

# Kenya



(Information taken from *Hope Has Wings*, *Operation World*, *Microsoft Encarta*, *Government etc*)

## Country Information

For further information please also refer to: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ke.html>

### General

582,600 sq. km. Most people live in the better-watered plateaux of the west and south. Much of the north and east is desert. Only 9.5% of the land is cultivated.

Bordered in north by Sudan and Ethiopia; East by Somalia and Indian Ocean; South by Tanzania and West by Uganda and Lake Victoria.

Kenya falls into several well-defined zones from the Indian Ocean to mountain ranges of more than 3,048 metres (10,000 ft). From a low coastal strip, the terrain rises gradually to a broad, arid plateau that covers the largest part of the country.

The region west of the plateau has great volcanic mountain chains of which the highest is Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain (5,199 metres/17,058 feet). The southern and southeastern parts of the country are heavily forested, and in the west the immense depression of the Rift Valley, which contains extinct volcanoes and the soda lakes, is marked by a succession of steep cliffs.

Kenya has been known as a stable country in the middle of much instability in east Africa. It has played a major economic and political role in the region.

Kenya shares part of Lake Victoria.

Population 34,707,817. Capital Nairobi 2.5m. Other major city: Mombasa 900,000. Rural population 61.8% Annual Population growth was 3.6% but is now rapidly slowing due to impact of AIDS. Over half the population is less than 15 yrs old.

Life expectancy (2006): Total 48.93yrs; Female 48.07 yrs; Male 49.78 yrs. Infant mortality *total*: 59.26 deaths/1,000 live births

*male*: 61.92 deaths/1,000 live births

*female*: 56.54 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)

122 ethno-linguistic groups

68.2% Bantu – 49 peoples including Kikuyu 6.8m; Luyha 4m; Kamba 3.9m; Gusii 2.19m; Meru 1.9m

26% Nilotic – 21 peoples including Luo 4.8m; Kipsigis .99m; Nandi .55m; Maasai .522m; Turkana .584m

3.2% Cushitic – 17 peoples including Somali .58m

0.3% Khoisan – 12 peoples

0.7% South Asian – 2 peoples

1.6% Other – including Arab 89,000; British etc. 90,000

Literacy 78%.

Official languages; English & Swahili.

61 languages total. 16 with Bible; 6 New Testament; 9 Portions; 17 Work in progress

### ***Economy***

GDP US\$37.89 billion (2005 est.) GDP per capita US\$1,100 (2005 est.)

Unit of currency: Kenyan Shilling (Kshs) consisting of 100 cents.

Services such as Tourism; 52%

Agricultural; 28% – coffee, tea, flowers, market garden, grain, dairy products

Light industry; 13% - plastic, furniture, rubber, batteries, textiles, clothing, ceramics, cigarettes, flour, iron and steel.

Construction; 7%

### ***Politics***

Independent from Britain in 1963. Statesmanship leadership of Jomo Kenyatta enabled post-independence stability, which aided economic growth.

Oil-debt and high population growth began to affect stability from 1976. Kenyatta's death in 1978 and the continuation of the one-party state with its attendant corruption has seen the economy slide in recent years. There is much unemployment and a growing gulf between rich and poor.

Nairobi's infrastructure is under severe pressure from unchecked growth in population compounded by little increase in utilities. This has been made worse by drought over the past two years, which has led to a loss of hydropower capability. Nairobi is currently suffering regular power and water shortages.

There was an attempted coup in 1982 from a minority of air force officers. There is fragmented official opposition to the government within Kenya since multi-party politics was permitted a few years ago.

Many organisations, including NGOs and mission organisations, have their Africa headquarters in Nairobi since Kenya continues to offer good transport links to other parts of the continent, a relatively high standard of living and continued, if somewhat shaky, political stability.

The general elections at the end of 2002 saw a landslide victory for the united opposition parties (NARC). The newly elected president, Mwai Kibaki has initiated reforms and a strong attack on corruption. The new government seems to have gained immediate support from many donors and donor countries.

