

INCREASE IN UNDERNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN AGED 6-59 MONTHS IN KAMORIONGO VILLAGE, NANDI COUNTY, KENYA

Nabie, M. M, Onyango, D. A. O, & Wakoli, A. B.
University of Eastern Africa Baraton, KENYA

ABSTRACT

Malnutrition affects a large proportion of children aged 6-59 months in the developing world. It can manifest itself as either undernutrition or overnutrition. Undernutrition encompasses wasting, underweight and stunting. There has been a notable increase in undernutrition levels over the years in Nandi County. This study sought to determine the factors associated with increase in undernutrition among children aged 6-59 months in Kamoriongo village, Nandi County. The study was a descriptive cross-sectional study. One hundred and one children aged between 6-59 months were purposively selected to participate in the study. Data were collected using a semi-structured questionnaire to elicit information on socio-demographic characteristics and other factors. Anthropometric measurements were determined based on World Health Organization (WHO) standard produces. Food frequency questionnaire was used to collect information on food consumption. An analysis of anthropometric data was done using Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) software to determine the Z-score values. Chi-square was used to determine relationships between the variables at a significance level of 0.05. According to the study, the prevalence of wasting was 15.2%, stunting 39.4% and underweight 47.5%. Factors associated with undernutrition were found to be: mother's level of education, introduction of complementary feeding, child's intake of fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs and meat.

Key Words: Undernutrition, Stunting, Wasting, Underweight, Kamoriongo.