

# ABOUT KENYA

**MATANYA'S HOPE** chooses to work in Kenya to help enrich the lives of the beautiful children, held back by a poverty epidemic known only to a third world country. Lack of food, nutrition, clean and safe water and education are all issues that Matanya's Hope addresses.

## **ORPHANS and AT-RISK CHILDREN:**

Over 3 million are orphaned in Kenya and more than 2.6 million of these are children under 18 years old. Kenya ranks third highest in AIDS orphans in the world, making this epidemic directly responsible for leaving 47% of Kenya's children vulnerable and/or without their natural parents. It is estimated that 1/3 of Kenya's orphans are a direct result of HIV and AIDS. 12-15% of households in Kenya are headed by an orphaned sibling. Many try to live on less than \$1 a day.

Every 2 minutes, a child in Kenya is orphaned. That is a daily total of 700 children per day. As a direct result, many of these children have been forced to live on the street where they become susceptible to sex trafficking and other street crimes. There are an estimated 60,000 street children living in Nairobi alone. Many sniff glue to numb the pain they feel from losing their parents and being forced to scavenge for food on the streets. At large, the Kenyan society refers to these children as dirty street children and most have become hardened to their plight. These children will not complete school. In fact, nine out of ten Kenyan children, living in poverty, fail to complete basic education. (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

## **QUALITY OF LIFE IN KENYA: Healthcare, Water, Sanitation and Education**

In terms of healthcare, Kenya spends approximately 5.7% of the national GDP in this area, generating a low physician availability of .2 per 1,000 individuals and only 1.4 hospital beds per 1,000 residents. One might term public hospitals as crowded and unclean; they often lay 2 sick people in one bed and access to medical care is delayed. Private hospitals offer quicker access to treatment in more pristine surroundings; however, most Kenyans find such treatment cost prohibitive.

Only 63.2% of Kenya's population have improved access to drinking water and only 30.1% have access to improved sanitation facilities. Educational spending is at 5.3% of the GDP and only 78% of the population over 15 years of age can read and write. It is estimated that approximately 28,000 Kenyans lose their lives annually to HIV/AIDS and 4.8% of adults living with the disease cannot read or write.

**CULTURE:** Family life in Kenya: due to Government interference, ethnic identity has become more important to most Kenyan's than national identity. Loyalty to the family is important to all groups. Whereas in American people are often concerned with the rights of individuals, in Kenya family members give up their individual rights in favor of the wishes of the group. The benefits of this social value are that the sick are cared for and elders remain part of the community. In the countryside, families live in homesteads consisting of multiple huts, often constructed of dung and ash, iron sheets or wood. Each family births an average of 4-6 children but they are often joined by their orphaned cousins or neighboring children. Rampant diseases, caused by a combination of lack of available health care, bacteria ridden water, and other transmitted viruses, translates to a very high rate of child mortality.

Women are always the busiest in the homestead. They cook, clean, collect firewood and water, care for children, farm and build their own homes. This is especially true of the Maasai and Samburu women. These homes are usually built with dung and ash walls, thatched roofs and a dirt floor. In most ethnic communities, additional huts are built for use as a kitchen and storeroom. This is because cooking is done over an open fire and produces a lot of heavy smoke. A kitchen oven consists of 3 stones on the ground and a few pieces of wood in between to serve as the fire. One heavy aluminum pot serves as the cookware. A piece of folder cardboard or bare hands serve as the pot holders. Most homesteads have an outside bathroom known as a

latrine. In some cases, one latrine is shared by an entire community. Oil is used for lighting lamps and for the lucky, there is enough for a small single flame to illuminate the pitch-black night. Many villagers listen to a radio to catch up on news. Televisions are few as they are expensive, and electricity is not present in some of the deeper rural settings. Folks have learned how to use a discarded car battery to generate enough electricity for one light bulb or to power a radio or television for a limited time.

People enjoy meeting in market places, at bars, at places of worship, at the water hole, or at the local chief's house. Kenyans are extremely social, caring people.

## **MATANYA'S HOPE – Kenya Mission**

### RAINWATER TANKS:

Throughout the year, Matanya's Hope hears stories of those in critical need. To answer the cries, we provide: Rainwater Storage Tanks with families, villages, schools, orphanages, medical clinics and churches. Each rainwater storage tank makes it possible for many of Kenya's most vulnerable to consume clean water, sometimes for the first time in their life. These tanks help to prevent life threatening diseases such as Malaria, Cholera and Typhoid.

### BUILDING HOMES FOR THE ORPHANED AND POOR:

Matanya's Hope has funded and built homes for several of our program students in need, including a home attached to Grandma's single room – for orphaned twins who were forced to sleep in a single, sagging bed smaller than a twin with their grand mum.

### ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Matanya's Hope sponsors approximately 225 children in our Academic Scholarship Program – providing a way for these children to excel in life through the academics and social settings at fine Kenyan boarding schools across the country. Children who were once forced to give up their dreams are now working towards their own personal achievements. We celebrate more than 40 graduates in their fields of: law, engineering, pharmacy, nursing, teaching, culinary arts, tourism and more.

### PROVISIONS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES & MORE:

Matanya's Hope provides mattresses and blankets to our students as well as to others disadvantaged by life circumstance. Items like these provide a new sense of hope to orphans and the elderly – who are forced to lay their fragile bodies down upon a dirt floor or a bed of sticks.

### ON-GOING HUMANITARIAN AID THROUGH VOLUNTEERS:

Matanya's Hope and our team of volunteers travel to Kenya on our annual mission trips. We provide aid to those in need including shoes, clothing, school supplies, soccer balls, nutritional support and medicine.

**LOCATION & INTERIOR:** Kenya is located in East Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean and nestled between the Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia. It includes a variety of interior settings such as: savannah, lake lands, mountain highlands and the famous Great Rift Valley. Kenya's climate drastically varies from rich and fertile farmland to hot and dry desert oases. It is home to wildlife such as lions, elephants and rhinos. The Maasai Mara Reserve, known for its annual wildebeest migrations, and Amboseli National Park, offering views of Tanzania's 5,895m Mt. Kilimanjaro are among the country's famed destination attractions which draw in visitors from around the world.



**POPULATION:** As of May 20, 2019, the population of Kenya was **52,055,744**, with one birth every 20 seconds and one death every 2 minutes. These numbers are based on the latest Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and The United Nations population estimates 2017. Kenya's current population is almost double that of 1995 and ranks Kenya 27<sup>th</sup> in the world. Kenya's population density ranks the 47<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world in terms of pure land mass and is the 140<sup>th</sup> most densely populated country on earth. The country at large, however, is relatively sparsely populated with an average of 205 people per square mile. Much of the landscape is uninhabited.

**CLIMATE:** Varies from tropical along the coast to arid in the interior. In the lush regions or regions which experience adequate rainfall, delicious fruits such as mangoes (maembe), papaya (paupau), passion fruit (pasheni), bananas (ndizi) and custard apples (stafeli) are all widely available. Coconuts are popular in the coastal towns; both the coconut meat and milk are consumed.

**FOOD:** Kenyan food is a meeting of different cultures. A popular meal might be a meat dish, often served as a stew, accompanied by potatoes or ugali (a thick, dough like mixture of maize flour and water). Rice is expensive but is served for special occasions. Leftover ugali is rehydrated the following morning and transformed into porridge or carried in the form of a cake slice for lunch. The national drink is tea (known as Chai) which is cooked by placing Kenyan tea leaves into a pot of milk and water and heated over an open

flame. Tea without milk or sugar is known as black tea and is often referenced as the poor man's tea. With this said, 22% of Kenyan children may not even get black tea and are malnourished, fighting to secure a single meal.

**ETHNIC GROUPS:** Kenya is composed of 42 tribes: Kikuyu 22%, Luhya 14%, Luo 13%, Kalenjin 12%, Kamba 11%, Kisii 6%, Meru 6%, other African 15%, non-African (Asian, European, and Arab) 1%.

**LANGUAGE:** English (official), Kiswahili (official), 42 indigenous languages

**ECONOMY (Agriculture & Industry):** Economy: Tea, coffee, corn (maize), wheat, sugarcane, fruit, vegetables, dairy products, beef, pork, poultry, eggs, flowers, small scale consumer goods (plastic, furniture, batteries, textiles, clothing, soap, cigarettes, flour), agricultural products, horticulture, oil refining: aluminum, steel, lead; cement, commercial ship repair, tourism

**CURRENCY:** Kenyan Shilling

**ARTS:** The arts are often described as the soul of a country, and this is as true in Kenya. Music varies by tribe and frequently mixes vibrant drumming with indigenous chants. Each culture has songs which have spanned generations and tell stories of family history, cultural events, wars, weddings and daily life. Families gather to sing and dance much like American families gather to watch the television. Many Kenyans make beautiful crafts that they sell in the cities to tourists. Woodcarvings are popular, either as small objects, larger sculptures or as small pieces of furniture. Carvings in ebony, called Makonde, and in soapstone are also popular. Jewelry is made from seashells, brass, beads and gold. Most popular to tourists are the Maasai style beaded necklaces, bracelets and masks.

**KENYAN FLAG:**