### ***Climate***

The Equator divides Kenya into two almost equal parts. The region north of the Equator is hot and receives comparatively little rain. The southern region falls into three meteorological zones: the coast is humid, the mean annual temperature ranging from about 24°C in June and July to about 28°C from February to April; the highlands are relatively temperate; and the Lake Victoria region is tropical.

The rainy seasons occur from October to December [short rains] and April to June [main rains].

Kenya experienced severe drought during 1999 and 2000 and the main reservoirs that supply water and hydro-electrical power for Nairobi were extremely low. However, sufficient rain since then has meant that the power rationing in the year 2000 has now ceased and the power supply is back to normal. A few residential areas continue to experience water shortages.

# Religion

Freedom of religion.

- African traditional religions 11.5%
- Muslim 8% (Majority along coast and NE)
- Baha'i 1.1%;
- Hindu .34%;
- Jain .2%;
- Sikh .07%
- Christian 78.64%. Growth +2%
  - Catholic - 22.61% Growth +1.4%
  - Non-Catholic – 56.03%
 

Protestant	28.66%	Denominations 71	Growth +2.2%%
Independent	22.88%	341	+2.8%
Anglican	8.98%	1	+5.2%

## Congregations

Catholic	600
Anglican	3,600
AIC	5,435
Presbyterian	1,020
Pentecostal	8,687
Baptist	2,610
Methodist	2,000
Salvation Army	1,800
etc	

Evangelicals	35.8%	10,767,000	Growth +2.8%
Charismatic	17.1%	5,137,000	+2.6%
Pentecostals	13.6%	4,089,000	+3.1%

Missionaries to Kenya 2,274 in 175 agencies  
 Missionaries from Kenya 673 in 53 agencies (statistics incomplete)

*Operation World* states: "Few countries in Africa have been more extensively evangelised. Kenya continues to play a key role as a solid base for Christian ministry to Africa and the world. Kenya has the highest percentage of evangelicals in Africa – almost equal to the total number in Europe."

Many international organisations and missions with work in Africa have their continental offices based in Nairobi. These include the ecumenical All Africa Council of Churches and the Association of Evangelicals of Africa.

## MAF

### History

MAF began operations from Nairobi working from a rented hangar in 1959 initially to support the work of AIM in the Northern Frontier District (NFD). The planes flew across the East African Community of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda without the need for border permissions, customs or immigration clearances. The EAC collapsed in the mid-1970s and borders controls were introduced.

In the early 1970s, MAF was asked to sub-base a plane at Lokori to support a medical work for AIM in the NFD but for various reasons MAF was unable to co-operate and AimAir was started. AimAir operations grew and were soon duplicating MAF services from Nairobi.

Due to this change in circumstances an extensive survey was carried out of MAF's work in East Africa. In 1977 MAF decided to close its Kenya operation and to transfer operations to Tanzania where the church had requested a permanent service based from Dodoma. It was felt that AimAir could adequately serve MAF's Kenya customers. A base was opened in Dodoma in late 1977 and plans were drawn up to phase out the Kenya base completely over the following two years.

However, as the date for closure of the Kenya work came closer, a review of our clients' needs highlighted the fact that many of them wanted to continue with MAF and did not wish to be served solely by anyone else. This was largely because, in the event of restriction or shortage of resources, another organisation would understandably give priority to its own missionaries and church work.

At the same time, the MAF US programme in Bukavu and Nyankunde, Zaire [now DRC] plus the newly established MAF Europe operations in Malakal, Sudan and Tanzania all had a growing need for logistics support and regular flights between their bases and Nairobi. It was therefore decided to keep the Kenya programme open and to expand its operational capabilities with larger aircraft to support these programmes.

AimAir began operations by sharing MAF's rented hangar but built their own in 1981. MAF accepted the offer of a place in this new hangar and for sometime the two organisations operated a joint flight-bookings office and logistics service.

Initially, flights between Kenya and the three countries were carried out using a Twin-engined Shrike Aero Commander that was replaced by a turboprop Beech 99 in 1982.

