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# Kenya

**Total area:**

580,367 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:**

46,661,552 (2016)

**Literacy:**

78%

**Official languages:**

English, Swahili

**GDP (PPP) per capita:**

\$3,516 (2017 est.)

**Life expectancy:**

57 years

**Religions:**

45% Protestant, 33% Catholic, 10% Muslim, 10% indigenous, 2% other religions

## Prayer points

**Holistic Mission**

CMS local partner Rachel Karanja has a passion for holistic mission, bringing transformation and working to build up the common good from the perspective of faith. In May this year, Rachel and the team at the Ark of Transformation encouraged the local community to plant trees, working towards the national goal of planting 1.8 billion trees and achieving 10 per cent forest cover. Pray for the local community as they work together - for environmental awareness to be raised, friendships to blossom and for avenues to open up for the gospel to be shared. (Church Mission Society - July 2021)

**Lawyers provide legal aid for prisoners**

CLEAR Kenya is a legal aid project meeting the legal needs of those who can't defend or speak for themselves. They've recently sought to recruit a new paralegal to serve a prison in Kisumu, where prisoners have very little to no access to laptops or phones to talk to lawyers or contact family. Please pray for the prisoners whose cases are not prioritised, and who have been in prison for longer than they should. Pray that Covid cases don't rise so lawyers can still visit and help those in need. (Lawyers Christian Fellowship - May 2021)

**Outreach in Kenya**

Lifewords' partners in Kenya distributed over 3,000 Bible resources over the Christmas period, which helped them to engage people and address challenges that have risen amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Clara Ngobolia from Lifewords Kenya says, "we received reports of the great impact the resources continue to have on the lives of people in the communities and churches." Please pray that as we

move forward into 2021 that we continue to offer good news, and bring peace and hope as we grapple with the ongoing impact of the pandemic. (Lifewords - March 2021)

### **School curriculum in Kenya**

Please pray for schools teaching the Choose Life curriculum, which is helping young people to navigate the new circumstances of the pandemic. The values of altruism, peace, justice, love and freedom are being used to help children understand the need to care for others in society, especially in washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing. It has also helped them with issues such as family conflict, depression, relationships. Give thanks that the Bible guides us in every circumstance, and that young people would find peace, freedom, and a new perspective as they discover how God wants them to live. (Lifewords - September 2020)

### **Somali people**

There are nearly 11 million ethnic Somalis in Somalia. They are a very individualistic people, sharply divided into clans, and fights often occur between the clans, resulting in many deaths. Somalis enjoy telling stories and learning history through their poetry. Pray that many Somalis will come to know Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. And ask God to grant favour and wisdom to mission agencies focusing on the Somalis. (WEC International - July 2020)

### **More workers needed among the Gabbra people**

Give thanks that the Gabbra people of north Kenya are eager to hear the gospel. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send more workers among the Gabbra. Pray too that the Gabbra believers would be effective evangelists to their own people. Give thanks for Gabbra church members as they seek to reach out to rural families and villages with the gospel. Pray that the stories from Genesis they are sharing will resonate and cause villagers to ask more questions. (AIM International - February 2020)

### **Vulnerable children placed within families**

Residential care for orphans and vulnerable children has to be a last resort. God's best for children, when it is an acceptably safe option, is for children to be brought up within their own family. Please pray that the right support is available to allow children to have their basic needs met, including healthcare and an education. In addition, pray that adult relatives would not only be encouraged to release their children to go to school but also to find hope, dignity and self-respect themselves through tailored programmes that enable them to provide for their families and grow towards becoming financially independent. Reaching out to these families in need not only shows the love of Jesus in practical ways, but also opens doors to share the transforming gospel message. (Kids Alive International - October 2019)

