



World Health  
Organization

## Global Knowledge Network for Health Equity

### Case Study:

#### **Kenya: Integration of Health and Nutrition in Other Sectors' Policies**

**Issue:** The Kenyan Constitution enshrines health as a fundamental right. Kenya faces multiple health challenges, including both communicable and non-communicable diseases.<sup>1</sup> Malnutrition presents a triple burden in Kenya: undernutrition, overweight and obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies, all of which profoundly impact health outcomes.<sup>2</sup>

**Response:** To address these challenges across sectors, the Kenya Health Policy (YEAR) emphasizes strengthening multisectoral collaborations across the public sector, as well as working with the private sector to address the social determinants of health.<sup>3</sup> Recognizing the burden of food insecurity and malnutrition affecting the population, in 2012, several ministries came together and developed the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, adopting a multisectoral approach to address food security and nutrition.<sup>4</sup> The Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (2018-2022) was instrumental in mobilizing resources from key sectors such as education, social protection, and agriculture, as well as from donors, civil society, private sector, and UN agencies.<sup>5</sup> National funding increased to support key actions identified in the plan, such as advocacy for healthy diets and breastfeeding, infant and young child nutrition programs, micronutrient supplementation, as well as social protection programs, including cash transfers targeting vulnerable populations to improve food security.<sup>5</sup>

**Progress:** The evaluation of these initiatives showed positive trends in nutrition indicators. For example, the Kenya Demographic and Health Surveys (KDHS) indicate a decline in stunting from 35% in 2008 to 18% in 2022, underweight from 16% to 10%, and wasting from 7% to 5% over the same period.<sup>2</sup>

**Lessons on Health in All Policies (HiAP):** The Kenya's multisectoral approach to addressing malnutrition drew on several of the HiAP 4-pillars: Robust overarching plans and governance structures with increased political importance across government, continuous advocacy at all levels, and the increase of resources from various sectors to support nutrition initiatives.<sup>6,7</sup> Multisectoral plans provided a clear convening point and roadmap for resource mobilization and program implementation. Kenya's approach demonstrates the effectiveness of integrating health and nutrition policies across sectors to address complex health challenges and improve population health outcomes.

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## **Disclaimer**

These case studies were developed based on the presenters' materials and discussions during the [“Health in All Policies: Advancing Multisectoral Collaboration for Health Equity” Webinar](#) in June 2024. The information provided here reflects a summary of the content of their presentations and may not include all necessary sources or citations. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the position of the World Health Organization (WHO). For further details, please refer to the original sources or directly contact the presenters.

## **References**

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