

Kenya

About Kenya

Last updated: July 2008

- Grand Coalition Government formed in February 2008 after a disputed general election led to widespread violence and ethnic division.
- National absolute poverty has declined from 52.3% in 1997 to 45.9% in 2005/06 but inequality remains high. 1 in 5 Kenyans have consumption levels that are inadequate to meet basic food needs. Gini co-efficient ranking of 0.45 (urban)¹. GNI per capita \$580, lower than Sub-Saharan Africa average (\$842)⁴.
- The economy has been growing steadily over the last three years (5.8% in 2005 and 6.1% in 2006, 7% in 2007²), but predicted growth for 2008 reduced to 4% as a result of the political instability.
- Population of 34.5m². Life expectancy is 45 years³. More than 1 in 10 children dies before their fifth birthday⁴.
- For every 100,000 births, more than 400 women die in childbirth⁴ (the rate in the UK is less than 10).
- 5.1% of the adult population lives with HIV/AIDS (about 1.1 million people). In the UK the number is around 60,000⁴.

DFID: Working to reduce poverty in Kenya

DFID's primary aim in Kenya is to reduce poverty in line with the internationally agreed targets. Over the past four years DFID has focused its spending on 3 main sectors: Education, Health & HIV/AIDS and Governance, while maintaining engagement with other partners in private sector development, financial sector reform, public sector reform, land reform and statistical capacity building. DFID has also responded to a series of humanitarian disasters, including floods, drought, disease and the recent political and ethnic violence. Since 2001/02, DFID has spent over £170 million in Kenya, making it the second largest bilateral donor. In financial year 2007/08 DFID provided £50 million in assistance.

Making aid effective

Following the crisis, DFID maintains a cautious graduated approach in line with the broader donor community. The UK is one of 17 donors signed up to a Kenya Joint Assistance strategy (KJAS) which provides a clear direction for the international community in support of the government and ensures more coherence in the delivery of aid programmes.

DFID does not provide general budget support to Kenya. Instead its funds are managed separately by reliable Financial Management Agents or through special, earmarked government accounts, or provided directly to civil society. In this way, financial risks are minimised while delivering key benefits to poor Kenyans and making a real contribution towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Governance

- Corruption remains a significant problem in Kenya. The Transparency International Corruption Index ranks Kenya 142nd out of 163 countries. DFID helps to tackle corruption through support to civil society organisations, improving political accountability, strengthening systems of accountability and transparency, and civic education.
- DFID's Political Empowerment Programme has a number of areas of support: capacity building to the electoral commission, funding a number of influential NGOs promoting accountability & transparency and support to the media. A new PEP programme is currently being designed.
- DFID supports Parliament especially improvement of committee oversight through training and technical assistance provided by the State University of New York and Westminster Foundation.
- DFID has supported the development and implementation of a public financial management and accountability reform programme; which includes the computerisation and integration of financial information & improved procurement systems
- DFID Supports the GOK Public Sector Reform Programme: 'Results for Kenya'. This has many components including contracts based on results for senior civil servants, a rapid results initiative for key Government departments and transformatory leadership.
- DFID provides £6.5 million to support improvement of the collation of statistical data. In 2008 the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics will become a parastatal and a national census is currently planned for August 2009.

¹ Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey 2005/06

² Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

³ 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

⁴ GNI per capita 2006 (Atlas methodology), World Bank, World Development Indicators 2007.

Health

- Our support to tackling malaria (£59 million over six years) will have delivered 12.8 million new insecticide treated bednets (ITNs) by March 2009, contributing to a 44% reduction in child mortality among those who use ITNs compared to non-users. Additional support to Malaria is contributing to the roll out of new combination therapies, improving the response to epidemics, and funding a net retreatment and a communication programme. Annual malaria hospital admissions have reduced by 57% in the last 7 years. An additional £6m has been approved for a maternal health programme whose focus is on reproductive health, childhood immunization, policy development and systems strengthening to deliver essential health services. In 2007 support to immunisation has resulted in 985,995 infants (74%) fully immunized.

HIV and AIDS

- DFID has provided £45 million towards the fight against HIV and AIDS. The HIV Programme supports implementation of a National HIV/AIDS Strategy which aims for universal access to prevention, treatment and care. DFID funds the social marketing of condoms as part of our support to the prevention of new infections, which aims to sell 172 million condoms from 2003 – 2009. This will avert an estimated 85,000 cases of HIV.
- Achievements from selected civil society projects supported by DFID include: 65,000 people accessing home-based care in Nyanza; home-based care guidelines adopted nationally; 210,000 people tested for HIV in Nyanza, counselling and testing guidelines adopted and post-rape counselling policy developed. With DFID support 161,000 people have been provided with Anti-Retroviral drugs by March 2008.

Education

- DFID has committed £55 million to the education sector (2005 – 2010) to support the sector wide Kenya Education Sector Support Programme (KESSP). This is providing teaching and learning materials, enhancing teachers skills, providing school assistance grants to 200,000 OVCs, grants to 4,000 Early Childhood Development Centres and 4,500 schools infrastructure grants for new and rehabilitated primary school classrooms and enhancing water and sanitation facilities.
- Our support has helped develop, in all 18,500 public primary schools: a world class decentralised system for textbook procurement, including establishing bank accounts and special committees, disbursement of per capita grants and public display of receipts and expenditures leading to greater transparency and accountability. And a national HIV/AIDS prevention programme for upper primary schools.

Humanitarian

- Large scale food shortages will affect Kenya both this year and next as the 2008 harvest is likely to be 30 – 50% lower than normal due to reduced planting, resulting from the violence and high input prices. Food insecurity is further exacerbated by regional food shortages and rising food prices. In June DFID announced support of £5 million to food aid operations by WFP in the affected arid lands. In addition DFID has pledged £3.8 million to other NGOs including Oxfam for food security interventions. This is in addition to the £2.5m committed to the Red Cross and others to address the humanitarian consequences of the post-election violence.

Social Protection

- DFID will provide £122.6 million to support social protection in Kenya over the next 10 years. The programme will provide cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable households in the arid and semi-arid areas to help them plan expenditure and build up assets, and to orphans and vulnerable children to encourage fostering within their communities. The OVC programme is on track to reach 30,000 households by December 2008 and the first cash transfers will be made to vulnerable households in January 2009 and reach 60,000 households by December.

Trade, Growth & Private Sector Development

- DFID's work focuses on improving the enabling environment for growth and supporting innovative approaches to improving livelihood opportunities for poor people.
- We are supporting measures that improve investor confidence and reduce the cost of doing business. The Financial Sector Deepening Project costing £11.3 million over five years supports banks through capacity building, assisting the development of financial products for poor people and lending to small enterprises.

Making progress against the Millennium Development Goals....

- Kenya is making strong progress on primary education. 86%² of children are currently enrolled in primary schools (compared to 62% in 1992) and gender equality in primary school is now at 98%. On track to meet MDG 2.
- It is estimated that DFID's support to tackling Malaria will reduce under-5 mortality in Kenya by at least 15%, putting Kenya more on track to meeting the infectious diseases MDG.
- HIV/AIDS prevalence has fallen from over 11% to 5.1% over the past five years.

For more information about DFID's work in Kenya please visit www.dfid.gov.uk. If you are a journalist and wish to know more about DFID and its work to reduce poverty in Africa please call DFID press office: 0207023 0600.