

## FOREWORD

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides that every person has right to good health and nutrition. Article 43 of the constitution gives people the right to the highest attainable standard of health and quality healthcare services, freedom from hunger and the right to food of acceptable quality. Further, Article 53 assures every child the right to basic nutrition, shelter, and healthcare.



Despite these constitutional provisions, Kenya continues to grapple with malnutrition challenges. Murang'a County experiences the triple burden of malnutrition, which includes undernutrition (stunting, wasting, underweight), micronutrient deficiencies as well as overweight (and obesity). The latter form of malnutrition is a known risk to several diet-related non-communicable diseases (DRNCDs) among adults. All these challenges are a threat to both our social and economic growth. Devolution ushered counties that have a right to develop research-backed policies to address people's nutrition and health issues. As it is in many other counties, food and nutrition security among the Murang'a county population is the main building block for human wellbeing and socio-economic growth.

The focus of Murang'a Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy is to achieve a food-secure Murang'a county, where every citizen has access to good quality diversified food. The policy brings together all nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive sectors, to create a coherent approach to achieving food and nutrition security.

The causes of malnutrition are complex and diverse. This policy provides strategies that focus on addressing these factors to reverse the challenge of malnutrition. It emphasizes the need for effective collaboration and coordination, shared ownership across sectors, rigorous monitoring, evaluation and research to guide evidence-based decision making. In addition, the policy also provides strategies to increase resources by supporting consistently domestic budgetary commitment and foreign investment for nutrition.

This policy aims at increased effort to reduce rates of malnutrition and food insecurity in Murang'a county. We believe that this policy will contribute toward the attainment of a healthier, and well-nourished populace hence supporting the socio-economic development and well-being in our county.

H.E. Hon Dr. Irungu Kang'ata  
**The Governor**  
**Murang'a County Government.**

## PREFACE

Food and nutrition security is an indispensable prerequisite for health and socio-economic development that defines people and communities. Nutrition is well connected to child survival, physical and cognitive development, learning achievement, adult productivity, and social progress. Malnutrition remains a public health issue in Murang'a county and presents a major hurdle to the attainment of development goals and objectives of our county. According to the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022, child nutrition status in Murang'a county has, however, had significant improvement in the last few years. The rate of stunted (impaired growth and development) growth among children under five years in the county dropped significantly from 19.6% in 2014 to 10% in 2022. Additionally, 6% of the children in the same age category are underweight (low weight for age), while 2% have wasting (low weight for height). Conversely, 3% of the children are overweight.

Malnutrition adversely affects the most vulnerable groups in our populations, including pregnant and lactating women, children under five years, adolescents, the elderly, and those with chronic diseases. Inadequate diet and diseases have been identified as the immediate causes of malnutrition, while household food insecurity, inappropriate care practices (such as feeding, sanitation and hygiene) and inadequate health systems and services have been identified as the underlying causes of malnutrition. Food security is still a big concern in Murang'a, as more than a quarter of the population is still considered food poor, relying more on the purchase and import of foods with limited diet diversity.

The social and economic loss attributed to malnutrition in Murang'a county is enormous. Malnutrition impacts overall development since the malnourished populations endure more significant expenditures on their healthcare costs, education (due to children's cognitive underdevelopment) and low economic productivity (resulting from low output from workers). Solving the malnutrition problems is key to Murang'a's ability to achieve socio-economic objectives set for the county. Addressing malnutrition will also ensure a healthier and more productive population, which is essential for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction.

This Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy presents an opportunity and an enabling environment to address the challenge of malnutrition and reducing its impact on social and economic development of the county. It highlights the importance of joint efforts across sectors and

collaboration with development partners, community stakeholders, and private entities. Murang'a county government, under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, commits to implement this multisectoral policy through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach ensuring the departments of health, agriculture, water, trade, education, environment, finance and economic planning, as well as youth, gender and social services play their role. Together, we can create a future where every citizen of Murang'a enjoys improved health and nutrition, paving the way for a stronger, more resilient county.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Murang'a County Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy was made possible through the collective efforts and dedication of various stakeholders. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Murang'a county government under the leadership of the Governor, H.E. Hon Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, and the Deputy Governor, H.E. Stephen Munania, for their visionary support and commitment to food and nutrition security. Their leadership has been instrumental in fostering a collaborative approach across all sectors to address the county's unique challenges.

We would like to thank Dr. Fredrick Kamondia Mbugua, the CECM Health and Sanitation, and Mr. Paul Mugo, CECM Agriculture, Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Development, for their guidance and invaluable contributions. Our appreciation also goes to the CECMs, Chief Officers, and Directors from all nutrition-sensitive sectors whose input was instrumental in shaping the policy.

This policy represents a vital step forward in addressing the interconnected challenges of food security and nutrition within Murang'a County. Its successful implementation will require continued collaboration, monitoring, and evaluation from all sectors and stakeholders. By working together, we can ensure that the county achieves its goal of sustainable food systems and improved nutrition for all.

We acknowledge the participation and insights provided by development partners. Their partnership and dedication have been crucial in enriching this policy. Special thanks go to the multi-sectoral technical drafting team for their hard work and commitment throughout the policy development process. The secretariat of the policy: Nancy Mwangi, County Nutrition Coordinator, Purity Nyambura Gitonga, Chief Nutrition and Dietetics Officer, Charles Njuguna, County Senior Economist and Liz Nana Kimemia, County Advocate. Your expertise and perseverance are deeply appreciated.

We recognize the valuable feedback and input from the residents of Murang'a county and stakeholders who took part in the consultative sessions, ensuring that the policy addresses the real needs of the Murang'a county population. Lastly, we appreciate Nutrition International for the immense technical and financial support they provided throughout the policy development process. We express our sincere gratitude to the Country Director of Nutrition



International, Martha Nyagaya, and the entire team, including Dr. Elijah Mbiti and Joel Mwaura. Furthermore, we extend our gratitude to Rhodah Njuguna for her invaluable technical support to the drafting team.

Thank you all for your contributions to this significant milestone aimed at ensuring a food and nutrition-secure Murang'a county.



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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CA	County Attorney
CADP	County Annual Development Plan
CAK	Competition Authority of Kenya
CAFNSR	County Annual Food and Nutrition Security Report
CAPR	County Annual Progress Report
CASSCOM	County Agricultural Sector Strategic Committee
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CFNSCC	County Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Committee
CHS	Community Health Services
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CIMES	County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems
CNAP	County Nutrition Action Plan
CO	Chief Officer
CTCC	County Technical Coordination Committee
CTP	Cash Transfer Programs
DRNCDS	Diet-related Non-communicable Diseases
ECDE	Early Childhood Development and Education
FKE	Federation of Kenya Employers
FY	Financial Year
HRH	Human Resources for Health
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
ICIPE	International Centre of Insects Physiology and Ecology
ICF	Inner City Fund
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KEBS	Kenya Bureau of Standards
KEMRI	Kenya Medical Research Institute
KEMSA	Kenya Medical Supplies Authority
KEPHIS	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
KEWI	Kenya Water Institute
KFS	Kenya Forest Service
KM <sup>2</sup>	Square Kilometers
KMD	Kenya Meteorological Department
KMTC	Kenya Medical Training College
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MCG	Murang'a County Government
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation


MEARL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Reporting and Learning
MSP	Multi-stakeholders' Platform
NCDs	Non-communicable Diseases
NCPB	National Cereals and Produce Board
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIA	National Irrigation Authority
ODF	Open Defecation Free
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization
SHIF	Social Health Insurance Fund
PCN	Primary Care Networks
SSPs	Sectoral Strategic Plans
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASREB	Water Sector Regulation Board
WHO	World Health Organization
WRA	Water Resources Authority
WWDA	Water Works Development Agency



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Murang'a county is one of the 47 counties in the Republic of Kenya, with a population of 1,056,640 (KNBS 2019), the majority (51%) of whom are women. It is located in the central region of the country. The county made significant reduction of childhood malnutrition in the period between 2014 and 2022. According to the KNSB and ICF 2022, the level of malnutrition reflected by the following indicators shows, stunting 10%, underweight 6% and wasting 2%, among children under five years. This has been made possible by county efforts in partnerships with non-state actors who supported the implementation of the County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP) 2018-2023. This partnership led to increased nutrition financing through a matching financing mechanism under a domestic resource mobilization approach. However, the county lacks a policy to ring-fence the gains made against malnutrition and risks relapsing, if sustainable funding to address the factors that cause malnutrition, including lack of adequate and diversified diets is not assured.

Murang'a Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy recognizes that improved nutrition forms an integral part of the overall development of Murang'a county. The policy is aligned to Murang'a county's vision of "a food and nutrition secure county for sustainable socio-economic development and well-being." This ambitious vision will be achieved through an effective coordinated multi-sectoral approach and strategic investment for the well-being of Murang'a county population. The policy represents a strategic response to the distinct nutrition challenges confronting the county. It identifies challenges that face nutrition and present key commitments through specific measures and implementation framework. The policy provides direction and roadmap for implementation of nutrition interventions, a framework for resource mobilization and create an enabling environment for sectoral collaboration and coordination.

The policy provides a platform and a framework for scaling up nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive strategies, enhancing and align county resource mobilization for food and nutrition security. It also strengthens the enabling environment to facilitate the achievement of strategies for food and nutrition security for the county. It is based on the principles of inclusiveness, a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition management and service provision, effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery, equitable distribution of resources, social accountability in service delivery, respect for human rights, gender mainstreaming, and respect for cultural diversity and ethics.

Lastly, the policy provides structures for governance, coordination, monitoring and evaluation for seamless linkage and transfer of information from the technical level to the political leadership. The policy therefore aligns its implementation with the existing county decision making and service delivery structures and systems.





# CHAPTER





## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

Murang'a County is one of the 47 counties in the Republic of Kenya, with a population of 1,056,640 (KNBS 2019), majority (51%) of whom are women. The projected population for the year 2023 was 1,154,948 (KNBS 2023). It is in the central region of Kenya and covers a total area of 2,326 KM<sup>2</sup>. It neighbors Nyeri county to the north, Kiambu county to the south, Kirinyaga and Machakos counties to the east and Nyandarua county to the west. Administratively, the county has nine (9) sub-counties, 35 wards and 222 community units.

The county lies between 914m to 3,353m above sea level, the western part of the county being more elevated than the eastern part. Consequently, the climatic conditions in the western part of the county consist of an equatorial type of climate, the central part having a sub-tropical climate while the eastern part being semi-arid. The eastern part consist of the lower parts of Kigumo, Kandara, Kiharu and Maragua sub-counties, which receive less rainfall annually and temperature range between 26 and 30 degrees celsius. This necessitates irrigation for effective crop production. The long rain period is in the months of March, April and May. The month of April reliably records the highest amount of rainfall averaging 213mm. The short rains are experienced in October and November averaging about 135mm. The driest month is February with 21mm of rainfall. The western part of the county, which covers Kangema, Gatanga and the higher parts of Kigumo and Kandara sub-counties, is generally wet and humid due to its proximity to the Aberdare Ranges. Temperatures in this region can go as low as 6 degrees Celsius. Rainfall in western and central regions is reliable, well-distributed throughout the year and is adequate for food production.

The county is composed of six agro-ecological zones. Zone 1 consists of the highest potential areas where forestry, tea and tourism industries are the major economic activities. Zones 2 and 3 are the lowlands east of Aberdare's, which are generally suitable for both coffee and dairy farming. The flat area of Makuyu division in Maragua sub-county is characterized by arid and semi-arid conditions (forming agro-ecological zones 4, 5, and 6), where coffee and pineapple plantations thrive under irrigation. The agricultural sector is not only the driver of the county's economy but also the means of livelihood for most of the residents. The sector comprises of crop production (industrial & food crops), horticulture, livestock, fisheries and forestry. Agricultural transformation is essential for the county as it has huge potential to spur growth and raise income. In 2017, the agricultural sector contributed 58% of



the gross county product (GCP). This was ranked 12th nationally, with a contribution of 2.3% to the GDP.

Murang'a county has a total of 253 health facilities, spread across the county. The facilities are evenly distributed. Majority (59%) of the health facilities are public government facilities (GOK), 32% by faith-based organizations (32%) while 9% are privately owned.

### **1.1. Rationale for the Policy**

The rationale behind this policy lies in the recognition that improved nutrition forms an integral part of the overall development of Murang'a County. The Policy represents a strategic response to the distinct nutrition challenges confronting the county. This rationale, therefore, articulates the driving factors and underlying principles that necessitates the development and implementation of a targeted food and nutrition security policy. The rationale of this policy will:

- 1) Identify challenges that face nutrition and present key commitments through specific measures and implementation framework.
- 2) Provide direction and roadmap for implementation of nutrition intervention.
- 3) Provide framework for resource mobilization; and
- 4) Create an enabling environment for sectoral collaboration and coordination

Malnutrition is caused by multiple, immediate, underlying and basic factors as depicted in Figure 1.

