



**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 after the Swahili 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.

## NAWIRI APPROACH

USAID Nawiri is designed as a phased approach. The first phase is researching the evidence gaps and local drivers of persistent acute malnutrition. CRS and Mercy Corps dedicated 24 months for collaborative research, learning and design, and institutional strengthening. Evidence from the first phase is informing the ongoing implementation which emphasizes collaboration within existing systems and institutions. At the same time, this multi-sectoral program engages and empowers county governments to champion, lead, and manage diverse and complementary activities to sustainably reduce persistent acute malnutrition.

## EVIDENCE TO ACTION

Cumulatively, USAID Nawiri has completed over 40 formative studies that identified evidence gaps related to the multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral drivers of persistent acute malnutrition. The evidence collected, and the continuous learning and adaptation planned for the next three years will inform the scale up of implementation of USAID Nawiri and serve as a resource for all stakeholders aiming to reduce acute malnutrition in the Kenya arid and semi-arid counties.

**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

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