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A Climate-Responsive Nutrition Agenda: UNICEF Kenya's 2025–2030 Theory of Change



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Design: Studio Inferno Co. Ltd.

Citation: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), A Climate-Responsive Nutrition Agenda: UNICEF Kenya's 2025-2030 Theory of Change, UNICEF Kenya Country Office, 2025.

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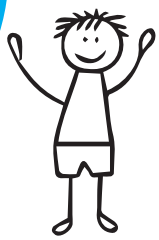
Background

Despite progress in reducing child stunting, from 40 per cent in 1993 to 18 per cent in 2022, child undernutrition remains widespread in Kenya and now exists alongside the rapidly growing burden of childhood overweight and obesity.[1] This complex problem is further aggravated by climate change and climate shocks by disrupting food systems, weakening nutrition services, and undermining optimal nutrition practices.

The entire food system is challenged by climate change and climate shocks from food production to storage and distribution, retail and consumption. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events greatly affect crop productivity, impacting the quantity and quality of foods available on local markets, and reduce agricultural livelihoods on which a large proportion of the population depends. Extreme weather events also damage critical infrastructures that food supply chains depend on, delaying food transportation from farms to markets, interfering with supply chain, trade, and access to food items in affected areas.[2,3]

Increased CO_2 levels also reduce the nutritional quality of many crop species, leading to lower levels of essential nutrients, which could exacerbate micronutrient deficiencies among children.[4] Livestock losses are also increasingly driven by heat stress and extreme weather events, which are particularly critical in Kenya where around 70 per cent of the population are livestock herders.[2,5]

"When we adapt for children, we build resilience for entire communities."



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During dry periods, animals face severe shortages of fodder and water. A study in 2022 showed that drought caused a 10–15 per cent increase in livestock mortality above normal rates in affected areas, which equivalents to about 5 per cent of Kenya's total livestock population. Conversely, floods restrict nomadic groups' ability to move their herds to suitable pastures and can physically harm livestock, further contributing to losses.[6,7] These livestock losses not only undermine livelihoods but also substantially reduce milk production and consumption, which is a major source of energy and nutrients for children, especially in pastoral communities, thereby increasing the risk of child malnutrition.[8,9]

Reduced agricultural output and problems with distribution can drive up food prices, particularly straining low-income households, where plant foods provide critical micronutrients and animal-sourced foods remain unaffordable. Farmers and supply chain workers experience income volatility, limiting their capacity to invest in climate adaptation measures. Families often respond to price spikes and shortages by shifting to cheaper, less nutritious processed foods as a coping mechanism that can exacerbates nutritional deficits, particularly among children.[10,11] Declining food affordability, combined with increased access to marketing of ultra-processed food, can also increase the proportion of ultra-processed foods in children's diets, leading to increased risk of overweight and obesity.[12-14] Given

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the private sector's central role in food production, processing, distribution, and marketing, building strong public-private partnerships is essential to strengthen food and nutrition systems, stabilise supply chains, and ensure the availability of safe, nutritious, and affordable foods, especially in the face of climate shocks.

Climate change and climate events also disrupt access to essential nutrition services to support child nutrition, while simultaneously increasing population needs. Extreme weather damages health infrastructure, water services and affects nutrition supply chains, and cause power outages that negatively impact service delivery.[14-17] It also disrupts transportation and communication networks, and causes population displacement, which become barriers to accessing health and nutrition clinics and other essential services. Climate change impacts also create financial barriers for households accessing these services by reducing income for medical expenses and transportation.[3,15,18] Schools, which serve as a platform to reach school-age children with essential nutrition services and education on nutrition and climate change, are similarly disrupted by climate shocks and stresses and often become shelters for displaced households.[19]