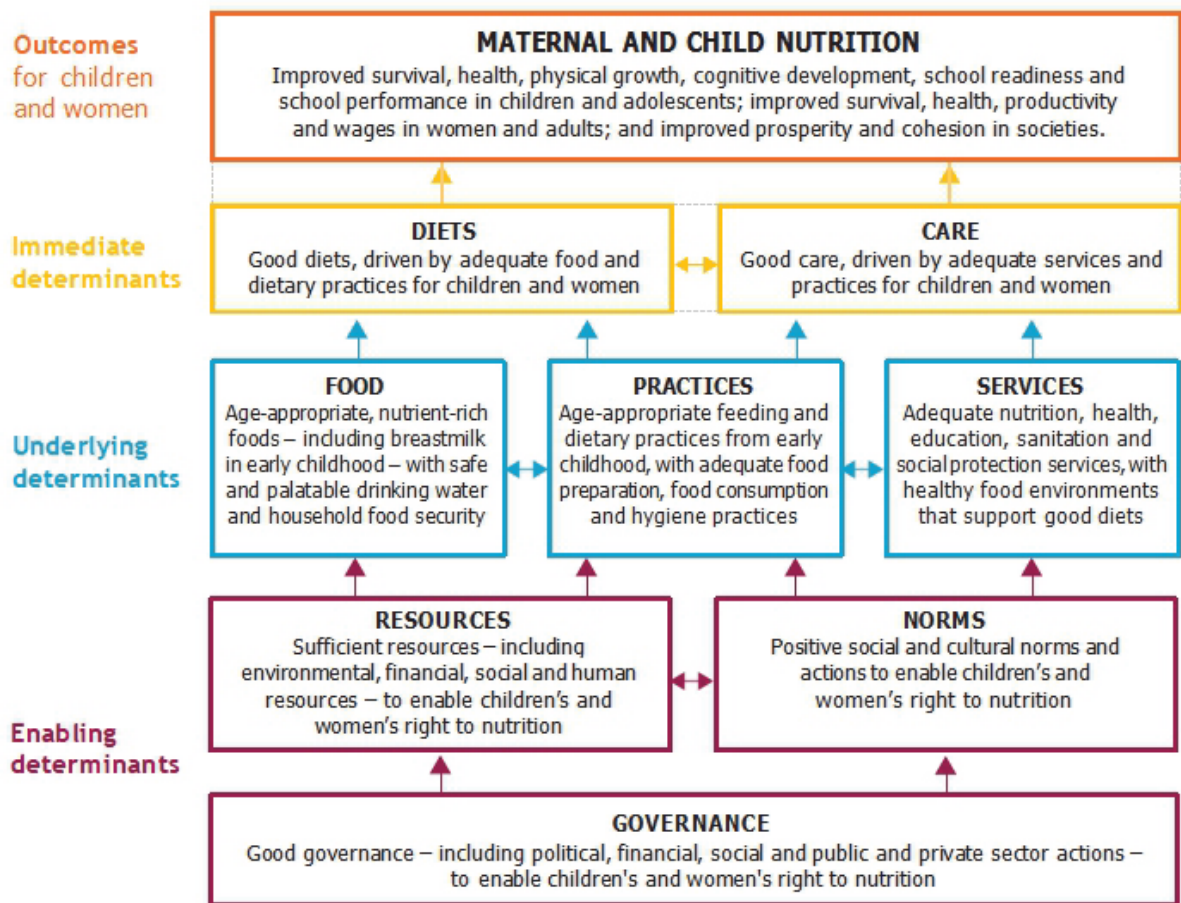


Figure 1: UNICEF Conceptual Framework on the Determinants of Maternal and Child Nutrition, 2020.

## 1.2. The intention of the policy

Nutrition is a multifaceted sector and improvement of nutrition status cannot be achieved by the health sector in isolation. It is therefore imperative that linkages between the most important sectors that contribute toward improvement of nutrition status across population be strengthened. These sectors include (but not limited to) Health, Agriculture (crops, livestock and fisheries), Education, Water and Sanitation, Environment, Social Protection, Gender, Finance and Economic Planning among other sectors. Trade and commerce are equally important due to the role of private sector in the food industry, especially with increased urbanization.

In the past the county depended on the national government's policy, the Kenya Food and Nutrition Security policy, to base its County Action Plans. It is therefore imperative that Murang'a county develop its own county-specific policy to address specific nutrition needs for Murang'a population. The policy thus provides a platform for the county government to develop strategies to address the identified malnutrition problems. The policy seeks to

mainstreaming nutrition across all the relevant departments, address coordination and increase resources for food and nutrition. Resource allocation for nutrition has been low over the years. The county has embraced the spirit of domestic resource mobilization through which together with partners has increased resources for nutrition to KES 41.25 million annually from a baseline of KES 1.25 million in FY 2020-2021.

### 1.3. Scope of the Policy

Murang'a County Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy aims at enhancing food and nutrition security by ensuring cooperation and coordination among the various identified sectors. The policy also focuses on integrated approaches to advancing nutrition to achieve coherent socio-economic development and well-being of the county population.

### 1.4. Existing Legal Framework that informs the policy

1. **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement:** Kenya is a signatory to these international agreements, which aim to limit global temperature increases and adapt to climate impacts. These agreements encourage member countries to integrate climate considerations into all sectors, under the Social Development Goals which are central to nutrition.
2. **Africa Agenda 2063** – This is a 50-year development plan and blueprint for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It prioritizes inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security among other issues, aimed at repositioning Africa to becoming a dominant player in the global arena. It seeks to achieve this through goals, priority areas, aspirations, flagship projects in order to achieve sustainable development such as elimination of poverty and hunger which are obstacles to improving nutrition.
3. **The Malabo Declaration of 2014 and the African Regional Nutrition Strategy of 2016-2025** - This declaration recognizes that hunger and malnutrition are major causes of poverty and underdevelopment in Africa. These two factors contribute to poor health, low levels of energy, and mental impairment, all leading to low productivity and low educational attainment. All the above in turn lead to even greater hunger and malnutrition, thereby creating a viscous cycle. The



declaration also seeks at least 10% financial budget commitment to agriculture.

4. **Constitution of Kenya 2010** - This is the Supreme law of the Republic. It recognizes the right of every person to food in adequate quantities and acceptable quality (Article 43 (1)(c)). Those qualities and quantities include nutrition (freedom from malnutrition) even though it is not expressly mentioned. It also recognizes the right to the highest attainable standards of health (Article 43 (1)(a)) where food and nutrition are central. It provides for the realization of nutrition through the creation of two levels of government which share roles in key sectors including health services and agriculture. The Constitution also guarantees children with the right to basic nutrition (Article 53(1)(c) and protection of consumers health safety and economic interests (Article 46 (1)(c))
5. **Health Act 2017** - The health Act seeks to protect, respect, promote and fulfill the rights of children to basic nutrition and healthcare services contemplated in Articles 43(1)(c) and 53(1)(c) of the Constitution. Section 67 provides that the classes of products procured by Kenya Medical Supplies Authority shall extend to therapeutic feeds and nutritional formulations. Additionally, Section 68 of the Health Act on public and Environmental health provides that the National health system shall devise and implement measures to promote health and to counter influences having an adverse effect on the health of the people including maternal nutrition and micro nutrient supplementation. The health system should also encourage the promotion of supply of safe foodstuffs of sufficient quality in adequate quantities and the promotion of nutritional knowledge at all population levels.
6. **Public Health Act (CAP 242)** - This is an Act of Parliament to make provision for securing and maintaining health. It deals mainly with prevention and suppression of infectious diseases as stated in Part IV of the Act and venereal diseases in Part V. The Act also specifically mentions certain diseases such as leprosy and smallpox on their own. The Act also provides for sanitation and food safety. However, the Act's does not concern itself with malnutrition or chronic illnesses in general. It mainly concerns itself with prevention of pathogen caused illnesses.
7. **Mandatory law on food fortification** - Kenya passed the law on mandatory food fortification in 2012. The law states that all branded and packaged products of wheat, oil, maize flour, and salt be fortified

according to national legislation standards. Large-scale food fortification is a strategy that relies on commonly consumed food vehicles (i.e. staple foods) to deliver micronutrients to the general population and, as much as possible, include a large proportion of the vulnerable population's groups.

8. **Breast Milk Substitute (Regulation and Control) Act (CAP 262)** - This is an Act of Parliament that provides for appropriate marketing and distribution of breast milk substitutes, safe and adequate nutrition for infants through the promotion of breastfeeding and proper use of breast milk substitutes, where necessary, and for connected purposes. The Act establishes the National Committee on Infant and Young Child Feeding. Part III of the Act provides for the regulation of advertisement, promotion, labeling of packages and educational and informational materials on breast milk substitutes. Under Section 28 the Cabinet Secretary may, in consultation with the Committee, make Regulations generally for the better carrying out of the objects of the Act. County Governments are not represented in the composition of the National Committee on Infant and Young Child Feeding even if health is a shared function of the two levels of government.
9. **Kenya Vision 2030:** As the country's long-term development blueprint, Vision 2030 emphasizes environmental conservation and climate change adaptation as key to achieving sustainable development, including the improvement of agricultural productivity and food security. This is supposed to help in realization of high quality of life to all citizens which includes acceptable nutritional standards.
10. **Kenya Climate Change Act, 2016:** This act provides a regulatory framework for enhanced response to climate change. It mandates the development of action plans at national and county levels to mitigate and adapt to climate change, which can affect agricultural productivity and food security.
11. **National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-2022:** This plan outlines Kenya's strategy to promote climate resilience and low-carbon development. It includes measures on climate-smart agriculture, water management, and disaster risk reduction, which are directly relevant to nutritional outcomes.
12. **National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2015-2030:** The NAP provides a strategy for adapting to climate change impacts in Kenya, including

those affecting agriculture, water resources, and human health. It includes specific interventions for enhancing food security and nutrition through climate resilience.

13. **National Environmental Policy (NEP) 2013:** This policy outlines strategies to enhance environmental conservation and management. It addresses issues like deforestation, soil erosion, and water pollution, which are crucial for maintaining agricultural productivity and nutrition.
14. **Kenya Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029:** While primarily focused on agriculture, this strategy includes aspects related to climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land management, which are important for maintaining food security and nutrition in the face of climate change.
15. **National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) 2011:** This policy provides guidelines on food security and nutrition in Kenya, including the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food systems. It recommends integrating climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into food and nutrition programs.
16. **Kenya National Water Policy, 2021:** This policy addresses the sustainable management and use of water resources, which are critical for agriculture and household water security, both of which directly impact nutrition.
17. **Biosafety Act (CAP 320) -** Section 3 of Biosafety Act gives the object of the Authority under the Act as to exercise general supervision and control over the transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms with a view to ensuring safety of human and animal health and provision of an adequate level of protection of the environment. This is done through inspections, risk assessments, consultation with other agencies among other regulatory mechanisms. The risks affecting nutrition include the fact that GMO's nutrient content may have been altered in the modification process and the organisms may breed with the generally accepted organisms of the same classification.
18. **Agriculture and Food Authority Act (CAP 314)-** This is an Act of Parliament to provide for the consolidation of the laws on the regulation and promotion of agriculture. Its functions are to promote best practices in, and regulate, the production, processing, marketing,



grading, storage, collection, transportation and warehousing of agricultural products excluding livestock products as may be provided for under the Crops Act (Cap. 318). It also provides for collection and collation of data, maintaining a database on agricultural products, excluding livestock products, documenting and monitoring agriculture through registration of players, determining the research priorities in agriculture and advising on research. These functions are supposed to be carried out in consultation with the County Governments. Whereas the Act does not expressly mention nutrition, its efforts are key in realization of nutritional objectives, and it can carry out functions assigned to it by any written law while respecting the two levels of government, including nutrition-related functions.

19. **Dairy Industry Act** provides for inspection and licensing of milk handling premises and surveillance on the quality and safety of milk and milk products along the dairy value chain.
20. **Competitions Authority Act** ensures protection of the consumers from unfair and misleading market conduct among other obligations. This has an impact on food safety
21. **The Food, drugs and Chemical Substances Act** prohibits sale of unwholesome, poisonous or adulterated food. Additionally, labeling, packaging, treatment, processing, selling or advertising of any food in contravention in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive is strictly forbidden. The Act makes provisions for food standards and requires strict compliance with food standards in labeling, packaging, selling or advertising of any food, and prohibits against sale of food not of nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser. The Act demands that hygiene be observed throughout food preparation, packaging, conveyance, storage and display.
22. **Consumer Protection Act. (CAP 501)** - This is an Act of Parliament to provide for the protection of the consumer, prevent unfair trade practices in consumer transactions and related matters. Section 12 of the Act terms false, misleading and deceptive representation of goods and services as unfair. It also includes nutritional quantities and qualities that goods do not have. It may also include approvals from relevant authorities implied by producers or sellers of certain foodstuffs or supplements. However, this Act covers mostly goods obtained under contractual obligations.



