

Kenya

Country profile

2016
Decemberwww.devinit.org/p20i

This country profile is produced by Development Initiatives to support the National Dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As one of the founding partners of the Leave No One Behind partnership, established in July 2015, our role is to provide data at a national level to help track progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so we can make sure that no one is left behind.

Poverty profile¹

- In Kenya, the national rural and urban poverty lines are Kenyan Shilling (KES) 1,562 and KES 2,913 respectively per month. According to the latest available data (2005), 45.2% of the population live below this line, of which 76.9% live in rural areas.
- The international extreme poverty line, which stands at PPP\$1.90 a day, is used to measure how many people live in poverty in all countries by the same standard. In Kenya extreme poverty has been increasing since 1999, rising from 18.8% in 1994 to 33.7% in 2005, and has since fallen to 25.1% in 2013.
- As of 2005, the richest 20% in Kenya owned 54.1% of national income, in contrast to the 4.7% shared by the poorest 20%.
- In 2005 analysis by the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Turkana County had the largest incidence of poverty with 87.5% of residents living below the poverty line, while the capital Nairobi had the least at 21.1%.
- In the same analysis, Kakamega County was found to have the largest proportion of people living below the poverty line with 4.8%, while Lamu had the least with 0.2%.

**National rural
poverty line
(KES per month)**

1,562

Note: 2005. Source: KNBS

**National urban
poverty line
(KES per month)**

2,913

Note: 2005. Source: KNBS

**% of rural
population living
below the rural
poverty line**

50.5%

Note: 2005 data. Source: KNBS.

**% of urban
population living
below the urban
poverty line**

33.5%

Note: 2005 data. Source: KNBS.

**Mean household income
per month (2011 PPP\$)**

124.39

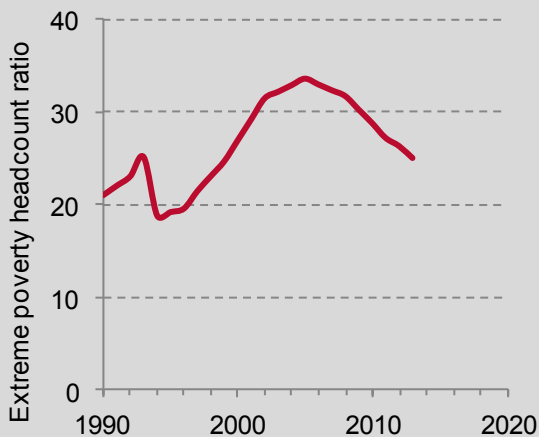
Note: 2005 data. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet.

**% of population living below the
international extreme poverty line**

25.1%

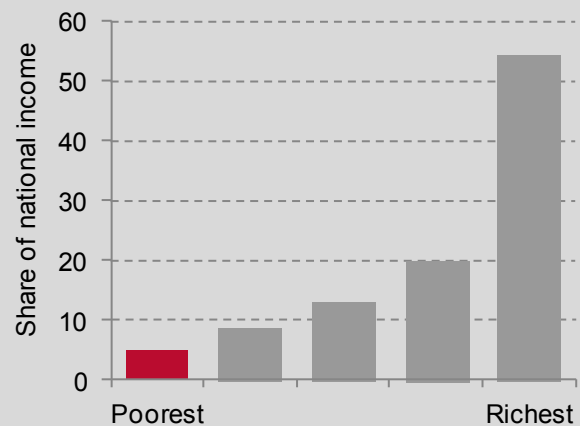
Note: 2013 data, international extreme poverty line is 2011 PPP\$1.90/day. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet.

Is poverty reducing over time?



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank's PovcalNet.

How is income distributed?



Note: 2005 data. Source: World Development Indicators.

Economic profile

- In 2015, Kenya's GDP per capita was PPP\$2,901 compared with a regional average of PPP\$3,477 for Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In Kenya in 2005, the Gini index was 48.5, up from 46.3 in 1997, reflecting an increasingly unequal distribution of income in Kenya. According to 2005 KNBS analysis,² six counties were above the national Gini index score, with Tana River being most unequal with a score of 63.7 and Turkana the most equal with 28.3.
- Out of 188 countries, Kenya is ranked 145 on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index (2015), with a score of 0.548.

**GDP per capita
(2011 PPP\$)**

2,901

Note: 2015 data. Source: World Development Indicators.

**Human Development
Index Ranking**

145/188

Note: 2015 data. Source: United Nations Development Programme.

Gini index

44.5

Note: 2005 data. Source: KNBS

Education outcomes

- In 2010, the Kenya government spent PPP\$139.83 per capita on education, this compares with a regional average for sub-Saharan Africa of PPP\$132.65.
- In 2015, Kenya's adult literacy rate stood at 78%, down from 82.2% in 2000.
- Net primary school enrolment was 84.9% up from 62.0% in 2002, the last year without free primary school education offered by the State. There was a slight 4 point drop in enrolment rates in 2008. This can generally be attributed to the post-election crisis that engulfed the country after the 2007 elections.

Adult literacy rate (%)

78%

Note: 2015 data. Source: World Development Indicators.