Furthermore, feeding and nutrition practices are undermined by the impacts of climate change. This is mainly because that climate change increases women's workload. For example, by intensifying responsibilities such as collecting water and firewood or engaging in livelihood activities. These pressures, combined with gender norms that place the burden of domestic responsibilities on women and limit their access to income, assets, and support networks, create significant time and work constraints. As a result, women are often diverted from childcare and struggle to provide consistent nurturing care, including appropriate feeding and hygiene practices, as well as to meet their own nutrition and care needs.[3,20,21] While childcare and feeding activities are often shared with extended family members, factors such as displacement can reduce these opportunities, further increasing the burden on mothers.[14,22] Climate-driven heat stress, displacement, and maternal malnutrition also create significant barriers to breastfeeding, which is essential source of nutrition for infants and young children.[14,20,23]

The resulting nutritional consequences for children are significant, with increased risks of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, and long-term developmental impairments. Additionally, the psychosocial impact of uncertainty and anxiety associated with inadequate food can adversely affect children's mental health and overall wellbeing.[2,24] Protecting children's nutrition in the context of increasing climate pressures requires adaptations in the systems that deliver children's services. Adaptation means adjusting in response to actual or expected climatic changes and their effects. "Business as usual" will no longer work. Things must be done differently.[3,25]

Alignment with National Climate Policy Framework and UNICEF's Strategy



The UNICEF Kenya's Nutrition-Climate Theory of Change (ToC) is aligned with Kenya's Nutrition and Climate Policies, reinforcing government-led efforts to build climate-resilient nutrition systems. Importantly, the ToC advances the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2011)26 by supporting systemic approaches that enhance access to nutritious, affordable, and sustainable diets, including during climate shocks. It further reinforces national efforts to strengthen nutrition resilience through improved preparedness, shock-responsive nutrition and social protection services, and institutional and individual capacity-building. In addition, the ToC contributes to the implementation of the Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP, 2023–2027)[27], which provides a multi-sectoral framework for addressing all forms of malnutrition across the life course. By strengthening diets, services, and practices, as articulated in this ToC, it reinforces KNAP's focus on safeguarding nutrition outcomes in the context of climate change and climate shocks. The ToC also supports Kenya's key Nutrition and Climate Policies, including the Kenya National Adaptation Plan (2015–2030)[28], the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP III, 2023–2027)[29], and Kenya's Second Nationally Determined Contribution (2031–2035)[30] by strengthening food and nutrition security to reduce climate-driven malnutrition, which are priority areas across all three frameworks.

At the same time, the ToC advances UNICEF's strategic priorities at both the global and country levels. It is grounded in UNICEF's global Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan (SCAP 2023–2030)[31], which calls for protecting the lives, health, and wellbeing of children by adapting essential social services to a changing climate, more frequent disasters, and a degrading environment. The plan also emphasises the need to deliver shock-resilient essential services, build the capacity of communities and service providers, and strengthen government systems that prioritise children's most urgent needs, while ensuring adequate financing to implement these measures. In addition, the ToC aligns with UNICEF Kenya's Country Strategic Plan (2022–2026), which identifies climate change as a cross-cutting theme and promotes its integration within nutrition programmes. Furthermore, this ToC is in line with "Enhancing Kenya's Food System to Prevent and Address Child & Adolescent Malnutrition – A UNICEF Roadmap."[32] The roadmap focuses on improving child nutrition and tackling malnutrition by strengthening food systems through better children's foods, healthier food environments, and improved food practices. Working in collaboration with other UN agencies, it aims to build inclusive and climate-resilient food systems tailored to Kenya's unique challenges.

It also directly contributes to the overall impact of UNICEF Kenya's Climate and Sustainability Strategy (2025–2030)[33]: *The lives, health and wellbeing of children and young people and the resilience of their communities are protected through adapting essential social services to a changing climate, more frequent disasters and a degrading environment.* This is achieved by strengthening climate-resilient food and nutrition systems, ensuring children's access to nutritious diets and essential services, and promoting adaptive feeding practices that safeguard their right to nutrition, while enhancing preparedness and resilience at community level.

Development Process of the Nutrition-Climate Theory of Change

This Nutrition-Climate ToC was developed through a collaborative and iterative process within the UNICEF KCO Nutrition Section, building on sessions facilitated by KPMG. Following these sessions, the lead authors engaged in a consultative process to further elaborate the service and practice components to complement the diet pathway.

