



REGION- AFRICAN	
Population (2014) (Estimated,000)	45,010
Population Density (2014 -per sq. km)	77.55
Human Development Index (HDI -2014)	147
Global Gender Gap Rank (2014)	37

SOCIAL INDICATORS		
	Male	Female
Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) (2013)	0.226	
Percentage of Women in Parliament	80.1	19.9
Life Expectancy at birth in years (2013)	62.06	65.01
Labour Force Participation rate	72.2	62.0
Population with at least some secondary education (% aged 25 and above)	31.4	25.3
Estimated Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (USD) (2013)	2,554	1,763
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) (2010)	360	
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19) (2010-15)	93.6	



# KENYA

## EAST AFRICA - INDIA UNITE: INTEGRATING WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction

Kenya, situated on the equator on Africa's east coast, is the financial and transportation hub in East Africa. The Kenyan economy remains primarily dependent on agriculture and has pressing challenges like high unemployment, crime and poverty.

Droughts frequently put millions at risk. Key industries in Kenya include: small-scale consumer goods, agricultural products, horticulture, oil refining; aluminium, steel, lead; cement, commercial ship repair, tourism amongst others.

### Gender Profile

Kenya with a score of 0.726 ranks 37(out of 142 countries) on the Gender Gap Index showing that country treats women in a fairly equitable manner.

Since 2000, several policy and programmatic initiatives have led to greater equality for women including the **National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD, 2000)**.

### Socio-Economic Profile

The sex ratio of Kenya at birth is 1.02 male(s)/female and for the age group 25-54 years it is 1.02 male(s)/female reflecting gender disparities. After independence, Kenya promoted rapid economic growth through public investment, encouragement of smallholder agricultural production.

### Education Profile

Education accounts for about 6.6% of the GDP in Kenya. Nearly, 78% of the total population is literate, with 81.1% of the men and 74.9% of the women being literate. On an average, people attend about 11 years of formal education.

### Health Profile

Over the past decade, there has been general improvement in the health profile for Kenya. Life expectancy at birth in Kenya dropped to a low of 50 years in 2000, but rose to 62 years by 2013. However, the country still faces a significant burden of disease from communicable and non-communicable conditions, and from injuries including those that result from violence against women. The common leading cause of death and disability is HIV/AIDS.

### National Framework: Policies, Programmes and Initiatives

- **New Constitution, 2010:** The Constitution of August 2010 gives women the same legal rights as men to land, inheritance, court access and freedom of movement.
- **Gender Policy, July 2011:** The policy institutionalises the National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD) and articulates the policy approach of gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women at the ministry level.
- **Kenya Health Policy, 2014–2030:** The health policy gives directions for improvement in overall status of health, to counter gender disparities. In 2012, the Gender Inequality Index, (the measure of disparity on health) stood at 0.618 and ranking Kenya 130 out of 146 countries worldwide indicating significant gender disparities in the country.



### Addressing Violence Against Women

Violence against women and girls occurs in various forms such as rape, commercial child sexual exploitation, domestic violence, sexual harassment as well as harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation, widow inheritance, and early marriage. Data from 2013 (CSW Report) reveals that one in five Kenyan women had experienced at least one form of violence in her lifetime. Further, the National Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation stood at 27.1%. To end discrimination and violence, the Government of Kenya has taken several measures. Significant amongst these are, the Sexual Offences Act of 2006, the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act of 2010, and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2011 among other laws.

### Opportunities and Challenges

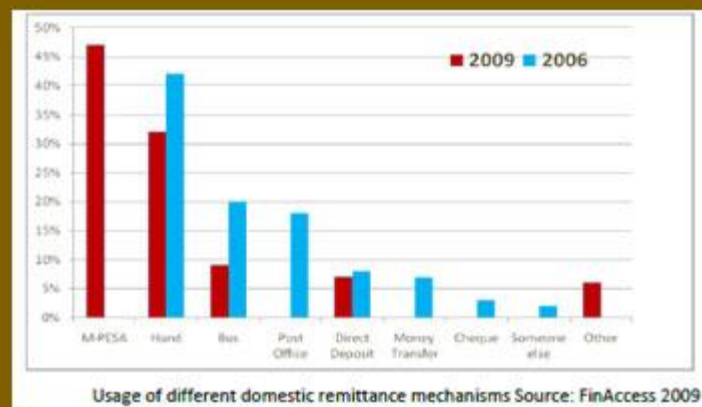
- The new Constitution in August 2010 explicitly gave women the same legal rights as men. However, implementation of the laws remains a challenge. Women in Kenya continue to suffer economically, socially and politically from gender inequities.
- In north central Kenya, several women's groups have emerged over the last 25 years that provide savings and credit to other women. The Kenyan government also has a dedicated micro financing program for women that is now country wide.
- Extensive opportunities exist in sectors such as housing construction, manufacturing and supply of building materials.
- Opportunities also exist in the fields of lease hire, investment banking.

### STORIES OF CHANGE: GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES IN KENYA

In Kenya today, millions of people use mobile telephones not only to communicate with others but also to transfer and receive money. The most widespread money transfer service is that provided by Safaricom through M-PESA: a pioneering mobile money transfer service in Kenya was launched in 2007.

#### Impact of M-Pesa on the lives of Kenyan Women:

- **Increased monetary savings:** Women spend their savings on their families, children's education and health or in expanding their business.
- **More time saving:** Surveys show that M-Pesa has significantly reduced the transfers made by hand, through the bus network, through direct deposits. It has largely eliminated the post office as means for domestic transfers.



- **Increased profits:** One survey showed that before M-PESA, women would have to travel with their products to sell and collect the money. With M-PESA, they were able to send the product by public transport and get paid immediately by customers. This means faster payment and no personal travel costs.
- **Educational opportunities:** The time M-PESA saved allowed women to attend conferences and seminars to get better educated.

### The Way Forward

Kenya being the economic and commercial hub in East Africa is a prime choice for foreign investors seeking to establish a presence in the region. In addition to the new Constitution and ensuing devolution of power, posit the country as a potential partner for knowledge based partnerships both, in the region and internationally. Gains made through socio-economic development can be consolidated and built upon, particularly through sectors such as finance, green housing and livelihood creation. Initiatives in these sectors will benefit women, contribute to economic growth and also be a step towards development that is sustainable and localised. Indian good practices in the field of micro-credit, green technology

and women entrepreneurship models can pave the way for future partnerships. Given the context, partnerships between India and Kenya stand a strong chance to create and take forward programmes that will benefit both the countries and facilitate mutual linkages for empowering women.

*\* Compiled from various internet sources. The figures may not be accurate.*

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