### **Rift Valley Academy Christian boarding school**

Rift Valley Academy (RVA) is a Christian boarding school established by AIM in central Kenya with over a 100 years of rich history. It serves about 500 missionary children, representing 30 nationalities and 80 mission organisations and churches. Pray for its ministry supporting current mission work, while investing in the next generation of missionaries and gospel-bearers. Pray for the staff and children at RVA, that it would be an environment where children feel supported and cared for, as well as develop their own relationship with Christ. Pray too for the families who send their children to RVA, as they can struggle with the separation too. (AIM International - April 2019)

### **Audio translator needed for Kenyan people group**

The majority of the Weera\* people of Kenya are Muslims, and their homeland is unstable. For a few years the Weera people have had the Gospel of Luke in print but not yet in audio. Pray for a breakthrough in this area which does not compromise the team's safety, and that many will hear God's word. The team are also looking for a new translator. Pray for God to call the right person to translate his word for the Weera people. Pray too for God to prepare the way for as many Weera

people as possible to be able to receive the New Testament, which is hoped to be completed by 2022.  
\*name changed for security reasons. (Wycliffe Bible Translators - April 2019)

### **Digo people to experience the Holy Spirit**

For over 20 years, a handful of AIM missionaries have served on the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania among the Digo. Yet, despite this gospel presence, there has been little visible fruit. Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Digo people, that they may seek after the truth. Pray that they would understand that good works or following rules and traditions cannot earn them a place in heaven. Pray that the love of Jesus would soften their hearts. (AIM International - September 2018)

### **Five Samburu men**

Samburu men are quite resistant to the idea of coming to church. Pray that five Samburu men will begin following Jesus by the end of 2017. Pray that they will have the courage to live for Christ, even if it means losing the acceptance and respect of other men. Pray that God will establish his church among the Samburu. (AIM International - September 2017)

### **Sign Language**

In Kenya, two deaf churches were acting as rivals and couldn't agree about anything. Amazingly, God used a team of Kenyan Sign language Bible translators, testing the passage Philippians 4:2 (a verse about conflict) to settle the church leaders' disagreement. Pray for open communication and unity between these two churches. Ask God for breakthrough in the work of sign language translation so that soon many deaf people will have access to God's word. (Wycliffe Bible Translators - July 2017)

### **Wrong arrest**

Peter was arrested during a police raid and put in prison to await trial. Unlike the majority of his fellow remandees, he has a copy of the sheet detailing the charges against him. However like many, Peter is unable to read so he wasn't able to spot that the person named on the charge sheet as responsible for the offence is not him - just someone who has a similar sounding first name. Thankfully for Peter, LCF advocates were able to spot this and advise him on how to address the judge in order to secure his release. Pray for the ongoing work of liberation through LCF. (Lawyers Christian Fellowship - May 2016)

### **Provision for Kenyan children**

Miriam, a young girl herself, nurses a 3 month old baby. The father took other girlfriends, abandoning her when he realised she was pregnant, and has only once met his daughter. He offers no support. With increasing numbers of relationships breaking down, CLEAR Kenya, supported by Lawyers' Christian Fellowship (UK), is seeking to ensure adequate provision for the children, through mediation and court papers, and to share God's love with them. (Lawyers Christian Fellowship - November 2015)

### **Understanding rights**

Families tune in to the local radio station to hear CLEAR Kenya advocates sharing key principles on various legal topics. As a result, the community have a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities and who to contact if they need assistance. In areas where access to legal representation is limited, CLEAR Kenya, supported by LCF (UK), uses the radio to empower the vulnerable and encourage a more just approach to disputes and family relations. Please give thanks for this vital communication tool and pray that those who listen will be empowered and encouraged. (Lawyers Christian Fellowship - September 2015)

### **Trapped in conflict**

The Borana and Rendille peoples of Northern Kenya have been trapped in conflict for decades. But efforts to bring peace have started to bear fruit. Having borrowed animals from the new Community Livestock Bank, impoverished young widows on both sides repay the loan by giving away the first female calf born to women from the other tribe. Pray for healing and restoration as these women who

have lost husbands to tribal conflict are brought together and that the seeds of peace will be sown for future generations to live side by side. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK - July 2015)

