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Kenya at 60

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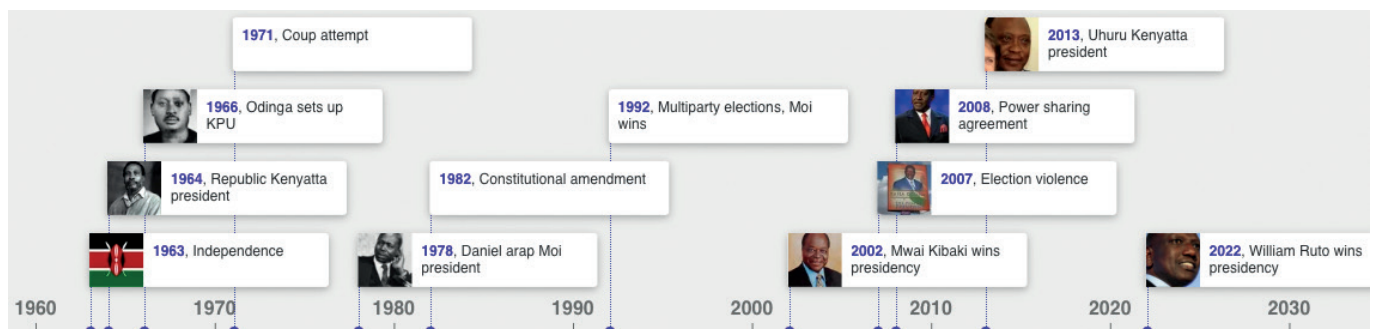
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Kenya at 60

Political history

1960 was the 'Year of Africa': many former colonies in Africa became politically independent. For Kenya it would last another three years before the country became independent, on the 12th of December 1963. Kenya had been a British crown colony from 1920 onwards, with the coastal strip a protectorate. In 1888 the area had become a possession of the Imperial East Africa Company, taken over by the British state as a protectorate in 1895. In 1906 there was a major anti-colonial revolt in the Nandi area.

During the first world war there were hostilities with German East Africa, that became a League of Nations protectorate under British rule from 1919 onwards, known as Tanganyika (with Ruanda-Urundi a separate protectorate under Belgian rule). Between 1952 and 1959 the Mau Mau rebellion in and around the Kikuyu areas caused a state of emergency, and the imprisonment of the country's freedom fighters. On 12 December 1963 the country became independent as part of the British commonwealth.



Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

Figure 1: Political timeline Kenya since independence

In December 1964 a republic was declared with independence hero Jomo Kenyatta, a Kikuyu, as its first president. Kenyatta's regime, dominated by his political party the Kenya African National Union (KANU), initially brought economic growth and stability. However, it also entrenched a system of political patronage and ethnic competition, not least between Kenyatta's Kikuyu and the Luo, the ethnic group of Oginga Odinga (who had been Vice President in the early post-independence years) and other prominent politicians. Under Kenyatta's rule, Kenya experienced a period of single-party dominance, with KANU maintaining an increasingly tight grip on power despite coup attempts and challenges

from other parties, including Odinga's Kenya People's Union (KPU).

Kenyatta's death in 1978 marked a significant transition, allowing Daniel arap Moi space to ascend to the presidency. Daniel arap Moi (a Kalenjin) had been Vice President at the time of Kenyatta's death. After a failed coup d'état against his rule in 1982, he became ever more an autocratic leader, establishing KANU as the only legal political party in the country through a constitutional amendment. Calls for political reform gained momentum in the late 1980s and early 1990s, culminating in the reintroduction of multiparty politics. The 1992 elections marked a watershed moment,

