



**DRAFT MURANG'A COUNTY MULTISECTORAL FOOD AND
NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY**

2024



FOREWORD

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

DRAFT TWO A





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 nutritional status in Murang'a County has, however, had significant improvement in the last few years. The rate of stunted 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 (too light compared to children of the same age), while 2% have wasting (too light compared to children of the same 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 poor and relying more on the purchase and import of foods with limited diet diversity.

The social and economic loss of malnutrition to Murang'a County is enormous. Malnutrition impacts healthcare since the malnourished populations endure more significant expenditures on their healthcare costs, education (due to children's cognitive under-development), and economic productivity (resulting from output from workers). For instance, Murang'a has suffered low workforce productivity and high health expenditure resulting from malnutrition and related illness. Solving these problems is paramount to relieve the budgetary burden and meet the socio-economic objectives of the county. This Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy presents an opportunity and an enabling environment to address the challenge of malnutrition and its results on the economic and social development of the County. Murang'a County Government, under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, commits to implement this multisectoral policy through the departments health, agriculture, water, trade, education, environment, finance and economic planning, as well as youth, gender and social services.

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Chief Officer

Public Health and Administration

Chief Officer

**Agriculture, Livestock and
Fisheries**





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 ²	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 a significant reduction of childhood malnutrition in the period between 2014 and 2022. According to the KNSB and ICF 2022, the level of malnutrition stands at 10% stunting, 6% underweight, and 2% wasting, among children under five years. This has been made possible through partnerships with non-state actors who supported the development and implementation the County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP). This partnership led to increased nutrition financing through matching financing under a domestic resource mobilization approach. However, the County lacks a policy to ring-fence the gains made on the fight against hunger (as well as the consequent cost of malnutrition) and risks relapsing, if sustainable funding for the fight against hunger is not assured.

Murang'a Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy, therefore, recognizes that improved nutrition forms an integral part of the overall development of Murang'a County, through its vision of "a food and nutrition secure County for sustainable socio-economic development and well-being." This ambitious vision will be achieved through an effectively 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 nutritional challenges confronting the County by: identifying challenges that face nutrition and presenting key commitments through specific measures and implementation framework; providing direction and road-map for implementation of nutrition interventions; providing a framework for resource mobilization; and creating 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 achieve 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, which provides seamless linkage and transfer of information from the technical level to the political leadership. The policy, therefore aligns its implementation with the current existing County structures and systems.



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 year 2023 was 1,154,948 (KNBS 2023). It is located in the central region of Kenya and covers a total area of 2,326 KM². 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 rain and annual temperature between 26 and 30 degrees Celsius. This therefore necessitates irrigation for effective crop production. The long rains fall 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, with annual temperatures dipping as low as 6 degrees Celsius. Rainfall in western and central regions is reliable, well-distributed throughout the year and is adequate for cultivation.

The County is composed of six agro-ecological zones. Zone 1 consists of the highest potential areas where forestry, tea and tourism industry are the major economic activities. Zones 2 and 3 are the lowlands east of Aberdares, 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 the majority 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.

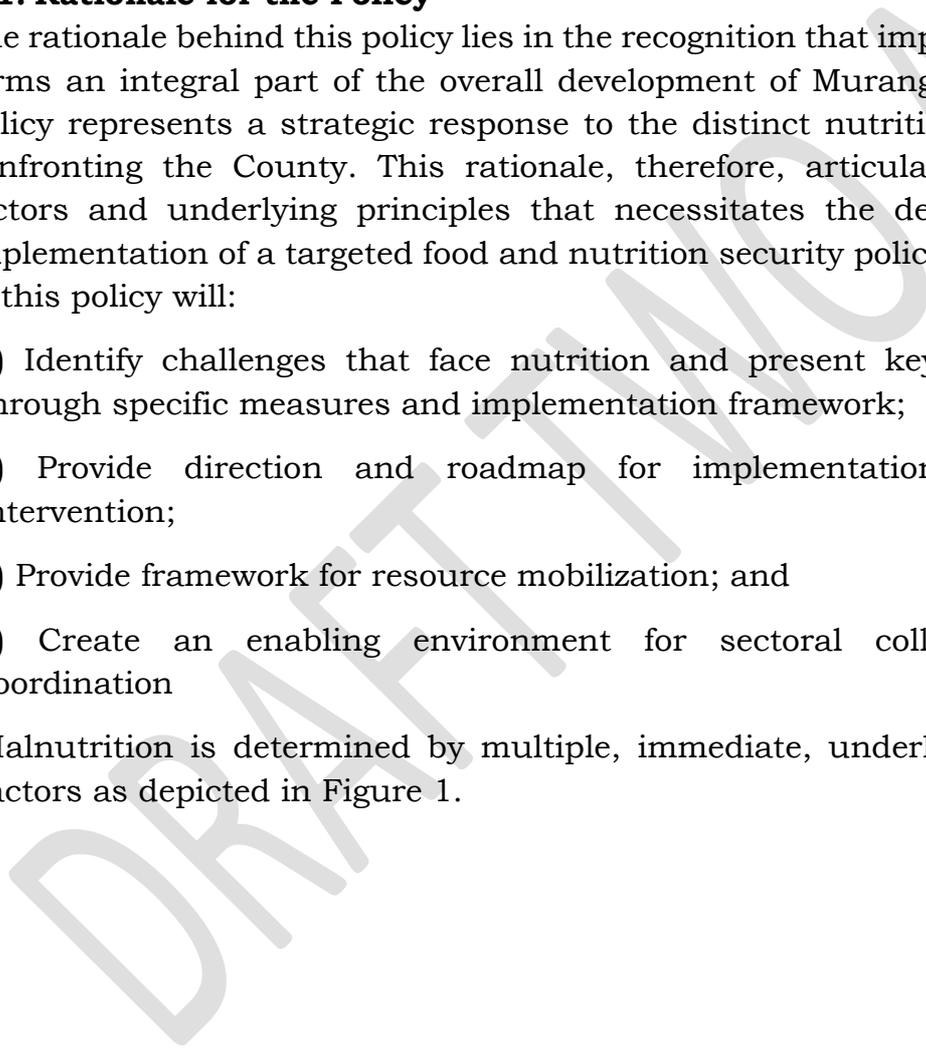
Murang'a County has a total of 253 health facilities, spread across the county. The facilities are evenly distributed. Majority (59%) of the health facilities are owned by the Government of Kenya (GOK), 32% by Faith-based Organizations (32%) while 9% are privately owned.

