OUR MISSION

On behalf of the American people, we promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. In support of America’s foreign policy, the U.S. Agency for International Development leads the U.S. Government’s international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises and progress beyond assistance.
MESSAGE FROM THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO KENYA

Over my six years as Ambassador to Kenya, I have traveled from corner to corner of this great country. I’ve had the immense pleasure of witnessing USAID’s impact on the ground. The results of our efforts can be seen in the glowing faces of smiling children, and in the promise of growing county governments and economies.

The United States is one of the largest investors in Kenya’s development. But our work goes beyond what we spend. The real and enduring effects are felt in what our efforts leave behind: Kenyans who are more experienced and capable of taking on the country’s challenges. Together, we improve security, educate children, protect wildlife and reduce the threat of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, while building up the capacity to provide better care and services in counties and communities across Kenya.

From Marsabit to Mombasa, I’m reminded of how much Americans have in common with Kenyans. As Americans, we hold true to the universal ideals and values of our Constitution. Kenya’s Constitution makes the same promise of democracy and fundamental freedoms.

In 2017, Kenya’s Constitution was reaffirmed, when, after a difficult election, Kenyan leaders shook hands, put their nation first, and agreed to work together for a better future. Remarkably, the 2017 general elections also ushered in the country’s first female governors. Recognizing that firsts are never easy, in the run-up to the election, we provided training to thousands of aspiring women leaders who braved the campaign trail and advocated for equal representation. Many of them did so despite tremendous discrimination and intimidation.

Every day, I see the results of our work in action — breaking down barriers that prohibit individuals, families and businesses from participating in and gaining from the benefits of Kenya’s progress. For example, agriculture has the potential to lift even the most marginalized communities out of poverty. I’ve met mama mbogas (local fruit and vegetable vendors) in rural areas across the country who, with USAID training, can now provide for their families in a way they weren’t able to before.

In 2017, the U.S. government announced Kenya would continue to be a focus country of our Feed the Future initiative for another five years. In previous years, with USAID leading these efforts, we’ve helped 900,000 Kenyan farmers grow better crops and increase milk production, and then get those products to market.

Power Africa is another creator of possibilities. A collaborative effort across U.S. government agencies, this initiative is attracting international investment in the country’s geothermal, solar, and wind resources - all areas of enormous potential for Kenya. I stood under the massive wind turbines of the new Lake Turkana Wind Power Plant - the single biggest power generator in Kenya – I was again impressed at the wealth of natural resources this country possesses to fuel its development with clean, renewable energy.

Kenya has extraordinary potential. The United States is a committed partner and will continue to work with Kenyans to realize all that is possible.

Asanteni sana to my colleagues, partners, and most importantly to the Kenyans who have been kind enough to share with me their accomplishments and challenges in their journey to building a brighter future for Kenya.

Robert F. Godec
U.S. Ambassador to Kenya
MESSAGE FROM THE USAID MISSION DIRECTOR

When I left Kenya in 2014, the country was at the dawn of devolution. Four years later, returning as Mission Director of the USAID Kenya and East Africa Mission, I’m excited to see the principals of devolution are entrenched in the Kenyan political system. I am pleased to work with the national and county governments as they are being shaped, challenged, and strengthened by the Kenyan people.

Part of the promise of devolution is enhanced service delivery. Working at both national and county levels, USAID continues to support the health and well-being of millions of Kenyan babies, children, adolescents and adults across a full range of health areas. In order to help Kenya achieve universal healthcare, we are supporting the improvement of essential national and county health systems as well as increasing the budget allocations for health at national and county levels.

Through the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the U.S. is providing treatment for over 1 million people as well as improving the supply of essential medication and strengthening the capacity of the health workforce across the country. In addition, we are supporting 700,000 orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV.

One of our most promising investments is in building strong and skilled future generations. From primary school to job creation, USAID is reaching millions of children and youth every year, preparing them for a rapidly changing economy and job market. In 2017, more than two-thirds of Class 2 pupils participating in our early grade reading program were fluent readers — cutting the number of children unable to read at all by half. Also in 2017, nearly 20,000 young Kenyans were in new or better jobs because of USAID-supported training.