The process was supported by UNICEF ESARO and UNICEF KCO, to ensure alignment with UNICEF's strategy and frameworks. The draft ToC underwent technical review by internal experts to validate its coherence, technical soundness, and alignment, resulting in a context-specific and evidence-informed ToC for climate-resilient nutrition in Kenya.

Use of the Nutrition-Climate Theory of Change

The Nutrition-Climate ToC has been developed to serve both internal and external purposes. Internally, it acts as a strategic orientation tool for UNICEF Kenya, complementing the broader UNICEF Kenya's Climate and Sustainability Strategy (2025–2030)[31] and providing vision for how we can strengthen diets, services and practices for a climate-smart Kenya. Externally, this ToC positions UNICEF Kenya as a thought leader in climate–nutrition action, showcasing our evidence-driven, child-centered approach and our commitment to continually innovate in protecting children's rights. It provides a platform to convene and influence partners, shape the national agenda, catalyse collective action, and mobilise the resources needed to ensure every child's nutrition and wellbeing are safeguarded in the face of a changing climate.

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UNICEF Kenya Pathways to Protecting the Nutritional Wellbeing of Children in Kenya

This Nutrition-Climate ToC outlines a strategic pathway to reduce children's vulnerability to climate and environmental risks to protect their nutrition and wellbeing (*see Figure 1*). Pathways to change are elaborated, ensuring that all children, particularly those most vulnerable, can access nutritious, safe, affordable, and sustainable diets, while also maintaining essential nutrition and social services and feeding and nutrition practices. By addressing the multiple, interconnected drivers of child nutrition, this approach promotes a holistic, systems-based approach to protect and sustain children's growth and development amid increasing climate disruptions. The intended nutrition impact of the Nutrition-Climate ToC is that *children in Kenya experience sustainable nutrition security, accessing social services and healthy, diverse diets that are resilient to the effects of climate change and climate shocks.* Three pathways to achieve this change in nutrition-climate resilience have been elaborated: diets; services; and practices.

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Detailed Pathways

Pathway 1: Children and their families have improved diets despite the impacts of climate change and climate shocks

Climate change and climate shocks are threatening the availability, affordability, and nutritional quality of foods in Kenya. In response, UNICEF focuses on ensuring that children have increased access to nutritious, affordable, and sustainable foods, including during climate shocks.

This is achieved through two complementary strategies. First, UNICEF supports increased food availability in schools and communities through market and household-level interventions. Public-private partnerships are promoted to enhance the local production, fortification, storage, preservation, and local market distribution of nutritious, affordable, and sustainable foods. At the community level, climate-smart agriculture is encouraged in home and school gardens to produce diverse nutritious foods for household and school consumption, enhancing communities' capacity in locally sourced sustainable food production.

Second, UNICEF works to create healthy and sustainable food environments. This includes supporting governments to develop and implement improved national and country-level policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce unhealthy food exposure and promote sustainable diets. Universal school meal programs are also fostered to ensure that children receive at least one nutritious meal daily through locally sourced, sustainably produced foods, guided by supportive national and county-level policies.

Together, these activities not only improve dietary outcomes but also contribute to long-term resilience by ensuring that sustainable food systems meet the nutritional needs of children despite the impacts of climate change.

Pathway 2: Children and their families have improved access to essential nutrition and social services before, during, and after climate shocks.

As climate shocks increasingly disrupt access to essential nutrition services, UNICEF focuses on ensuring that children have increased access to climate-adaptive nutrition services and integrated, climate-responsive social protection services.

This pathway begins with strengthening health and nutrition systems. UNICEF builds the capacity of health workers and community health promoters (CHPs) for early prevention, detection, and treatment of malnutrition, especially in times when regular service delivery is disrupted. It also strengthens community-based early warning systems and climate-triggered mechanisms to deploy climate-triggered surge mechanisms, ensuring timely identification and response to surges in malnutrition. As part of strengthening service delivery, UNICEF also promotes the inclusion of locally grown, climate-resilient nutrition commodities within essential nutrition services, ensuring that children and families continue to receive appropriate nutrition support.