23. **The Kenya National Trade Policy** advocates for the diversification of exports, including in the agricultural sector. This can lead to the promotion of a variety of nutrient-rich crops, contributing to better nutrition. It also provides access to both domestic and international markets for Kenyan products can increase farmers' incomes, which can, in turn, improve their ability to afford nutritious food. It emphasizes the importance of meeting international standards for food products. This ensures that food products, both for export and local consumption, are safe and of high quality, which is essential for good nutrition.
24. **Crops Act (CAP 318)** - Section 3 of the Crops Act gives the object and purposes of the Act as to accelerate the growth and development of agriculture in general, enhance productivity and incomes of farmers and the rural population, improve investment climate and efficiency of agribusiness and develop agricultural crops as export crops that will augment the foreign exchange earnings of the country, through promotion of the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of crops in suitable areas of the country. That implies that the Act is supposed to facilitate commercial success of Kenyan crops in the export market. Internal concerns such as nutrition are not adequately addressed.
25. **County Government Act 2012** this Act gives effect to constitutional provisions on devolution. It provides for powers, functions and offices with the county governments. These culminate in the obligation to deliver services to the public. These services include the achievement of the required nutritional standards.
26. **PFM Act and Regulations, 2012** - This is an Act of Parliament to provide for the effective management of public finances by the national and county governments; the oversight responsibility of Parliament and county assemblies; the different responsibilities of government entities and other bodies, and for connected purposes. These purposes include realization of rights and services such as nutrition. This Act provides for revenue allocation laws popularly known as budgets. Prudent fiscal allocation which takes into account public participation capture the importance of resource allocation to nutrition.
27. **Kenya Poverty Reports**. These reports provide statistical data on numbers and effects of poverty and inequalities. This in turn informs resource allocation to relevant needs of the population including the needs for support in nutrition.

28. **Medium Term Plan IV.** This plan's overall idea is to align the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) of all the 47 counties with the MTP IV and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), with a focus on increasing investments in strategic sectors, key among them agriculture, health, housing, and the digital economy. Investment in these sectors, especially agriculture and health require a focus on nutrition in order to realize the intended goals.
29. **National Water Act.** The purpose of this Act is to provide for the regulation, management and development of water resources and water and sewerage services in line with the Constitution. The Act specifically mentions agriculture as an important water usage. Water has important chemical and biological composition which is beneficial nutritionally. Water also affects health, and it can be harmful if polluted. Prioritization of water resources for agricultural products which serve nutritional needs which may have been largely unmet should be considered.
30. **Kenya School Health policy 2018.** Developed by the ministries of health and education, the policy provides a platform towards the realization of a comprehensive school health program in schools. This policy therefore recognizes the importance of innovative health interventions in education. The policy seeks to a sustainable reduction of the impact of both communicable and non-communicable diseases; enhance values and life skills among learners; improve WASH facilities as well as school infrastructure in schools; meet the diverse nutrition and special needs of the learners; and mainstream gender issues in education and health systems.
31. **The National Pre-primary policy 2017.** This policy was developed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in collaboration with county governments, UNICEF and Early Childhood Development and Education service providers. This policy recognizes the impact of nutrition on education and brain development of a child. It calls for multisectoral and coordinated efforts to alleviate problems hindering adequate access to nutrition. This is particularly important since pre-primary education is a function of county governments.
32. **Murang'a Vision-** The Murang'a county vision is "To be the leading county in agricultural production, infrastructural and social economic development in the country." This vision captures various aspirations including constitutional ones in the social economic sphere. Nutrition

is under social economic rights and hence key in achievement of the vision.

33. **Murang'a county health services Act** - Section 3 of the Act serves to help realization of health rights in accordance with Article 43 and consumer health rights under Article 46 of the Constitution. This is through enforcement of standards from WHO Section 5 of Murang'a county health services Act also provides that the health department shall oversee policy development, formulation and enforcement. The Act mostly deals with healthcare facilities and personnel who work within them.
34. **Murang'a County Agro-ecology Development Act, 2022** - This is an Act of the Murang'a county Assembly to provide for the development, promotion and regulation of the organic food industry, to provide for the establishment of the agro-ecology development and marketing board. The Act seeks to promote agro-ecology to 30% of agriculture. The role of Murang'a county government provided for under Part III of the Act. The role includes promotion, facilitation and collaboration with farmers and partners. Enacted with the Act is Murang'a county Agricultural Policy. The policy enacted in 2022 states that nutrition and food security has become more elusive with increased poverty levels, with nutrition food poverty being over 50%. Organic food is promoted as healthy, contains more vitamins, minerals, enzymes and other nutrients which are not found in conventional food. It is also promoted as tastier; Fruits have more juice, and vegetables are more nutritious and contain more natural flavors (page 35). The policy is informed by the Sustainable Development Goal No 2, which is to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
35. **Murang'a County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027:** The CIDP outlines the county's development priorities, including environment and climate change strategies. It includes sections on sustainable agriculture, water resource management, and environmental conservation, all of which are relevant to nutritional outcomes.

#### **Limitations of legal framework at the county level.**

The legal framework is mainly focused on provision of primary health services through health facilities as with less emphasis on preventive and promotive, community-based services that address health and

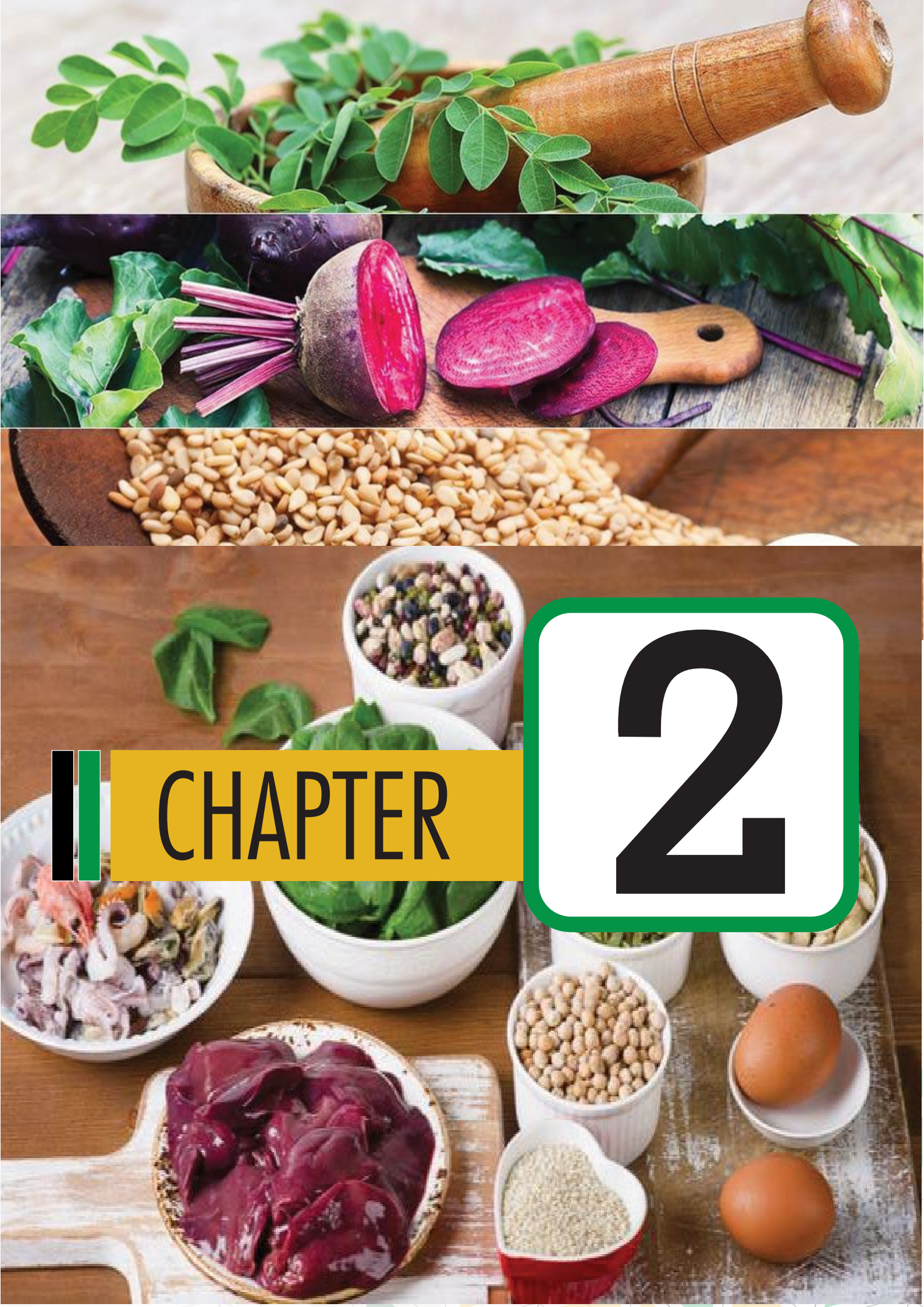


nutrition concerns at the household level. Further, the national and county budgets provide limited funding for nutrition, limiting access to diversified diets for all people, in adequate quantity and acceptable quality. At the county level, nutrition-focused institutional framework and regulations on nutrition-related chronic illnesses are also limited.

Other county and departmental specific laws and policies are:

1. **Murang'a County Spatial Plans 2015-2030**
2. **Murang'a County Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027:**
3. **Murang'a County Climate Change Fund Act 2021:**
4. **Murang'a county natural resource benefit sharing act 2022.**
5. **Murang'a county solid waste management act 2022.**





# CHAPTER

2

## CHAPTER TWO

### SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

This section discusses the nutrition context from a global, regional, national and county perspective. The section further delves into the SWOT analysis and stakeholder analysis.

#### 2.1. Overview of the Global, Regional, National and County Nutrition Trends

##### 2.1.1. Global nutrition trends

Globally, malnutrition is responsible for 45% of deaths among children aged below five years. Insufficient nutrition during this period results in permanent damage to physical growth, brain development, and increases susceptibility to infections. The World Health Assembly 2011 resolutions recognize the need for accelerated global action to address the pervasive and corrosive problem of the double and triple burden of malnutrition. The Assembly endorsed the following comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, which specified a set of six global nutrition targets to:

- a) Reduce by 40 per cent the number of children under 5 who are stunted.
- b) Achieve a 50 per cent reduction in the rate of anemia in women of reproductive age.
- c) Achieve a 30 per cent reduction in the rate of infants born low birth weight.
- d) Ensure that there is no increase in the rate of children who are overweight.
- e) Increase to at least 50 per cent the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months.
- f) Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5 per cent.

Achieving global food and nutrition security remains challenging, especially for developing countries, due to technological limitations, inefficient food production and productivity, economic constraints, population growth, and climate variability.

The impact of climate change globally has a direct negative impact on food production. It is forecasted that there will be a 5% decrease in global food production by 2050 and that without adaptation, crop yields will decline by around 1.5% per decade (Lobell and Gourdji, 2012) or by approximately



5.6% by 2050 in an optimistic assessment (Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy 2017-2026). According to the National Agricultural Marketing Strategy 2021-2023, Kenya experiences over 30% crop post-harvest losses, 40% in dairy and 25% in fish are lost during the production value chains.

### **2.1.2. Kenya Nutrition Situation**

According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey report of 2022, nearly a fifth (18%) of children under five years of age suffer from stunted growth, affecting approximately two million children. Stunting, the most common form of under-nutrition, has severe and lasting effects on mental and physical development. The recent Kenya Demographic Health Survey, showed that stunting rate reduced from 26% in 2014 to 18% in 2022, underweight from 11% to 10%, and wasting showed a marginal increase from 4% to 5% over the same period. Close to a quarter (23.1%) of the Kenyan population suffer from anemia with the situation being worse among pregnant women where 41.6% are anemic (KNMS, 2011).