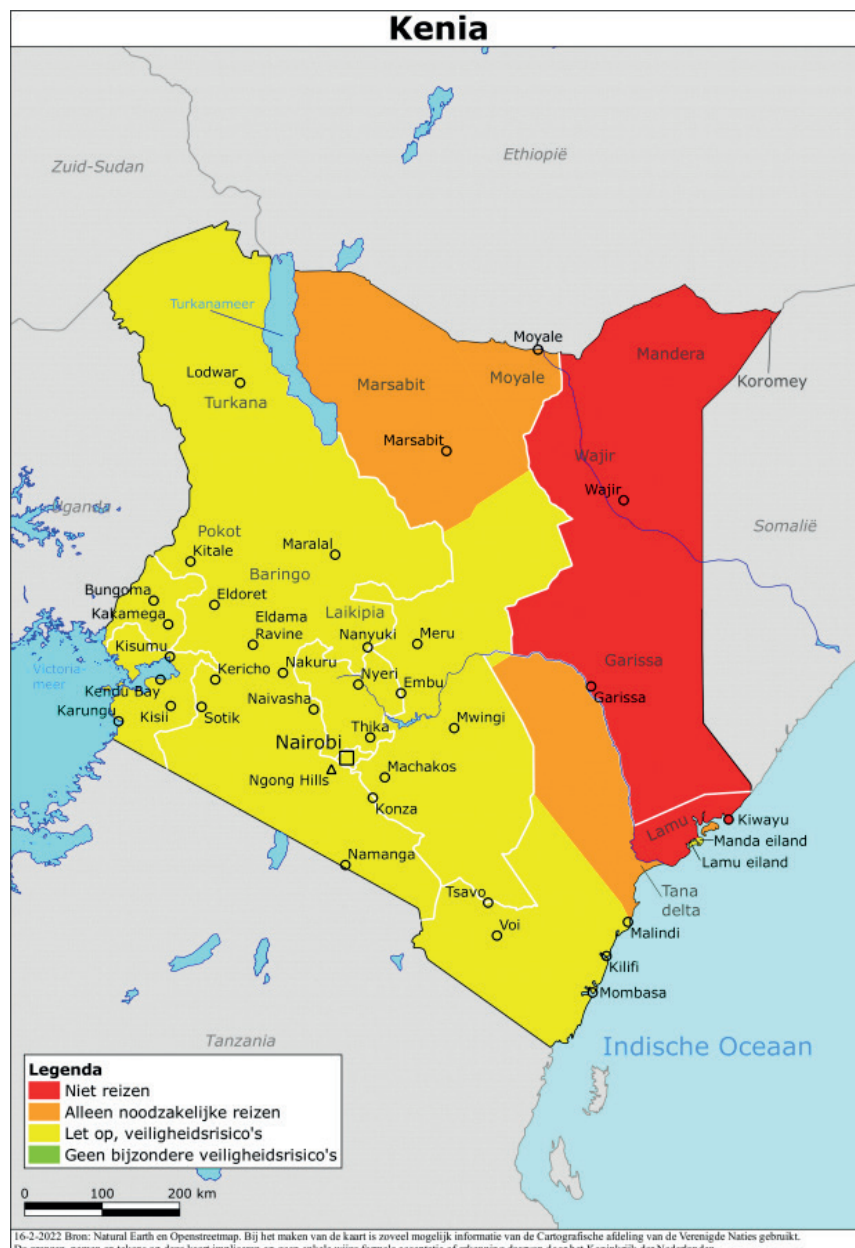
with Moi facing formidable opposition from parties such as the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), led by veteran politician Oginga Odinga. However, Moi managed to cling to power amid accusations of electoral irregularities and violence. The subsequent 1997 elections followed a similar pattern, further underscoring the challenges of Kenya's nascent democracy.

It was not until the 2002 elections that Kenya witnessed another significant political shift, as Mwai Kibaki (a Kikuyu who had supported Moi's rise to power) took over from Moi. In late 2007 and early 2008 contested elections against Raila Odinga, a Luo and son of Oginga Odinga, resulted in violent ethnic clashes across the country, leading to more than 1000 deaths and many more displaced people. After UN's Kofi Annan intervened, a civil war could be avoided and after a lot of debate a new constitution was adopted, with much more decentralized autonomy for the (ethnic) Counties (former Districts). In 2013 Uhuru Kenyatta (son of the first President) took over,

also winning the contested 2017 elections against Raila Odinga. In 2022, however, Kenyatta supported Odinga against William Ruto – a Kalenjin, Vice-President under Uhuru Kenyatta. William Ruto won with a small margin, despite legal challenges. Because of the importance of ethnicity in Kenya's politics and society, the map below gives an indication of the country's many ethnic groups.

Conflict, state fragility, and travel risks

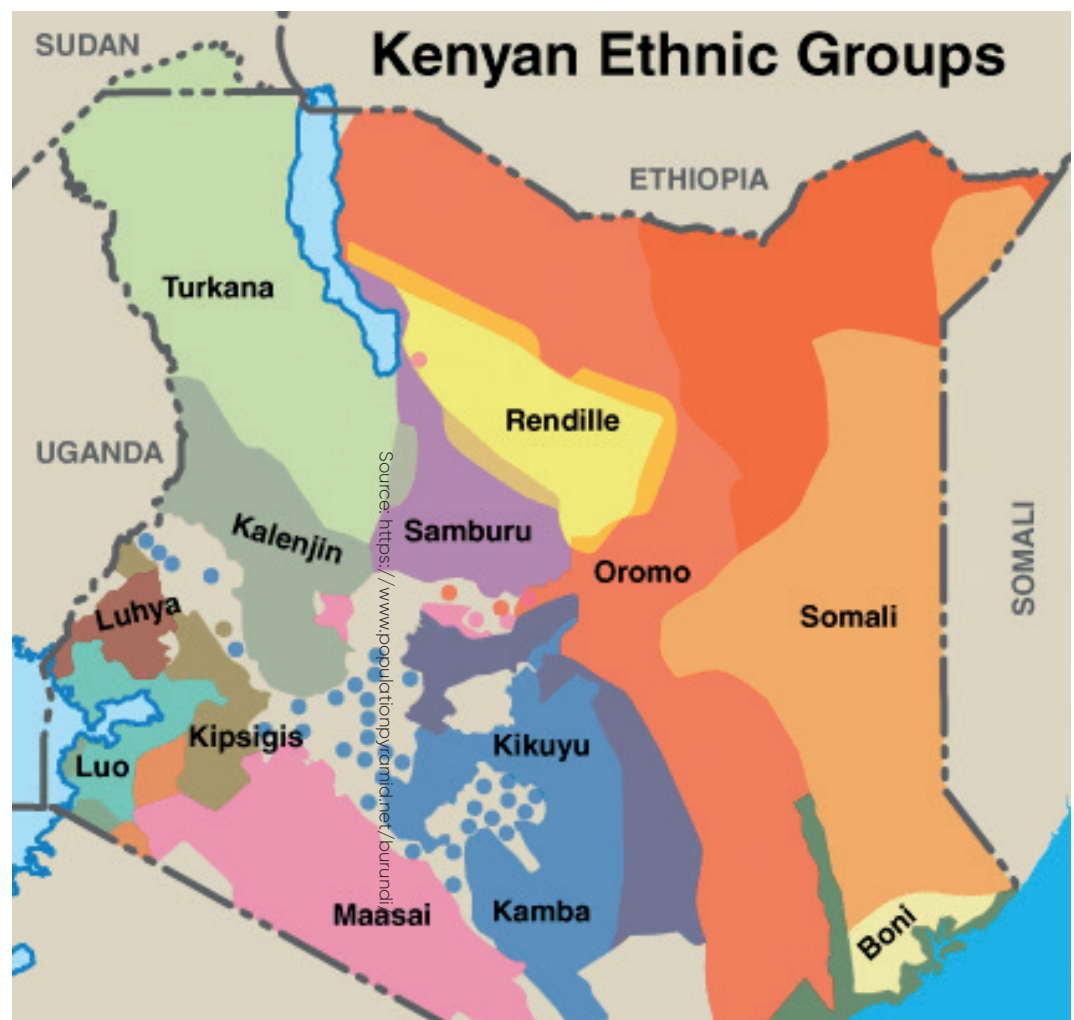
For African standards Kenya is in the middle to high range on the 'security risk' indices. Before the corona crisis, in December 2019, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs had put the country mainly in the 'yellow' zone (= 'be careful'), with the border area with Somalia and Ethiopia in the 'red', and 'orange' zone (don't travel, and 'only travel if really necessary'). Currently, in May 2024, the Somali areas and mainland Lamu are red, and Marsabit as well as a major part of Tana River are orange.



