



# Investing in Turkana County's family planning programme



## Background

Turkana County is situated in north western Kenya bordering Uganda to the west, South Sudan and Ethiopia to the north, and Lake Turkana to the east; with West Pokot, Baringo and Samburu as neighbouring counties. The county is the largest in Kenya by land size with a total geographical area of 77,000 Km<sup>2</sup>. Turkana had an estimated population of 926,976 persons in 2019. The county has 7 administrative sub-counties; Turkana East, Turkana South, Turkana Central, Loima, Turkana North, Turkana West and Kibish. The county hosts Kakuma Refugee Camp which has an estimated population of 151,000.

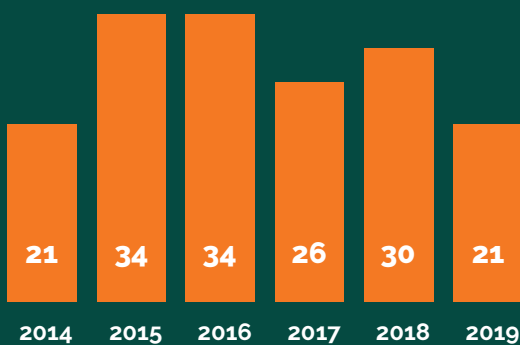
The county has a total of 260 health facilities<sup>3a</sup> with a health facility density of 2 health facilities per 10,000 population, equal to the WHO recommended ratio of 2<sup>3b</sup>. Turkana has a core health workforce density of 7.2 core health personnel per 10,000 population, far lower than the WHO recommended ratio of 23 health workers per 10,000 population<sup>3b</sup>.

In terms of service provision, 83% of the facilities in the county offer family planning services with only

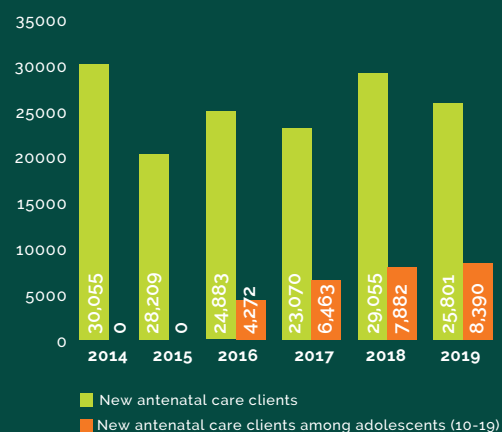
Social statistics		
Population (2019) <sup>6</sup>	Male	478,087
	Female	448,868
	Intersex	21
	Total	926,976
Total fertility rate (number of children per woman) (2015-2020) <sup>5</sup>		6.9
Poverty index (2014) <sup>8</sup>		88%
% Distribution of population aged 15 years and above with ability to read and write (2014) <sup>7</sup>	Male	57%
	Female	25%
	Total	40%

62% having all the family planning tracer commodities which include pills, injectables and condoms<sup>3b</sup>.

Number of maternal deaths per year



Number of adolescent pregnancies per year



10

maternal deaths could have been averted through contraceptive use between January to December 2019<sup>1</sup>

1/5

pregnant women are adolescents\*



To tackle both maternal deaths and teenage pregnancies, more investments in family planning are required.

## Benefits of investing in family planning<sup>2</sup>

### 1. Health benefits

- Lower number of unintended pregnancies
- Decline in unplanned births
- Reduction in induced abortions
- Decrease in maternal deaths

### 2. Social and economic benefits of healthier birth timing and spacing

- Increase infant survival rates
- Improvement in children's health, education and wellbeing
- More savings as well as a higher household income and gross domestic product per capita as a result of women's economic participation
- Attainment of a demographic dividend

### To reap these benefits in Turkana county:



More women need to be reached with family planning services



Counselling on and sensitisation to long acting family planning methods must be provided to increase the uptake of long acting methods



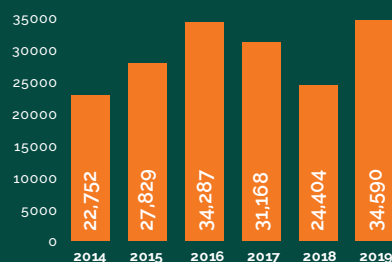
More domestic financing for family planning is required

## The status of family planning access and funding in Turkana county

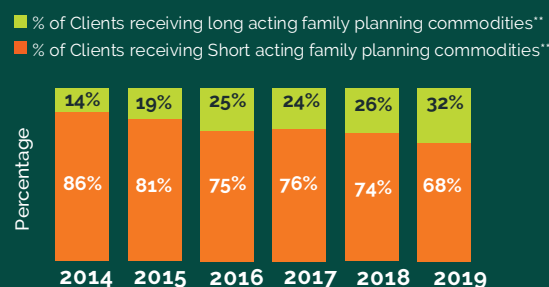
### Modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR 2014)



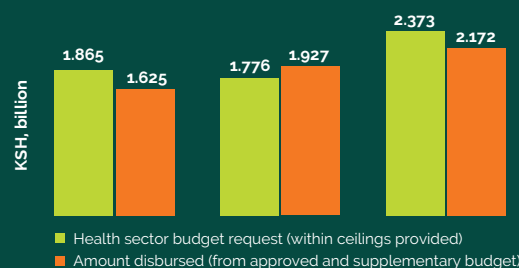
### Number of new family planning cases per year



### Method mix by short and long acting methods among women of reproductive age



### Comparison of funding needs and disbursements, by financial year



## References

<sup>1</sup> Data from District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) as of May 2020

<sup>2</sup> Ahmed, Saifuddin et al. Maternal deaths averted by contraceptive use: an analysis of 172 countries. *The Lancet*, Volume 380, Issue 9837, 111 – 125

<sup>3</sup> Starrs A, Ezeh A, et al. Accelerate progress—sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission. *The Lancet*, vol. 391, issue 10140, (2018), pp: 2642–2692. Published by Elsevier

<sup>3a</sup> Kenya Master Health Facility List (KMHL). <sup>3b</sup> Kenya harmonized health facility assessment 2018/19 (KHFA)

<sup>4</sup> County program based budgets 2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19 and County Government annual budget implementation review report 2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World population prospects 2019*. Online edition. Rev. 1.

<sup>6</sup> 2019 Kenya population and housing census.

<sup>7</sup> The 2015/16 Kenya integrated household budget survey (KIHSB) reports

<sup>8</sup> Wiesmann, U., Kiteme, B., Mwangi, Z. (2016). *Socio-economic atlas of Kenya: Depicting the national population census by county and sub-location*. Second, revised edition. KNBS, Nairobi.

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<sup>9</sup> Kenya demographic health survey 2014

\*\* Long acting family planning methods - intra uterine device (IUD) and implants.

\*\* Short acting family planning methods – combined oral contraceptive pills, progestogen-only contraceptive pills, injectable and condoms.