### **Providing legal representation**

Many people in Kenya find themselves in prison through no fault of their own and spend years awaiting trial, unaware of the charge against them. There is little provision for legal representation, especially if you have no means to pay. Some like *George\** have spent 4 years awaiting trial, unsure of when there will be any change. Through regular workshops designed and run by CLEAR Kenya, and supported LCF, a number of these individuals are now being equipped to represent themselves, understand the court process, and, using role play, gain confidence in asking questions and responding to the judge. Please give thanks for continued access to the prisons, and for the success in seeking justice. Please pray for opportunities to share the gospel, as CLEAR Kenya equips individuals like George and restores hope. *\*Name changed* (Lawyers Christian Fellowship - July 2015)

### **Counselling in the front-line**

The Tumaini Counselling Centre in Kenya is run by professional counsellors and psychiatrists, who are also missionaries. They support missionaries who often work in difficult, isolated, sometimes dangerous situations, and are in the front-line of spiritual attack. The centre works with those experiencing personal crises, family stresses, marriage problems, or traumatic events in their missionary work. Consequently, many are able to resume effective ministry without having to leave the field. Please pray for this vital work of healing and restoration. (AIM International - March 2014)

### **The Rendille**

The Rendille live in Northern Kenya, as semi-nomadic pastoralists, between the Muslims to the north and Christians to the south. They practice a traditional, animistic religion which includes prayer to the moon, animal sacrifices and worship of ancestral spirits. For the Rendille, life revolves around water. They move wherever vegetation can be found. Driven by thirst, clans fight over wells and steal livestock. This inevitably leads to deaths. But there is another thirst - a spiritual one. They long to be satisfied; to be at peace. Pray that Christian organisation, working with the Church in Kenya, will bring the life-giving water of the gospel to the Rendille. (AIM International - March 2013)

### **Climate change**

It's estimated that 10 million people are suffering in a crisis that is mainly affecting parts of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. UNICEF is warning that 2 million children are malnourished in the Horn of Africa, and half a million could soon die or suffer long-lasting mental or physical damage. The changing climate in East Africa over recent years has had an adverse impact on livestock herders, who have seen the value of their animals drop and their markets collapse, resulting in dwindling food-purchasing power. This has come at a time when staple food prices around the world have risen massively: for example the price of white maize at one Kenyan market has risen by 58 per cent in a year. The Kenyan government has declared a national disaster in the north of the country, where several years of poor rains have left 3.5 million people vulnerable. Pray for a concerted international response to the crisis that prevents it escalating and for God's strength to fortify those experiencing severe hunger, particularly children. (Tearfund - July 2011)

### **Dakatcha Woodland**

The Dakatcha Woodland is an extensive tract of coastal forest just north of the Sabaki River. Internationally recognised for holding some of Kenya's rarest birds, it is gradually being eroded as the big trees are felled for charcoal. Now there is an even more serious threat - forest clearance to make way for *Jatropha* plantations for 'bio-fuel'. Pray that the forest will be saved because of its conservation importance and also because of the local human communities depending on it, for fuel and food. (A Rocha International - March 2011)

### **Blindness**

Today there are almost nine million people in Africa who suffer from blindness, with many times that number partially sighted. Every year, tens of thousands of free magazines with Christian content in Braille, giant print and audio formats are distributed to blind people across Africa. Most of these go to Malawi, Nigeria, Kenya and Zambia. In addition to these magazines, organisations such as Torch Trust also produce various scripture portions and songbooks in Braille in languages such as Chichewa, Shona, Sena, Hausa, Bemba, Igala and Tumbuka. Pray that God would work through these resources to transform the lives of blind and partially sighted people with the gospel. (Torch Trust - November 2010)

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