97%	20%	12%	58%	20%	17%	86%
<p>Average percentage post-test score compared with 80% benchmark score</p> <p>Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP (FY22) Indicator IR 2.1.60</p>	80%	86%	108%	80%	88%	110%	80%	87%	109%
<p>Proportion of training participants who improved from pre- to post-test results</p> <p>Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP (FY22) Indicator IR 2.1.61</p>	80%	66%	83%	80%	57%	72%	80%	64%	80%



Indicator	FY22 (*)			FY23			Length of Project		
	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
Proportion of training participants $\geq 80\%$ on the post-test result Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP (FY22) Indicator IR 2.1.62	80%	52%	66%	80%	45%	56%	80%	50%	63%
A national MSN plan or policy is in place that includes responding to emergency nutrition needs.HL.9-5	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
Number of documents developed/ revised with support from USAID Advancing Nutrition, by IRs and sub-IRs and type. Source: USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP indicator IR3.3.44	4	3	75%	1	1	100%	4	4	100%

Number of supervision visits supported by USAID Advancing Nutrition (custom)	12	6	50%	6	9	150%	18	15	83%
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>FY22 (*)</b>			<b>FY23</b>			<b>Length of Project</b>		
	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>% Achievement</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>% Achievement</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>% Achievement</b>
Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs [IM-level] Source: FTFMS E.G.3.2. USAID Advancing Nutrition Global PMP Indicator IR 1.16.	300	287	96%	60	63	105%	360	350	97%
Milestones in improved institutional architecture for food security policy achieved with USG support [Multi-Level] Source: FTFMS E.G.3.1-d.	3	1	33%	4	4	100%	4	4	100%

Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level] Source: USAID NPI CBLD-9	14	3	21%	14	13	93%	14	14	100%
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(\*) All targets and achievements were reviewed and updated.

## Annex 2: Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report

In FY 23/24, USAID Advancing Nutrition Kenya implemented a total of 63 activities that supported the mandate of the project in Kenya with the national government and three county governments of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Kitui. The FY23/24 work plan included multiple strategies and approaches with government stakeholders, CSOs, and the private sector through the SUN CSA; capacity strengthening; community engagement for the prioritization of nutrition activities at the county and ward levels through public participation via CSOs, nutrition champions, and the county Departments of Administration and Public Participation; collaborative learning and experience sharing within and across the three counties; and M&E. There were no foreseeable negative environmental impacts from any of the FY23/24 activities. All 63 activities involved a form of in-person sessions that included training and workshops. Some activities generated small amounts of paper and non-paper waste (e.g., individual-serving water bags/bottles, food residues), which were properly disposed of so as to mitigate any potential negative environmental impact. Based on the FY23 work plan, a number of in-person training and public engagements were held but with strict COVID-19 adherence and compliance measures (provision of face masks, handwashing points, and hand sanitizers) in place. Toward the end of the implementation year, Kenya lifted several COVID-19 containment measures through a circular notice from the MOH. Nevertheless, we continued to make provision for the availability of required protection, as required by WHO. The following 14 activities of the 63 were monitored to ensure compliance and reporting. They involved dissemination and training events with a considerable number of participants. Paper bins were provided at every event and waste was properly disposed of by the procured venues. For meetings held at the MOH and any public sector space, appropriate waste disposal was observed based on MOH guidelines and protocols.

- Activity 0.2.4.1. Hold four high-level dissemination events in Kakamega, Kitui, and Kisumu and at the national level
- Activity 1.1.2.1. Refresher training for nutrition champions, leadership, and CSOs with MSN stakeholders
- Activity 1.3.2.2. Convene MSN review of 2022/23 joint work plans, develop joint 2023/24 AWP, and validate nutrition priorities in CIDP-3
- Activity 1.3.2.3. Facilitate training for NSA for agri-nutrition officers and other MSN members
- Activity 2.1.1.2. Identify and train local media on nutrition issues
- Activity 2.3.2.1. Facilitate quarterly review and track AWP 2022/23, develop FY23/24 joint work plan, and validate nutrition priorities in CIDP-3
- Activity 3.1.1.1. Refresher training of nutrition champions & quarterly post-training follow-up support of trained champions
- Activity 3.1.2.3. Train CSOs on nutrition sensitive advocacy
- Activity 3.4.2.1. Facilitate MSN review of FY22/23 joint work plans, develop AWP FY23/24, and validate nutrition priorities in CIDP-3
- Activity 3.4.2.4. Facilitate training on NSA

- Activity 4.1.1.1. Convene workshop for MOALFC and MOH DND joint MSN AWP performance review (2022/23) and develop 2023/24 plans
- Activity 4.1.2.1. Facilitate training in PBB for MOALFC and MOH DND
- Activity 4.2.1.4. Hold a sensitization training for teachers on the teacher's reference manual
- Activity 4.2.1.3. Convene training workshops for MOH and MOE personnel on healthy diets and physical activities

Mitigation Measure Categories	Mitigation Measures	Outstanding Issues Relating to Required Conditions	Remarks
I. Education, Technical Assistance, Training	<p>All the FY23/24 activities required in-person training, education, or TA. Given the design of the Kenya activity, and the capacity strengthening strategies (which included training, mentorship, coaching, peer learning, exchange visits, facilitative/supportive supervision, and advocacy with county government, among other approaches), a number of in-person training, meetings, and workshop sessions were undertaken as listed in the section above. These activities formed part of the strategies to improve the competences and capacities of county managers, policymakers, local CSOs, and communities at the ward level in MSN planning, budgeting, advocacy, and implementation. As mitigation measures, we strictly adhered to and observed COVID-19 protocols and directives. COVID-19 prevention materials were made available, including face masks, hand sanitizers, and venues with functional hand washing stations, and thermometers for temperature monitoring. We took appropriate steps to ensure the proper disposal of used masks with clear bins as required by the MOH. Moreover, each venue had clear, visible waste bins for disposal of all paper and non-paper waste.</p>		

Mitigation Measure Categories	Mitigation Measures	Outstanding Issues Relating to Required Conditions	Remarks
2. Research and Development	N/A.		
3. Public Health Commodities	No public health related commodities were procured.		
4. Small-Scale Construction	N/A		
5. Small-Scale Water and Sanitation	N/A		
6. Nutrition	No nutrition commodities were procured.		
7. Vector Control	N/A		
8. Emergency Response	N/A		



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USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project, addressing the root causes of malnutrition to save lives and enhance long-term health and

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