

## The MANI Programme (2015–2018)

Devolution in Kenya creates a great opportunity to make significant improvements in maternal and newborn health (MNH). The 2013 introduction of free maternal care in Kenya has led to increased demand for maternal health services and is an important step towards Universal Health Coverage. With support from the UK Department for International Development, the MANI project is working with the County Health Management Team (CHMT) to strengthen core health systems and increase survival of mothers and newborns by enabling poor women to access affordable and quality health services in Bungoma County. Technical expertise is being provided in three core areas:

1. **Strengthening health systems to manage and deliver quality MNH services.** Technical assistance is being provided to the Bungoma CHMT and Sub counties focusing on health planning, governance and leadership and supply chain management. We will strengthen the capacity of health workers to provide quality Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care and Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care services by increasing the functionality of facility-based health management and quality of care committees, to increase accountability of service providers to communities. This will result in both strengthened management systems and increased capacity of health workers to provide quality services to women and newborns.
2. **Working at the community level to increase demand for services by mothers and newborns.** We will support the CHMT to ensure that community units are functional and use social and behaviour change communication activities to increase women's awareness of entitlements such as free maternal care; the national hospital insurance fund (NHIF), increase knowledge of danger signs in pregnancy and reduce social and cultural barriers which prevent women's access to routine and emergency MNH services. We will introduce demand side financing subsidies to address financial barriers to accessing transport and maternal healthcare, and performance based incentives to motivate facilities to improve quality of care.
3. **Leading the County Innovation Challenge Fund (CICF) to provide funding to innovative projects, which offer local solutions to local problems in reducing maternal and newborn mortality.** The CICF will operate in six counties (Bungoma, Garissa, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Turkana and Embakasi and Kamukunji in Nairobi). Funding is also available to support scale up of existing projects that have demonstrated clear impact in reducing maternal and newborn mortality. The CICF is open to international and national NGOs, civil- and faith-based organisations and the private sector.

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