Per capita public expenditure on education (2011 PPP\$)

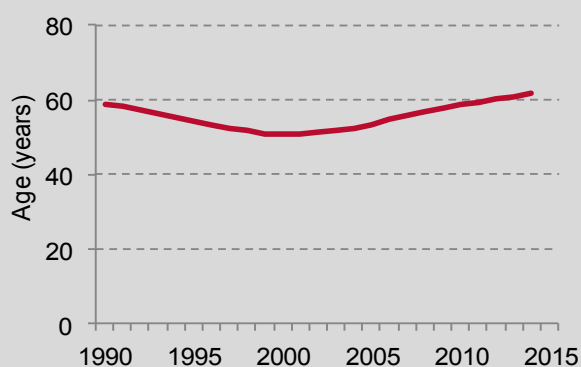
139.83

Note: 2010 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Health outcomes

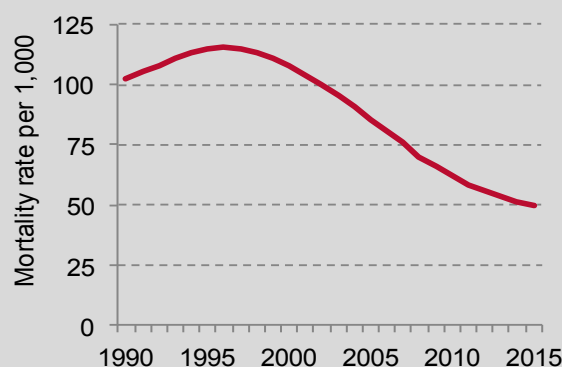
- Life expectancy in Kenya has steadily increased from 58.8 in 1990 to 61.6 in 2014. According to the 2009³ Census, the county with the highest cumulative life expectancy at birth and for people over 60 is Isiolo, while Garissa and West Pokot are close second. Vihiga has the lowest life expectancy.
- According to the 2009⁴ Census, the most common form of disability among the population is physical/self-care disability,⁵ which affects 1.3% of the population. Homa Bay County has the largest prevalence with 3.4% of the population afflicted while Nairobi has the lowest incidence reported at 0.6% of the population. Mental disability scored the lowest among the defined categories, affecting 0.4 of people%. Lowest and highest prevalence counties were Nairobi at 0.2% and Taita-Taveta at 0.8%.
- Since 1990, the mortality rate of children under 5 has fallen from 102.3 per 1,000 down to 49.4 per 1,000 in 2015.
- In 2014, public spending on healthcare in Kenya was PPP\$98.76 per capita, compared with a regional average for sub-Saharan Africa of PPP\$80.12.

Life expectancy at birth



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Under five mortality rate per 1,000



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Per capita public expenditure on healthcare (2011 PPP\$)

98.76

Note: 2014 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Note: Economic, health and education data in this profile are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's World Development Indicators and the UNDP's Human Development Index; please refer to these sources for full definition of public spending. Poverty data are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's PovcalNet.

Achieving the SDGs

Kenya's recent history is one of steady economic growth and growing inward investments. However, unlike similar emerging economies in Africa, poverty has been on the rise in Kenya, worsened by growing inequality as indicated by the trend of the Gini index. Despite a reasonably comparable per capita expenditure in social services, social outcomes are not improving, as can be seen from declining literacy rates of the adult population. Economic growth has resulted in an emerging and growing rift between urban and rural populations both in terms of income and availability of basic social services.

If global efforts to end poverty and achieve the SDGs are to be reached, it is essential that no one is left behind; the SDGs will not be considered met unless they are met for everyone. However, current data is not good enough to tell us exactly who is being left behind, where they live and why. To better target resources and track their progress we need to better understand who they are. To achieve this we need more and better data disaggregated by at least geography, gender, age and disability.

A new project from Development Initiatives, the P20 Initiative, will be doing just this. The P20 Initiative will provide data on whether things are improving for the poorest 20% of people globally. It will do this by gathering and using existing data and promoting better disaggregation of data on people so we can ensure that those furthest behind are reached first and included in progress so the SDGs can be achieved for all.

Contact

If you would like more information on any of the data provided in this summary or on the P20 Initiative please contact Cat Langdon on cat.langdon@devinit.org

Data use survey

Do you use data in your work? How would you rate your use of data? What data sources do you use? We are interested to hear about the ways in which you use data in your work. Please follow the link below and complete our short survey: goo.gl/iEJdZb

Notes

¹ KIBHS, KNBS 2005 <http://statistics.knbs.or.ke/nada/index.php/catalog/8/download/647>

² KIBHS, KNBS 2005 <http://statistics.knbs.or.ke/nada/index.php/catalog/8/download/647>

³ KODI Analysis of 2009 Census <https://www.opendata.go.ke/api/views/ku8s-gpcr/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD&bom=true>


⁴ KODI Analysis of 2009 Census <https://www.opendata.go.ke/api/views/ku8s-gpcr/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD&bom=true>

⁵ Physical/self care disability as derived from census question “Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities: dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home?”

http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/glossary.cfm?q_id=&view=true

The Leave No One Behind partnership seeks to drive global momentum to make sure that happens. Made up of three international non-profit organisations (CIVICUS, Development Initiatives, and Project Everyone) with the support of the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development we have come together as founding partners to catalyse a global movement to ensure that the pledge to Leave No One Behind turns from words into reality.

For more information on the Leave No One Behind partnership please email info@leavenoonebehind.global or visit www.leavenoonebehind.global



Development Initiatives (DI) is an independent international development organisation working on the use of data to drive poverty eradication and sustainable development.