Context
The Kenya Community Health Strategy is an approach that aims to actively engage households and communities in their own health care and rights.

The Kenya Health Policy, 2012 – 2030 states that community health services are constituted of: (i) Interventions focusing on building demand for existing health and related services, by improving community awareness and health seeking behaviors, and (ii) Taking defined interventions and services closer to the clients / households. The Kenya Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan (KHSSP) further defines the specific interventions and services to be delivered categorized into five cohorts.

The Strategic and Investment plan defines the Kenya Essential Health Package (KEPH), a basic minimum health and expandable package, which details what every person is entitled to and should expect from the health sector. The plan, also, specifically mentions the “Scale up Community Health High Impact Interventions” as a flagship project. The target set is 8,000 established and functional community health units each consisting of 5,000 people. Community health units are the foundation of the Kenya National Health System (Tier one) and are served by Community Health Volunteers, Community Health Extension Workers and Community Health Committees.

The community health units also provide a link between the community and health facilities (Tier Two) as part of the referral system. This link also provides a platform for the community to provide feedback to their immediate health facility on health services provided and vice versa.

“'Afya Yetu, Jukumu Letu”
(“Our Health, Our Responsibility”)

UNICEF Support
Aligned to the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Kenya Vision 2030, Kenya Health Policy Framework 2012 – 2030, Kenya Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan and the Strategy for Community Health 2014 – 2019, UNICEF is committed to supporting the Government of Kenya in its health goal of ‘attaining the highest possible standard of health in a manner responsive to the needs of the population’. Specific to community health and demand generation, UNICEF is committed to supporting the government attain its goal of 8,000 established and functional community units by 2018, each unit representing approximately 5,000 people.

Community Health Establishment and Functionality
Five focus counties will be supported to attain 100 per cent community health unit coverage as of December, 2018. These counties will further be supported in ensuring that their community units are sustainably functional as per the established guidelines of functionality.

Policy Development and Contextualization
Technical assistance is being provided at the national level towards the development of policies and guidance documents. These documents are expected to anchor the strategies developed by counties in their implementation of community health services. Where needed, counties will be supported to contextualize nationally-issued documents to enable them address any unique needs of their populations.

Capacity Building
Throughout this programme, national and county governments will benefit from various capacity strengthening exercises such as trainings for community and facility-based staff on technical modules relevant to community maternal, newborn and child health. Participation in relevant learning and knowledge exchange forums will also be considered.