Our resilience efforts have helped Kenyans progress out of poverty despite potential setbacks. In 2017, Kenya experienced one of its most severe droughts in decades. In previous years, a drought like this would have caused the livestock markets to plummet, harming the lives and livelihoods of thousands of vulnerable people. But, this year was different. With a more proactive approach that helps communities make smart, upfront investments to prepare for drought, Kenya was better prepared — fewer lives were lost, less displacement occurred, and the livestock trade was down merely a fraction from the previous year.

The natural environment, one of Kenya’s most breathtaking national treasures, is intrinsically tied to variations in climate. USAID’s widely recognized community-based approach to conservation preserves some of these precious ecosystems and wildlife, while benefiting neighboring communities with income generated. By 2017, 4.1 million hectares — 7 percent of Kenya’s total landmass — was carefully managed through conservancies.

USAID believes that every person, every community, and every country wants to lead its own future. By walking alongside our friends as evolving, but enduring partners, we accelerate a sense of self-reliance across the country. In these pages I hope you will find powerful examples of the milestones that we have achieve together.

Mark Meassick
USAID Mission Director
Irene Shichei, 18, at her home in Musembe, Kakamega County. When she became sick, a community health volunteer came to her home to test for malaria using a rapid diagnostic test. USAID, through the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative, procures and distributes rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) to clinics and trains health workers on their use.

Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
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Nurse Jacktone Ocharo at Matsangoni Health Centre in Kilifi County. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
USAID supports Kenya’s vision to improve the health and well-being of citizens through an efficient and high-quality health care system. By deepening our focus in the counties and regions with the most pressing health concerns, we can have the greatest impact on national health outcomes and make quality health care a reality for all Kenyans.

These efforts are rooted in building a health care system that is adequately financed and data-driven; equipped with a well-trained and managed workforce; reliant on an efficient and effective supply chain; and led by clear policies and procedures that value the contributions of all, including health leaders, health workers and especially communities.

Increasing the resources available for Kenya to support its own health needs is essential to achieving a more sustainable health sector. To make quality services accessible and affordable for Kenyan families, USAID works with county governments to encourage the effective and equitable use of public resources and to identify opportunities where both public and private health providers can advance the national health agenda in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government. USAID provides training and mentorship for health leaders in program-based planning and budgeting, an approach that commits public funds to priority health areas. As a result, government officials in 26 counties increased their budget allocation for health by 13 percent, for a total of $98 million.

The Afya Elimu Fund, a partnership between the Government of Kenya, USAID and private businesses, grew its assets from $1 million to $8 million between 2013 and 2017. The fund provides low interest loans to students from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend medical training courses. To date, nearly 12,000 students have benefited from the fund, contributing to an increase in the number of health workers in hard-to-reach or high-disease burden areas.

Left: Lilian Achieng with her son, David, at Chulaimbo Sub-District Hospital in Kisumu. USAID provided extensive technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in the development of the Health Act, 2017. Among other things, the law formalizes collaboration between national and county governments, obliges Kenya to address the health needs of vulnerable groups, and provides a legal framework for realization of universal health care. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
Top: Shida Karisa cares for her premature baby at Kilifi County Hospital. By procuring equipment including vacuum extractors and incubators, USAID helped 337 facilities meet global criteria for providing emergency obstetric and newborn care services. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi

IMPROVING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE

Studies show that quality care for pregnant women before and during childbirth, coupled with optimally timed pregnancies, can prevent most maternal and newborn deaths. USAID invests in the continuum of care from pre-pregnancy to delivery, the immediate postnatal period, and early childhood. We train health workers to provide better antenatal care (ANC), skilled birth attendance and essential newborn and post-partum care, while procuring essential equipment and upgrading health facilities to make quality services possible.

