



A mother feeds her child in Turkana County. Photo: Alex Maina/WFP.

KENYA

NAWIRI

The USAID Nawiri program -- named after the Kiswahili word for “thrive” -- is a five-year initiative funded by USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (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 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, BHA is providing multi-year support for Nawiri. It recognizes the need to address underlying causes of acute malnutrition through an integrated, multi-sectoral activity that leverages ongoing emergency and development activities.

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 the implementation of nutrition programming in the future.

OUR WORK

USAID BHA recognizes the complexity of persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya's ASALs and the need for local, context-specific, and sustainable solutions. Therefore, USAID BHA 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.

PHASED APPROACH

As part of the phased approach, the first 18 to 24 months constitute evidence gaps analysis - a research and collaborative design phase (Phase I) - followed by a transition to a systems-driven implementation and institutional strengthening phase (Phase II).

This approach is grounded in research and collaborative design based on the following implementation principles:

- Phase I activities all designed to inform Phase II, prioritizing a field-ready, field-viable design
- Deepen the understanding of household-, community-, and systems-level drivers within groups and geographies
- Work through existing systems and institutions, engaging with GoK in a manner that allows them to champion, lead and manage activities and the overall approach.

NAWIRI COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK

Strong government commitment and leadership along with active engagement of communities, the private sector, and civil society are essential for achieving and sustaining nutrition outcomes. Recognizing this, the Nawiri program has established a three-tiered collaboration framework to ensure effective collaboration, consultation and co-creation at the County and National levels. At the county level, the multi-sectoral platform supports Nawiri's holistic approach to nutrition and commitment to collaborating, learning, adapting and prioritization in line with County Nutrition Action Plans.

The Technical Steering Committee brings together national technical experts to share and use key learning to inform planning and implementation of activities across ASAL counties, connecting the program to existing evidence and learning agendas. At the apex the National Steering Committee brings together senior political leadership from each Nawiri County and national government to monitor the continuous commitment of key stakeholders to Nawiri, promote co-investment between the project and the GoK, and leverage learning and innovation, strengthening national policies, strategies and multisectoral approaches to reducing acute malnutrition.

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 Devolution and ASALs

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