REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY IN KILIFI AND SIAYA SUBCOUNTIES IN KENYA

Project Location: Kenya
No. of Beneficiaries: 37,800
Project Duration: 5 years
Total Budget: $246,000

Background and Need
The mortality rates for mothers and children under five years of age remain high in Kenya. The Every Child Thrives project aims to reduce child mortality by addressing two of their major causes of disease and death: Vitamin A deficiency and worm infection. Vitamin A deficiency causes increased susceptibility to diseases, particularly diarrheal diseases, which are a leading cause of death in children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. Vitamin A deficiency leads to anemia and blindness and increases the vulnerability of mothers and children.

Worm infections cause or worsen malnutrition and anemia, both of which have significant negative impacts on children of preschool age who are in a period of intense physical and mental growth. Simultaneous administration of micronutrient supplements and deworming drugs dramatically decreases recipients' susceptibility to disease, increases nutrient absorption and eliminates the amplifying effects that nutrient deficiency and worm infections can have on health.

While children 60 months and older often receive these interventions through school-based programs, boys and girls under 5 years (6-59 months) who are most at risk of death from disease do not receive these critical interventions.

This project will focus on rural communities in Kilifi and Siaya (sub-counties in Kenya) which are ranked among the highest in maternal deaths. Kilifi County alone is ranked number six of the 47 counties in Kenya in terms of high rates of maternal deaths.

Project Beneficiaries
The project will directly benefit 37,800 pre-school aged children (6-59 months) in two sub-counties of Siaya and Kilifi. The project will also benefit healthcare workers trained to implement the initiative and the community members trained on the importance of Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming in children.

Project Implementation and Partnerships
This project aims to reduce child morbidity and mortality in boys and girls under 5 (6-59 months), who are currently unreached by National Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming programs. The project will utilize the school deworming platform and the community health strategy to attain the objectives. These interventions will increase uptake of combined de-worming and micronutrient supplementation amongst all eligible boys and girls under 5 (6-59 months) and improve delivery of essential health services to mothers, pregnant women, newborns and children under five.

The key partners in this project will be County Departments of Health for Kilifi and Siaya.

Project Impact

| Project Impact | Contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality in targeted regions |

---

1 2014 UNFPA Annual Report
MAP International Kenya - Previous Experience

MAP International Kenya has implemented similar projects within the informal settlements of Mathare and Korogocho in Nairobi through a child survival project in 2011. The goal of the project was to strengthen capacities of beneficiaries to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) within Mathare and Korogocho. The project impacted 243,712 beneficiaries, both children and mothers of reproductive age. After the closure of the project a summative assessment was conducted with the following results: 200,000 children were immunized, dewormed and supplemented with Vitamin A, 20 health workers & 50 Community Health Volunteers received training on prenatal care and immunizations, 4 outreach clinics were initiated for growth monitoring and immunization and provision of Vitamin A supplements and anti-helminths treatments. From the project, IMR was reduced by 1% and MMR by 0.5%. This was a great achievement, especially compared to other projects implemented in a transitory population which presents unique difficulties.