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 nutritional 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 determined by multiple, immediate, underlying and basic factors as depicted in Figure 1.



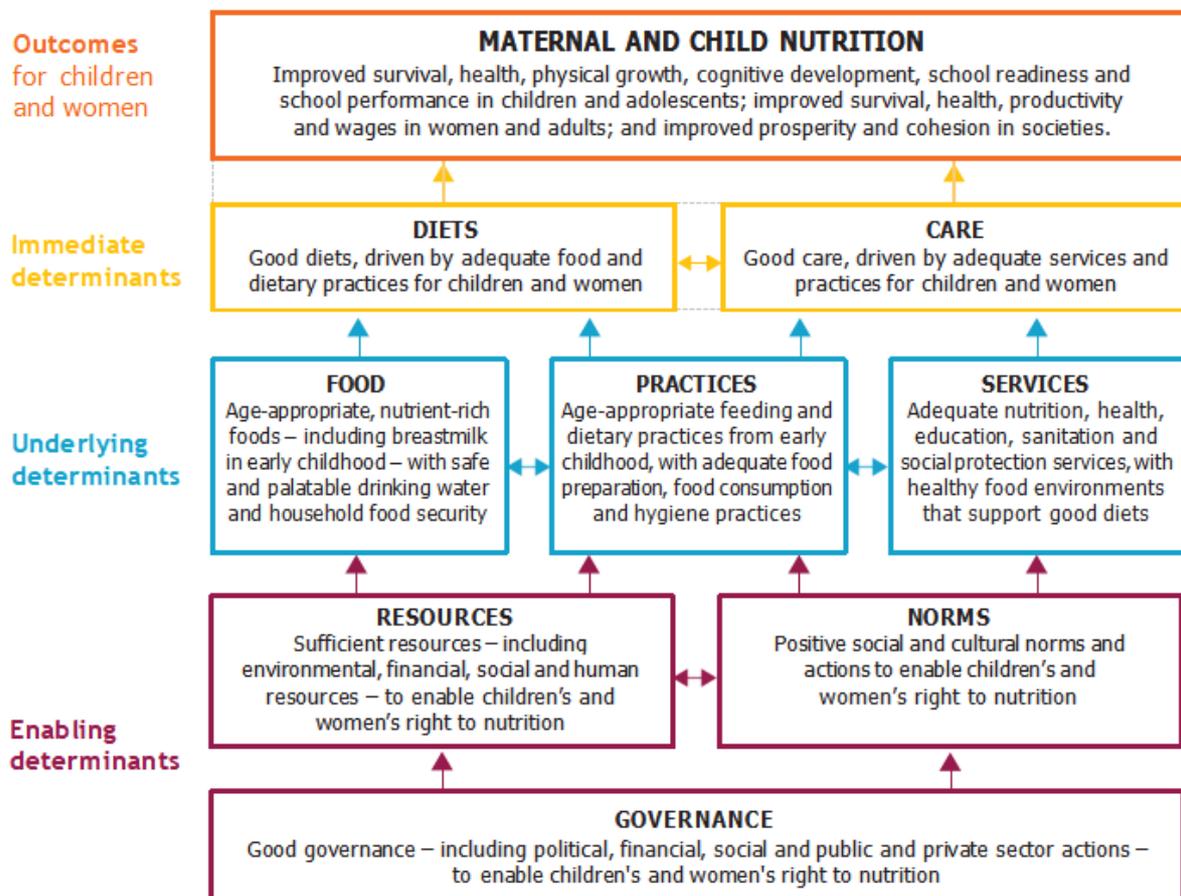


Figure 1: UNICEF Conceptual Framework on the Determinants of Maternal and Child Nutrition, 2020.