The last few years Marsabit experienced a food crisis, that hit major parts of the Horn of Africa. For Kenya the WFP wrote: “The cumulative impact of three consecutive poor rainy seasons since 2020 has resulted in a critical food security situation across much of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) region of Kenya. These conditions and the substantial relief requirements led the Government of Kenya to declare a national emergency in September 2021. The number of people in need of relief food assistance as of April 2022 is estimated to be 3.5 million. The Short Rains Season Assessment Report released in February 2022 indicates Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir, Samburu and parts Baringo and Laikipia counties as the most severely affected, with a cumulative loss of over 1.5 million livestock deaths. Maize production is also expected to be 70 percent lower in marginal agricultural areas while in drought-affected markets, prices of food commodities were above the long-term average by 15 to 25 percent. Nutrition indicators have also deteriorated, with critical malnutrition levels present in Turkana, Samburu, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, North Horr, Laisamis and East Pokot” (see the WFP Drought Response Plan for May-December 2022: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/regional-drought-response-plan-horn-africa-may-december-2022> .

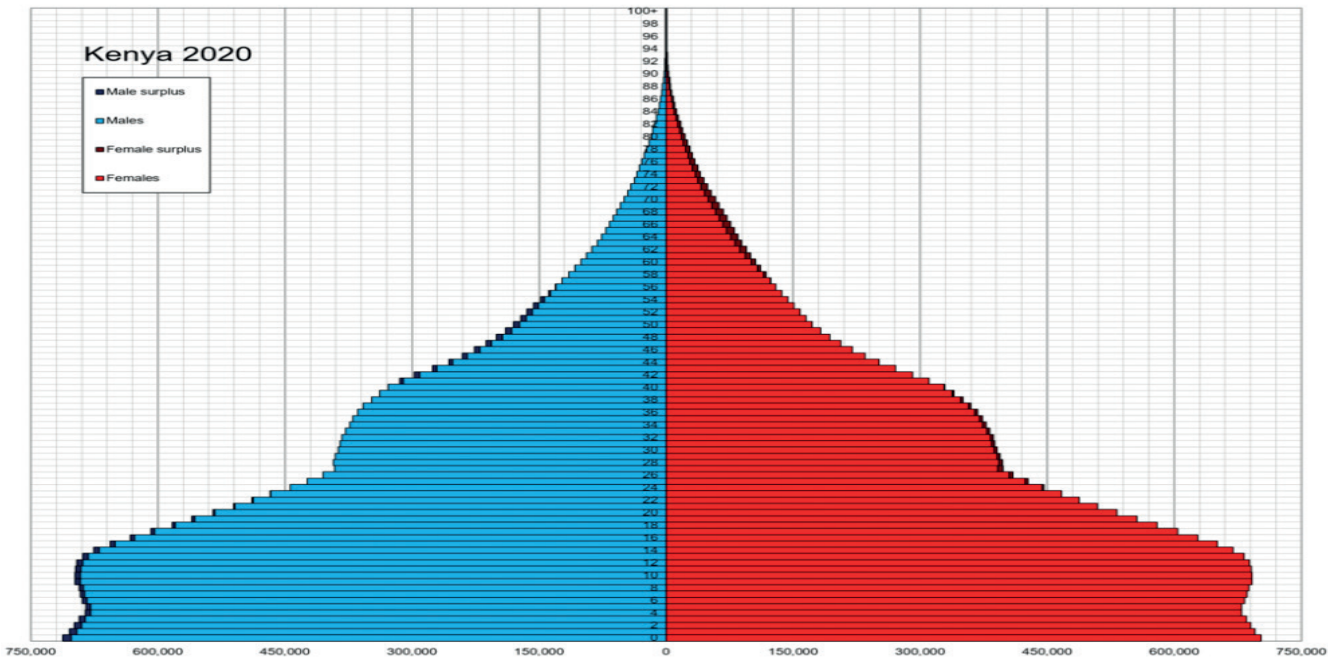
The State Fragility Index of the Fund for Peace for 2020 puts Kenya in the ‘alert range’, with 92.5 points (most negative score would be 120.0 points; for Africa, ‘alert’ is a high risk category) (<https://fundforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/9511904-fragilestatesindex.pdf>). The index consists of twelve variables, and Kenya has relatively good scores for ‘economic decline’ (so: that was regarded as relatively mild, with a score of 6.6 out of 10), and for human rights (also relatively mild with a score of 6.8), but very problematic scores for factionalized elites (score: 9.1), for group grievances (score: 8.6) and for demographic pressures (score: 8.6). The data for 2021 (<https://fragilestatesindex.org/excel/>) indicate a slightly improved situation (to 89.2 overall score), with ‘best scores’ again for economic decline (now 6.4), and for human rights (now 6.3), and ‘worst scores’ for factionalised elites (now 8.6), and demographic pressure (now 8.3). The score for group grievances has also improved (to 8.0), but the quality of public services was now put at a rather negative 8.2, and Kenya’s response to covid has been very drastic, with schools closing down for most of 2020 (see: <https://theconversation.com/deeper-divide-what-kenyas-pandemic-school-closures-left-in-their-wake-176098>).

