



## KENYA

### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Kenya has the largest, most diversified economy in East Africa with agriculture being the backbone of the economy and also central to the country's development strategy. More than 75 percent of Kenyans make some part of their living in agriculture, and the sector accounts for more than a fourth of Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP).

However, agricultural productivity has gradually stagnated in recent years, despite continuous population growth. Moreover, only about 20 percent of Kenyan land is suitable for farming, and in these areas maximum yields have not been achieved, leaving considerable potential for increases in productivity.

The majority of farmers work without basic agricultural inputs or updated technology and lack adequate financial or extension services. Recurrent crises such as drought in Kenya's arid and semi-arid areas have exacerbated the vulnerability of basic livelihoods. This has posed critical challenges to food security and over two million Kenyans receive food aid annually. USAID is focused on increasing agricultural productivity and incomes for smallholder farmers; improving access to clean water and energy; and increasing access to affordable financing for farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses; and building more resilient communities that can move out of humanitarian assistance and into development.

## IMPROVING FOOD AVAILABILITY & NUTRITION

As one of the 11 target countries globally under the U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy, which implements the Feed the Future Initiative, Kenya benefits from America's engine of ingenuity in providing solutions to food insecurity. Feed the Future was born of the belief that global hunger is solvable. The initiative works in 17 counties to strengthen agriculture through focusing on improving productivity in dairy, horticulture, livestock, and other staple crops. Activities help farmers embrace new technologies and management practices to increase productivity, access financial and business development services, and connect with markets and innovative, private sector solutions. Efforts include working with governments at the national and county level to support farmer- and nutrition-friendly policies that contribute to agricultural-led economic growth.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE

Communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) continue to experience recurrent drought, human conflict over natural resources and underdevelopment due to a lack of public and private investment. USAID works with the national and county governments and local communities to accelerate development in nine arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya. Our resilience investments strengthen the ability of individuals, communities and governments to prepare for and withstand shocks such as drought. These preventive investments have helped transform development in these counties.

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

In Kenya, people usually react to drought-related crop and livestock loss by adopting harmful coping practices, such as selling their source of livelihood, withdrawing children from school or undertaking income-generating activities that damage the environment. USAID through its Food for Peace (FFP) program is working to improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable populations by providing life-saving humanitarian and development assistance. This support comes in the form of direct food distributions, and food-for-assets and cash-for-assets activities. In addition, FFP incorporates development assistance to build resilience and expand economic opportunities in these areas through disaster risk reduction; conflict mitigation; natural resource management; and strengthening the livestock, dairy and other vital sectors.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

USAID works with the Government of Kenya to increase access to clean water and adequate sanitation and improve hygiene in rural areas. In the ASALs, we provide expert support to county governments through a consortium of NGOs and private businesses to develop long-lasting solutions that address the complex problems created by inadequate water access and poor governance of natural resources. Our program also works with water service providers to expand household connections and extend their networks to unserved communities.

**Budget (FY 2019):** \$41 million

### Key Partners:

#### Government of Kenya

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation
- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation
- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
- Horticultural Crops Development Authority
- National Drought Management Authority
- Council of Governors

#### International Organizations

- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
- International Livestock Research Institute

#### Implementing Partners

- RTI International Kenya
- Palladium International LLC.
- Development Alternatives Inc.
- ACDI/VOCA

### Achievement Snapshots (2019):

- 99,158 households and 202,148 individuals Kenyans impacted by the USAID support under the Feed the Future initiative in collaboration with the government, private sector and other development partners.
- Partnership with 29,944 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and enable them access \$14,813,132. of agricultural credit.
- \$18.7 million worth of sales from farms and firms in agriculture value
- 1,345,834 children under the age of five with nutrition-specific interventions.

### MISSION CONTACT

Scott Cameron  
Director, Office of Economic Growth  
Tel: +254(0)20-363-2000  
Email: [scameron@usaid.gov](mailto:scameron@usaid.gov)