1.2. The intention of the policy

Nutrition is a multifaceted sector and improvement of nutrition status cannot be achieved 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 is 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 nutrition needs for Murang’a population. The policy will provide a platform for the County government to develop strategies to address



the identified problems and achieve intended result i.e., mainstreaming nutrition across all the relevant departments, address coordination and increase resources for the 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 resource 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 Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Policy aims at enhancing food and nutrition security in Murang'a County by ensuring cooperation and coordination among the various sectors. The policy also focuses on planned and integrated approaches to advancing nutrition impact and development of coherent socio-economic policies for the good of Murang'a county population.

1.4. Existing Legal Framework that informs food and nutrition

- 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, including agriculture and food security Social Development Goals which are central to nutrition.
- 2. Africa Agenda 2063** - It 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 goals such as elimination poverty and hunger which are obstacles to access to 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 by causing 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 creation of two levels of government which share roles in key sectors including health services and agriculture. The Constitution also guarantee 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 on 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 mandatory law on food fortification in 2012. The law states that all producers of branded and packaged fortifiable foods of wheat, oil, maize flour, and salt should 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 provide 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, maintain 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.



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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 to 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 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 the 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 effort to alleviate problems hindering adequate access to nutrition. This 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 social economic sphere. Nutrition is under social economic rights and hence key in achievement of the vision.
33. **Murang'a County health services Act** - at Section 3 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 be in charge of 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 agroecology development and marketing board. The Act seeks to promote agroecology 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. From its data, the policy which had been enacted in 2022 states that Nutritional food security had become more elusive with an increase in poverty levels with nutritional food poverty being over 50%. Organic food is promoted as healthy and it contains more vitamins, minerals, enzymes and other nutrients which are not found in conventional food. It is also promoted as tastier with more juice in case of fruits and vegetables as they contain more natural flavors and are more nutritious (page 35). The policy highlights the requirements under Sustainable Development Goal No 2 which is to end hunger, achieve food security and 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 framework is mainly focused on provision of primary health services through health facilities as opposed to sustainability of preventive and promotive community-based services that address health and nutrition concerns at the household level. Further, the national and county finance appropriation Acts provide limited funding for nutrition interventions, which limit the access by all people to food, 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 2023-27:**
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 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% in 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 predictor 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 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 (DRNCDs). 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.

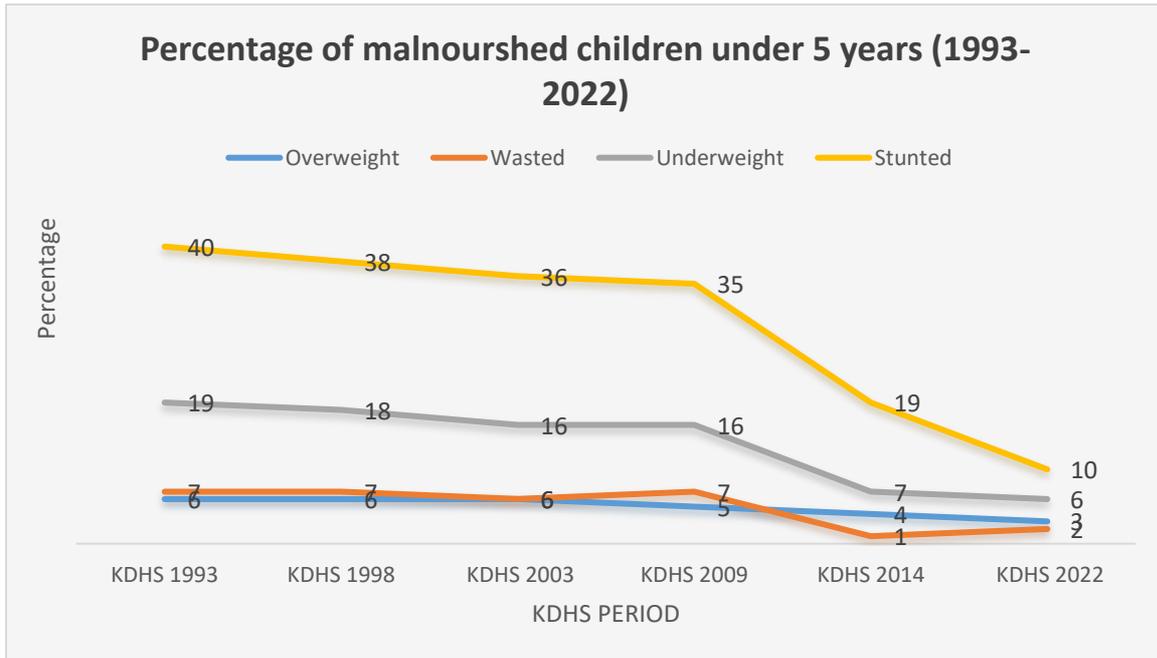


Figure 2: Trends of child malnutrition in Murang'a County (data sources: KDHS reports)