Ethnicity as a major element of state fragility



Source: <https://kenyapoa.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/kenyan-tribes-map.jpg>

Source: <https://www.monitor.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Kenya-47-Counties>



Kenya: Population Pyramid, 2020

The median age changed from 17.1 years old in 1960, to only 15.0 years old during the 1980s, and currently 20.1 years old. Urbanization is on the increase, but is still relatively low for African standards: currently 28 percent of the total population lives in cities. At the height of the HIV-AIDS crisis (between 1985 and

2000) the life expectancy figures in Kenya dropped from 59 in 1985 to 52 in 2000, after which a major recovery took place. Figures: see: Worldometers (<https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/kenya-demographics/#life-exp>)

	1960	2020	2023
Population	8.1 million	53.8 million	55.6 million
Fertility rate	7.8 children per women	3.5 children per women	3.2 children per women
Life expectancy (males)	47 years	65 years	61 years
idem (females)	51 years	70 years	66 years
Median age	17.1 years	20.1years	19.6 years
Infant mortality (<1 yr)	121/1000	31/1000	26/1000
Under-5 mortality	196/1000	40/1000	36/1000
Urbanisation rate	7%	28%	31%
Urban population	0.6 million	15.0 million	17.2 million
Rural population	7.5 million	38.8 million	38.4 million

Demographic statistics, Kenya as a whole, 1960, 2020, and 2023

Human Development Index, Kenya as a whole, 1990 , 2019 (before the Covid-19 pandemic) and 2021 (during the Covid-19 pandemic)

Human Development Index data exist since 1990, with annual UNDP updates. In 1990, Kenya's Human Development Index started at a level of 0.467. The HDI consists of a health index, an income index and an education index, while UNDP also provides data about life expectancy, and some other indicators. For Kenya the various components of the HDI show a deterioration between 1990 and 2000, and afterwards gradual, and in education strong improvements. Between 1990 and 2019 Kenya's population increased from 23.7 million people to 51.0 million people. The increase in the HDI between 1990 and 2019 can be attributed to improvements in all components:

health, education and standard of living, and can also be seen in the data for life expectancy. However, the most significant growth took place in education. Average income levels per capita (in US\$ of 2011, PPP) slightly increased from 8.038 \$ in 1990 to 8.353\$ in 2019, but with a dip in 2002 and 2003. In December 2023 the 2021 data are the last ones provided so far, and those show some of the impacts of the major disturbances due to covid-19, and of the government response to the pandemic: both the health and life expectancy figures and the education and expected years of schooling figures deteriorated considerably, and as a result also the total HDI index dropped. However, the economic impact, as measured by the income index and the GNI/capita figures could not be seen in the data.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Kenya#/media/File:Kenya_single_age_population_pyramid_2020

Source: Worldometers

	1990	2019	2019/1990	2021
Health Index	0.576	0.718	1.25	0.637
Income Index	0.471	0.566	1.20	0.574
Education Index	0.376	0.534	1.42	0.519
Life Expectancy	57	67	1.18	61
GNI/capita in US\$ (2011PPP)	8,038	8,353	1.04	8,406
Mean years of schooling	3.7	6.6	1.78	6.7
Expected years of schooling	9.1	11.3	1.24	10.7
Total HDI Index	0.467	0.601	1.29	0.575

Source: <https://globaldataib.org> 4.0.

* = 2019 and 2021 called 'standard of living component'.

Remark about the GNI/capita data: the 2019 report shows major revisions compared to earlier versions of the database. GNI/capita (using purchasing power parity and US\$ of 2011) declined between 1990 and 1993, improved somewhat between 1993 and 1996, and became stagnant until 2004. After 2004 there have been gradual improvements, but very slowly.

