

FOR FOOD SECURITY

REAP FOR NUTRITION

For many families in Africa's drylands, a regular meal can be hard to come by — and a balanced one nearly impossible. As inflation worsens, so does malnutrition. To address this crisis, BOMA has designed the REAP for Nutrition Program which prioritizes the nutrition of children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. The REAP for Nutrition approach prioritizes women with children under five years old as well as households that are currently or have previously experienced child malnutrition. Entire households, including men, are engaged in nutrition-centric education.

REAP for Nutrition was developed through BOMA's participation in USAID Nawiri, a five-year Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) funded by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), aims to go beyond humanitarian assistance to sustainably reduce levels of Persistent Acute Malnutrition (PAM) in Samburu and Turkana counties. Through a consortium led by Mercy Corps and composed of Save the Children, Research Triangle Institute (RTI), BOMA and the African Population & Health Research Center (APHRC), BOMA has undertaken research to inform an evidence-based implementation strategy. Within this wider effort, BOMA is tasked with adapting its REAP approach to contribute to nutrition resilience.

KEY IMPACTS



Decrease Malnutrition

REAP for Nutrition has launched 2,900 businesses which empower the owners to nourish their households as well as those of their customers.



Household Engagement

So far, 8,700 participants have been reached by REAP for Nutrition. This has a ripple effect to their households, which also receive education around nutrition.



Community Resilience

These participants have been brought together to form 516 savings groups, which encourage communities to save for goals and emergencies as a collective.

REAP for Nutrition is leveraging the power of women and communities to break the cycle of extreme poverty and deprivation.



TARGETING



TRANSFER



TRAINING



MENTORING



SAVINGS



LINKAGES

ENGAGING HOUSEHOLDS

Acute malnutrition has persisted at emergency levels in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, even when a households' access to food and quality healthcare increases. With nearly 75 percent of the population living in poverty, less than 70% of households have acceptable food security scores and only 25% or less of children aged 6-23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet. Children, adolescent girls, and women of reproductive age suffer from preventable and treatable diseases, which compound their vulnerability. Acute malnutrition, particularly in women of reproductive age and adolescents, reinforces inter-generational cycles of gender inequality and extreme poverty.

A key part of REAP for Nutrition is a male engagement strategy. While traditional REAP focuses entirely on women building resiliency, REAP for Nutrition builds an additional outcome of improved nutrition that is critical to children's proper development and growth by seeking to incorporate men, ensuring household alignment on best nutrition practices. The new strategy was tested among male participants with very positive results, as they expressed appreciation and enthusiasm for being involved in discussions around household wellbeing.



BOMA'S MISSION

BOMA's mission is to provide the people and governments of Africa's drylands with economic inclusion programs that increase resilience to multiple crises. Our vision is to see the end of extreme poverty in Africa's drylands by building lasting resilience to economic and environmental shocks.

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