

Summary of DFID's work in Kenya 2011-2015

Updated June 2012

Why we work in Kenya

Kenya has the largest and most diverse economy in East Africa, growing at a rate of over 5% a year for nearly a decade – with the notable exception of 2008, following post-election violence. Its entrepreneurial energy, human capacity and available capital give it huge potential to create jobs and reduce poverty.

However Kenya faces a number of challenges. Although poverty declined from 52% in 1997 to 46% in 2006, inequality remains high. About 25% of Kenyans do not have enough income to meet their basic food needs. Progress on the Millennium Development Goals is patchy, and especially weak on maternal and child health. New approaches to providing basic services such as health and education are needed if the millions of poor Kenyans are to prosper. Kenya is also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with increasingly frequent droughts and floods.

Above all Kenya is politically fragile, with a risk that its economic potential will not be realised if political stability cannot be maintained. Kenya's development is also constrained by high and stable levels of corruption and impunity among political, government and business leaders. Kenya is ranked 154 out of 182 countries on the [Transparency International Corruption Perception Index](#).



22-year old Maureen Atieno Anyango had two complicated pregnancies and was worried about her third, with the nearest hospital 40 km away. "When I developed labour pains I was scared of calling a birth attendant. People said they caused deaths as they are not trained. I had heard of the UK aid motorcycle ambulances and called them. They quickly took me to the hospital and here are my babies - safe and well."

What we will achieve

- An additional 3 million people helped to access financial services for the first time
- 830,000 of Kenya's most disadvantaged people lifted out of poverty by the delivery of cash transfers through a hunger safety net programme
- 300,000 more children from Kenya's poorest areas into primary school
- Improved maternal and reproductive health services for 15,000 women and 5.2 million treated bednets distributed to accelerate progress in the fight against malaria
- Increased stability and strengthened accountability by supporting implementation of the new constitution and police reforms

Who we will work with

DFID will deliver its programmes through wide-ranging partnerships with UN agencies, non-governmental and civil society organisations (such as Population Services International, and the National Taxpayers Association), private sector organisations and managing agents. There will

be limited channelling of UK aid through Government of Kenya systems until there are measurable improvements in the government's management of public finances.

DFID is also one of Kenya's largest development partners, supporting the Kenya Joint Assistance Strategy (2007-2012) which brings together 13 bilateral and four multilateral partners including the World Bank and UN Development Programme (UNDP). This arrangement has resulted in an increasingly effective division of labour, and a framework for mutual accountability with government.



How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development.

Kenya could see significant growth in the UK's bilateral aid programme over the next four years. We spent £70 million in 2010/11 which could reach £150 million in 2014/15. Our Value for Money strategy will ensure our programmes achieve the maximum impact for the money spent, based on a clear understanding of the unit costs of delivery. It will strengthen awareness and capacity to improve procurement, and seek efficiency through effective programme management.

In line with the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, DFID will publish the Kenya Operational Plan (2011-2015) online where it will be accessible to partners, the public and other stakeholders. Comprehensive project information, including levels of funding, procurement, expenditure, easy-to-understand project documents and project data will also be available on the DFID website.

We will encourage project partners in government, private sector and non-governmental organisations to abide by international standards of transparency and accountability. We will require them to raise awareness of DFID-supported projects among targeted beneficiaries using appropriate local languages.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Kenya's Operational Plan, please visit <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/kenya>.

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

DFID Kenya and Somalia Office, British High Commission, Upper Hill Road, P O Box 30465 – 00100, Nairobi

Enquiries: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk

Modina Lorisae is a 70-year old herdsman from Kenya's poorest county. He was nominated by his community to receive social protection cash payments. He said: "Only one of my children is currently in school so I will take more of them to school. I also want to start a business selling sugar. It sells very well here because herdsman like a sweet cup of tea in the evening when they return home."