1. General Profile

2. Under-five mortality (U5M), 1965-2015

2.1 U5M (per 1000 live births)

U5M trends in Meru, relative to the national mean, CEREB mean and progress in meeting global U5M reduction targets set during World Summit for Children (WSC), the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.2.

2.2 Trends in U5M and progress towards achieving global targets


3.1 Child Factors


Coverage of breast feeding indicators, and the percentage change between 1993 and 2014. Green indicates an improvement. The darker the green the greater the improvement.


Coverage of malnutrition indicators, and the percentage change between 1993 and 2014. Red indicates deterioration in the indicator and green an improvement.
3.2 Maternal factors

- Birth interval: 80.2%
- Maternal literacy: 76.35%
- Maternal education: 63.6%
- Contraceptive: 31.12%
- Female-headed household: 34.48%


3.3 Health Care Utilization


3.5 Health Interventions


Key Messages

- U5M rate in Meru remained higher than the regional average between 1965-1997. Within that period, the rate declined, with a greater reduction observed between 1975-1984. However, between 2005 and 2013, the rate increased by 25%, becoming one of the highest U5M upsurges observed in the region and nationally.
- Meru has had the lowest vaccination coverage among CEREB counties, though at the national level the coverage is high.
- Except for improved sanitation, by 2014, Meru county had over 63% of households classified as least poor and those with access to sanitation and clean water and classified as least poor.

3.4 Household factors

- Improved sanitation
- Improved water
- Least poor household

Comparison of household factors in 1993 and 2014.

3.6 Infections

3.6.1 Malaria Prevalence

Malaria prevalence in Meru and other CEREB counties.

3.6.2 HIV Prevalence


Factors that were either not monitored or had not been rolled out by 1993 (IPTp1, IPTp2, Iron Supplementation, Vitamin A-mothers, Vitamin A-children, Antimalarial and Child-ITN)

Note: TT2 - Two doses of tetanus toxoid Injection
IPTp - Intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy
ORS - Oral rehydration salts use
DPT3 - 3rd dose of diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis vaccine
Polio3 – 3rd dose of polio vaccine
Child-ITN - Insecticide treated bed nets use by children

Note: Birth interval - the proportion of children with a preceding or succeeding birth interval >24 months.
Low parity - the proportion of women aged <30 years with less than 3 or aged >29 years with less than 5 children.
Maternal education - the proportion of mothers (15-49 years) who had greater than primary education at the time of the survey.

Note: Improved sanitation - proportion of households who have access to flush toilet facilities. Improved and intermediate sanitation have access to any form of a toilet facility. Improved water is the proportion of households who have access to piped water for drinking. Improved and intermediate have access to either piped or boreholes/wells water for drinking.
Least poor household - proportion of households considered not poor comprising of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quintiles of the wealth index.

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