Since 1980, the Kenya programme served the surrounding countries as permissions have allowed and countries served have included Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoro Islands, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire/Congo. International flights have made up more than 75% of all Kenya programme flying.

As both organisations expanded operations, space within the AimAir hangar became more cramped and it finally became necessary for MAF to construct their own Operations Centre and Hangar from where operations have continued since 1998. This has had a major and positive impact upon MAF's ability to serve within Africa.

In 1996, MAF Europe took over the MAF US IT programme based in Nairobi and serving clients throughout East Africa. As commercial Internet service providers and mobile services coverage become better MAF email and computer services have continued to serve over 140 missions and churches throughout Kenya. As one missionary serving in one of the remote areas as a medical doctor says "*There is no service out there like what MAF offers*".

The IT department activities include meeting a growing need for all types of computer help for mission and church clients and help continues to be offered ranging from basic to more advanced computer training.

Other activities of MAF based in Kenya include hosting a significant part of the MAF Europe Aviation Services Department, Information Services Department and finally, an Avionics Department within the Kenya Programme. Additionally, MAF operates a guesthouse service for MAF staff from other programmes.

MAF owns 7 houses (including the Team House for Lokichoggio & MAF Sudan Staff) on a 4-acre compound in central Nairobi.

### ***Political factors affecting MAF***

Much of MAF's Kenya Programme flying in the past has been directly affected by the collapse of the infrastructure and by political events in the surrounding countries.

Examples:

- Tanzania border closed 1977-1979 except to MAF, Flying Doctor Services and AimAir
- Recovery in Uganda following years of misrule by Obote and Idi Amin from 1986-1988. Kenya sub-base set-up in 1987 in Kampala. Programme became independent in 1998
- Regular support flights for missionaries in Eastern Zaire/DRC (3 /week) collapsed when civil war began in 1998
- Significant flights to support relief efforts in Rwanda lasted for almost 2 years 1995-1997
- Relief flights unto southern Sudan due to civil war and famine for the past 6+ years
- Civil war in Somalia required relief flights for almost 1 year

It is important to note that any change in the surrounding countries will directly affect the Kenya Programme, which is heavily based upon flights to them from Nairobi.

### ***MAF Details***

The current aircraft fleet consists of:

- 4 x Cessna Caravan 208Bs
- 1 x Pilatus PC12
- 1x Cessna 210
- 1 x Cessna 206

Current departments and staff levels are:

**KENYA PROGRAMME (not including other MAF departments)**

- Programme Manager
- Personal Assistant
- Chief Pilot
- Pilots x 12
- Finance Manager + staff
- Operations Manager + staff
- IT Manager + staff
- Chief Engineer + staff
- Chief Inspector
- Avionics Engineer + staff
- Logistics Manager + staff
- Property Manager + staff

All maintenance positions are held by Kenyans.

***Future***

Kenya has enjoyed a reputation for stability since independence. However, growing political and financial corruption has created an underlying instability in recent years. Unemployment and increasing poverty due to the failing economy created a desire for change amongst the majority of Kenyans.

After 24 years of being the President under the ruling party KANU Moi retired in 2002. The new President is, Mwai Kibaki who won the general election that took place on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2002. Kibaki had previously served as Vice President under Moi in the early part of his presidency but eventually left KANU for opposition. He was able to unify many of the opposition groups under a new party, NARC and led them to a convincing victory. Many Kenyans are hopeful that things will change for the better under the new government.

Organisations working in the surrounding countries have relied upon Kenya's infrastructure and stability for transportation and vital supplies. Tourism, Kenya's main industry also relies upon internal stability. Unfortunately, two recent major terrorist attacks (the latest at the end of 2002) have seriously affected tourism and this has caused great economic hardship for many people.

With more than 75% of its flights being international, MAF's programme depends upon Kenya's position in the region and is also affected by political or economic upheaval. Instability in DRC, Southern Sudan and Somalia has a direct bearing upon the viability of MAF's work. While borders remain open and surface travel remains hazardous and difficult, the programme will continue to play a vital role far beyond the Kenya borders.

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