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 shows a downward trend in neonatal and perinatal mortality in Murang'a County since the year 2021 (Figure 3)

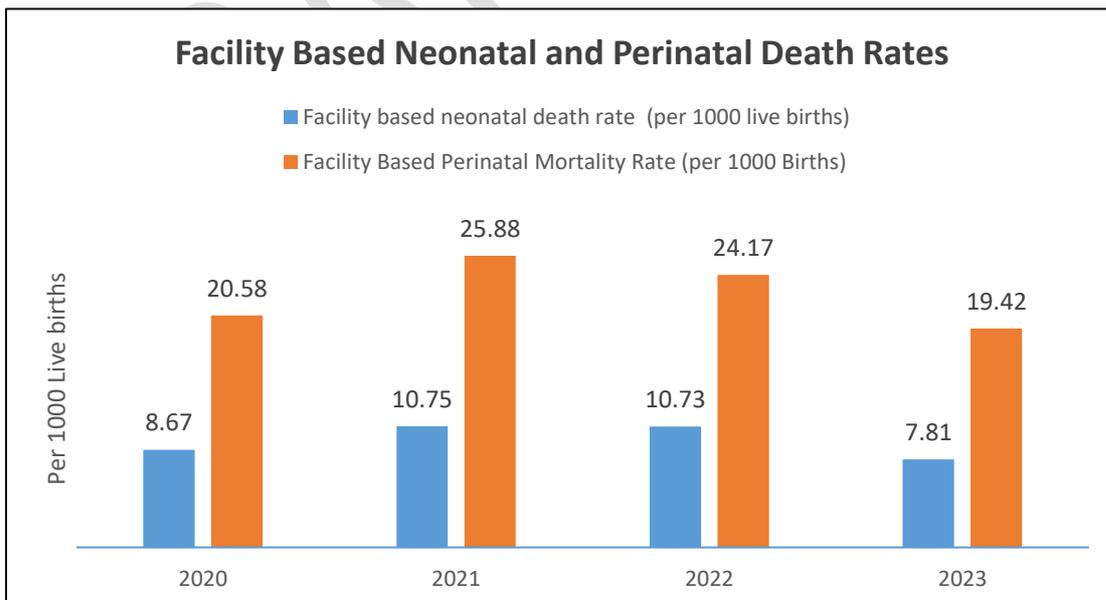


Figure 3: Trends of neonatal and perinatal mortality in Murang'a between years 2020 and 2023.





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 at 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, improperly disposed 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 depressing sanitation coverage, with only 38% of the population having access to relatively adequate sanitation and 1% of the population practicing Open Defecation. 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. Scientific evidence shows 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 rain water 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 water borne 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.

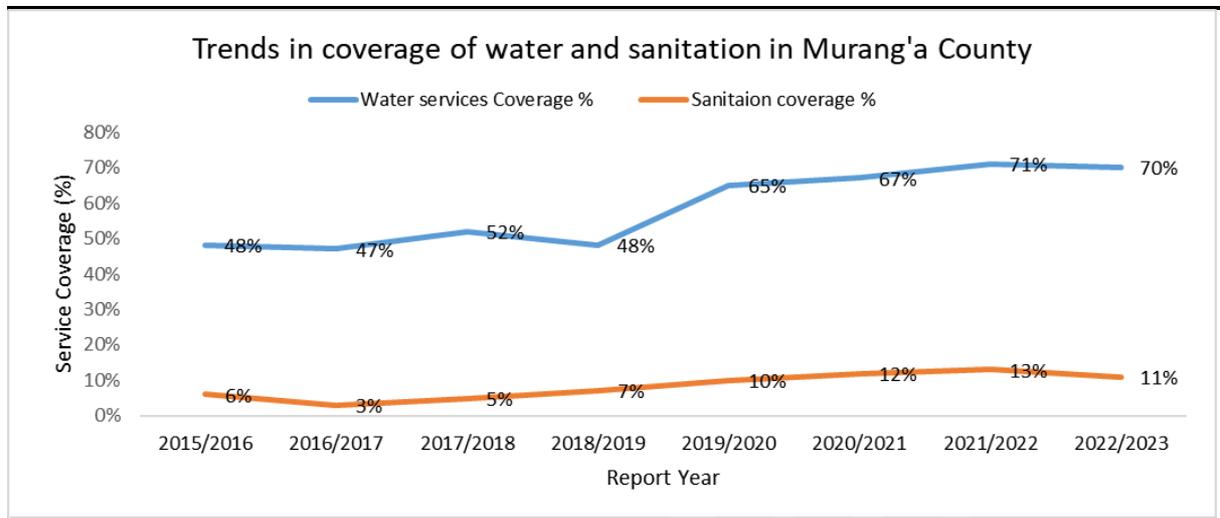


Figure 4: Trends in the coverage of water and sanitation services in Murang'a County from 2015 to 2023 (Data extracted from WASREB Reports)

