

PROFILE: KENYA



Kenya, in East Africa, is a natural draw for tourists, promising the opportunity to spot the 'Big Five' on safari, explore the Great Rift Valley or relax among turquoise waters on white-sanded beaches. Yet poverty persists, and Kenya is ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

The main hazards facing Kenya are floods, epidemics, droughts and, more recently, conflict. Poor and erratic rain patterns are the main causes of food insecurity. Greater extremes of weather are expected as the climate changes.

Some 80 per cent of the population live in rural areas, though the capital Nairobi has some of the largest slums in Africa.

Kenya has been largely stable since its independence from Britain in 1963. Violence erupted in 2007 around the national elections, which highlighted ethnic tensions.

A multi-ethnic nation, Kenya is composed of 42 major tribes, divided into three main groups on a linguistic basis: Bantu, Nilotes and Cushitic. English and Kiswahili are the official national languages.

The Kenyan church is widespread throughout the country, and 92 per cent of Kenyans are Christians. The church is respected for its record in education, health and community development and has great potential to alleviate poverty as churches are encouraged to live out integral mission.

TEARFUND'S WORK IN KENYA

Tearfund works with nine Christian partner organisations in Kenya, ranging from a theological college to the Kenyan Evangelical Alliance, and an Anglican Diocese to the Christian Partnership on AIDS in Kenya.

We are mobilising churches to meet the needs of their communities – with a particular focus on equipping churches to cope with HIV, maintain environmental sustainability and work for peace and reconciliation after conflict.

Work to prepare communities for natural disasters is taking place through our partners living in disaster-prone areas, such as the semi-arid regions of northern Kenya, which faced a food crisis in 2009.

Other projects aim to protect children at risk, improve literacy, numeracy and vocational training and create better access to clean water and sanitation. Advocacy work focuses on good governance and working towards peace and reconciliation.

As part of Tearfund's ten-year vision, our work in Kenya aims to transform the lives of 300,000 people by inspiring 300 churches to reach their communities through integral mission.

- **Pray for people living in poverty in Kenya.**
- **Please pray for our partners as they seek to help others.**
- **And pray for the country of Kenya, for justice, peace, good health and hope for everyone.**