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## **KENYA**

### FAMILY HEALTH

Kenya has made great strides in reducing child deaths, with a nearly 30 percent decline in child and infant mortality between 2008 and 2014. Newborns and young children have a better chance at reaching their full potential thanks to improvements in antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, malaria prevention and control, and increased immunization. Despite this progress, mothers and babies still face high risks before, during, and after childbirth. Although preventable and treatable, AIDS, dehydration from diarrhea, malaria, and pneumonia remain leading causes of child death and illness.

USAID works with the national and county governments to help the most vulnerable families receive effective, affordable health services. Using evidence-based approaches, our work creates an environment where women have safer pregnancies and deliveries, and newborns and young children receive the care they need to grow and thrive.

USAID's family health program is strengthening the capacity of county governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to plan, implement, and finance solutions to local development challenges. We work in partnership with other development partners such as UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, World Health Organization, the GAVI vaccination alliance, and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.

### **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

By providing free maternal and child health care nationwide and scaling up basic emergency obstetric care, the Government of Kenya is improving the health of mothers and young children. USAID is supporting this effort by training health workers, providing job aids, and

procuring essential equipment for health facilities in target counties. Our activities also improve the availability and affordability of health commodities and technologies that save lives, and support family-friendly health policies.

USAID prioritizes support to facilities in areas where rates of stunting and infant and child deaths are highest, and where women have less access to antenatal care and skilled birth attendants. Our activities also support outreach services to children who are unable to visit health facilities, through community health workers and volunteers who provide vitamin A supplementation, immunizations,

and prevention and treatment services for pneumonia and diarrhea. These services are combined with health messages that promote handwashing and access to clean water and appropriate sanitation.

## **NUTRITION**

USAID focuses on preventing undernutrition among the most vulnerable members of the community, specifically children and pregnant and lactating women. The nutrition program seeks to address the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition with high-impact interventions, such as the promotion of adequate feeding practices, micronutrient supplementation, growth monitoring, and integrated malnutrition management. This is linked with food security, livelihood support, and economic strengthening.

### **MISSION CONTACT**

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## **VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING**

Provision of quality voluntary family planning services is key for Kenya to achieve its goal of keeping mothers and babies alive. In 2020, more than 7.9 million women of reproductive age were using modern forms of contraceptives. As a result, 2.4 million unintended pregnancies, 519,000 unsafe abortions, and 8,800 maternal deaths will be prevented. However, unmet needs for family planning remain, particularly among young people.

To address this gap, USAID, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners, facilitates access to quality family planning services. USAID prioritizes the integration of these services into routine service delivery at health facilities and their availability in community settings. USAID also procures contraceptive commodities; strengthens the supply chain; promotes the benefits of modern, long-term, reversible family planning methods; and offers capacity building for health care providers. To secure adequate financing for family planning, USAID invests in national and county budget advocacy activities.

## **2021 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 302,954/362,825 children under the age of one fully immunized
- 1 million/718,525 children under the age of five reached with nutrition-specific interventions
- 217,950/271,726 pregnant women received antenatal care