2.1.6. Trade and access to food markets

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

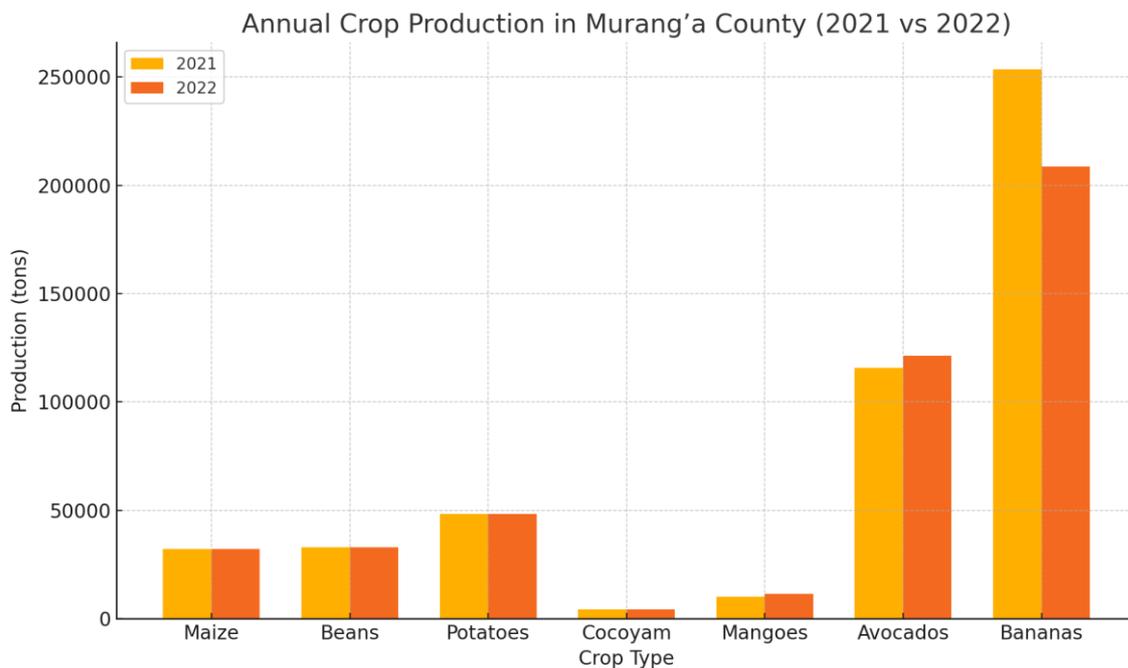


Figure 5: Murang'a County Crop Production Analysis (2021 vs 2022. Source: Murang'a County Validated Crops Yields (2021 and 2022)



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	of 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

2.1.9. 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 for 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.



2.1.10. 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 at 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% 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 the FY 2024/2025. There has not been any employment of nutrition professionals since FY 2021/2022. According to the HRH norms and standards, the county requires 142 nutrition officers, 572 nutrition technologist 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 technologist and 368 nutrition technicians, that need to be filled to provide quality nutrition services to the people of Murang'a County.

2.1.11. 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 Programme in ECDE and later to School Milk Programme. To ensure access and equity in early learning in Murang'a county, 1,077 ECDE Centers



comprising 656 public and 421 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 meal to all the public ECDE Centers through a centralized kitchen model.

2.1.12. 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 and Small budgetary allocation at county level. The County is prone to natural disasters such as landslide, drought and flooding. They impact livelihood of a largely 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 has 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.

2.1.13. 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 6*. Moreover, 12000 households and 3 children homes benefit from county social safety nets.



