



COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID/KENYA

The mother in this family has used a USAID-sponsored microfinance loan to buy a dairy cow. Proceeds from the milk sales are helping pay her children's school fees.

OVERVIEW

Though debilitated by decades of poor governance and lack of investment, Kenya's economy is still the largest and most diversified in the region. At the end of 2002, peaceful and democratic elections brought to power an opposition coalition, the first government not led by the party that had governed Kenya since independence. While the new coalition government promised to focus on economic growth, combat corruption, improve education, and pursue judicial and political reforms, there is not a common vision as to what the structure, conduct, and performance of the government should be, so reforms have been halting. Current USAID programs focus on governance, sustainable use of natural resources, agriculture, economic growth, health, and education.



PROGRAMS

IMPROVING DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Although an important democratic transition occurred in 2002, the governing coalition is fragile and its emphasis has been more on power sharing arrangements than comprehensive democratic reforms, as was most recently demonstrated by the failure to pass the November 2005 constitutional referendum. USAID continues to promote transparent and accountable governance by improving the balance of power among the various branches of government and increasing the effectiveness of institutions including the Parliament, the electoral commission, the Department of Public Prosecutions, and civil society organizations.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Limited job opportunities have contributed to the majority of Kenyans becoming exceedingly dependent on limited natural resources. In response, USAID helps communities manage their resources more sustainably. The program focuses on improving community-based wildlife management, strengthening local organizations' ability to advocate for the conservation of natural resources; and improving the competitiveness of Kenya's ecotourism industry. In 2005, 72,400 additional acres were placed under improved management for conservation. Community businesses realized combined revenue of \$275,000 as wages and dividends, representing a 38 percent increase from last year's earnings. In addition, after five years of

KENYA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1963
Population: 32.4 million (2004)
Income per person: \$460 (yr)
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

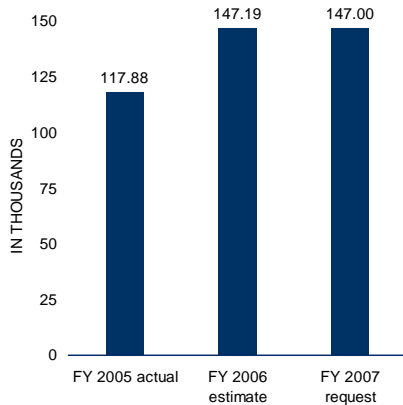
USAID IN KENYA

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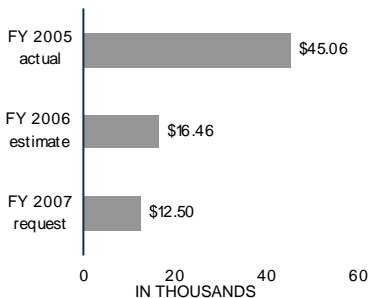


COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO KENYA



USAID FOOD AID TO KENYA



For more information, see the
 FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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mobilization and consistent lobbying, Parliament enacted a new Forest Bill and put a Forest Policy in place.

INCREASING RURAL INCOMES

The agricultural sector contributes 26 percent of Gross Domestic Product and sustains the livelihoods of 85 percent of the population. Even though the economy is growing, the benefits of the growth are not yet widespread. To raise rural incomes, USAID supports expansion of horticulture, maize and dairy farming for poor rural farmers, and increases their ability to access credit and business services. USAID also provides support to government policies that favor small-scale farmers. USAID helped establish three commercially viable private sector avocado oil-processing plants, each buying about 20 tons of low-grade avocado fruits per day from local producers. In 2005, maize yields in USAID targeted areas increased by 19 percent and the volume of milk products for trade increased by 35 percent.

PREVENTING HIV AND IMPROVING HEALTH CONDITIONS

HIV prevalence is declining, but there are still about 1.2 million HIV-positive Kenyans. USAID works to prevent further HIV transmission and provides treatment, care, and support for those already infected. USAID placed 11,000 Kenyans on anti-retroviral therapy through provision of anti-retroviral drugs and supported much of the infrastructure and operational costs associated with dispensing and assuring continuous and well-monitored availability of these medications. USAID's "Nimechill" youth abstinence campaign, the first of its kind in Kenya, has become so popular that the word "chilling" has been incorporated into the culture. USAID also works to reform the health care sector and to deliver family planning and maternal and child health services. USAID helped the Ministry of Health deliver 67 million condoms, 3.4 million doses of injectable contraceptives, and 7.6 million oral contraceptives in 2005.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR MARGINALIZED PEOPLE

USAID helps the Government of Kenya increase access to primary education, improve quality, and raise enrollment rates of children from marginalized populations. In the 69 schools USAID supported in the North Eastern and Coast Provinces, school enrollment rates increased 12 percent from 2004 to 2005, as did girls' attendance. In addition, the program trained 878 school management committee members from 251 school management committees. Under the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program 2,500 girls are receiving scholarships.