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TECHNICAL
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Community Health | Clinical Services | Health Communication | Monitoring & Evaluation

Improving lives by addressing Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health addressed by the project include:

- Food security and nutrition
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Education, life skills and literacy
- Gender
- Housing
- Economic empowerment
- Social protection

Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels.

Social and economic conditions and their effects on people's lives determine their risk of illness and the actions taken to prevent them becoming ill or treat illness when it occurs.

Factors related to social determinants include access to food, education, clean water and appropriate sanitation. Access to economic opportunities, availability of medical insurance, cultural and traditional practices and gender norms can all affect health.

APHIAplus Nuru ya Bonde project works with the Government of Kenya and other partners to improve the well-being of marginalized, poor and underserved populations by addressing the social determinants of health through diverse interventions.

Priority interventions

Priority interventions focus on economic strengthening and development, enhancing food security and improving access to education, life skills and literacy. Other activities improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, social protection and help to mobilise communities and resources for health.

Process

APHIAplus Nuru ya Bonde project works with government ministries, the private sector and other stakeholders to improve access to livelihood opportunities for marginalized, poor and underserved groups.

A **vulnerability assessment** was carried out to identify the households where help was needed most and what could be done to empower them to improve their lives.

Mapping of stakeholders and local resources is done to identify sources of support in the community.

Information from the assessment and mapping helps the project to match households with support services provided by the project and other stakeholders.

Sustainability: The project builds the capacity of community based organizations (CBOs), cooperative societies and families to assess the viability of available economic development options using the Participatory Appraisal for Competitive Advantage process. The process uses a set of proven tools that encourage people to create develop concrete, practical proposals to stimulate the local economy.

Specific interventions

Social Assistance for highly vulnerable groups

- Linking individuals to cash transfers and other social safety nets for orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly, and persons with severe disabilities.
- Improving access to government grants, loans, enterprise schemes and devolved funds such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).
- Encourage use of health insurance, particularly National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)

The project also provides direct material support in the form of school fees, school uniforms, food subsidies, shelter improvement, bedding, lamps and other essential items.

Through a cost-share scheme to build household assets, families receive small livestock such as chickens, rabbits and beehives.

Asset growth and protection

- Promoting savings schemes using the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) approach for low-income women and older children.
- Encouraging membership of social insurance schemes
- Financial literacy training
- Linkages to formal microfinance institutions
- Business skills training for groups and individuals engaged in income-generating activities
- Linking individuals to health insurance
- Accessing legal services to protect family assets, including support for birth registration
- Supporting agribusiness support (kitchen gardens, green grocers, beekeeping, dairy goat and rabbits farming, poultry)

Promoting markets and income growth

- Participatory market assessments to identify specific value chains suited for each community and to develop relevant businesses.
- Market-driven vocational training for older children in collaboration with government ministries responsible for youth affairs and education.
- Linking households to commodity markets.

Food security, nutrition and sustainable livelihoods

- Working with Ministry of Agriculture to train farmers in intensive farming, greenhouse and irrigated agriculture
- Promoting rearing of poultry, goats and rabbits
- Providing food to the most vulnerable households (from project farm and government relief supplies)
- Promoting Junior Farmer Fields Life Skills (JFFLS) in schools and training 4K Clubs patrons
- Training community health workers in nutrition and

nutritional assessments.

- Establishing satellite therapeutic feeding centres with support from USAID's Nutrition and HIV Program (NHP)

Access to education, life skills, and literacy initiatives

- Improving running of schools by building the capacity of school management committees and community-based organizations
- Paying fees and providing books and other school materials for the most vulnerable children
- Mentorship of girls and boys on life skills
- Identifying scholarship opportunities and bursaries orphans and children in secondary school, vocational training or college (e.g. Wings to Fly program funded by USAID, Equity bank and partners; USAID's FUNZO project scholarship scheme for health training).
- Expanding the integration of Life Skills Education in schools
- Recruit and train mentors for OVC in schools and communities.

In addition, the project plans a pilot grant program in 10 schools. Under the scheme, primary schools and early childhood development (ECD) centres will get grants for school projects in exchange for OVC attending school tuition-free.

To ensure more girls complete school and move into careers, the project is adapting FHI 360's Four Pillars Model in Narok County. This approach involves schools, parents and mentors in efforts to keep girls in school.

Enhanced access to improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- Training Public Health Officers and Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWS) to promote water, hygiene and sanitation practices in HIV interventions as well as through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (clts) approach.
- Developing a resource guide with messages on WASH for Community Health Workers (CHW)
- Training teachers to manage school health clubs
- Providing schools with tanks for harvesting rainwater.

Increased access to quality protective services

- Improving support services to orphans and vulnerable children by disseminating government guidelines, establishing quality improvement teams and facilitating support supervision.
- Strengthening child-protection technical working groups
- Building the capacity of Area Advisory Councils
- Promoting reporting of child abuse and neglect
- Improving access to health care and protection for survivors of gender-based violence, sexual abuse and child neglect.
- Supporting birth registration.

The APHIAplus Rift Valley Project is implemented by FHI 360 together with partners that include African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), Liverpool VCT, Care and Treatment (LVCT), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), National Organization for Peer Educators (NOPE) and Gold Star Kenya. The project runs until December 2015.



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