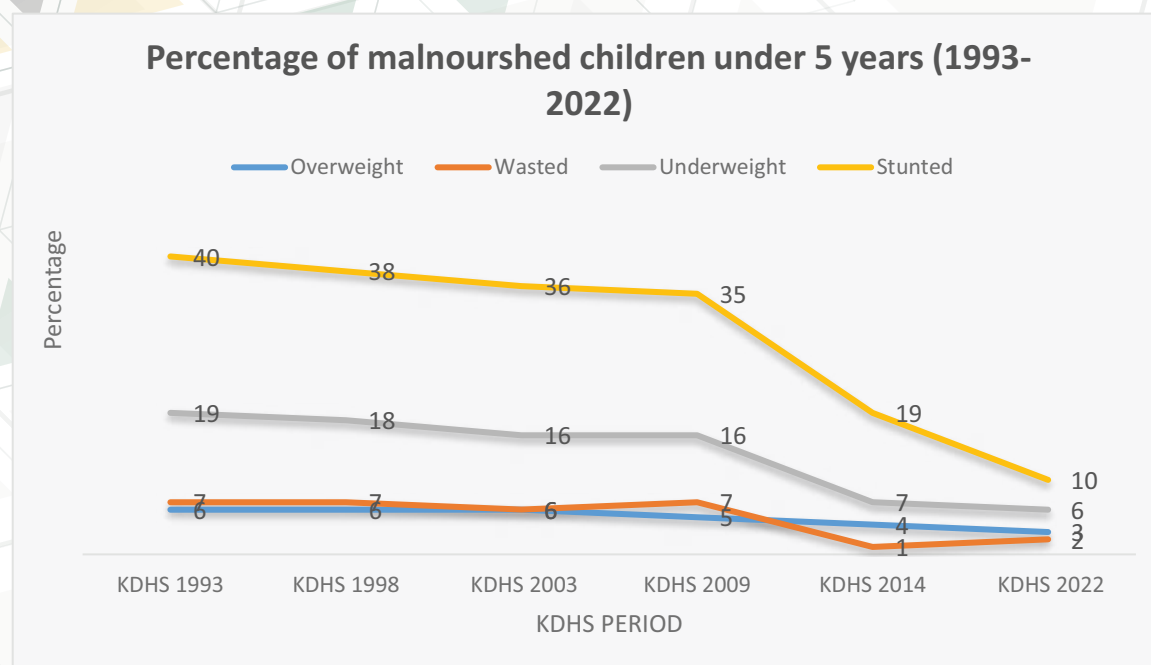
The annual cost of malnutrition incurred in sectors such as health, education, and labor productivity, ranges from 1.9% to 16.5% of the GDP. Despite the efforts made by implementing strategies that would lead to a significant reduction in childhood malnutrition at the national level, the indicators do not portray the desired change. The rate of exclusive breastfeeding stagnated at 60%, while only a third (31%) of the Kenyan children aged 6–23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet. The rates of under-5 mortality, infant mortality and neonatal mortality emphasize the gravity of the situation.

### **2.1.3. County Nutrition situation**

Murang'a County faces the triple burden of malnutrition as manifested by under-nutrition (stunting, wasting, underweight), micro-nutrient deficiencies and over-nutrition (overweight and obesity) including diet-related non communicable diseases (DRNCs). In Murang'a county, according to the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022, stunting rate has reduced from 19.6% in 2014 to 10% in 2022. The prevalence of underweight stands at 6%, wasting at 2%. There is also noted stagnation of overweight among children under five years at 3%. Further, under-nutrition is high among adolescents' boys aged between 15-19 years, with 43% being thin compared to 12% prevalence among girls. *Figure 2* shows the trend in childhood malnutrition in Murang'a since the year 1993. Among the adult population in Murang'a, 27% of women aged between 20-49 years are either overweight or obese, while 17% of men in the same age category are thin. Unfortunately, there still exist huge gaps in the availability of county-specific data on micro-nutrient

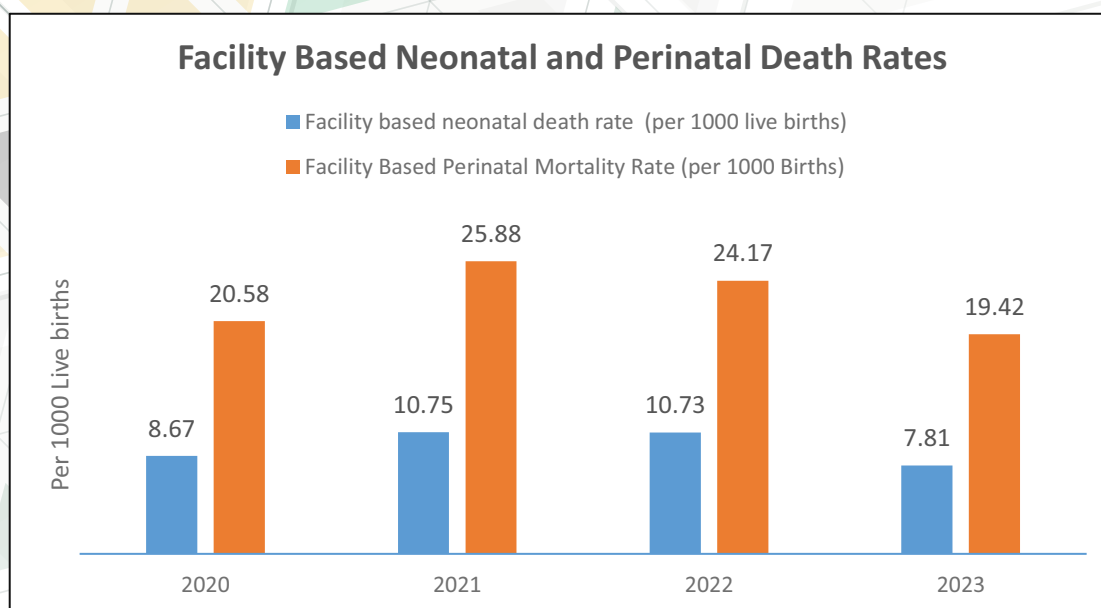


deficiencies among the most vulnerable population groups that include pregnant women, non-pregnant women, pre-school children and school age children to help better understand the nature and extent of this form of malnutrition in Murang'a.



**Figure 2: Trends of child malnutrition in Murang'a County (data sources: KDHS reports)**

Malnutrition is the single largest contributor of maternal and child mortality. According to KDHS 2022, neonatal mortality in Murang'a county stands at 36/1000, infant mortality rate is 43/1000 while under five mortality rate is 47/1000. The coverage of low-cost high impact nutrition interventions is still low. The proportion of pregnant women completing four antenatal visit stands at 58%, early initiation of breastfeeding at 72%, and exclusive breastfeeding for children aged 0 to 6 months at 60%. Reports generated from health facilities records show a downward trend in neonatal and perinatal mortality in Murang'a county since the year 2021 (*Figure 3*)



**Figure 3: Trends of neonatal and perinatal mortality in Murang'a between years 2020 and 2023.**

Other than inadequate dietary intake and diseases, there are several socio-cultural, political, and economic factors that cause malnutrition, as depicted in Figure 1. Approximately 26.5% of the population in Murang'a county lives below the poverty line (KNBS 2022). Widespread poverty limits the ability of individuals and families to afford nutritious food, leading to reliance on cheaper, less nutritious options. The overall unemployment rate among the youth aged 18-34 years is 67% (FKE, 2019). In Murang'a county, the unemployment rate, particularly among the youth, stands at around 29% (2019 census). High levels of unemployment or jobs that do not provide a living wage can reduce household income, making it difficult to purchase adequate and nutritious food.

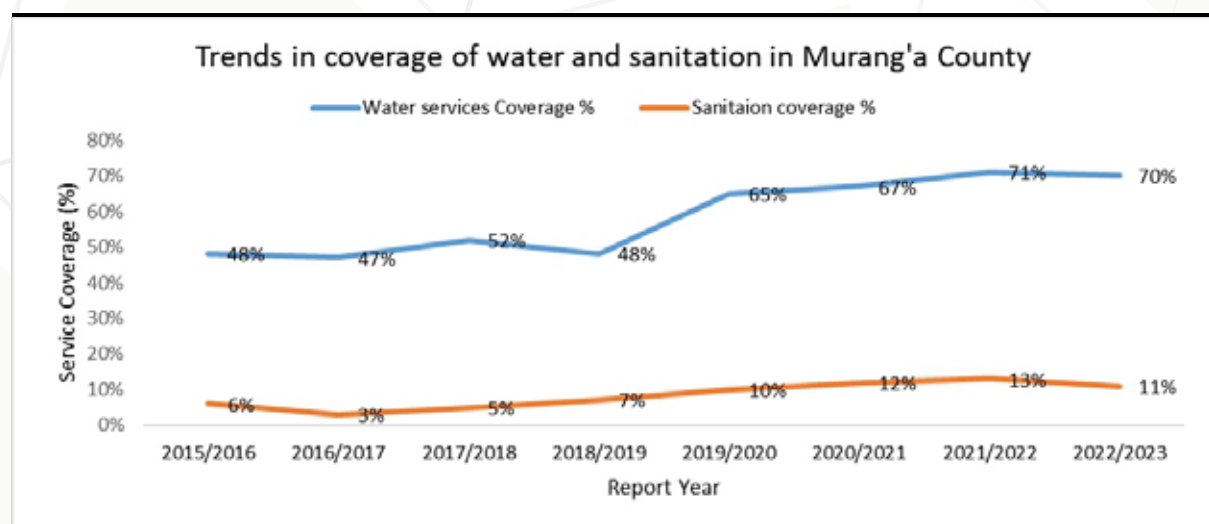
#### **2.1.4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

Inadequate WASH devastates public health. Infectious diseases that spread via unsafe water, improper disposal of human and animal waste, poor hygiene practices have profound effect on infant mortality rate, malnutrition and chronic illnesses in any population (WHO, 2022). Murang'a county has a low sanitation coverage, with only 38% of the population having access to relatively adequate sanitation and 1% of the population practicing open defecation (OD). This leads to an estimated KES 0.5B annual loss, calculated as wasted access time. These funds can be used to improve nutrition status and avoid further losses that comes with incurred cost of malnutrition such as premature deaths, health care costs and low productivity. There is evidence that diarrhea, a result of poor WASH practices, is associated with 50% cases

of childhood malnutrition. One in every four (25%) cases of stunting among children is associated with five or more episodes of diarrhea during the first two years of life (WHO, 2019).

### 2.1.5. Access to clean safe water

Murang'a County is a high rainfall area with annual average totals of approximately 1200 mm of rainfall. This provides the county with high rainwater harvesting potential. The water resources available in Murang'a County are rivers, shallow wells, springs, dams, water pans, boreholes and rainwater harvesting facilities (roof catchment). There are 12 permanent rivers, 2740 shallow wells, 95 protected springs, 345 unprotected springs, 85 water pans, 12 dams and 250 boreholes that supply water for domestic and agricultural use in the county. Domestic water and sanitation services are offered by five water and sanitation companies which cover 97 % of the county population. There are also 15 community operated small-scale water supply providers that complement these 5 regulated water companies to supply the rest of the population with water. According to the Water Sector Regulation Board (WASREB), domestic water coverage in Murang'a County is 70%, implying that 30% of the population do not have access to safe clean water. This exposes the population to waterborne diseases. Currently 81% of household population have access to at least basic safe clean drinking water (KNBS and ICF, 2022). *Figure 4* shows an upward trend in the coverage of water and sanitation services within an eight-year period between 2015 and 2023, according to WASREB Reports.



*Figure 4: Trends in the coverage of water and sanitation services in Murang'a County from 2015 to 2023 (Data extracted from WASREB Reports)*



### **2.1.6. Trade and access to food markets**

Trade and investment play a key role in food access and availability. Murang'a county has 144 shopping Centers, of which 52 are open air markets where raw food and livestock among other items are sold. The key areas in the sector that hinders access to food markets include poor infrastructure, including roads, storage facilities, and transportation. This majorly hinders the distribution of food from producers to consumers, particularly in remote areas, leading to localized food shortages and malnutrition. Investing in infrastructure that supports food distribution such as roads, and storage facilities, can reduce food waste and ensure a steady supply of nutritious foods. Other areas that need to be addressed to increase the access to safe and nutritious foods include: reducing conflicts and political instability (which disrupt market activities and block market access roads); instituting measures to control volatility of food prices; supporting trade agreements which prioritize food security; implementing interventions that increases income levels, thereby impacting economic investment; and strengthening small and medium enterprises.

### **2.1.7. Agriculture (crop production)**

The main economic activity of Murang'a County is agriculture. According to the KNBS GCP (2019), Murang'a County contributes 2.3% to the National GDP. Most of the residents (80%) practice food crop farming (maize and bananas) majorly in the lowlands, cash crop farming (tea and coffee) mainly in the highlands, livestock rearing and dairy farming are also prominent in the county. Agriculture, therefore, plays a crucial role in food and nutrition security and accounts for 57% of the county's employment. The county key food crops grown include maize, beans, potatoes and cocoyam with an annual production of 32,094, 32,848, 48,434 and 4,193 tons respectively, as per 2022 production figures. Fruits yield has gradually increased. The production of mangoes and avocados increased from 10,183 tons and 115,774 tons in year 2021, to 11,555 tons and 121,450 tons, respectively, in year 2022. However, banana production reduced from 253,476 tons to 208,600 tons within the same period. The main vegetable crops grown include 32,789 tons cabbages, 36,239 tons kales (collards) and 31,795 tons kales (collards) for 2021 (Murang'a County Validated Crops Yields 2021 and 2022)

However, the crops sub-sector is characterized by low productivity and occasional threats due to prolonged drought adversely affecting rain fed crops, depleted soil fertility, increased farm input prices and emergence of migratory pests; fall army worm, African army worms during- long rains-2022), desert locusts (short rains of 2019), quelea birds (short rain in 2021 and (long heavy rains of 2022) in rice fields. Invasion of velvet monkeys cause great destruction of crops (maize, tender beans, mangoes, bananas, macadamia).

Pre-harvest and post-harvest losses are high due to inadequate storage and limited value addition. All these factors have contributed to the county food insecurity. The county has been a net food importer with statistics showing a negative food balance sheet.

