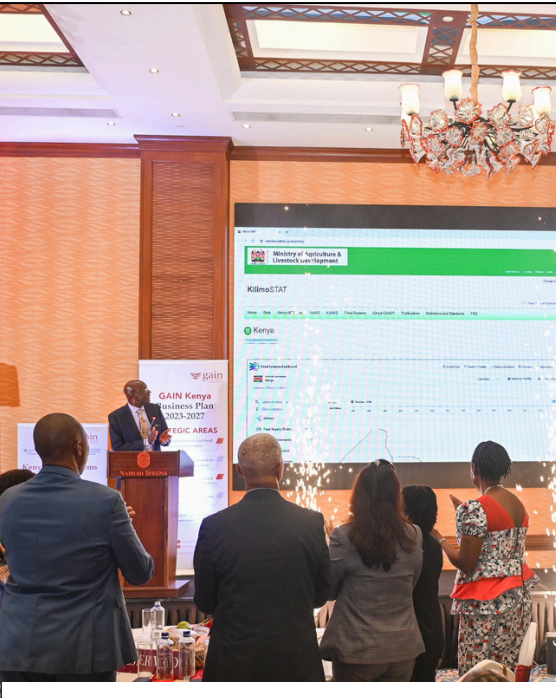


GAIN KENYA

DIGEST



GAIN and the Government of Kenya unveils an ambitious plan to improve the access of more than seven million Kenyans to healthier diets

GAIN Kenya is collaborating with Kenya's National and County Governments to improve the access of over seven million Kenyans to healthier diets and address Kenya's triple burden of malnutrition through the GAIN Kenya Business Plan 2023- 2027 launched on 28th March 2024. Speaking during the launch, Ruth Okowa, GAIN Kenya Country Director said, "The five-year business plan outlines GAIN Kenya's pathway to improve access to healthier diets for over seven million Kenyans through five key strategic interventions: Creating a favourable environment for strengthening food systems transformation; improving demand for nutritious foods; scaling up industrial food fortification and biofortification efforts; strengthening supply chains for nutritious and healthy foods; and strengthening social inclusion, gender equity and empowerment in food systems".

Additionally, GAIN supported the development of an innovative Kenya Food Systems Dashboard (FSD), a one stop shop to provide food systems data in Kenya launched alongside the Business Plan. The FSD brings together much-needed data to inform decision making for food systems transformation. The event was officiated by a representative of Kenya's Agriculture Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Mithika Linturi, who gave Government's commitment to collaborate will GAIN in the rollout of the Business Plan and encouraged development partners to collaborate with the Council of Governors to scale up the utilisation of Food Systems Dashboard by the counties.

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- Partnership with Machakos County Government to improve access to healthier diets.
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- Supporting SMEs and last-mile vendors to provide safe and nutritious foods in the ASALs.
- Training of county agriculture officers on good agricultural practices and food safety standards.
- Flour blending initiative for food security, nutrition, and employment.

Read more about [GAIN Kenya Business Plan](#) and [Kenya Food Systems Dashboard](#).



GAIN Country Director, Ms. Ruth Okowa, hands over a GAIN and Machakos County Partnership brief to Governor Wavinya Ndeti

Partnership with Machakos County Government to improve access to healthier diets

GAIN Kenya Country Director, Ruth Okowa, held a partnership meeting with the Governor of Machakos County, Her Excellency Hon. Wavinya Ndeti on 7th March 2024 and discussed collaborations between GAIN and Machakos County Government in implementing interventions geared towards improving access to healthier diets.

During the meeting, Ms. Okowa updated the Governor on some of the

interventions that GAIN is implementing in Machakos County to improve the availability, affordability, desirability, and sustainability of nutritious and safe foods, and to reduce the consumption of unhealthy and unsafe foods which increases non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the county. GAIN is supporting increased access to safe and diverse vegetables by linking last mile vegetable vendors (mama mbogas) to good agricultural practices compliant suppliers, branding stalls to create visibility, training mama mbogas on food safety, and constructing a cold room in Marikiti Market in Machakos County. GAIN is also supporting the county in developing a Food Safety Bill and Policy to establish a food safety management system and a coordination mechanism within the county.