Kenya: HDI and its composition, and indicators; data for 1990, 2019, and 2021

Trade statistics, Kenya exports and imports, 2017, and 2020

In 2017 Kenya exported products for a total value of 6.2 billion \$, and imported for a total value of 17.1 billion \$ (mostly from China, India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Japan in that order), resulting in a major negative trade balance. Leading import products were refined petroleum, palm oil, cars, medica-

ments, and raw sugar, in that order. Both imports and exports expanded since 1995, and particularly the gap widened from 2004 onwards. In 1995 the trade balance was 'only' -656 million \$. In 2017 it had become 11 billion \$.

The most important export products and most important export destinations in 2017 were:

Main export products (value in \$ million)		Main export destinations (value in \$ million)	
Tea	1.380	USA	538
Cut flowers	688	Pakistan	522
Refined petroleum	294	Uganda	507
Coffee	265	Netherlands	461
Titanium ore	133	UK	412

Source: <https://legacy.oec.world/en/profile/country/>

In 2020 Kenya's product export value had increased to 6.52 billion \$, and also its product imports had increased to 18.2 billion \$ (with – in 2019 – service exports 5.6 billion \$ and service imports 3.7 billion \$): in total a huge international trade deficit. In 2020 major countries of origin were China (4.86 billion \$) followed at a large distance by India (1.95b\$), the UAE (1.34b\$), Japan (0.76b\$) and Saudi Arabia (0.63b\$). The five most important import categories in 2020: petroleum, palm oil, transmission apparatus, medicaments and motorcars. Total food imports in

2021 were 16% of total import values (<https://knoema.com/atlas/Kenya/Food-imports>) and this value has steadily increased from 1999 onwards. Kenya imports mainly maize, unmilled wheat and wheat flour, rice, and sugar. The majority of the goods come from Uganda, South Africa, European countries, India, and the United States (<https://www.statista.com/statistics>), so unlike many African countries not from Russia and/or Ukraine.

The most important export products and destinations in 2020 were:

Main export products (value in \$ million)		Main export destinations (value in \$ million)	
Tea	1.200	Uganda	940
Cut flowers	596	Pakistan	515
Refined petroleum	308	Netherlands	503
Coffee	262	USA	496
Titanium ore	229	UK	435

Source: <https://legacy.oec.world/en/profile/country/>

Protected areas and Forests

Kenya currently has 409 protected areas, in many different categories, e.g. 23 national parks, 234 forest reserves, 16 private reserves, and 28 community nature reserves. There are six Ramsar wetlands sites, and six UNESCO-MAB biosphere reserves. There are also three world heritage sites. Of the total land area 12.4% is currently protected, and there is also a marine protected area (<https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/KE>) (for slightly different figures: see: <http://www.parks.it/world/KE/index.html>). However, bet-

ween 1990 and 2005 Kenya has lost 186,000 ha of its forest cover, which currently is 3.5 million hectares or 6.2% of the national land area (<https://rainforests.mongabay.com/20kenya.htm>). Other areas are mainly 'other wooded land', and areas for agriculture, livestock, hunting and gathering.

Agricultural Kenya

Crop Area (in 1000 hectares), and total production (in 1000 tonnes), 1961 and 2018, in the order of the crop areas in 2018 (with updates for 2020, and 2022).

Crops	1961		2018 & 2020 & 2022		2018-2020-2022 /1961	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
Maize	750	940	2142	4014	2.9	4.3
2020			2189	3789	2.9	4.0
2022			2156	3087	2.8	3.3
Beans and other pulses	645	275	1896	1259	2.9	4.6
2020			1736	1358	2.7	4.9
2022			1657	1102	2.6	4.0
Tea	18	13	236	493	13.1	37.9
2020			269	570	14.9	43.8
2022			251	2326	13.9	178.9
Sorghum	150	164	230	206	1.5	1.3
2020			220	315	1.5	1.9
2022			209	117	1.4	0.7
Potatoes	27	194	217	1870	80	9.6
2020			177	1860	6.6	9.6
2022			210	1754	7.8	9.0
Other vegetables	49	283	178	2686	3.6	9.5
2020			214	3855	4.4	13.6
2022			226	3227	4.6	11.4
Wheat, oats and barley	124	128	157	419	1.3	3.3
2020			147	444	1.2	3.5
2022			135	295	1.1	2.3
Coffee	42	28	116	41	2.8	1.5
2020			120	37	2.9	1.3
2022			109	52	2.6	1.9
Millet	75	130	116	84	1.5	0.6
2020			118	153	1.6	1.2
2022			62	63	0.8	0.5
Oil seeds	2	1	96	40	48.0	40.0
2020			115	47	57.5	47.0
2022			120	50	60.0	50.0
Other seeds and nuts	25	12	89	92	3.6	7.7
2020			56	50	2.2	4.2
2022			39	43	1.6	3.6

