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KENYA

FAMILY HEALTH AND PREVENTING MATERNAL AND CHILD DEATHS

Kenya has made great strides in reducing child deaths, with a nearly 30 percent decline in child and infant mortality between 2008 and 2014 according to national demographic and health surveys. 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 in Kenya because families do not have access to quality health information and services.

USAID works with national and county governments of Kenya to help the poorest and most vulnerable families receive effective, affordable health services. Our activities are creating an environment where women have safer pregnancies and deliveries; and newborns and young children receive the care they need to grow, develop and thrive.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

By providing free maternal and child health care nationwide and scaling-up basic emergency obstetrical 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 and communities in areas where rates of stunting and infant and child deaths are highest, and 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, immunization, and prevention and treatment of pneumonia and diarrhea. These services are combined with health messages that promote handwashing and access to clean water and appropriate sanitation.

NUTRITION

USAID works with Kenya county governments and health workers to educate families on how to manage acute malnutrition in infants and young children. These efforts include providing information on the importance of good nutritional practices such as exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, together with training and practical demonstrations on how to prepare affordable, nutritionally balanced meals and ensure proper feeding. Our activities also support the management of severe malnutrition through the provision of specially formulated, nutrient-dense foods.

VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING

Voluntary family planning interventions are integrated into maternal and child health and HIV services, allowing couples of childbearing age to more easily access information on planning and spacing healthy births. In addition to procuring contraceptive commodities, USAID promotes the benefits of voluntary modern, long-term reversible family planning methods.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

KENYA: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH FACTS

- Mother-to-child HIV transmission rates dropped from 28 percent in 2005 to 11 percent in 2018
- Stunting reduced by nine percent*
- About 71 percent of the total demand for family planning is met by using modern methods, bringing Kenya close to the Global 2020 initiative target*
- Total fertility rate reduced from 4.6 children per woman in 2008 to 3.9 children per woman in 2014*

*The 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS)

2018 ACHIEVEMENT SNAPSHOTS

- 265,000 children under – 1 fully immunized
- 1.3 million children under-5 reached with nutrition specific interventions
- 235,00 pregnant women received antenatal care

MISSION CONTACT

Randolph Augustin,
Chief – Health, Population, and Nutrition Office
Tel: +254 (0) 20 363 2512
E-mail: raugustin@usaid.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidke@usaid.gov
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Twitter: @USAIDKenya