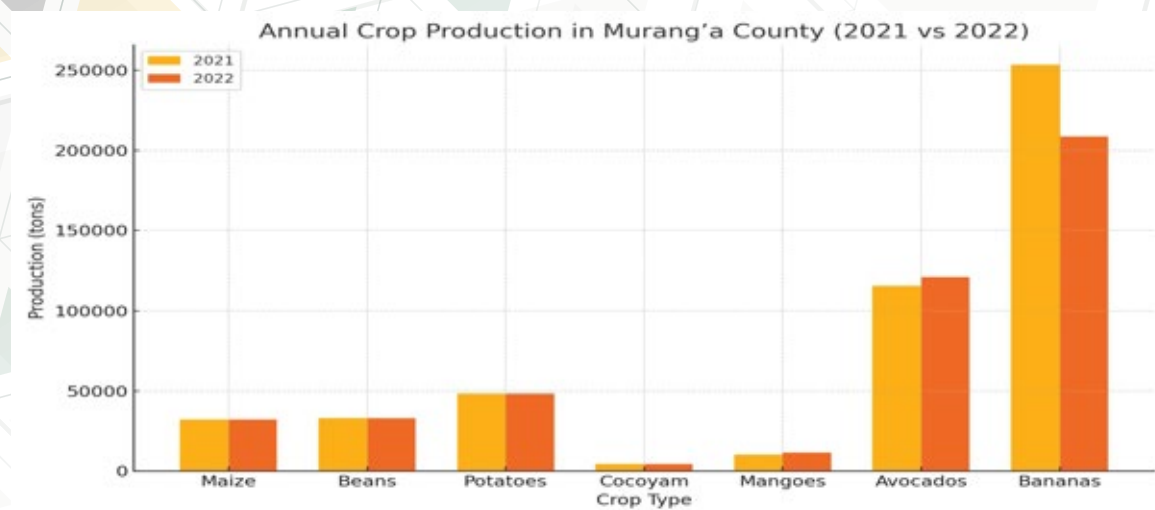


Figure 5: Murang'a County Crop Production Analysis (2021 vs 2022. Source: Murang'a County Validated Crops Yields (2021 and 2022)

### 2.1.8. Livestock production

Total dairy herd in Murang'a County is 332,118 with an annual total milk production of 253,100,272 kg (2022). Murang'a County produces 5% of national milk output. However, the bulk of the milk is normally marketed out of the County. The average production per cow is 1,731 liters per lactation. One of the key challenges to dairy farming is the limited access to affordable feeds and fodder, other than the high diseases prevalence. This results from low fodder productivity due to the impact of climate change. Table 1 shows the validated livestock data for the year 2022.

**Table 1: Validated livestock data 2022**

Type of livestock	No. of livestock	Type of product	Production (Kgs)
Dairy cattle	332,118	Milk	253,100,272
Beef cattle	36,536	Beef	6,379,467
Goats	79,663	Chevon	89,286
Pigs	48,373	Pork	2,996,862
Local Poultry	983,104	Meat	581,536
Broilers	95,759	Meat	1,223,116
Layers	558,391	Eggs	4,172,881
Rabbits	64,284	Rabbit meat	53,554
Bee hives	15,926	Honey	744,115

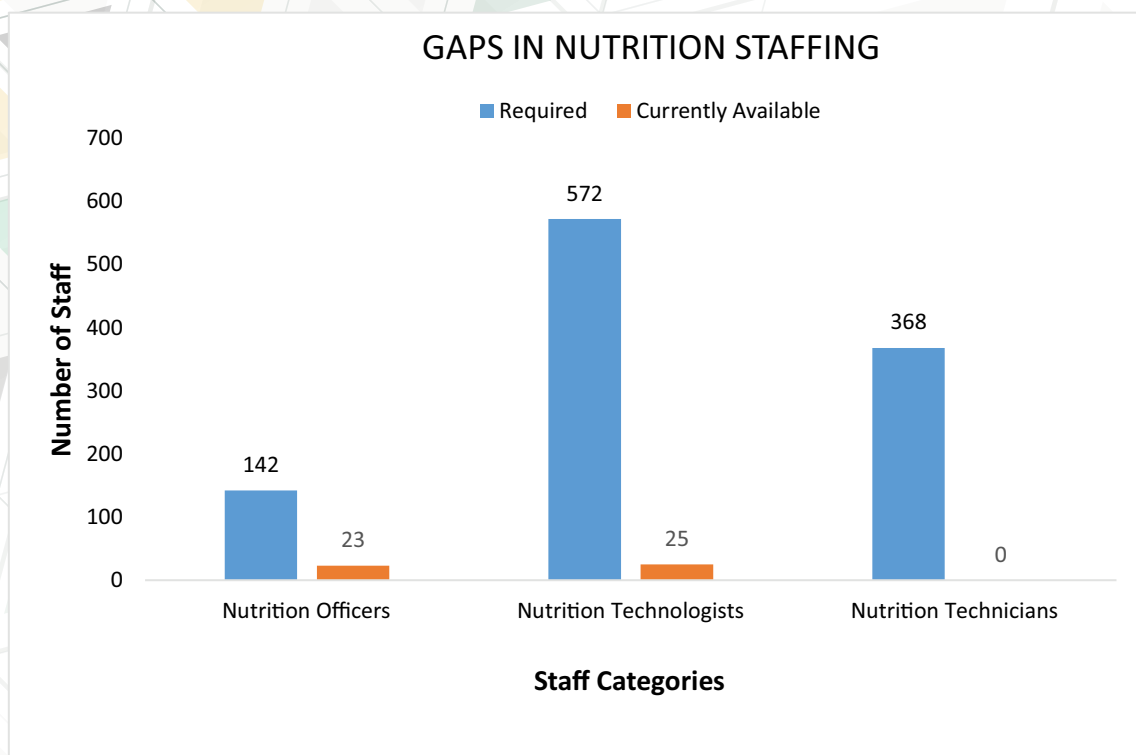
### **2.1.1. Fish production in the County**

Capture fisheries production by type varies with Tilapia 1,120 MT, Catfish 1,878MT and common cap, captured in the sector plan of 2016. Aquaculture fish production ranges between 29,915MT and 37.587MT as captured between 2014 and 2016. Despite fish being highly perishable products, the county does not have preservation facilities including, but not limited to, ice plants, storage containers and *badas*. Other challenges in this area include inadequate fish marketing infrastructure; low investment in fish processing and value addition; stringent sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards requirements by the major export markets; lack of accredited physical and technical capacity to support fish products development and testing; lack of fish market information system, poor fish distribution and marketing; and weak health certification capacity. Proper handling and preservation of fish after capture adds value, increases shelf-life and its marketability. This segment of fisheries is poorly developed resulting in huge post-harvest fish losses of up to 16 percent.

### **2.1.2. Finance and Economic Planning**

The County Investment and Development Plan (CIDP) under the sub section of Health and Sanitation Sector Priorities and Strategies has captured nutrition as a strategic goal: Adopt and implement nutrition interventions affecting pregnant mothers, school children, and the vulnerable with a budgetary allocation of KES 1.2 billion out of total health sector allocation of 11 billion. The County's total approved budgetary allocation for the financial year 2023/24 was KES 10.7 billion whereas the total approved health budget was KES 3.62B forming 34 percent of the total budgetary allocation. The county developed the County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP) 2020/21-2024/25 with a budget of KES 1,97B within the five-year implementation plan. The nutrition allocation was KES 41M annually, translating to 1.3% of the health budget in the FY 2023/2024. This allocation was done through Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM), a matching fund agreement between Murang'a County Government (MCG) and Nutrition International (NI). The county had a total of 48 nutritionists in the health department in FY 2024/2025. There has not been any employment of nutrition professionals since FY 2021/2022. According to HRH norms and standards, the county requires 142 nutrition officers, 572 nutrition technologists and 368 nutrition technicians. Currently the county has 23 nutrition officers and 25 nutrition technologists. This leaves a gap of 119 nutrition officers, 547 nutrition technologists and 368 nutrition technicians, that need to be filled to provide quality nutrition services to the people of Murang'a County.





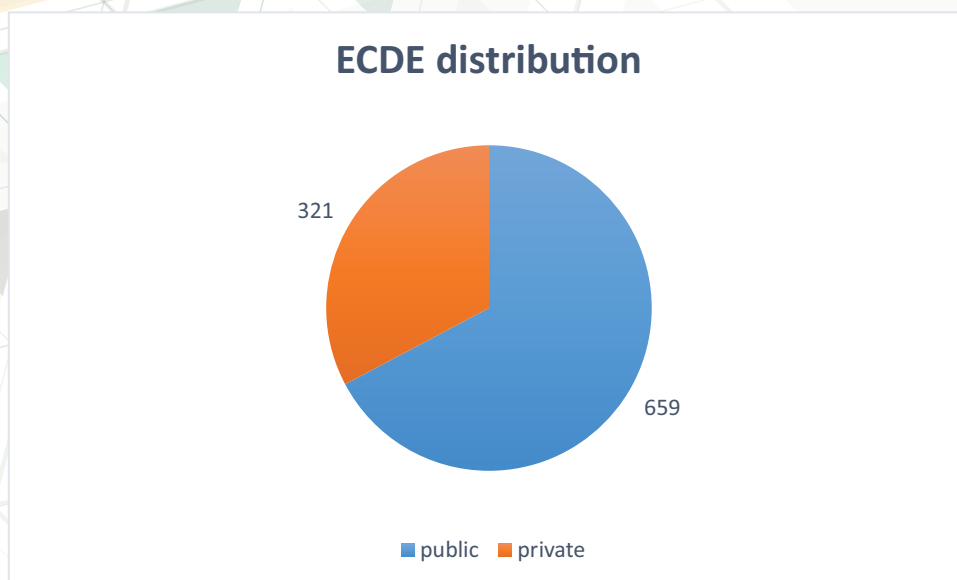
*Figure 6: Comparison between the number of nutrition staff working in Murang'a County and the number required to provide adequate nutrition services for the people of Murang'a County.*

### 2.1.3. Early Childhood Development and Education

Poor nutrition (substandard diet quantity and/or quality resulting in under- or over-nutrition) and lack of early learning opportunities contribute to the loss of developmental and academic potential and lead to lifelong health and economic disparities in more than 200 million children aged below 5 years. Moreover, the early provision of optimal nutrition and opportunities for learning (supported by responsive care-giving behaviors that are prompt, contingent on children's actions, and developmentally appropriate and stimulating) have been linked to positive early child development (ECD).

Currently ECDE service provision is categorized into three areas i.e. Child Care Services (0-3 years), Pre-primary (4-6 years) and Lower primary (6-9 years). The Constitution of Kenya (2010) devolved childcare services and pre-primary education and placed these under the county government. Murang'a County is therefore putting measures in place to enforce the implementation of this important constitutional mandate to provide children with adequate nutrition through School Feeding Programs with priority given to a Lunch Program in ECDE and later to School Milk Program. To ensure access and equity in early learning in Murang'a county, 980 ECDE Centers comprising 659 public and 321 private Centers are spread out across the county. The

Population of learners in pre-school is approximately 50,000. The county is currently providing fortified porridge meals to all the public ECDE Centers through a centralized kitchen model.



*Figure 7: Distribution of ECDE centers by ownership*

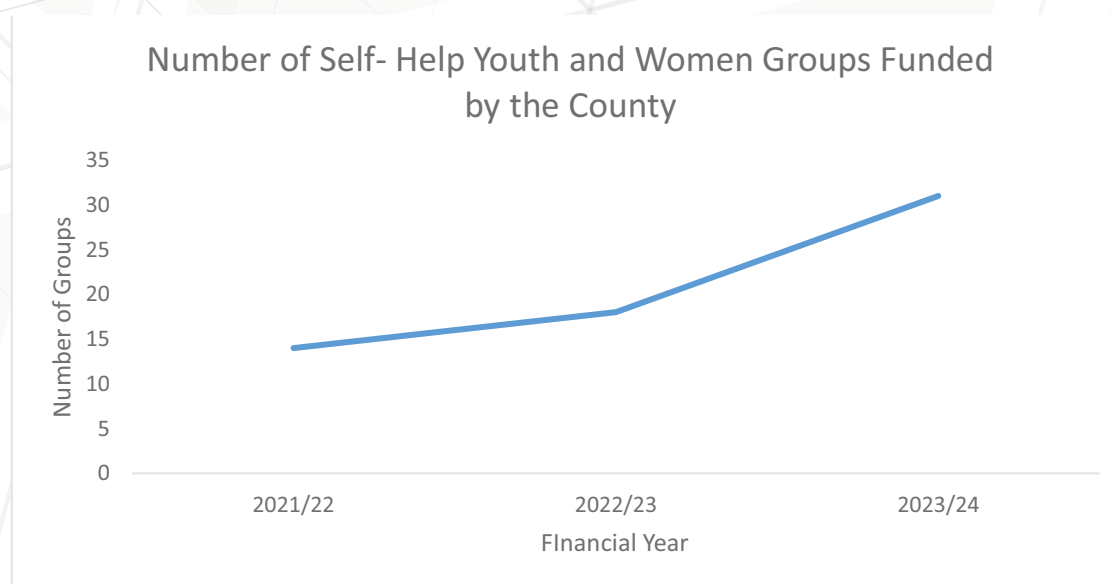
#### 2.1.4. Environment and Climate Change

Environmental degradation and pollution could increase the emergence and vulnerability to zoonotic diseases due to wildlife human conflict. Climate change in Murang'a County has also led to an increase in climate-sensitive diseases such as malaria, Rift Valley fever, and waterborne diseases due to altered rainfall and temperature patterns. Murang'a County has experienced increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns, which affect both agriculture and water availability. Surveillance focuses on tracking weather changes and predicting climate-related events such as droughts or floods.

