

Evaluation Management Response Document

Region: ESAR

Office: Kenya

Evaluation Year: 2022

Evaluation Title: Evaluation on Nutrition Improvements through Cash and Health Education (NICHE II) scale-up in five counties

Person In Charge For Follow Up to Management Response: Lucy Maina

Overall response to evaluation

The evaluation was implemented according to UNICEF evaluation policy and UNEG evaluation standards. This formative evaluation was guided by the OECD-DAC criteria on relevance, coherence, sustainability, and efficiency of the NICHE programme and distils lessons learned from the NICHE pilot conducted in Kitui County. The recommendations are based on the evaluation findings and evidence obtained. In addition to our internal quality assurance mechanism, the evaluation report was reviewed by an external reviewer (Universalia) who rated the report "satisfactory" with a score of 72%.

Planned Use of the Evaluation

Overall, the application of evaluation recommendations will contribute to the well-being of women, adolescents, and children in Kenya. The formative evaluation forms the baseline for future evaluation (end line) of the NICHE project. The evaluation which also draws lessons from the NICHE pilot in Kitui County has informed refinement of the NICHE project design including the Theory of Change and the NICHE project monitoring and evaluation framework. The evidence from the formative evaluation will inform UNICEF, Government ministries and departments including Department of Children Services, the Ministry of Health, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), County Governments and NICHE implementing partners (Action Against Hunger, World Vision and Concern Worldwide) on lessons learned and good practices that are derived from the NICHE pilot and inception phase. The evaluation will inform decisions during implementation of NICHE and future decisions regarding the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP).

Recommendations and Actions

No.	Recommendations/Actions	Responsible Section (Action)	Responsible Person Name (Action)	Expected Completion (Action)	Mgt Response / Implementation Stage	Reason/Action Taken
1	Improve beneficiary data management system to include up-to-date details on household composition, poverty, and food insecurity levels.				Partially Agree	
1.1	Ensure all NICHE beneficiary data is entered into Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) for all NICHE counties The ESR is a government owned registry which aims to capture all current beneficiaries of social protection programmes and (through the social registry component) potential future beneficiaries.	Social Policy Section, KCO	Luke Harman	8/29/2023	Completed	It is completed as per UNICEF efforts. NICHE programme has new beneficiaries through an on demand registration process where new beneficiaries are on boarded if and when needed.
2	Establish women as mandatory primary recipients of the cash transfer				Partially Agree	
2.1	During initial community sensitisation (baraza), ensure it is written into the implementation manual that the person holding the sensitisation explains the purpose of the top-up & fact it should be held/ owned by the primary caregiver (typically woman)	Social Policy Section, KCO	Luke Harman	8/30/2023	Completed	
2.2	SBCC messages to be shared explaining importance of primary caregiver being able to use the top-up for the benefit of the child and their good health and nutrition	Social Policy Section, KCO	Luke Harman	10/30/2024	Completed	
3	Mobilize men to attend supplementary meetings facilitated to disseminate knowledge on more care-oriented aspects of programme to support gender transformation.				Agree	
3.1	Develop an SBCC strategy that includes influencing male attitudes towards children, girls and women	UNICEF KCO	Jayne Kariuki, Laura Kiige	9/29/2023	Completed	The strategy has been developed and is pending signature.
4	Connect NICHE with existing programmes present in the social protection, food security and child protection sectors.				Agree	

4.1	Establish a multisectoral implementation program where CP, SP and Nutrition are jointly implemented and reported in one county (Kilifi) as pilot to inform learning and future scale up.	UNICEF KCO	Yoko Kobayashi, La Kiige	4/29/2023	Completed	Programme is still under implementation.
5	Increase planning and communication for meetings between national- and county-level stakeholders to maximize participation and utility of meetings.				Agree	
5.1	Strengthen core group engagement for enhanced planning through regular meetings including between national and counties, enhanced communication, and monthly catch-up meetings The core group will be from the NICHE secretariat at national level and will be consulting the national and county level stakeholders during planning to enhance participation.	Nutrition	Victoria Mwenda	4/29/2023	Completed	
6	: Ensure timely disbursement of funds to reduce delays and prevent derailment of implementation activities.				Partially Agree	
6.1	Bring together all implementing agencies (SDSP, WB, FCDO, National Treasury, MoH, NDMA and UNICEF) to discuss and streamline budget allocation for cash transfers/ counterpart funding with a reflection of the Disbursement Linked indicators (DLIs) numbers to ensure timely release every after 2 months as per the NICHE Operations Manual	Social Policy Section, KCO	Luke Harman	8/29/2023	Completed	
6.2	Organize a workshop with all implementing agencies to discuss funding flow from National treasury to the State department.	Social Policy Section, KCO	Robert Simiyu	12/29/2022	Completed	The PFM work shop was done in December- bringing together Treasury, Ministry of SP, Nutrition and all the counties
6.3	Prepare costed workplans that reflect budget vote heads for each financial year.	Social Policy Section, KCO	Robert Simiyu	12/29/2022	Completed	All the NICHE counties prepared their work plans
6.4	Prepare Standard Operating Procedures that assign roles to all agencies for timely provision of budgets and activities for Cash Transfers	Social Policy Section, KCO	Robert Simiyu	4/29/2023	Completed	
7	Plan combined supervision visits with coordinators from all involved ministries to resolve emergent issues in a timely manner.				Agree	
7.1	Implement a joint quarterly support supervision plan	Nutrition	Laura Kiige, Victoria Mwenda	2/27/2023	Completed	Supervision reports are underway.
7.0	Develop a national joint supervision plan at secretariat level.	Nutrition	Victoria Mwenda	10/30/2023	Completed	Supported MOH to develop a joint supervision plan and implement the same. Possibility of quarterly support supervision was hindered by the unavailability of counterpart funding from GOK
8	Undertake a full assessment of the NICHE grievance mechanism as part of future rounds of data collection once the top-up funds have been disbursed for at least six months. The grievances should be continuously assessed.				Disagree	