"Public–private partnerships can make nutritious foods affordable — even in times of crisis."



To improve coordination and resilience, UNICEF supports the establishment of county-level nutrition multisectoral platforms to address climate-triggered risks. At the same time, it builds and strengthens shock-responsive mechanisms within national nutrition-responsive social protection programmes at county level to enable the expansion of cash transfers linked to emergency nutrition services in response to climate shocks, and integrates nutrition indicators into climate early warning systems to trigger expansion of social protection services.

Recognising the importance of systems-level preparedness and inclusion of climate nutrition action in national climate commitments, policies, and plans, UNICEF also supports institutionalising nutrition within government climate strategies and disaster risk financing mechanisms. By embedding nutrition indicators and programmes into national and county-level disaster risk frameworks, the system is better equipped to activate timely and nutrition-sensitive responses that protect children and vulnerable populations during climate crises.

Together, these efforts ensure that essential nutrition and social services remain available and accessible for children and their families before, during, and after climate shocks, reducing vulnerability and strengthening long-term resilience.

Pathway 3: Children and their families maintain improved and climate-adaptive feeding and nutrition practices that support children's climate-nutrition resilience.

In the face of increasing climate shocks and stresses, building climate resilience begins at the household and community levels. UNICEF focuses on ensuring that community and household improved feeding and nutrition practices continue optimum practices, including during climate shocks and stresses.



To do this, UNICEF works through existing community health and nutrition platforms to support the uptake of healthy and sustainable diets and climate-resilient feeding and nutrition practices, including continued breastfeeding, appropriate complementary feeding, and maternal nutrition, ensuring that these remain viable even during periods of climate disruption and future changed climate scenarios. In addition, caregiver support groups, such as mother-to-mother groups, are strengthened to promote adaptive feeding and nutrition practices in the face of climate crises and to build community solidarity.

Furthermore, multiple strategic social and behaviour change (SBC) interventions including social marketing of sustainable nutritious foods for children are implemented to shift norms and practices toward healthier, climate-adaptive behaviours. These efforts help promote the uptake of climate adaptative sustainable feeding practices. UNICEF also strengthens community-level, climate-specific early warning systems and anticipatory action mechanisms, enabling families to prepare for, and respond to, climate shocks before they escalate into crises. Finally, UNICEF engages children, young people, and community leaders in advocacy and peer-led activities that amplify climate-nutrition messaging and drive grassroots ownership.

Together, these efforts empower families and communities to protect and promote children's nutrition in a changing climate.

Converging Approaches to Strengthen Nutrition Resilience in a Changing Climate

UNICEF Kenya has been implementing a range of climate-nutrition initiatives in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and other counterparts, and communities. While only some of these initiatives are highlighted in this ToC, UNICEF Kenya has been expanding its climate–nutrition portfolio, aiming to strengthen the resilience of nutrition systems, improve children's nutrition security, and help communities adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and climate shocks.

Across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), three flagship UNICEF-supported programmes—Family MUAC, IMAM Surge, and the Climate-Sensitive NICHE—are increasingly converging in their areas of implementation, particularly in counties such as Turkana, Garissa, Marsabit, Wajir, and Isiolo. This geographic overlap enhances synergies across household, community, and health system levels: Family MUAC empowers caregivers to detect and act on early signs of malnutrition; IMAM Surge equips health facilities to anticipate and manage seasonal surges; and NICHE strengthens household resilience through anticipatory cash and nutrition actions. Together, these interventions form an integrated, adaptive, and climate-sensitive model that reinforces community preparedness, protects child nutrition, and sustains essential services before, during, and after climate shocks.

Family MUAC Approach

The Family MUAC Approach, implemented in partnership with the Kenya Ministry of Health and in collaboration with key implementing partners, including Action Against Hunger, Concern Worldwide, Kenya Red Cross, Save the Children, and World Vision, has been rolled out across 10 high-burden ASAL counties (Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir, and West Pokot) as well as Nairobi, Kisumu, and Kilifi since 2020.