There is limited data on current climate impact in Murang'a. The County is prone to natural disasters such as landslide, drought and flooding. They impact livelihood of a largely agricultural and livestock keeping community. Landslides and flooding exacerbate zoonotic disease spread through unearthing buried carcasses and reactivated spores in the environment. Climate change and changes in land use have affected vector patterns and behavior which have also impacted vector borne disease distribution such as RVF and rabies. Climate change has also increased wildlife-domestic-human conflict as the wild animals' space is encroached by humans and as the animals seek new food sources.

### 2.1.5. Gender and Social Services

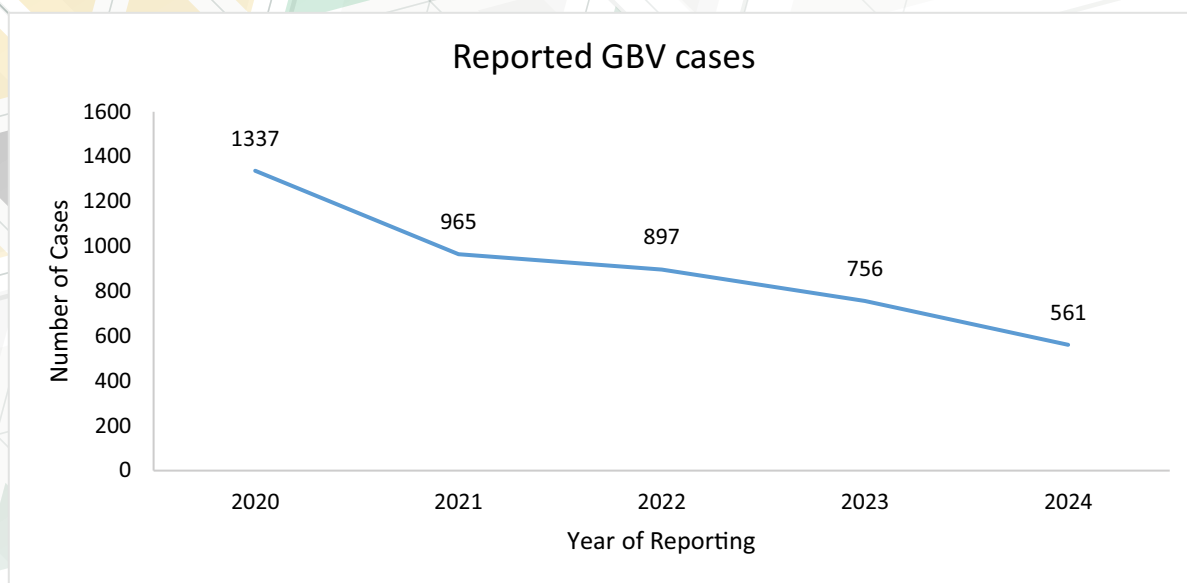
The County has been working with different non-state actors such as non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to address food and nutrition security challenges. This is done through: capacity building of farmers to improve agricultural practices; market access programs which include supporting farmers access better markets for their produce and providing tools for value addition. Further, the county has been supporting health education campaigns on farm and diet diversification as well as organizing farmers in self-help groups to access financing. Currently, the county has 3,500 registered self-help groups, out of which 63 has benefited from county funding in the last three years, as shown in *Figure 8*. Moreover, 12,000 households and 3 childrens' homes benefit from county social safety nets.



**Figure 8:** Number of self-help groups that benefited from county funding between the year 2021 and 2024

Murang'a county has the second highest rate of violence against women (64%) as reported in KDHS report (2022). This becomes a confounding factor that further exacerbates the underlying causes of childhood malnutrition. However, the number of overall gender-based violence cases in the county have reportedly been decreasing every year between 2020 and 2024, as shown in *Figure 9*.





**Figure 9: The trend of reported Gender-Based Violence in the County**

## 2.2. The SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of a school feeding program.</li> <li>• Social protection programs for vulnerable people are still in existence.</li> <li>• Existence of technical expertise across all relevant departments</li> <li>• Political goodwill.</li> <li>• Existence of research institutions within Murang'a County, collaborating with departments.</li> <li>• Innovative technologies towards increased safe and nutritious food production.</li> <li>• Existence of government-supported programs such as CTP for farmers, and social protection.</li> <li>• Support from development partners supporting various programs in food and nutrition within Murang'a.</li> <li>• Existence of a policy framework that sets coordination mechanisms within the agriculture sector.</li> <li>• Existence of legislative framework on agro-ecology that addresses food system transformation concerns, climate resilience in line with global commitments.</li> <li>• Running projects already funded by MCG that align with nutrition concerns.</li> <li>• Projected growth on own-source revenue likely to support the policy (e.g. funding <i>aflasafe</i>).</li> <li>• Robust community structures in place e.g. PCN, CHS, farmers cooperatives.</li> <li>• Leverage on existing ICT infrastructure in place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor prioritization of programs for the use of available financial resources.</li> <li>• High levels of poverty reducing access to nutritious foods and other social services.</li> <li>• A silo approach to programming and development across departments.</li> <li>• Absence of procedures and clear internal monitoring and evaluation framework.</li> <li>• Existence of sensitization gaps on nutritious foods.</li> <li>• Sociocultural practices that impede dietary choices.</li> <li>• Limited data access for decision-making.</li> <li>• Weak surveillance institutions and capacity for effective early warning systems and response to disasters and emergencies.</li> <li>• Non-adherence to policy directions, legislations, and regulations.</li> <li>• Low agricultural productivity.</li> <li>• Enforcement of standards on food quality.</li> <li>• Weak waste management resulting in environmental pollution.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of County planning and resource mobilization tools e.g. CNAP, CIDP.</li> <li>• Existing laws, legislations, regulations, and policies across all departments that will support the implementation of this policy.</li> <li>• Availability and accessibility of well-distributed market infrastructure.</li> <li>• Availability of arable land and favorable climate conditions for food production.</li> <li>• Well established county structures for implementation including nutrition coordination structures.</li> </ul>	
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing population leading to a young productive population.</li> <li>• Available arable land and favorable conditions for agriculture.</li> <li>• Emerging innovative technologies for agriculture and nutrition.</li> <li>• Leveraging affordable accessible ICT for the dissemination of information on food and nutrition.</li> <li>• Existence of development and implementing partners for food and nutrition programs.</li> <li>• Existence of legislation on Public-private partnerships.</li> <li>• Existence of agro-ecology legislation that facilitates access to emerging local and global markets for organic products.</li> <li>• Devolution presents a huge opportunity for development and multisectoral coordination of nutrition and health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unpredictable weather due to climate change.</li> <li>• Land demarcation into uneconomical units.</li> <li>• Change in operation philosophy accompanying change of government administrations.</li> <li>• Presence of invasive pests and diseases affecting agricultural productivity.</li> <li>• Diminishing water resources due to poor environmental management.</li> <li>• Rapid and poorly planned urbanization impacting negatively on agriculture.</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity leading to low food production.</li> <li>• Change in lifestyles leading to emerging diseases impacting nutrition status.</li> <li>• Global economic instability leading to inflation and high interest rates.</li> </ul>



### 2.3. Stakeholders Mapping

	Category/ Organization	Name of the stakeholder	Role/Influence of Stakeholder about this policy
1	The County Government	County Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the existing service delivery systems</li> <li>Formulation and enforcement of any necessary laws and regulations</li> <li>Ensure Adequate allocation of resources</li> </ul>
		The County Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy approval</li> <li>Legislation of laws</li> <li>Oversight of the executive</li> <li>Representation</li> </ul>
		County departments responsible for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Services</li> <li>Agriculture, livestock, Fisheries,</li> <li>Water, Sanitation and Irrigation</li> <li>Trade, Industries and Cooperatives</li> <li>Education, and Technical Training</li> <li>Youth Gender culture and Social Services</li> <li>Environment, Natural resources and climate change</li> <li>Finance and Economic Planning</li> <li>Office of County Attorney.</li> <li>Devolution and internal linkages</li> </ul>	Implementation of this policy



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WRA (Water Resources Authority)</li> <li>• WWDA (Water Works Development Agency)</li> </ul>	commodities and equipment
3	Partners	Development Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide financial and technical support</li> <li>• Provide commodities and equipment</li> </ul>
		Implementing Partners/ Non-state actors	Supporting implementation of this policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skills and technological transfer.</li> <li>- Provide social accountability.</li> </ul>
4	Academia and Research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universities, Technical colleges and TVETs</li> <li>• ILRI</li> <li>• ICIPE</li> <li>• KEMRI</li> <li>• KMTC</li> <li>• KEPHIS</li> <li>• KNDI</li> <li>• KEWI</li> <li>• KEBS</li> </ul>	Research, innovation, capacity, technical skills transfer



<b>5</b>	Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber of Commerce;</li> <li>• Medium and small-scale millers;</li> <li>• Faith-Based and private health/pharmaceutical facilities</li> <li>• Cooperative societies</li> <li>• Private media organizations</li> <li>• Trade unions, SACCOs</li> <li>• Transporters</li> </ul>	Investment, advocacy, lobbying
<b>6</b>	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based organizations</li> <li>• Community groups</li> <li>• Opinion leaders</li> </ul>	Advocacy, social accountability





3



CHAPTER





## CHAPTER THREE

### POLICY FRAMEWORK

#### 3.1. Overview

This section covers the policy goal, the vision and mission, objectives, expected outcomes, the policy principles and core values that will guide the policy.

#### 3.2. Policy goal

To provide a framework for mainstreaming nutrition, multi-sectoral collaboration, coordination and strategic investment aimed at achieving food and nutrition security in the County.

#### 3.3. Vision

A food and nutrition secure county for sustainable socio-economic development and well-being.

#### 3.4. Mission

To ensure attainment of food and nutrition security through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach and strategic investment for the well-being of Murang'a County population

#### 3.5. Objectives

- 1) To scale up nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive strategies.
- 2) To strengthen the enabling environment to achieve food and nutrition security for Murang'a County.
- 3) To enhance and align county resource mobilization for food and nutrition security.

#### 3.6. Expected Outcome


1. Nutrition and health status of Murang'a population improved.
2. Evidenced-based decision-making process on food and nutrition strengthened.
3. Resources for food and nutrition enhanced.

#### 3.7. Policy Principles

This Policy shall be guided by the following overarching principles and core values:

1. Inclusivity.
2. Multi-sectoral approach to nutrition management and service provision.
3. Effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery.
4. Equitable distribution of resources.



- 
5. Social accountability in service delivery.
  6. Respect for human rights.
  7. Gender mainstreaming.
  8. Respect for Culture diversity and ethics.

### **3.8. Core Values**

1. Transparency and Accountability
2. Integrity
3. Honesty
4. Inclusivity
5. Good governance
6. Sustainability
7. Professionalism



4



# CHAPTER





## CHAPTER FOUR

### POLICY STRATEGIC DIRECTION

#### 4.1. Objective 1 (a) - To scale up nutrition-specific interventions

##### 4.1.1. Health Sector

**Policy Statement 1: The County shall scale up Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition to reduce Maternal, Infant and Child mortality.**

#### Strategies:

1. Support improved access to and utilization of optimal maternal health and nutrition services
2. Strengthen the capacity of health care providers to provide optimal maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services.
3. Intensify community engagement to create demand for maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services.

**Policy Statement 2: The County shall promote health and nutrition interventions for older children (5-9 years), adolescents (10-19 years), adults and elderly persons.**

#### Strategies:

1. Strengthen increased uptake of health and nutrition services for older children and adolescents
2. Enhance the capacity of stakeholders to promote and provide access to health and nutrition services for older children and adolescents.
3. Promote behavior change and communication on healthy diets and physical activity for older children and adolescents.
4. Promote access to optimal health and nutrition services for adults and older persons.
5. Strengthen health and nutrition service delivery at the community level in collaboration with education and other institutions.

