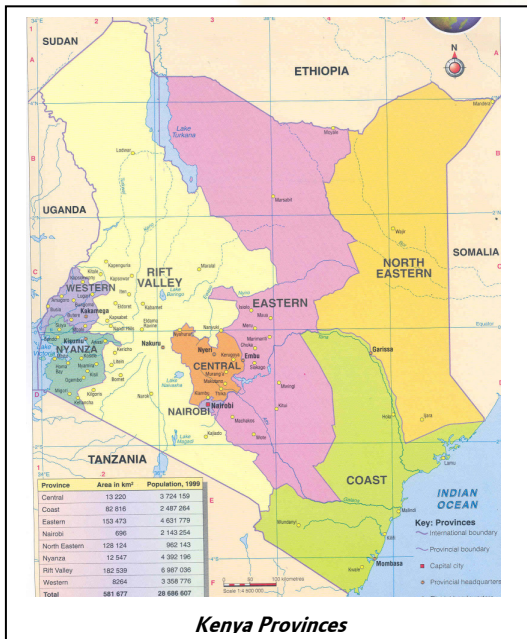


## Country strategic plan summary for 2000-2009

This document describes how Plan Kenya and its partners will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2000 – 2009.



Kenya is located in East Africa and covers approximately 582,000 Km<sup>2</sup>. Its current estimated population is 34 million. Approximately 50% are children below 18 years and 80% live in the rural areas. Majority of the families live on less than US\$ 1 per day.

### Plan in Kenya

Plan Kenya opened its first program in 1982 in Eastern province. Currently, working with communities and other partners in Kwale and Kilifi in Coast; Tharaka, Embu and Machakos in Eastern; Kisumu, Bondo and Homabay in Nyanza and Nairobi in Central province.

### Program Approach

The overall goal of the program is to **“Reduce poverty for improved survival and development of all children”**.

Plan Kenya embraces community development as an enabling and inclusive process where children, youth, women and men take an active and leading role in decision making.

The country strategic plan is drawn from past experiences and various consultations with communities and other partners. Potential interventions and resources are identified in order to address the gaps towards enabling children to realize their full potential.

### Key issues affecting children:

- *High child and maternal illnesses and death.*
- *Inadequate access to basic services*
- *Low participation in health issues among children and youth*
- *Low psycho-social development especially of children below six*
- *High incidences of sexual transmitted infections and HIV/AIDs*
- *Poor family planning and harmful cultural practices*
- *Low income levels*
- *Low participation of children and communities in their development initiatives*
- *Class repetition and school drop out.*
- *Low community awareness on child rights and protection*

### Key achievements realized:

- Enabling communities to take lead in their own development.
- Decreasing stigma and infection on HIV/AIDs through raising awareness
- Improving the learning environment for children
- Reducing childhood illnesses and increasing immunization coverage
- Improving access to financial services
- Improving access to clean water



**Clean water available**

Plan Kenya supports child centred community development initiatives through the following programs that are implemented in collaboration with the communities, the Government of Kenya and other partners.

**Education:** Education provides a firm foundation for children and contributes towards human development. In the rural areas, education is probably the only opportunity that ensures a better future for children.



***Learning through play***

The program focuses on:

- Improving access to pre and primary school
- Improving children’s performance
- Supporting communities to create a safer and conducive learning environment
- Improving school management by the communities

**Health:** Over the years, maternal and child illnesses and deaths have remained the major health problem. Deaths are mainly due to inadequate access to health services and water and sanitation. Malaria accounts for most of the childhood deaths.

The program focuses on:

- Increasing communities awareness and access to information on health
- Increasing community access to health services
- Improving access to water and sanitation

**Reducing effects of HIV/AIDS:** HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest challenges in achieving national poverty reduction targets. The impact is unique because it is depriving families, communities and the country of their young and most productive people. It is a major contributor to the increasing numbers of orphaned children.

*“Home Based Care training has enabled us to initiate centres where people living with HIV/AIDS can be adequately taken care of”; Iddi, a community member.*

The program focuses on:

- Increasing awareness and reducing stigma
- Improve access to information and services on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
- Strengthening community support systems for orphans and vulnerable children

**Household economic security:** Availability of food at family level is determined by accessibility and its utilization. This is influenced by traditional farming practices and climatic conditions such as floods and drought.

Improved farming practices are a challenge, owing to high cost of tools and equipment. As a result, farmers continue using inappropriate farming tools resulting to low harvests.



***Improved farming practices***

The program focuses on:

- Increasing productivity of agriculture, livestock and fisheries
- Ensuring environmental protection and natural resources management
- Increasing access to sustainable financial services

**Promoting and enhance community organizations:**

The communities continue to represent the most effective channel for their development. Their active participation increases ownership and sustainability.

The program focuses on:

- Strengthening children and youth organizations
- Enhancing communities awareness on children rights and protection
- Promoting and protecting women’s rights
- Enhancing communities’ capacities on local resource mobilization and management of the project.