



## PRESS RELEASE

### Are Malnutrition Trends In Kenya Improving?

*National Information Platform For Food Security And Nutrition Provides New Evidence*

**Nairobi, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021** – The National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (NIPFN) is being launched, and has published four new reports on the state of food security and nutrition in Kenya. NIPFN facilitates stakeholder dialogue in different sectors linked to the topic of nutrition and is led and owned by the Government of Kenya. The platform is funded by the European Union (EU) with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

*“The burden of malnutrition is of great national concern considering the losses the country is incurring as stipulated in the cost of hunger study. It is estimated that KSh 373.9 Bn (6.9%) of GDP is lost due to malnutrition. Productivity related losses carry the lion share with health and education following suit.”*

Dr. Rose Ngugi, Executive Director Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)

The four new reports provide evidence on key food security and nutrition issues. One report, depicts that following the COVID-19 pandemic, over 50% of respondents are moderately food insecure and cope with food insecurity by relying on less preferred and less expensive foods and buying food on credit. These actions are likely to lead to intake of less nutritious diets, thus, exacerbating existing undernutrition status in the country.

*“The COVID-19 pandemic is a multiplier of vulnerability, compounding threats to food security and nutrition in Kenya. The EU supports the National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition to enable targeted support to food systems through evidence-based decision making.”*

Hubert Perr, EU Head of Cooperation

Two other reports reviewed the progress in reducing undernutrition in Kenya over several decades revealing the rate of malnutrition is reducing among children but not at the rate desired. For instance, stunting (when a child is too short for their age) reduced from 39.8% in 1993 to 26.0% in 2014. A forecast of trends shows that if the current trends continue the 2025 rate will be 23.8% against a target of 12.6%. The reports also revealed that increased socio-economic improvement is closely linked with improved nutrition situation. This means that outcomes of nutrition are linked with broader government initiatives such as education, trade, agriculture and labour, highlighting the need for an information platform that monitors investments and intervention in all sectors that impact on nutrition. The Nutrition Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition is an initiative that responds to this need.

*“Timely decisions and appropriate allocation of government resources requires timely provision of good quality and accurate information. KNBS is committed to strengthening the National Statistical System (NSS) to respond to the unprecedented increase in demand for quality data.”*

Mr. Macdonald G. Obudho, MBS, Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics KNBS

The four new reports are available here: <https://nipfn.kippra.or.ke/nipfn-project-launch/>

- An Analysis of The National Progress and Household Characteristics Associated With Stunting.
- Food Security Situation During COVID Wave 1 And 2 Report.
- An Analysis on Nutritional Anthropometric Trends In Kenya.
- Review of Policies On Food Security and Nutrition.

The reports support the monitoring of government initiatives such as the Big Four's Agenda, the National and County Nutrition Action Plans, and other commitments and strategies that the government has made towards eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

The NIPFN platform aims to contribute to:

- Maximizing analysis and interpretation of existing information and data on nutrition to improve the understanding of the factors that influence it, at national and sub national levels;
- Identifying gaps in information that need to be filled and problems with the consistency and quality of data;
- Building plausible arguments about the effectiveness of interventions, programmes, approaches and investments to prevent malnutrition;
- Monitoring national and sub-national progress in preventing malnutrition;
- Strengthening the accountability of governments and donors to meet their commitments to prevent malnutrition.

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The NIPFN platform <https://nipfn.kippra.or.ke/> is part of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement working in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Laos, Kenya, Niger, Uganda, Guatemala, and Ivory Coast. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) are the two state corporations mandated by the Government of Kenya to manage the platform.

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