**Policy Statement 3: The County shall scale up the prevention, control and management of micro-nutrient deficiencies**

#### Strategies:

1. Strengthen routine micronutrient supplementation for targeted groups



2. Advocate for the increased uptake of diversified, fortified and bio-fortified foods in collaboration with education, agriculture, other relevant departments and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen food fortification compliance practices for improved nutrition outcomes, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

**Policy Statement 4: The County shall scale up prevention and management of dietary-related diseases**

**Strategies:**

1. Promote increased community awareness on prevention and management of NCDs
2. Advocate for behavior change to promoting preventive strategies that include physical activity, dietary diversification among others among adults and elderly people.
3. Scale up provision of optimal medical and nutrition therapy.

**Policy Statement 5: The County shall strengthen clinical nutrition and dietetics in disease management.**

**Strategies:**

1. Advocate for integrated clinical nutrition and dietetics in existing clinical Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
2. Strengthen the capacity of health care providers to provide clinical nutrition and dietetics services.
3. Strengthen supply chain for nutrition commodities and equipment for clinical nutrition and dietetics.

**Policy statement 6: The County shall strengthen nutrition in emergencies**

**Strategies:**

1. Support integrated health and nutrition into the existing county emergency preparedness and response plan.
2. Strengthen collaboration, coordination and linkages for emergency response
3. Strengthen health and nutrition interventions to build-back-better.

## **4.2. Objective 1 (b) - To scale up nutrition-sensitive interventions**

### **4.2.1. Public Health**

**Policy statement 1: The County shall strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene in health**

#### **Strategies:**

1. Scale up behavior change to prevent and control WASH related diseases
2. Support increased access to safely managed sanitation and hygiene facilities to reduce fecal-oral pathways and achieve the ODF status.
3. Advocate for consumption of clean safe water.
4. Scale up school health and nutrition programs in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

### **4.2.3. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries**

**Policy statement 1: The County shall increase food production and productivity**

#### **Strategies:**

1. Enhance adoption of relevant agricultural mechanization, technologies, and innovations along crops, livestock and fisheries value chains.
2. Advocate for increased acreage under nutritious food production- crops and livestock.
3. Enhance soil health improvement through innovative technologies that include biofortification.
4. Promote climate smart agriculture technology including water harvesting, soil conservation practices and zero tillage among others.
5. Enhance surveillance, prevention and control of crops and livestock pests and diseases.
6. Promote biofortification for increased macro- and micro-nutrient in food production.
7. Support for incentives for youth and women in agricultural value chains

**Policy Statement 2: The County shall enhance food access and safety**

#### **Strategies:**

1. Support Capacity development of extension service to support households to enhance and enforce food safety protocols across food systems

2. Strengthen and enforce implementation of food and nutrition safety protocols.
3. Enhance integrated pest management practices on food production, including at farm level
4. Enforce regulations and standards along the food chain to ensure food safety.
5. Enforcing rules and regulations on food safety of imported food and food products in collaboration with health and trade.
6. Enhance agribusiness approaches in food production and accessibility.
7. Promote food system approaches in the agriculture sub-sector.

**Policy statement 3: The County shall enhance food and nutrition diversity.**

**Strategies:**

1. Promote production and consumption of aquaculture, apiculture, emerging livestock (rabbits, bees, snails) and high value food crops.
2. Advocate for introduction of value added and emerging crops and livestock enterprises that addresses micro-deficiencies at the households.

**4.2.4. Water and irrigation**

**Policy Statement 1: The County shall increase access to clean and safe water for domestic and industrial use for improved food safety and nutrition security.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support the acceleration of access to safe clean water for domestic and industrial use for enhanced nutrition.
2. Enhance access to affordable water for domestic and industrial use.
3. Promote water harvesting technologies to increase the availability of safe water for domestic and industrial use.
4. Upscale pro-poor domestic water supply programs for universal water supply and enhanced nutrition.



**Policy statement 2: The County shall enhance sustainable surveillance of water quality standards to improve food and nutrition.**

**Strategies:**

1. Strengthen regular surveillance on quality of water to ensure compliance with approved water standards.
2. Strengthen the water testing laboratory in Murang'a in collaboration with the Water Resources Authority and the environment.

**Policy statement 3: The County shall promote water conservation and reduction of water wastage for enhanced nutrition**

**Strategies:**

1. Enhance and enforce rules on conservation of riparian lands, water catchment areas and wetlands in corroboration with the environment sector and other relevant stakeholders, to reduce pollution and increase water resources.
2. Support adoption of innovative technologies for water management and reduction of wastage to enhance water availability for distribution.

**Policy Statement 4: The County shall increase area under irrigation and aquaculture for increased food diversification and nutrition security**

**Strategies:**

1. Advocate and promote the establishment of new irrigation schemes to enhance food production through irrigated agriculture
2. Promote modern irrigation technologies aimed at curbing water wastage.
3. Advocate and promote aquaculture in collaboration with Agriculture and Environment.

**Policy statement 5: The County shall increase the proportion of population with access to improved sanitation for enhanced nutrition**

**Strategies:**

1. Develop and manage sewerage schemes for improved sanitation.
2. Promote WASH in urban centers and public institutions for improved public sanitation
3. Support liquid waste management to enhance improved sanitation.

#### **4.2.5. Education**

**Policy statement 1: The County shall improve nutrition status of ECDE learners and older children.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Enhance stakeholders' capacity to provide health and nutrition strategies in education institutions, in collaboration with the health sector.
2. Enhance stakeholders' capacity to link improved nutrition and health with learner's education performance.
3. Scale up and diversify school feeding for improved nutrition.
4. Strengthen integration of nutrition education in school curriculum in collaboration with the national government.
5. Institutionalize and enforce regulations for the safety and quality of school meals in collaboration with other sectors.
6. Enhance collaboration between education and health to promote WASH in schools.
7. Develop and enforce regulatory framework for daycare centers to promote optimal nutrition and health practices in collaboration with health and social services.

#### **4.2.6. Youth, sports, gender and social services**

**Policy statement 1: The County shall promote social protection programs for optimal nutrition among vulnerable groups.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Integrate nutrition into existing social protection programs for optimal nutrition among vulnerable groups.
2. Promote consumption of indigenous nutritious foods to improve diet diversification.

**Policy statement 2: The County shall mainstream health and nutrition into gender and social services.**

**Strategies:**

1. Strengthen gender-responsive nutrition interventions.
2. Enhance engagement of gender to influence decision making in relation to food and nutrition at the household level.
3. Address practices that negatively impact nutrition and health.
4. Advocate and promote behavior and lifestyle change including a culture of physical activity within the community.
5. Advocate for nutrition and health awareness among youth groups.

**4.2.7. Environment, climate change and mitigation**

**Policy statement 1: The County shall integrate climate change resilience and adaptive capacity for improved food and nutrition security.**

**Strategies:**

1. Enhancing climate change adaptation initiatives that address climate change impact in collaboration with agriculture, water and environment sectors.
2. Promote practices that reduce green gas emissions through ecosystem restoration strategies.
3. Promote the use of organic fertilizer by waste management (reduce, recycle, reuse) strategies.
4. Promote eco-friendly farming in collaboration with agriculture and other stakeholders.
5. Enhance monitoring and evaluation of environmental impact on food production chain.
6. Support adoption of technologies that are climate friendly in food production and value chain in collaboration with agriculture and trade.
7. Support improved resilience to climate-induced disasters by investing in early warning systems that include weather forecasting, locust invasion and others



#### **4.2.8. Trade and investment**

**Policy Statement 1: The County shall promote trade practices that enhance food safety and nutrition**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Strengthen improved infrastructure for market access.
2. Promote baby-friendly spaces in both formal and informal sectors in collaboration with health and other stakeholders.
3. Improve access to food through fair trade and food distribution in and around the County.
4. Strengthen routine surveillance to enhance consumer protection through food and nutrition information.
5. Enforce sanitary and Phyto-sanitary regulations of food handling, control and trading across markets in collaboration with Public Health department.
6. Enforce rules, regulations and laws for agricultural inputs safety in collaboration with agriculture, health, water and environment.
7. Encourage household food processing and cottage industries that promote food access during off-season in collaboration with agriculture.
8. Promote effective supply chain under industrial park, wholesale markets and County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIP).
9. Establish One-Ward-One-Co-operative system to promote access to affordable, nutritious foods for low-income communities.
10. Promote consumption of organic food through appropriate strategies.
11. Support Small and Medium Enterprises access to affordable credit facilities for traders of food.
12. Support capacity building of traders as a means to achieve business efficiency.

#### **4.3. Objective 2- To strengthen enabling environment to achieve food and nutrition security in the County.**

**Policy statement 1: The County shall improve and enhance sectoral and multisectoral leadership and governance.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration, coordination and partnership mechanism for food and nutrition security.
2. Strengthen capacity across all relevant departments.
3. Strengthen legal and regulatory framework for food and nutrition security.

4. Strengthen collaboration with county agricultural specific multi-stakeholders' platform (MSP) that includes the County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) ensuring linkage with the overall County multi-sectoral coordination framework on food and nutrition security.

**Policy statement 2: The County shall enhance food and nutrition information systems**

**Strategies:**

1. Advocate for maximized inter-sectoral utilization of food and nutrition resources for knowledge, information sharing and learning.
2. Enhance evidence-based decision making on food and nutrition.
3. Strengthen integrated monitoring and evaluation across nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive sectors.

**Policy statement 3: The County shall strengthen nutrition research, innovation and learning**

**Strategies:**

1. Support establishment of a framework for knowledge sharing and learning
2. Support establishment of a framework for collaboration with research institution on food and nutrition research and innovation across all participating departments/sectors.

**Policy statement 4: The County shall strengthen the environment where food and nutrition security decisions are evidence based.**

**Strategies:**

1. Advocate for integration of collection, store and analyses data for each sector that shall inform decisions that affects food and nutrition.
2. Advocate for mainstreaming food and nutrition issues and services into all county planning documents projects and programs
3. Promote and support designing tailor-made training during annual planning and budget making cycle.  
Support embrace of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for food and nutrition service delivery
4. Support dissemination of existing indigenous knowledge relevant to the management of nutrition.

#### **4.3. Objective 3: To enhance and align departmental resource mobilization for food and nutrition security.**

**Policy statement 1: The County shall establish a framework that embraces and recognizes food and nutrition issues as part of county development plan to enhance mobilization and efficient utilization of resources**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Entrench planning and budget commitment of at least 1% of the annual budget allocation of the relevant departmental budgets towards nutrition. These include:
  - Department responsible for Agriculture: 1%
  - Department responsible for Health and Sanitation: 1%
  - Department responsible for Water: 1%
  - Department responsible for Education: 1%
  - Department responsible for Gender and Social Protection: 1%
  - Department responsible for Trade and Investment: 1%
  - Department responsible for Environment, climate change and mitigation: 1%
2. Enhance efficient and prudent management and accountability of the availed resources for nutrition including forecasting and managing risk to mitigate financial losses.

**Policy statement 2: The County shall seek partnerships with development partners that embrace common ideals in food and nutrition.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Enhance capacity for external resource mobilization for nutrition.
2. Leverage on emerging financing models to increase resource mobilization for food and nutrition security
3. Strengthen investments based on communities focus and aiming at addressing vulnerable communities.





5



# CHAPTER





## CHAPTER FIVE

### INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND COORDINATION

#### 5.1. Institutional Framework

The Ministries of Health and Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries are the lead national institutions addressing food and nutrition agenda in Kenya. The Constitution under Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule mandates the two to set standards, quality assurance and develop national policies on issues related to food and nutrition.

At the county level, Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) mandates the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives to handle food security and nutrition activities. Consequently, food and nutrition issues are anchored both in the Departments of Health and Agriculture. The two departments are charged with the mandate of collating implementation report for the purpose of presenting it in the county assembly.

Since this is a multisectoral policy and each department will implement its strategies within its structures, it will be sponsored by the departments of Health and Agriculture. However, the policy will be domiciled in the department Health. Domiciling the policy in the department does not grant more power over the other departments. Each department will be responsible for the strategies agreed in this policy, because nutrition overall, is multi-sectoral in approach requiring active participation of all relevant departments

The policy, particularly, will require strong participation from Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries because this department has the strategies for increasing food production and promotion of diet diversification as well as other food-based activities that yield a healthy and productive population.

#### 5.2. Policy Implementation Framework

This Policy guides sectoral/departmental implementation of the policy strategies. It proposes that each participating department use existing institutional structures and systems that include planning, programming and budgeting for purposes of implementing the strategies under each department.

Each participating department will be responsible for the outcomes of its strategies and contribute towards the achievement of the expected objective outcomes. In this regard, implementation of the policy shall be actualized through existing leadership and management structures at all levels of the participating departments.