Crops	1961		2018 & 2020 & 2022		2018-2020-2022 /1961	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
Coconust	17	65	83	93	4.9	1.4
2020			85	110	5.0	1.7
2022			66	68	3.9	1.0
Bananas and plantains	41	410	76	1447	1.9	3.5
2020			75	1890	1.8	4.6
2022			75	1936	1.8	4.7
Sugarcane	18	525	73	5262	4.1	10.0
2020			90	6800	5.0	13.0
2022			117	8708	6.5	16.6
Other fruits	12	85	66	1037	5.5	12.2
2020			82	1340	6.8	15.8
2022			114	1655	9.5	19.5
Sweet potatoes	25	140	64	871	2.6	6.2
2020			54	686	2.2	4.9
2022			47	650	1.9	4.6
Cassave	55	420	62	946	1.1	2.3
2020			62	898	1.1	2.1
2022			66	775	1.2	1.8
Mangoes	0	0	51	775	+++	+++
2020			66	819	+++	+++
2022			66	758	+++	+++
Cotton and Sisal	114	81	41	36	0.4	0.4
2020			39	29	0.3	0.4
2022			34	26	0.3	0.3
Rice	6	15	26	110	4.3	7.3
2020			28	181	4.7	12.0
2022			30	192	5.0	12.8
Pyrethrum	30	9	2	0.2	0.1	0.0
2020			3	0.2	0.1	0.0
2022			8	1	0.3	0.1
Tobacco	0	0	18	10	+++	+++
2020			16	11	+++	+++
2022			15	11	+++	+++
Other crops (yams: other roots & tubers: small crops)	1	5	3	29	3.0	5.8
			7	32	7.0	6.4
			3	24	3.0	4.8
Total crops	2226	3923	6038	21820	2.7	5.6
			5968	25274	2.7	6.4
			5815	26920	2.6	6.9

2018/1961: red = 2018 is below 1961; green: 2018 is more than 6.0 times the 1961 figures (that is: more than population increase in Kenya from 8.4 to 50.0 million between 1961 and 2018); black: in-between.; 2020 (population 52.0 million); green: more than 6.2 times the 1961 population figure; 2022 (population 54.0 million): more than 6.4 times the 1961 population figure. Source: Faostat data (production data; 2022 is the last year available in March 2024).

Kenya's land area is 58.7 million hectares, and its crop area increased from 3.8% to 10.3% of its land area between 1961 and 2018 (10.2% in 2020; and 9.9%, a steady decrease in the last four years, due to the impact of covid on labour availability and of the recent major drought). Almost all food crop areas have expanded between 1961 and 2018/2022 (particularly oil seeds, fruits, and potatoes), and expansion has also been very rapid for tea and tobacco. Some crops, which have been important in the past, experienced decreased production areas, e.g., sisal, cotton, and pyrethrum, while traditional grains like millet and sorghum did not do well too. Crop yields became higher for major crops, though (maize yields from 1253 kg/ha to 1874 kg/ha in 2018, 1731 kg/ha in 2020, but decreasing to 1432 kg/ha in 2022; wheat yields from 1091 kg/ha to 2528 kg/ha in 2018, 3068 kg/ha in 2020, but decreasing to 2203 kg/ha in 2022). Particularly the growth of production volumes for vegetables and fruits is impressive, most of it for the rapidly expanding urban markets in Kenya itself, but some of it also for exports. In terms of total production volumes, growth has almost been as high as Kenya's population growth in 2018, but higher in 2020 and even in 2022, but that was mainly due to further production increases for the bulky (irrigat-

ed) sugarcane; most food crops show the impact of covid and the drought. However, (urban) demand for imported food has also grown a lot. In 2017 Kenya imported for 543 million \$ palm oil, for 410 million \$ raw sugar, for 385 million \$ wheat, for 348 million \$ maize, and for 243 million \$ rice; together food imports were more than 2 billion \$, against agricultural exports of 1.3 billion \$ for tea, 0.7 billion \$ for cut flowers, 0.5 billion \$ for vegetables, fruits and nuts, and 0.3 billion \$ for coffee, together 2.8 billion \$ (<https://legacy.oec.world/en/profile/country/ken/>). The numbers of all live animals, measured in stock units, expanded less rapidly than Kenya's population: in total 440% compared with 640% between 1961 and 2022. This is mainly due to the relatively slow increases for cattle, because the number of camels, pigs, chicken and goats has expanded more rapidly than Kenya's population. Per capita the numbers of live animals in the country (measured in stock units) decreased from 0.8 in 1961 to 0.4 in 2018, but it slightly increased to 0.5 in 2020, and 2022. The increases in camels can be seen everywhere in the arid parts of Kenya. The good performance for chicken, goats and also somehow for pigs is good news for women. These animals are important for 'small' and 'medium' cash income for Kenya's women.

	1961	2018	2020	2022	2022/1961
Camels	430	3,273	4,670	4,611	13.2
Cattle	7,200	19,635	21,654	23,501	3.3
Chicken	8,000	49,068	57,162	61,072	7.6
Goats	4,700	26,718	36,021	34,530	7.3
Pigs	58	568	649	640	11.0
Sheep	4,300	19,486	25,346	25,814	6.0
Livestock unites	9,376	22,187	26,602	27,770	4.4

Livestock numbers
(x 1000)

Source: Foostat data; 1 livestock unit = based on 0.7 cattle/asses; 0.1 goats/sheep/pigs; 0.01 chicken; green: see the table for crops/ken/

International migration

In 2015 456,000 people who were born in Kenya lived outside the country (0.9% of Kenya's total population of 48.3 million people inside and outside the country during that year), of which 108,000 elsewhere in Africa (mainly Uganda, Tanzania, and South Africa, in that order), and 348,000 outside Africa: 0.7% of Kenya's total population: most of them in the UK (151,000 of the total 192,000 in Europe), and the USA, UN migration report 2015). In 2017 Kenya had around 1,079,000 immigrants, mainly from Somalia (488,000), but also from Uganda (334,000), South Sudan (92,000), Tanzania (40,000), and Ethiopia (37,000); UN Migration Report 2017). Between 1990 and 2017 the number of immigrants increased from only 297,000 in 1990, via 619,000 in 1995 (after the start of the war in Somalia), to 1,084,000 in 2015 and slightly higher in 2017. Some of the refugee camps belong to the biggest in the world (e.g., Dadaab, in

North Eastern province, with in March 2020 217,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers; <https://www.unhcr.org/ke/dadaab-refugee-complex>; another huge refugee area is Kakuma and nearby Kalobeyei in Turkana, Northwest Kenya, with 192,000 refugees and asylum seekers in March 2020; <https://www.unhcr.org/ke/kakuma-refugee-camp>).

