



EDITORIAL

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UNDER FIVE YEARS HIGH MORTALITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS LARGELY PREVENTABLE

Childhood diseases that cause significant mortality in developing countries are quite different from those in developed societies. The common diseases that cause mortality and significant morbidity in developing countries include infections from various causes namely, pneumonia, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. Non-infectious causes include malnutrition and congenital defects mainly involving the heart, Digestive System and Central Nervous System.

Pneumonia could be bacterial, viral, fungal or parasitic. Malnutrition negatively modifies outcomes in children with pneumonia. Undernutrition is largely preventable in middle-income countries like

Kenya. Kwashiorkor and Marasmus are particularly dangerous when they coexist with pneumonia and gastroenteritis in children under 5 years.

Undernutrition can be reduced from the current high level witnessed in Western Kenya with proper knowledge of nutrition food preservation and food security in households and the country.



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