Governor Wavinya appreciated GAIN for the great collaboration in addressing the nutrition needs of the County residents. She reiterated her commitment to continue partnering with GAIN and other development partners to address the nutritional needs of the people of Machakos County. Governor Wavinya highlighted her ongoing efforts to make the County water and food secure through excavation, desilting and expansion of dams that will provide adequate water for small-scale irrigation farming. This will ensure the actualisation of her government's "Chakula Mezani, Pesa Mfukoni" agenda.



Photos showcasing GAIN Kenya's work in Marsabit and Isiolo counties.

Supporting SMEs and last-mile vendors to provide safe and nutritious foods to malnutrition hotspots in the ASAL region of Kenya

GAIN, through the USAID-funded Nawiri Project, provided technical assistance, technological support and capacity strengthening to two businesses under the food and market systems activities within the ASAL counties of Marsabit and Isiolo. GAIN supported Karare Women Dairy Cooperative and eight aggregation centres in the milk value chain and Isiolo Juakali Nyirinyiri Cooperative in meat value chain with machines and equipment to help increase their production of safe and nutritious foods. The support helped the businesses to increase shelf life of the products, improve food safety standards through improving packaging and ensure affordability through minimising the product to smaller sizes that are affordable to low-income consumers.

To ensure impact at community and household level, the project partnered with over 500 small businesses within the communities including wholesalers, retailers, and other merchants referred to as Last Mile Vendors (LMVs) within the malnutrition hotspots. GAIN trained the businesses on food safety standards and business and financial management skills to enhance safe handling of food items and stocking of nutritious food products meeting nutritional needs of the community. The LMVs were linked to the two SMEs and distributors to address issues of availability and accessibility of nutritious food items in malnutrition hotspots of both counties.



When GAIN came into our organisation about three years ago, we were a small village cooperative with no big plans and ambition. Courtesy of GAIN's support, we are now a big cooperative supplying thousands of Kenyans with the nutritious nyirinyiri (dried camel meat). GAIN has put us on the world map. When GAIN came in, we had simple stone age tools, but we now have ultra-modern equipment to process our products through the support of the USAID Nawiri project."

Mr. Abdi Omar, Isiolo Juakali Nyirinyiri Cooperative Business Development Director



GAIN Head of Policy and Advocacy, Charles Opiyo, gives opening remarks during the TWG meeting.

GAIN supports the Government of Kenya in developing a tool that will inform the financing strategy and coordination of the government's food systems transformation

GAIN recently supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to convene a Food Systems Transformation Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting to review the Financial Flow for Food Systems Tool (3FS) report. The tool, currently being piloted in Kenya, is co-led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank and the National Treasury.

The 3FS tool aims to provide governments with real time data on financial flows to food systems to inform national strategies to bolster food and nutrition security and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The TWG extensively addressed the crucial matter of government expenditure on food systems delving into the various funding channels that sustain these systems, and scrutinised the national government's role in financing, as well as the substantial influence of county governments on spending endeavours.

Training of county agriculture officers on good agricultural practices and food safety standard

To increase access to safe and, consumption of diverse vegetables by Kenyans within the Vegetables for All project areas, GAIN Kenya in partnership with the respective county governments trained over 200 county agricultural officers on the Kenya Standard 1758 Part 2 (KS 1758-2). KS 1758-2 is a code of practice for Kenya's horticulture industry outlining sanitary and safety criteria for the production, handling, and sale of fruits and vegetables.

The standard is founded on four main pillars: food safety; environmental sustainability; plant health; and worker health, safety, and social accountability. The agricultural officers are expected to cascade the knowledge acquired from the two-day workshops to all producers within their respective counties for increased food safety. Implementation of this standard will boost the safety and quality of fruits and vegetables that are domestically produced and marketed in both formal and informal markets.