Urban Kenya

Kenya's urban population increased from only 597,000 people in 1960 (only 7% of its national population at Independence) to 15,0 million in 2020 (28%). There are six major cities: Nairobi as a multi-million metropolis, and Mombasa as well if we count its metropolitan built-up area. Smaller major cities are Eldoret, Nakuru, Ruiru, and Kisumu. Growth has been very rapid for all cities, but particularly for Ruiru, Nairobi and Eldoret.



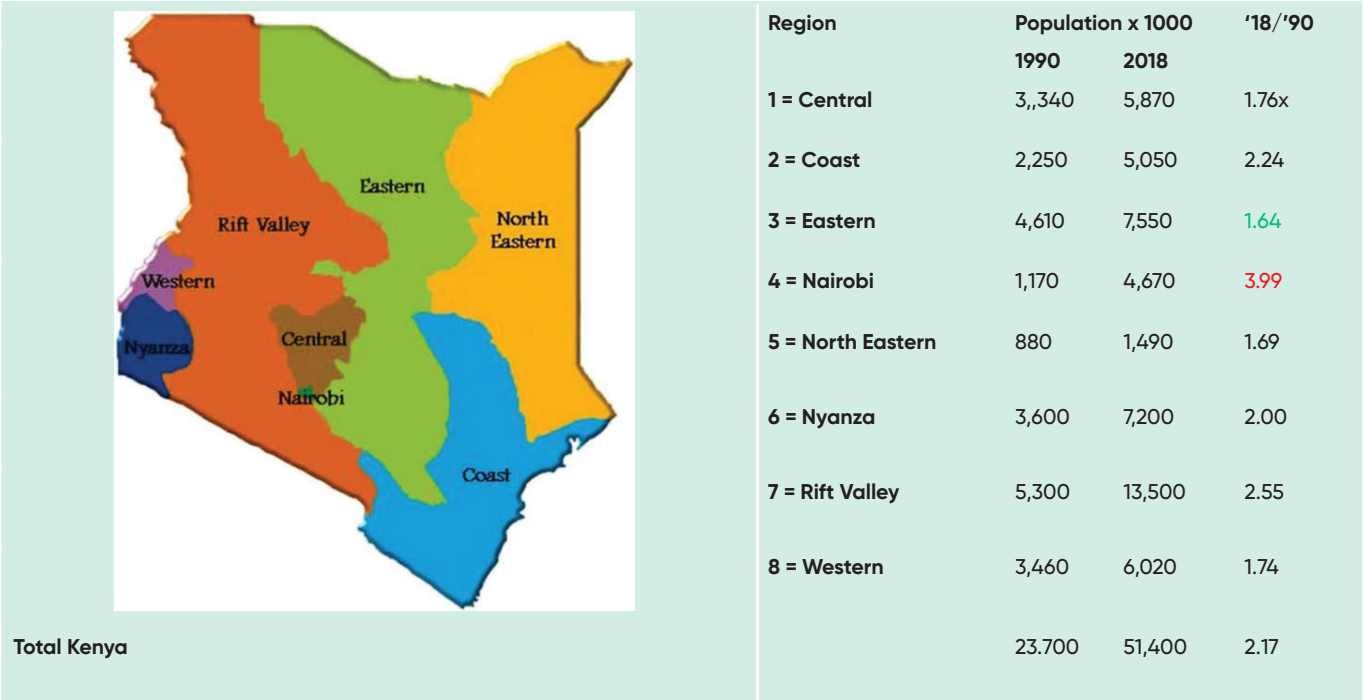
Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b5/Kenya-CIA-WFB_Mapping_Ruiru_is_north_of_Nairobi_in_the_very_densely_populated_Kikuyu_areas

Cities (and region)	Population in thousands of inhabitants		
	Macrotrends: 1960	Worldometers, city, as given in 2020	Macrotrends: 2020 (metropolises)
Nairobi	293	2,751	4,735
Mombasa	160	800	1,296
Nakuru	37	260	383
Eldoret	17	218	394
Kisumu	21	216	355
Ruiru	1	..	389

Source for 2020: <https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/kenya-demographics/#life-exp>; macrotrends.net/cities

Major urban areas in Kenya

Regional Inequality



Source:<https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John_Gachohi/publication/230835747/figure/fig2/AS:202787603390473@1425359740646/Map-of-Kenya-illustrating-Kenya-provinces.png. In December 2023 the latest data (Subnational HDI (v7.0) are for 2021, but for population numbers only for 2018.

