

Achievements to date (2022 – 2024)

Figures as of December 2024

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Goal:

Contribute to improved food security and the reduction of malnutrition of women of reproductive age and children in Kenya.

Objectives:

- i. Increased access to and consumption of healthy diets.
- ii. To increase resilience of household members, particularly women of reproductive age and children, to price and climate change-related shocks and stresses.

Project Reach and Target Groups:

- Total reach – **1,083,513**
- Women of reproductive age (WRA, 15-49 years) – **143,848**



- Nakuru
- Nyandarua
- Nairobi

Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

Funding (EUR): 8.7 million

Term: 2022-2026

Where we work: Counties of Nakuru, Nyandarua, and Nairobi

Project Description

The **Catalyzing Strengthened policy aCtion for heAlthy Diets and resilience (CASCADE)** project is responding to high malnutrition rates in Kenya and is strengthening implementation of nutrition related policies. The priority policy focus is the Kenya National Nutrition Action Plan which aims to accelerate and scale up efforts towards the elimination of malnutrition in Kenya in line with Kenya's Vision 2030¹ and global Sustainable Development Goals. **CASCADE** also focuses on improving the implementation of the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (2019-2029), which guides interventions that empower small scale farmers in sustainable production and market access. **CASCADE** seeks to improve the access and adoption of knowledge and skills for better agricultural practices for women small scale farmers by working with government actors to encourage innovative and sustainable food production techniques. **CASCADE** is prioritizing the Kenya National Food Fortification Strategic Plan to reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies. Overall, **CASCADE** seeks to strengthen county governments' capacities to implement nutrition policies by enhancing multi-sectoral coordination, supporting allocation of nutrition resources in county action plans, and strengthening public-private partnerships for improved nutrition outcomes.

How we Work

CASCADE works with national and county government actors. At the national level, work involves formulating nutrition policies for specific sectors, while county governments draw from the national policies. The county government ensures implementation plans include policy actions, development of guidelines, and resource allocation for multi-sectoral nutrition policy implementation. **CASCADE** engages government actors through national and county level working groups such as multi-stakeholder platforms on food security and nutrition in Kenya. The project engages private service providers at national and sub national levels for their critical role in food systems through platforms to dialogue with the government. **CASCADE** also works in collaboration with Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance and Business Network.

¹ <https://vision2030.go.ke/publication/third-medium-term-plan-2018-2022/>

At the community level, **CASCADE** engages community leaders and members to identify and address social and structural determinants of malnutrition and food insecurity, especially for women of reproductive age and children, to increase women's participation, control over resources, and decision making. systematizing and disseminating data and learning to inform policy actions and enhance coordination and collaboration among public, private and community stakeholders

Key Milestones and Achievements

- Development of the first costed County Nutrition Action Plan in Nyandarua County.
- Mid-term reviews of the Nairobi and Nakuru County Nutrition Action Plans
- Integration of private sector engagement in the new Kenya National Nutrition Action Plan 2023/27.
- Completed budget analysis and expenditure tracking on nutrition financing and action plans drawn to develop county specific investment case as an advocacy tool to advocate for increment of nutrition budget.
- advocated for the successful enactment of Nairobi County Food Safety and Fortification bill
- 86% (744) farmers who participated in Farmer Field and Business indicated that they applied new agriculture skills to their plots.
- VSLA members received EUR 65,000 in loans from membership own savings to start income generating activities.
- 120 front line nutrition workers reported improvement in nutrition counselling skills that enabled them to provide nutrition services to 99,826 pregnant and lactating women.

STORY OF CHANGE

Strengthening Food Safety and Fortification in Nairobi County

In Nairobi County, a significant milestone was achieved through a targeted advocacy meeting with the members of the County Assembly. The aim was to garner support for food fortification initiatives and nutrition investments following the enactment of the food safety and fortification bill that CASCADE supported. The meeting brought together county leadership, including the County Assembly budget committee, with the objective of sensitizing them to the importance of health, nutrition, food safety, and food fortification. The session also sought to promote the creation and demand for these investments through the implementation of robust policy frameworks.

As a result of this meeting, a transformative change occurred within the county leadership, including the County Assembly, showing a strong commitment to increasing funding for nutrition and food safety. This commitment was formalized through the signing of a policy brief titled *Strengthened Primary Health Care, Community Health Services, and Nutrition for Improved Delivery of Quality Health Services in Nairobi City County Government*. This policy brief not only emphasized the importance of fortification but also highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to improve the quality of health services and nutrition in the county.



Further Information



<https://www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/nutrition/cascade/>

Contact Information

cascade@carenederland.org