The initiative aims to improve the coverage of malnutrition screening and ensure early identification of at-risk children by empowering mothers and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to monitor their children's nutritional status using colour-coded Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes.

At the household level, families use the MUAC tape not only to detect malnutrition risk but also to monitor children's nutritional status over time, reinforcing positive feeding and nutrition practices when the measurement indicates that the child has no risk of malnutrition. When malnutrition is detected, caregivers can seek treatment at their nearest health facility, where they also receive counselling on child feeding, further strengthening their capacity to prevent relapse.

In the climate-vulnerable areas where frequent droughts and other shocks disrupt food access and nutrition services, the Family MUAC approach enhances community resilience by empowering caregivers to identify malnutrition risks early and maintain children's nutrition even during crises.

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IMAM Surge Model

The Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Surge Model, launched as an official pilot

between 2012 and 2015 under the leadership of Concern Worldwide and scaled up nationally in 2016, has been implemented in close collaboration with the Kenya Ministry of Health, County Health Departments, and implementing partners across 10 high-burden ASAL counties.

The programme aims to strengthen capacity of the health system resilience by ensuring rapid, coordinated response to surges in acute malnutrition among children, including during climate shocks such as droughts and floods without compromising the quality of care.

Under the IMAM Surge model, health facilities develop a seasonal calendar to track recurring patterns of child malnutrition throughout the year. Drawing from several years of data, facilities establish threshold based on the number of malnourished children reported within their catchment areas.

While thresholds are primarily determined by malnutrition caseloads, the activation of surge mechanisms is guided by an integrated analysis that also considers weather patterns, disease trends, and livelihood indicators including milk production and consumption. This enables facilities not only to detect emerging risks but also to anticipate surges in malnutrition before they escalate.

When thresholds are crossed or contextual indicators point to growing vulnerabilities, facilities activate predefined early actions, such as deploying CHPs for active case finding, reinforcing supply chains, and mobilising additional nutrition commodities. These proactive measures aim to mitigate the impact of climate variability and related shocks on children's nutrition outcomes, ensuring continuity of essential nutrition services and maintaining the quality of care even under crisis conditions.

Climate-Sensitive NICHE Programme

The Climate-Sensitive NICHE (Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education) programme integrates a climate-responsive anticipatory action framework to support vulnerable