Kenya has 47 Counties, since the adoption of the new constitution in 2010, but the Global Data Lab presents data for 1990 and later years until 2021 for eight provinces, which have had stable boundaries since the start of SHDI data. We will first look at the developments between 1990 and 2018. Between 1990 and 2018 all regions experienced population growth, but the highest growth happened in Nairobi, followed by Rift Valley. High population growth was not so much experienced in the Eastern and North Eastern regions. If we look at the regional data for human de-

velopment, which for Kenya exist since 1990, we see that across the board improvements have taken place between 1990 and 2018, but the situation in 1995 and 2000 was worse than in 1990, and recovery started in 2000. Both in 1990 and in 2018 the best conditions existed in Nairobi (but with the highest life expectancy existing in Central region, north of Nairobi). The worst conditions existed in North Eastern, the Kenyan Somali areas (although the lowest life expectancy could be found in Nyanza region, near Lake Victoria, both in 1990 and in 2018).

Region	Subregional HDI / 1000			Life expectancy (years)			Education index / 1000		
	1990	2018	18/90	1990	2018	18/90	1990	2018	18/90
1	502	616	1.29	64	68	1.07	393	563	1.43
2	439	567	1.29	56	66	1.19	307	482	1.57
3	465	570	1.23	60	68	1.12	357	511	1.43
4	550	644	1.17	59	64	1.10	443	609	1.37
5	297	438	1.47	52	68	1.30	146	266	1.82
6	417	554	1.33	50	63	1.27	373	543	1.46
7	478	572	1.20	61	68	1.11	373	514	1.38
8	459	549	1.20	56	65	1.17	393	530	1.34
Kenya	467	578	1.24	57	66	1.16	376	526	1.40
Ineq	1.85	1.47		1.29	1.08		3.03	2.29	

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 5.0

If we compare 2018 with 1990 the education situation has improved a lot, with the fastest improvements in the worst area (North Eastern), and the relatively slowest improvements in Western region. The regional differences in education became less pronounced,

but are still considerable. Also the subregional HDI as a whole, as well as life expectancy, showed a trend towards less regional inequality between 1990 and 2018.

Region	Income/capita (2011 US\$ PPP)		
	1990	2019	'19/'90
1 Central	8,076	8,644	1.07
2 Coast	8,247	8,470	1.03
3 Eastern	7,904	8,192	1.04
4 Nairobi	9,136	9,224	1.01
5 NE	7,269	7,733	1.06
6 Nyanza	7,713	8,062	1.05
7 Rift Valley	7,952	8,195	1.03
8 Western	7,880	7,891	1.00
Kenya	8,038	8,353	1.04
Ineq	1.26	1.19	

Finally, the GNI/capita figures (using the updated overviews in 2022, with 2019 as the latest year) also show considerable regional inequality (Nairobi by far the best average conditions, and North Eastern by far the worst), and divergent trends, with Central region improving most, from 8,076PPP\$/capita in 1990 to 8,644PPP\$/capita in 2019, while Western region hardly improved at all (around 7,885PPP\$/cap. in both years) [these are 2011US\$, PPP values]. The income per capita situation in Kenya as a whole improved from an average level of 8,038PPP\$/capita in 1990 to an average level of 8,353PPP\$/capita in 2019. However, during the 1991-2006 period the situation had been worse than in 1990 (7,927\$/capita

was the lowest level, in 1993; and 7,941 in 2002 and 2003). Since 2003 there has been a steady recovery, though, and from 2007 the income/capita situation became better than it had been in 1990. But income and regional inequality are still high, and politically dangerous. Kenya's Gini coefficient was 43 in 1994, 47 in 2005, 42 in 2018, and 45 in 2020. The 10% highest income group earned 32% of all national income, while the 10% lowest income group only 2.4% (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?locations=KE>; and <https://tradingeconomics.com/kenya/gini-index-wb-data.html>). Updated 2021 data, as available in early 2024, for other variables:

Region	SHDI	Health Index	Education Index	Income Index	Life Expectancy Years	Expected Years of schooling	Mean Years of schooling
Central	613	669	556	618	64	11.1	7.5
Coast	563	635	475	592	661	10.1	5.8
Eastern	568	...	663	503	550	63	11.0
Nairobi	636	604	603	706	59	10.5	9.3
NE	435	665	259	480	63	7.7	1.3
Nyanza	549	584	535	530	58	11.1	6.8
Rift Valley	569	663	507	550	63	10.6	6.3
Western	546	621	522	504	60	11.3	6.2
Kenya	575	637	219	574	61	10.7	6.7
Inequality	1.46	1.15	2.33	1.47	1.08	1.47	7.15

In green: highest value; in red: lowest value

For all years until 2021 the globaldatalab gives detailed information, with the exception of regional population data, for which the last few years are missing. Comparing the pre-covid-19 year 2019 with the covid-19 year 2021 shows that almost all indicators deteriorated, but the globaldatalab does not differentiate for regions: all deteriorations are national data, and the rates of deterioration of the regions is the same as the national figure. For the SHDI as a whole

globaldatalab calculates a general deterioration of 4%, for health 12%, for education 3% (and expected years of schooling 5%), and for life expectancy of 8%. However, the data for level of living /income only show a deterioration of 1% and for Mean years of schooling even a slight improvement (of 1%). However, it is too early to judge the overall effects of covid-19, also because parts of Kenya have been hit by a severe drought too, during these last few years.

Further reading

<http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl/Kenya>
Africa2020: <https://www.ascleiden.nl/africa2020>

Country Information: Ton Dietz and David Ehrhardt
Country Portal: Harro Westra

African Studies Centre Leiden, June 2024

African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL)

The African Studies Centre Leiden, founded in 1947, is the only knowledge institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa.



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