### **5.3. Governance Structures**

This policy establishes a coordination mechanism as part of the governance structures. The 2 main committees are key structures for the coordination of food and nutrition interventions under this policy:

1. Murang'a County Food & Nutrition Security Coordination Committee (CFNSCC), which will be the apex committee for food and nutrition security coordination. The CFNSCC will comprise of CECMs and Chief Officers from the departments responsible for implementing the strategies identified in Chapter 4 of this policy. CECM and the Chief Officer responsible for Disaster response, the Chief Officers for Finance and Economic Planning and a representative from the Office of the County Attorney will also be members. The Chief Officer for Finance and Economic Planning and the office of the County Attorney are included due to the nature of their cross-cutting functions. This committee will be chaired by the Office of County Secretary who is mandated with the responsibility of monitoring performance. The departments responsible for Health Services and Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries will be secretaries to the committee.
2. Murang'a County Technical Coordination Committee (CTCC) on Food and Nutrition Security, will be the second highest organ in food and nutrition security coordination. The membership of CTCC will comprise Chief Officers and Directors from the departments responsible for implementing strategies identified in Chapter 4 of this policy. The directors responsible for Economic Planning and Disaster response are also members. This committee is co-chaired by the Chief Officers responsible for Health Services and Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

#### **5.3.1. Functions of Murang'a County Food & Nutrition security coordination Committee (CFNSCC)**

The CFNSCC shall:

- a) Provide leadership for effective coordination of interventions on food and nutrition security among participating departments.
- b) Oversight performance of all participating departments, based on the strategies identified in this policy.
- c) Ensure that nutrition is mainstreamed across all the participating departments development plans and other county planning documents.



- d) Support resource mobilization for implementation of this policy by ensuring that each participating department commits at least 1% of annual budgetary allocation for the implementation of the departmental nutrition strategies identified in Chapter 4 of this policy.
- e) Ensure timely disbursements of the funds committed by participating departments for implementation of the departmental food and nutrition security strategies.
- f) Oversight on implementation of all County Food and Nutrition Security development plans for compliance, coherence, accountability and efficient use of available resources.
- g) Advice and provide guidance on food and nutrition security policy reviews and any food and nutrition related county legislation as need arises.
- h) Meet on a quarterly basis (after every three months).

### **5.3.2. Functions of Murang'a County Technical Coordination Committee (CTCC) on Food and Nutrition Security.**

The CTCC shall:

- a) Provide technical advice to CFNSCC concerning food and nutrition security.
- b) Implement the decisions and directives of the CFNSCC.
- c) Ensure mainstreaming and integration of policy strategies in the departmental work plans, CIDP and County Annual Departmental Plans (CADP).
- d) Coordinate implementation of the strategies on resource mobilization.
- e) Ensure effective implementation of the approved departmental budgets that include policy strategies.
- f) Ensure public engagement in policy strategies implementation to enhance public engagement and responsiveness.
- g) Ensure integration of the Food and Nutrition policy strategies into the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of participating departments, CIDP monitoring and evaluation framework and the County M&E indicator handbook.
- h) Prepare and submit quarterly and annual food and nutrition security progress reports to the CFNSCC
- i) Ensure the development and implementation of a framework for participation by non-state actors supporting food and nutrition security in the county.
- j) Provide linkages with stakeholders supporting food and nutrition security in the county

- k) Meet at least quarterly, two weeks before CFNSCC meeting to facilitate preparation, review and submission of quarterly and annual food and nutrition security progress reports to the CFNSCC.

#### 5.4. Coordination mechanism

These two committees form the main structures for coordination of food and nutrition interventions under this policy.

This coordination framework aims to streamline efforts across various sectors to ensure a comprehensive and unified approach towards improving nutrition outcome. These committees bring all the sectors together, both at policy and financing as well as technical level. Figure 10 is an illustration of the coordination mechanism.

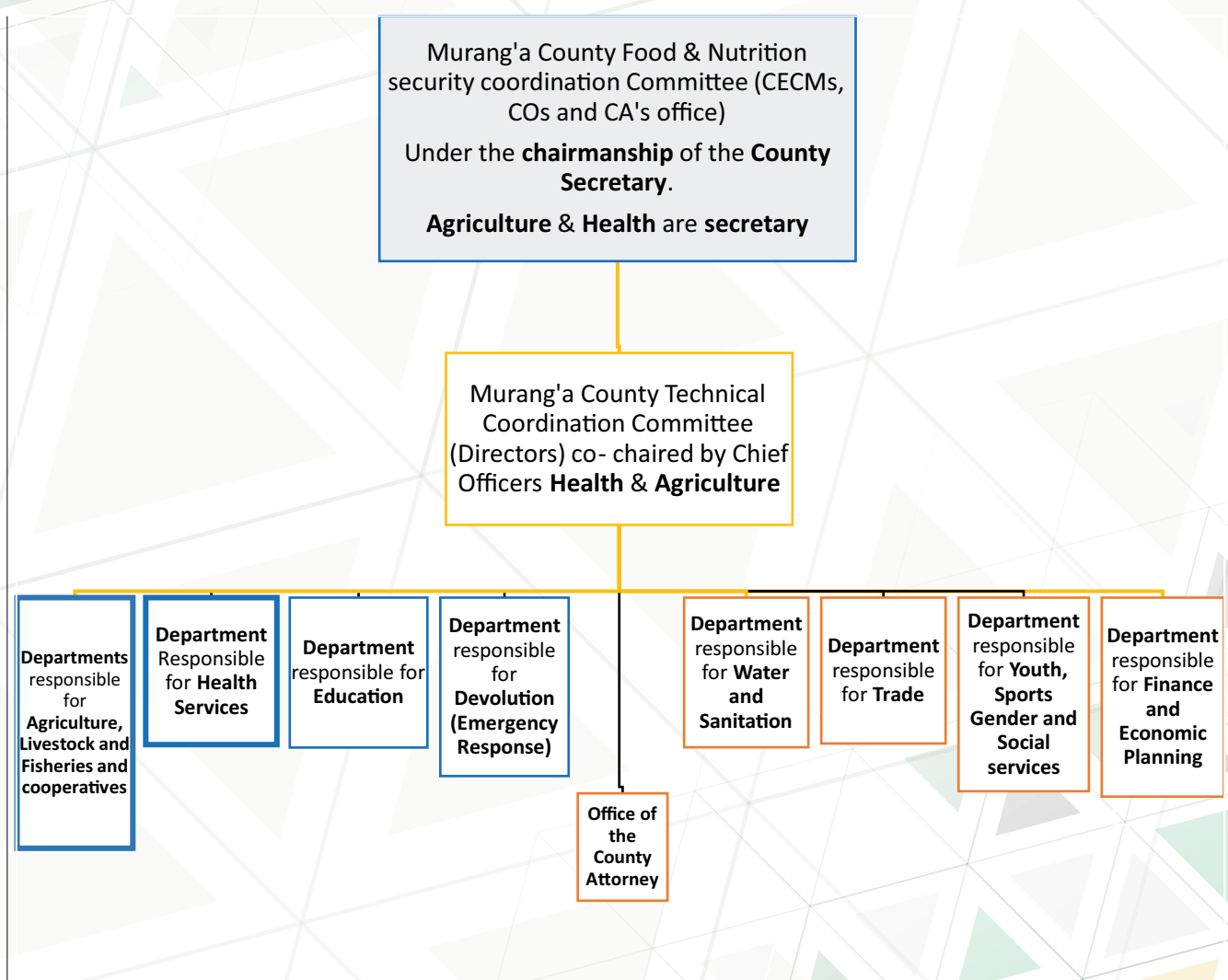


Figure 10: The illustration of relationship and composition of the two county coordination committees on food and nutrition security





# CHAPTER





## CHAPTER SIX

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

#### 6.1. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The M&E Framework is a plan to track the progress of this Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy, by monitoring activities across different sectors and gathering data regularly to ensure the county nutrition action plan is effectively implemented.

The monitoring and evaluation of the policy will be done within the context of the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (CIMES) and Murang'a County M&E Policy. Policy implementation will be measured under section 108 of the County Government Act 2012, Kenya Evaluation Guidelines, and National M&E norms and standards.

Monitoring and evaluation of this policy shall be aligned with the existing framework in the county's structure to ensure well-coordinated data collection, analysis, and reporting in all the sectors involved. The sectors involved shall have the responsibility of contributing towards the achievement of the food and nutrition security outcomes through the implementation of the Sectoral Strategic Plans (SSPs) and County Annual Development Plans (CADPs).

The policy shall operatively involve the use of participatory monitoring and evaluation approach across all the sectors. This approach shall assist in ensuring the involvement of stakeholders from the government, NGO's, civil society and the community in the monitoring of the policy implementation. In this way the cases of success as well as good practices will also be evaluated and spread through partnerships.

#### 6.2. Reporting Mechanism

The sector involved shall provide and submit quarterly reports to the County Technical Coordination Committee (CTCC). These reports will therefore be useful in monitoring the achievement of the food and nutrition security objectives regarding the set indicators and work plans. The reports will also explain the challenges, record the validity and punctuality of the data and provide suggestions on how to optimize policy performance.

To determine the timeliness, quality of data, and compliance with work plans that have been approved every four months, sectoral reports known as Quarterly County Annual Progress Reports (CAPRs) will be required. These reports will be submitted to the County Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Committee (CFNSCC) to mark the milestones achieved on the

county policy goals and objectives with clear strategies to correct any variance from the expected outcomes. The County Technical Coordination Committee (CTCC) shall also submit county annual progress reports to the CFNSCC to form the County Annual Food and Nutrition Progress Report (CAFNSR) that will highlight and summarize the policy progress.

Mid-term and end-term evaluation shall highlight the implementation efficiency and policy impacts for the purpose of learning and improvement. These shall then be consolidated by the CTCC into the County Annual Food and Nutrition Security Progress Report (CAFNSR). The CTCC shall then submit the CAFNSR to the CFNSCC for validation and onward submission to the County Executive. The CAFNSR shall sum up the progress of the policy implementation at the county level. This report shall be published for circulation to stakeholders, after approval by the County Executive. The monitoring and evaluation of implementation of this policy shall be aligned to CIDP indicators and reporting timelines.

### **6.3. Result Indicators**

This policy defines result indicators as detailed, quantifiable pieces of information that are used to measure progress towards intended goals and objectives and show current successes or difficulties. This shall consist of optimization tables to facilitate a transparent presentation of results to various stakeholders.

The M&E process will capture basic financial and non-financial indicators in conformity with the Kenyan Constitution of 2010, Vision 2030, Murang'a County CIDP 2023-2027, CADPs, CNAP, County Governments Act of 2012, and other County development strategies. These will be used in assessing the achievement of the set policy objectives.

Each sectoral/department specific indicators shall be integrated into the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027 indicator handbook. The indicators shall align with the policy objectives to ensure the entire county works towards achievement of common goals. These indicators will be used to track progress and measure the impact of interventions over time, with KDHS 2022 report providing the baseline data for benchmarking.

### **6.4. Data Management for Decision-Making**

Data management will be instrumental in the M&E process, especially when documenting the process and outcomes of implementing this policy. To track the implementation of this policy, both primary and secondary data will be utilized. Secondary data will be collected from administrative records and other county approved documents, whereas primary data will be collected

through structured questionnaires, reporting formats and periodical interviews with key stakeholders.

To improve reliability of data, quantitative data will be collected at specified intervals while qualitative data will be collected occasionally. This will help the county to monitor both the key material and non-material indicators of food and nutrition security at the same time. The results will be presented in the form of charts and data visualization tools to simplify the process of sharing the results with the decision makers and other stakeholders.

### **6.5. Evaluation Plan**

Evaluation of the policy implementation will be done every five years. The evaluations will focus on the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the implementation of the policy, as well as the sustainability of the achieved outcomes. The evaluation will assess the progress of policy implementation, identifying areas of improvement and adjusting strategies as necessary. The end-term evaluation will be carried out at the end of policy implementation period with the aim of ascertaining extents of policy impact, policy outcomes, and implications on food and nutrition security in the long run. These evaluations will be based on identified key evaluation questions mainly focused on aspects of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of interventions.

### **6.6. Communication, Learning, and Adaptation**

The learning of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Reporting and Learning (MEARL) will be centered on efficiency in the implementation of policy strategies. It will also involve an evaluation of the impact accomplished by varying practices and determining the methods that can be adapted or escalated to enhance performance.

Both formal and informal learning mechanisms will be employed, such as stakeholders' reflection meetings, during which implementation progress feedback will be collected. It will help the county make necessary adjustments that render the policy adaptable to new trends in the county. To promote transparency and accountability, the findings from the M&E process will be disseminated through multiple channels, including, but not limited to:

- a) Quarterly and Annual County reports to the County Assembly.
- b) Stakeholder workshops and community forums.
- c) Press releases and county website publications.
- d) Presentations to budget committees and other relevant bodies.

These communication channels will guarantee dissemination of lessons learnt from M&E to enhance implementation while correcting weaknesses.



## **POLICY REVIEW**

This Policy shall be operational for twenty (20) years. It shall be reviewed at 5 years intervals, from the effective date. The review process shall involve medium and end term review of the strategy by stakeholders.

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## ANNEX I: Photo Gallery.



Deputy Governor with Key Stakeholders During Validation Meeting





A Section of Technical Working Group During the Policy Drafting Workshop





Public Participation at Golden Palm Kenol and Amica Building Hall Murang'a Town





Engagement Forum with the Hon. Members of the Murang'a County Assembly





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