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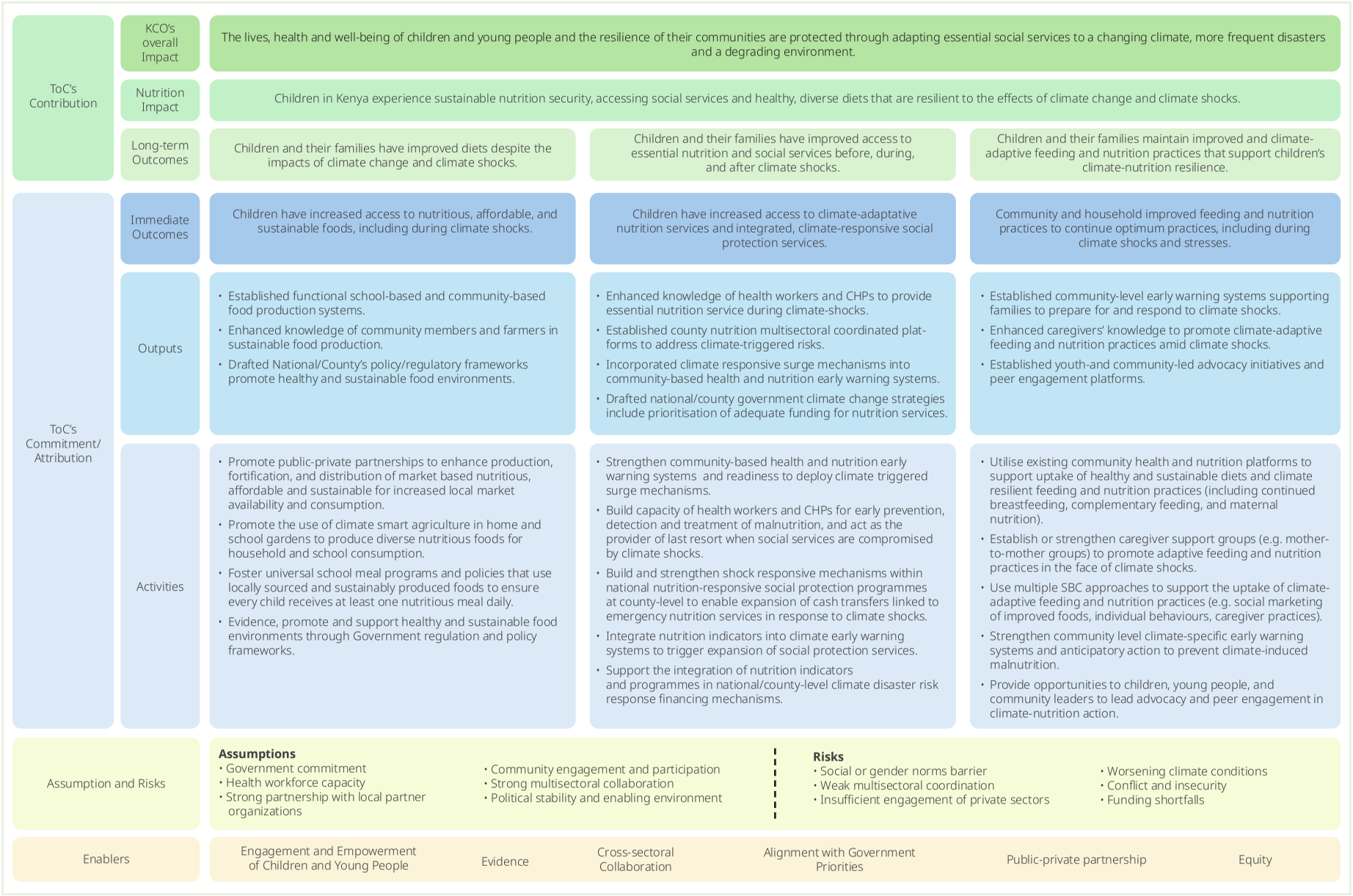
households ahead of predictable shocks, such as droughts and floods. This programme was implemented as a pilot programme from June 2024 to March 2025 in Turkana and Garissa counties.

Implemented in collaboration with the National Drought Management Authority, the Kenya Meteorological Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Health and other government agencies, NICHE links early warning indicators with nutrition surveillance data to trigger rapid, pre-emptive responses once defined risk thresholds are met. When activated, NICHE delivers a multi-sectoral response package centered on community-based nutrition actions, complemented by child protection services, health interventions, and cash transfers.

Through timely anticipatory action and targeted cash assistance, the programme enables households to better prepare for food insecurity and maintain access to food during climate shocks. In addition, NICHE strengthens supply chain management, ensures the prepositioning of nutrition commodities, and expands community-based nutrition services to sustain the continuum of essential nutrition services and promote optimal feeding and nutrition practices during crises.

By placing nutrition at the core of its anticipatory approach, NICHE improves the overall nutrition system, enhances community preparedness, and strengthens resilience to climate shocks. This programme will be expanded to cover more countries.

Figure 1: Diagram of the UNICEF Kenya's 2025–2030 Theory of Change



The Theory of Change is based on the following logic framework:

IF schools and communities establish functioning food production systems and regulatory and policy frameworks promote healthy and sustainable food environments;

IF health workers and CHPs gain enhanced knowledge to provide essential nutrition services during climate shocks, and integrated multi-sectoral platforms address climate-triggered risks and climate responsive surge mechanisms are incorporated into early warning systems;

IF established community-level early warning systems support communities' and families' preparedness and response to climate shocks and caregivers, family, and youth gain enhanced knowledge and skills to promote climate-adaptive feeding and nutrition practices amid climate shocks and have supportive advocacy initiatives and peer engagement platforms,

AND other results are met by multi-sectoral stakeholders and put in place;

THEN children and their families will have increased access to nutritious, affordable, and climate-adaptive nutrition services that lead to improved feeding and nutrition practices and behaviors;

THAT would CONTRIBUTE TO improved diets and access to essential nutrition and social services. Ultimately, children in Kenya will experience sustainable nutrition security, with improved feeding and nutrition practices that enhance their climate-nutrition resilience. This contributes to the overall well-being of children and the resilience of their communities in the face of a changing climate, more frequent disasters, and a degrading environment.