Machakos County Deputy Governor addressing agricultural officer during a two-day workshop to train county agricultural officers on food safety

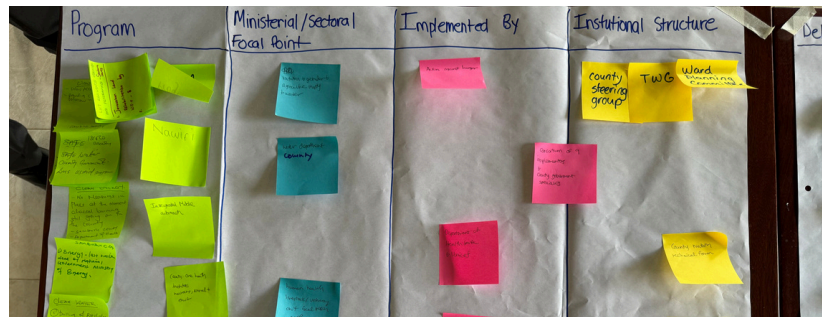
Enhancing the capacity of policy actors on food fortification and surveillance



Gladys Mbuno from the National Public Health Laboratory demonstrates to stakeholders the process of testing for iron in packaged maize flour

The CAtalysing Strengthened policy aCtion for heALthy Diets and resilience (CASCADE) project supported a food fortification surveillance training for more than 50 policy actors, including public health officers, in Nyandarua and Nairobi Counties. The meeting enhanced the participants' knowledge and skills on food fortification surveillance and included practical onsite sample tests to establish recommended levels of iodine in table salt, Vitamin A in edible fats and oils, and iron in packaged maize and wheat flours as sold in markets stores.

GAIN partners with Emory University and SNV through the Resilient Household Investment Feasibility Assessment (RHIFA) project



Net-mapping process ongoing to establish stakeholders' and the linkages.

Resilient Household Investment Feasibility Assessment (RHIFA) is an integrated project that aims to establish household resilience in times of shocks, disturbances, or challenges in relation to community access to reliable clean energy, safe and clean water, and nutritious foods at the household thus improving children nutrition and health outcomes. The project involves conducting a comprehensive feasibility study in selected counties of Isiolo, Samburu, Siaya, Bungoma and Homa Bay representing

arid and semi-arid contexts. As much as these counties have different shocks and challenges, malnutrition affects them equally. GAIN undertook a stakeholder mapping and analysis using a power mapping tool to identify stakeholder's relevancy in their interventions and any possible gaps/challenges in their implementation areas. The survey established that with challenges posed by climate change, sustaining the current pastoralist livelihood is increasingly untenable in ASAL while non-ASAL has a resounding gap in coordination between non-profit organisations and the government.

Flour Blending Initiative for food security, nutrition, and employment

GAIN is supporting a multistakeholder effort led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) to develop the Flour Blending Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy which aims to contribute towards food security, improve nutrition and increase employment opportunities in Kenya. The SBCC strategy outlines coordinated activities to engage key stakeholders to influence positive change in the production of underutilised crops such as cassava, millet, sorghum, and sweet potato for flour blending and increased production and consumption of blended flour products. By reducing the pressure on maize as the main staple food, the multi sectoral approach targets a high impact approach in securing a diversified food basket.



Group photo of the flour blending initiative team taken on 8th March 2024

Some of the activities captured in the SBCC strategy include commercialisation campaigns, consumer education/awareness creation and capacity building initiatives for increased production of under-utilised crops and consumption of blended flour products. Moreover, the flour blending initiative will create employment through micro, small and medium enterprises engaged in flour blending and farm level employment.

Speaking during the workshop, Assistant Director of Agriculture at the MoALD, Mr. Leonard Kubok highlighted Government efforts to address production and consumption of under-produced crops and emphasised that continuous communication and stakeholder engagement are key to the success of the initiative.

“Millers have had challenges in finding the under-produced crops in Kenya. Some millers have been forced to import raw materials such as sorghum, millet and cassava from neighbouring countries. Given the negative perception of blended flour products by majority of Kenyans, I call upon the government and all stakeholders in the food and nutrition sector to create public awareness on the importance of consuming blended flour products through a rigorous campaign before millers start milling and incur huge losses due to lack of market.”

Mr. Anthony Ndirangu, National Chairman of the Agro Processors Association of Kenya (APAK)