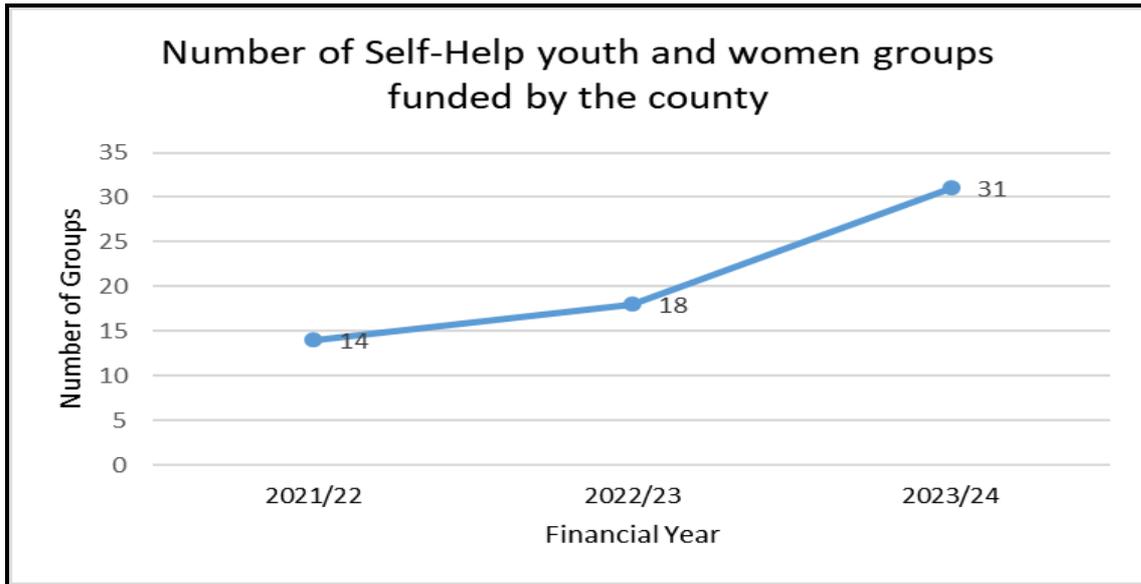


Figure 7: benefited from county funding in the last three years

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 exacerbate 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 7*.

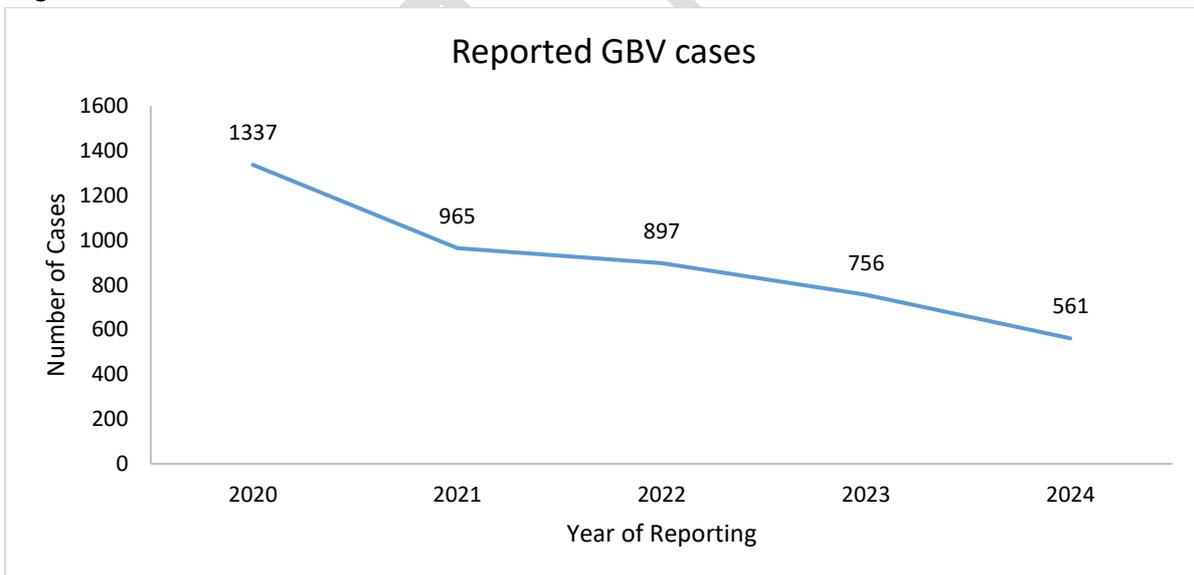


Figure 8: Trend of reported Gender-Based Violence in the County





2.1. The SWOT Analysis

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





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





2.2. Stakeholders Mapping

No.	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"> • Strengthen the existing service delivery systems • Formulation and enforcement of any necessary laws and regulations • Ensure Adequate allocation of resources
		The County Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy approval • Legislation of laws • Oversight of the executive • Representation
		County departments responsible for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Services • Agriculture, livestock, Fisheries, • Water, Sanitation and Irrigation • Trade, Industries and Cooperatives • Education, and Technical Training • Youth Gender culture and Social Services • Environment, Natural resources and climate change • Finance and Economic Planning • Office of County Attorney. 	Implementation of this policy





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution and internal linkages • Disaster Management 	
2	National Government	<p>The State department responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Agriculture • Education • Gender and social protection • Environment • Water, Irrigation and Sanitation • Trade and industry • Cooperatives • Finance and Planning • Physical planning <p>National Government Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KALRO • KEMSA • SHIF/NHIF • KEMRI • KEPHIS • KEBS • KNBS • NDMA • CAK (Competition Authority of Kenya) • NCPB • NEMA • Kenya Meteorological Department • KFS • NIA (National Irrigation Authority) • WASREB (Water Sector Regulation Board) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sector policy guidelines, set standards, • Provide capacity building • Provide emergency support • Leveraging on national government programs that support food and nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research and sector statistics, continuous learning, quality assurance, commodities and equipment





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRA (Water Resources Authority) • WWDA (Water Works Development Agency) 	
3	Partners	Development Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial and technical support • Provide commodities and equipment
		Implementing Partners/ Non-state actors	Supporting implementation of this policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skills and technological transfer. - Provide social accountability.
4	Academia and Research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities, Technical colleges and TVETs • ILRI • ICIPE • KEMRI • KMTTC • KEPHIS • KNDI • KEWI • KEBS 	Research, innovation, capacity, technical skills transfer
5	Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce; • Medium and small-scale millers; • Faith-Based and private health/pharmaceutical facilities • Cooperative societies • Private media organizations • Trade unions, SACCOs • Transporters 	Investment, advocacy, lobbying
6	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based organizations • Community groups • Opinion leaders 	Advocacy, social accountability





DRAFT TWO A





CHAPTER THREE

POLICY FRAMEWORK

3.1. Overview

This section of the policy 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 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. Inclusiveness;
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

DRAFT TWO A





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 of Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition to reduce Maternal, Infant and Child mortality.