Role of Enabling Mechanisms

In the ToC, enabling mechanisms are the essential conditions that empower and sustain the effectiveness of all interventions across the results chain, from activities and outputs to outcomes and impact. These mechanisms are not stand-alone interventions, rather, they underpin and reinforce the operational, institutional, and systemic environment in which climate-resilient nutrition for children is realised. The following six enabling factors are strategically woven throughout the ToC to support sustainable and scalable results:

1. Engagement and Empowerment of Children and Young People

Children and young people are vital agents of change in building climate resilience and advancing nutrition outcomes. This ToC positions them not only as beneficiaries but also as leaders, innovators, and advocators. Through training, leadership development, and support for peer-led climate-nutrition initiatives, UNICEF creates spaces for children and young people to participate in policy dialogues, design community-based solutions, and drive social and behavioral change. Their engagement ensures that interventions are grounded in the living realities of a climate-conscious generation and builds long-term community resilience.

2. Evidence

Effective climate-resilient nutrition action relies on the strategic use of timely, context-specific, and disaggregated data. This enabling mechanism strengthens the integration of climate indicators into existing nutrition information systems, such as early warning systems, vulnerability assessments, and surveillance platforms to support anticipatory and risk-informed programming. By leveraging available evidence, including operational data,

monitoring insights, and community feedback, UNICEF ensures that policies and programmes are adaptive, contextually relevant, and based on communities' needs. Evidence is also used to generate evidence-based advocacy and policy recommendations and guide the development of climate-smart nutrition strategies at national and county levels.

3. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

Nutrition and climate resilience are multi-dimensional challenges requiring integrated solutions. This ToC recognises cross-sectoral collaboration among health, education, WASH, agriculture, and social protection sectors as a core enabler for coherence, efficiency, and impact. UNICEF facilitates convergence through multi-stakeholder platforms, joint planning, and coordinated service delivery mechanisms that reflect the interconnected drivers of malnutrition and climate vulnerability. Collaboration also extends across humanitarian and development actors, enhancing the resilience of nutrition systems before, during, and after climate-related shocks.

4. Alignment with Government Priorities

A favorable policy and governance environment is foundational to achieving climate-resilient nutrition outcomes. This enabling factor ensures that climate-nutrition priorities are integrated into national and county development plans, sectoral strategies, climate adaptation frameworks, and public investment mechanisms.

5. Public-Private Partnership

Public–private partnerships are essential for sustaining improved diets during climate shocks. This ToC positions them as collaborative platforms that link public and private actors to co-design and deliver nutritious, affordable and sustainable foods. Through joint investment and innovation, these partnerships strengthen supply chains, expand fortification and local production, and support climate-smart agriculture and school feeding initiatives. They also help secure essential nutrition commodities, ensuring continuity of life-saving services even when systems are disrupted by climate shocks.

6. Equity

This ToC is grounded in a commitment to equity and the principle of leaving no one behind. Children are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to their physical and physiological sensitivity. Climate shocks undermine access to nutritious diets, nutrition services, and disrupt child feeding and nutrition practices by reducing the diversity and quality of available food, increasing caregiver burdens, and limiting access to essential services.[34,35] Women, particularly pregnant mothers are also at heightened risk as climate shocks have been linked to fetal loss, preterm delivery, lower birthweight, and infertility.[35] There are also important gender dimensions: women and girls are disproportionately affected, as they trek long distances to search for water, foods, and firewood during times of scarcity. This often disrupts access to education and can lead to negative coping mechanisms.[3,36,37] Vulnerability is further heightened in specific geographic regions, especially in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), where communities face high levels of poverty frequent droughts, resulting in acute food insecurity.[29] This ToC also acknowledges the importance of addressing other intersecting inequalities, including disability and migration, and socioeconomic status. By addressing structural inequalities, the ToC ensures that the most vulnerable populations are prioritised and protected.

