



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



A moran community Health Volunteer making household visit. Photo: Esther Lungahi Mercy Corps

KENYA

USAID NAWIRI

The USAID Nawiri program named from the Swahili word for *thrive* is a five-year flagship initiative funded by the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) with the overarching goal of sustainably reducing levels of persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). Despite significant investment to address acute malnutrition in Kenya’s ASALs over many years, acute malnutrition rates frequently remain at or above emergency levels and often fail to improve, even when households’ access to food and quality of healthcare increases.

Recognizing the need for local, context-specific, and sustainable solutions to the complex development problem of persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya’s ASALs, USAID/BHA is providing multi-year support for USAID Nawiri. Political devolution in Kenya has provided a unique opportunity to partner with county governments to achieve greater and more sustainable impacts around nutrition. A key objective of USAID Nawiri is to prepare local systems and institutions to assume financial and technical responsibility for implementing nutrition programming in the future.

OUR WORK

USAID is using a phased approach for USAID Nawiri, providing partners with the time, support, and access needed to research the local drivers of persistent acute malnutrition and to design interventions that are rooted in evidence, contextually informed, and viable for the Government of Kenya—at national and county levels—to scale up.

USAID NAWIRI PROGRESS

USAID Nawiri is in its fourth year of implementation and is scaling up evidence-based multi-sectoral activities aimed at sustainably reducing persistent acute malnutrition.

USAID Nawiri prioritized program implementation in 53 malnutrition hotspot wards in Marsabit, Turkana, Isiolo and Samburu Counties guided by the malnutrition hotspot mapping study. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, implementing partners reached 276,000 program participants with multi-sectoral interventions that yielded incremental results in the below key priority interventions:

Livelihoods - A total of 6,450 households or 38,700 people—with malnourished children received business grants of \$300 for a cumulative total of \$645,000. At program participants' graduation after 24 months, the cumulative businesses total value had grown to \$1,070,700, a 66 percent profit over initial disbursements, demonstrating the businesses' sustainability, despite the prevailing drought situation. In addition, through the poverty graduation activity, USAID Nawiri increased female participation and access to productive economic resources by 90 percent as all the business groups were women owned and operated.

Food security - In FY 2022, the percentage of female program participants accessing high-quality, affordable, and nutritious food increased from a baseline of 6 percent in FY 21 year to 39 percent because of USAID Nawiri-implemented agricultural and livestock production activities.

Health systems strengthening - USAID Nawiri has improved access to health and nutrition services for vulnerable communities by facilitating 167 integrated outreach clinics, targeting those most affected by the drought who have migrated far beyond their areas of origin for water and livestock pasture. Consequently, highly vulnerable women and children have accessed health services including antenatal care, immunizations, and treatment of minor illness. In total, health actors screened 64,767 children under the age of five and 18,431 pregnant and lactating women for malnutrition, identifying 1,200 severe acute malnutrition and 3,522 moderate acute malnutrition cases for onward referral for treatment.

Emergency response - USAID Nawiri pivoted to respond to the drought during FY 2022 emergency reaching 50,100 people through cash-based emergency food assistance across the four counties which cushioned program participants from severe drought and helped to protect development gains.

BUDGET: USD \$186 million

DURATION

2019-2024

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu and Turkana Counties

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Mercy Corps
Catholic Relief Services

KEY PARTNERS

-County Governments of Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu and Turkana Counties.
-Ministry of Public service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes

MISSION CONTACT

Daniel Ryan
BHA Kenya team leader
Email: dryan@usaid.gov

PARTNER CONTACT

Dr. Mourad Aidi
Chief of Party CRS
Email: mourad.aidi@crs.org

Hussein Abdille
Chief of Party Mercy Corps
Email: habdille@mercycorps.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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