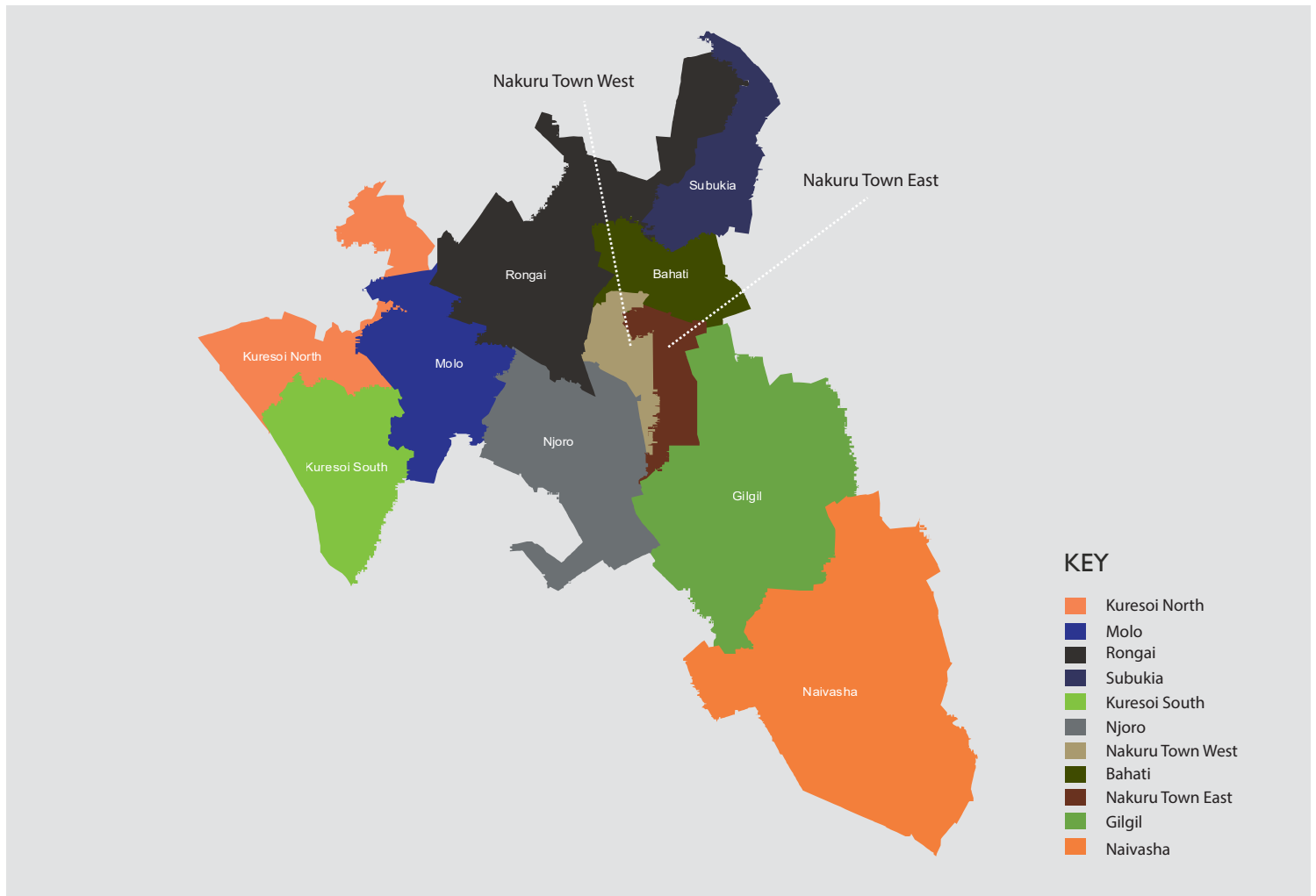




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NAKURU COUNTY PROFILE USAID PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Located in the Great Rift Valley region and comprising 11 sub-counties, is one of Kenya's most populous regions, with over 2 million residents. The county's economic landscape is diverse, driven by agriculture, trade, manufacturing, and tourism. Its strategic location and vibrant urban centers contribute to Nakuru's economic vibrancy, making it a key player in Kenya's socio-economic development.

HEALTH STATUS

The county has made progress in reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal and child health indicators. The proportion of deliveries by skilled birth attendants increased significantly, contributing to a reduction in maternal mortality. Access to Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services for Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in pregnant mothers also increased, along with improvements in child immunization coverage. The county has invested in infrastructure and human resources to improve access to health services, including upgrading health facilities and increasing ambulance services.



CHALLENGES FACING THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR

- Capacity-building gaps when new guidelines are introduced.
- Limited private sector participation in policy development and health sector planning.
- Lack of enforcement of standards, especially concerning patient protection and regulatory issues.
- High and punitive taxes for establishing private health entities.
- Separate taxation for different services between private and public sectors.
- Lack of clear definition of governing bodies and overlapping mandates.
- Biased regulation by governing bodies.
- Challenges with Human Resources for Health.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- Establishment of a coordination mechanism for USAID-funded partners supporting private sector engagement interventions.
- Streamlining accreditation processes for private facilities.
- Orienting and motivating the private sector to utilize Ministry of Health (MoH) tools effectively.
- Engaging learning institutions to target new trainees for specific healthcare needs.
- Strengthening the role of the Kenya Health Professions Oversight Authority (KHPOA) for better oversight.
- Inclusion of other cadres to address inadequate infrastructure.
- Streamlining regulation and costs between public and private healthcare sectors.
- Capacity building of private healthcare workers on various USAID private sector engagement program areas.

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