These six enablers function as cross-cutting drivers that enhance the quality, relevance, and sustainability of the ToC. They support capacity-building, accountability, local ownership, and system strengthening. Moreover, they ensure that interventions are not only technically sound but also politically feasible, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.

Assumptions

This ToC is based on several critical assumptions—conditions that are expected to remain in place for the causal logic to be valid and for activities to lead to sustainable impact. The following assumptions underpin the effectiveness of the ToC:

- **Government commitment:** National and county governments will prioritise and remain committed to integrating nutrition into climate change strategies, allocating resources, and enabling multisectoral collaboration.
- **Health workforce capacity:** Health workers and CHPs will have sufficient capacity and time to engage in key activities in communities.
- **Strong partnership with local partner organisations:** Local partner organisations will remain engaged and capable of collaborating effectively in the planning and delivery of key interventions.
- **Community engagement and participation:** Communities will engage in nutrition and climate-related programmes and adopt promoted behaviors, including sustainable feeding and nutrition practices.
- **Strong multisectoral collaboration:** Relevant key sectors, such as WASH, health, education, and child protection, will collaborate effectively through joint planning, shared priorities, and coordinated implementation. Moreover, Public-private partnerships will be feasible, and private sectors will be willing to collaborate in the production, fortification, and distribution of nutritious, climate-resilient foods.
- **Political stability and enabling environment:** The political and policy environment will support cross-sectoral planning and implementation of integrated, equity-focused approaches.

Risks

In this ToC, risks refer to potential external or internal factors that may hinder the achievement of intended results across the causal pathway from activities to impact. The following are key risks that could affect impact:

- **Social or gender norms barrier:** Entrenched gender inequalities or social norms may inhibit adoption of improved care practices and limit women's participation in programmes or decision-making.
- **Weak multisectoral coordination:** Insufficient coordination across key sectors may result in fragmented implementation, duplication of efforts, and reduced programme efficiency. The lack of a shared vision and joint planning across sectors could hinder the integration of nutrition within broader climate adaptation and social protection strategies.
- **Insufficient engagement of private sectors:** Private sector actors may have limited incentives or interest to collaborate with the public sector. Regulatory challenges, low profitability, lack of market infrastructure, or misalignment with public health goals could hinder effective and sustained public-private partnerships.
- **Worsening climate conditions:** More frequent or severe climate shocks (e.g., prolonged droughts, floods) and resulting displacement may outpace programme capacity or overwhelm existing systems and social safety nets. These disruptions could also hinder programme implementation.
- **Conflict and insecurity:** Conflict or insecurity in some regions including ASALs could disrupt service delivery, supply chains, and community engagement.
- **Funding shortfalls:** Insufficient or unpredictable funding may delay or limit the implementation of key interventions.

Examples of UNICEF Kenya Climate-Nutrition Initiatives (2)

Promotion of Breastfeeding as Climate Mitigation

UNICEF promotes breastfeeding as a climate-smart and sustainable feeding practice by supporting the Government of Kenya in implementing and monitoring the Kenya Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) Act 2012, which regulates the marketing of breast-milk substitutes.

In August 2025, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO, and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, organised World Breastfeeding Week under the theme *"Prioritse Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems for a Healthier Planet."* The event highlighted the collective role of government, health administrators, and partners in creating enabling environments at national, health facility, workplace, and community levels to promote breastfeeding as part of climate change mitigation efforts.

By strengthening policies, awareness, and caregiver support, UNICEF helps ensure that breastfeeding is sustained even during climate shocks. This not only improves child nutrition and health but also reduces reliance on climate-sensitive food systems, contributing to a healthier planet.

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