Using water from unimproved sources is associated with diarrhoea in children.

58% of households in which a child had diarrhoea (cases), used water from unimproved sources, compared to 53% of households in which a child did not have diarrhoea.

Caregivers’ exposure to sanitation messages appears to contribute to reduced risk of diarrhoea in a child.

58% of the caregivers who had children without diarrhoea had been exposed to messages on sanitation and hygiene compared to 54% in the group with children who had diarrhoea.

Health facilities played a key role in communicating sanitation related messages.

42% of the caregivers with children without diarrhoea and 30% of those who had diarrhoea, heard the information at the health facilities.

Not treating drinking water at home and poor storage contributes to the risk of a child having diarrhoea.

71% of households in which a child had diarrhoea, did not treat water before drinking, compared to 56% of those in which the child did not have diarrhoea.

If caregivers wash hands with soap after using toilet, it reduces a child’s risk of diarrhoea.

62% of respondents in households where a child did not have diarrhoea reported washing hands with soap after using the toilet, compared to 54% of those who had a child with diarrhoea.

30% of households that did not have a child with diarrhoea and 30% of households that had a child with diarrhoea.

Poor management of faecal sludge contributes to contamination of the environment and water sources.

30% The proportion of faecal matter in Elgeyo Marakwet that is not safely contained or disposed of safely.

19% The proportion of faecal matter in Elgeyo Marakwet deposited directly into the environment through open defecation.

Recommendations:

To address this situation, Elgeyo Marakwet County Government should:

• Develop and implement policy on proper waste management and water treatment
• Mobilise the community to build improved toilets
• Allocate additional resources to countryside sanitation programmes
• Conduct public awareness and education on personal hygiene and sanitation.

In Elgeyo Marakwet County, access to clean water and appropriate sanitation remains a challenge to a significant proportion of the population.

Access to improved sanitation services are limited and many households still use unimproved sources and practice open defecation. A recent study sought to establish the effects of poor sanitation on public health, the environment and well-being in Elgeyo Marakwet County. What do the findings show?

Key contributors to diarrhoea in children in Elgeyo Marakwet County

• Contaminated sources of household water
• Lack of treatment of water at home and poor storage
• Poor personal hygiene and sanitation habits of the caregivers

For more information on these findings, see report:


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This infographic is the result of the study entitled Understanding the Effects of Poor Sanitation on Public Health, the Environment and Well-being commissioned by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) as part of the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) programme which advocates for county governments to address water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues affecting their communities. The V4CP programme is implemented by SNV in collaboration with the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). The research was conducted by the Centre for Population Health Research & Management (CPHRM).