Strategies:

1. Improve 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. Increase 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 and other stakeholders.
3. Strengthen compliance to food fortification 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. Increase 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. Integrate 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. Integrate 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. Increase 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.

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. Increase acreage under nutritious food production- crops and livestock.
3. Enhance soil health improvement through innovative technologies that include biofortification.
4. Enhance surveillance, prevention and control of crops and livestock pests and diseases.
5. Promote biofortification for increased macro- and micro-nutrient in food production.
6. Incentivize youth and women in agricultural value chains

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

Strategies

1. Capacitate 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 and enforce safe use and handling of agrochemical and food at farm level.
4. Enhance agribusiness approaches in food production and accessibility.
5. 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. Introduce 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. Accelerate the 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 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 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.



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2. Adopt 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 promoting 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 Department

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 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. Adopt technologies that are climate friendly in food production and value chain in collaboration with agriculture and trade.
7. Improve 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. Improve infrastructure for market access.
2. Promote baby-friendly spaces in both formal and informal sector 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, 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- The County shall strengthen enabling environment to achieve food and nutrition security in the County.

Policy statement 1: 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 legal and regulatory framework for food and nutrition security.
3. Strengthen collaboration with county agricultural specific multi-stakeholders' platform (MSP) that include 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. Maximize 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. Establish framework for knowledge sharing and learning



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2. Establish 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 environment where food and nutrition security decisions are evidence based.

Strategies

1. Integrate collection, store and analyses data for each sector that shall inform decisions that affects food and nutrition.
2. Mainstream food and nutrition issues and services into all County planning documents projects and programs
3. Aim to design tailor made trainings during annual planning and budget making cycle.
4. To embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) for food and nutrition service delivery
5. To collate and disseminate 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 plan framework that embraces and recognizes food and nutrition issues in development to enhance mobilization and efficient utilization of resources

Strategies:

1. Entrench planning and budgeting committing 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 models Health: 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 embrace ideals that have common thinking with development partners funding model 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.

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CHAPTER FIVE

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND COORDINATION

1.1. Institutional Framework

The Ministries of Health and Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries are the lead national institutions addressing the 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 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 give it more power over the others. Each department will be responsible over the strategies agreed in this policy, because nutrition overall, is multi-sectoral in approach and therefore needs equal participation from other relevant departments

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

1.2. 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 departmental strategies.

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.



1.3. Governance Structures

This policy establishes a coordination mechanism as part of the governance structures. To this end, the policy is proposing 2 main committees as 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 highest committee for food and nutrition security coordination. The CFNSCC will be comprised of CECMs and Chief Officers from the departments that will be 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 which is mandated with the responsibility of monitoring county 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, which is the second highest organ in food and nutrition security coordination. The membership of CTCC will be comprised of 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.

1.3.1. 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.



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- d) Support resource mobilization for implementation of this policy by ensuring that each participating department commit 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 legislations as need arises.
 - h) Meet on a quarterly basis (after every three months).

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

The CTCC shall:

- a) Provide technical advice to CFNSCC matters food and nutrition security.
- b) Implement the decisions and directives of the CFNSCC.
- c) Prepare departmental Food and Nutrition Security development work plans and budgets
- d) Ensure mainstreaming and integration of the departmental food and nutrition work plans into CIDP and County Annual Departmental Plans (CADP)
- e) Coordinate implementation of the strategies on resource mobilization;
- f) Ensure effective implementation of the departmental Food and Nutrition Security development work plans in accordance with the approved departmental budgets.
- g) Ensure public engagement in food and nutrition security strategies implementation to enhance public engagement and responsiveness;
- h) 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.



- i) Prepare and submit quarterly and annual food and nutrition security progress reports to the CFNSCC
- j) Ensure the development and implementation of a framework for participation by non-state actors supporting food and nutrition security in the county.
- k) Provide linkages with stakeholders supporting food and nutrition security in the county
- l) 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.

1.4. 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. Below is an illustration of the coordination mechanism.

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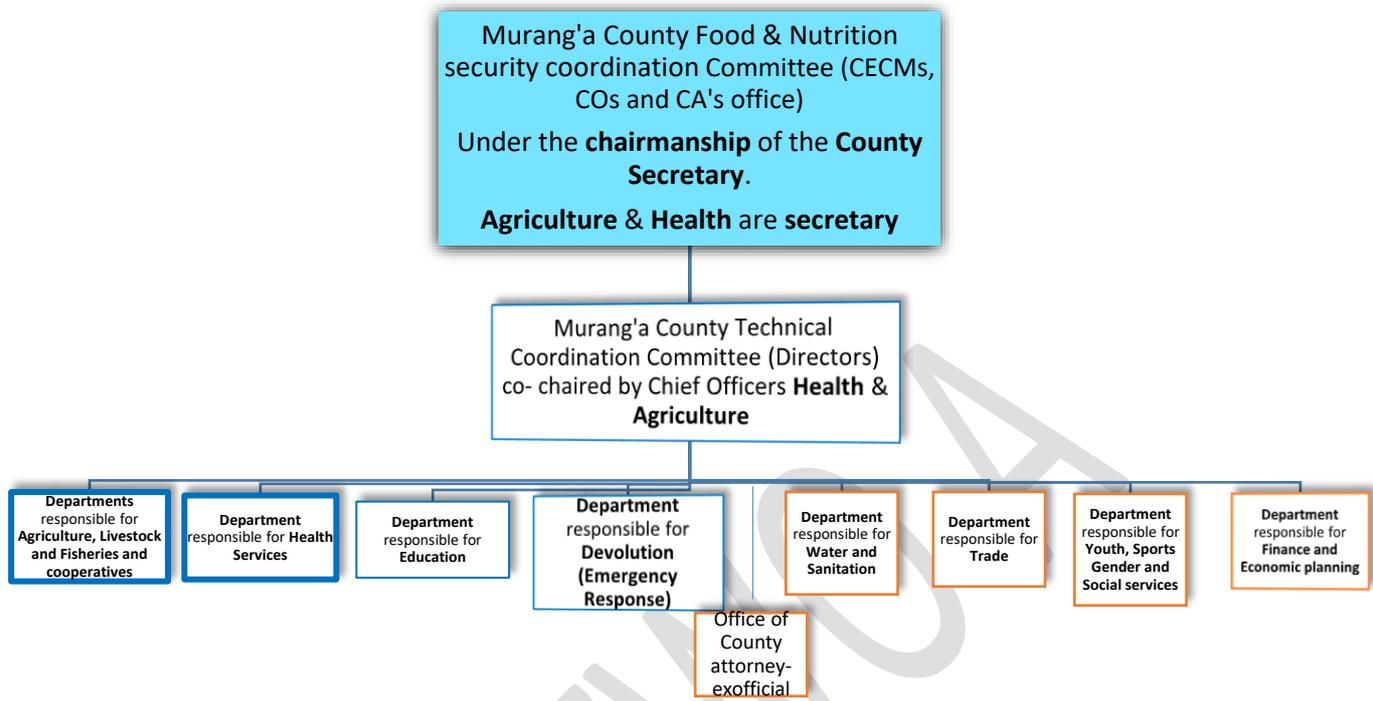


Figure 9: The illustration of relationship and composition of the two county coordination committees on food and nutrition security



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 Murang'a County Nutrition 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.

This monitoring and evaluation of this policy shall be aligned with the existing framework in the county's structure to ensure that data collection, analysis, and reporting are well coordinated in all the involved sectors. The involved sectors 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 successes 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 with regard to 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 the 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 objective 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 this policy implementation shall be aligned to CIDP indicators and reporting timelines.

6.3. M&E Indicators.

This policy M&E defines 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 achievement of the set policy objectives.

Cross-sectoral indicators contained in this policy shall be integrated into the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027 indicator handbook. Each sector shall submit specific indicators to be included into the CIDP 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 bench-marking.

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. This will help in identifying sound strategies that will be suitable in enhancing the county's nutrition goals. The collection of data will utilize both primary and secondary data to track the implementation of the policy. Administrative



records as well as other documentation allowed by the County administration will be used for secondary data collection gathering whereas; primary data shall be obtained 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 the 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 form of charts and data visualization tools as this will simplify the process of sharing the outcome with the decision makers and other stakeholders.

6.5. Evaluation Plan

This section discusses how the policy implementation will be evaluated. It shall involve mid-term and end-term assessments. These evaluations will focus on the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the policy implementation, as well as the sustainability of the achieved outcomes. The mid-term evaluation will assess the progress of policy implementation at midpoint, identifying areas for improvement and adjusting strategies as necessary. The end-term evaluation will be carried out at the end of policy implementation with the aim of ascertaining extents of policy impact, policy outcomes, and implications on food and nutrition security in the long run.

The evaluations will be based on identified key evaluation questions that are mainly focused on aspects of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and Sustainability of the interventions. An evaluation plan will be prepared that would identify the aim and objectives, methodology adopted, instruments for data collection, and time frame for the different evaluation.

6.6. Communication, Learning, and Adaptation

The learning component 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 impacts accomplished by varying practices and determining the methods that can be adapted or escalated to other settings.

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 current 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 the lessons learnt from the M&E process hence a paradigm shift in the next cycles of policy implementation to enhance strengths while correcting weaknesses.

DRAFT TWO A





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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