Regular contact with health professionals drastically improves the health of both mother and child. By educating communities and individuals, health workers are building awareness and generating demand for services in facilities and communities. Despite a five-month nurses strike that halted services, 173,230 women attended at least four antenatal care visits in 2017 and 270,000 newborns received postnatal care within two days of birth in USAID-supported facilities.

Through targeted training, health workers can strengthen their lifesaving skills. In 2017, a total of 3,216 service providers received training and mentorship on respectful maternity care, ANC, labor and delivery. More than 6,800 health workers were trained in intermittent preventative treatment in pregnancy, to protect expecting mothers from the adverse effects of malaria.

Over 270,000 newborns received postnatal care within two days of birth in USAID-supported facilities
Most complications during childbirth can be prevented or managed by a skilled birth attendant — a doctor, nurse, midwife, or other healthcare provider trained to detect emergencies early and manage their escalation. The survival of both mothers and newborns depends on this ability, yet a low 62 percent of women in Kenya give birth without their assistance. Additionally, when babies are born at home, moms are less likely to come to health facilities within 48 hours, a critical window of time for both mother and her newborn.

In 2017, through training and the procurement of essential equipment and medicines, USAID helped 337 health facilities in 10 focus counties become ready to provide appropriate emergency obstetric and newborn care.

By working with community health workers — who serve as a bridge between the community and health care systems — USAID is linking Kenyans to information and services they need to make informed decisions and become active participants in their family’s care. In 2017, more than 5,000 community health volunteers received maternal and/or newborn training.

337 USAID-supported facilities provided appropriate life-saving maternity care

Top: Anne Wangari Weru, a nursing officer, attends to premature babies at Kwale District Hospital. USAID trains health workers, such as Weru, on managing neonatal and maternal emergencies. Photo: USAID/Axel Fassio

Bottom: Ambia Aden Yussuf with her seventh child, Yussuf, in Garissa County. He is the first of her children to be delivered at a health facility. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
FAMILY PLANNING

The couple years of protection in Kenya was estimated at 1,309,333

Helping couples choose the number, timing and spacing of their pregnancies translates into safer childbirth and healthier families. Approximately 71 percent of Kenyan women of reproductive age and their partners who want to space the births of their children have access to modern methods, according to the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey. This achievement brings the country close to the Family Planning 2020 global initiative target.

USAID has supported voluntary family planning in Kenya for more than 30 years. This year, our programs supported services across 12 counties in 2,178 public and private health facilities, making modern contraceptives more affordable and available. Through training, 3,218 health workers are aware of new contraceptive methods, guidelines and policies and are better able to help couples make informed choices. In 2017, the use of social marketing services for contraceptives surged with mass media campaigns designed to raise awareness and increase the uptake of modern family planning methods. A campaign video featuring popular comedian Jaymo Ule Msee outlines the decision-making process that many young people experience while considering contraceptives. The video was viewed more than 1.8 million times.

Top: People pass by a Tunza Clinic in Kilifi County. On the supply side, USAID’s partnership with a network of more than 400 Tunza Family Health facilities subsidizes the cost of contraceptive commodities and trains private providers on how to provide quality health services and manage their facilities profitably. On the demand side, these efforts are leveraging powerful private sector marketing strategies that drive traffic to the facilities. In 2017, a total of 301,450 clients accessed family planning services through the Tunza network. Photo: USAID
CHILD SURVIVAL AND NUTRITION

More than 300,000 children received all doses of pentavalent vaccine

USAID supports the Government of Kenya’s efforts to make effective interventions for improving child health known and available for all. Vaccines are among the most efficient and cost-effective tools for saving the lives of young children. Through USAID support, 308,197 children received the full dosage of pentavalent vaccines that can prevent diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, pneumonia, and haemophilus influenzae B by 12 months of age. These vaccinations contribute to a country’s performance in providing and sustaining immunization coverage.

In 2017, our efforts to prevent and manage the rapid, often fatal, dehydration caused by diarrheal diseases continued. Our programs helped set up oral rehydration therapy (ORT) “corners” in health facilities to teach parents how to rehydrate children using a simple solution and zinc tablets. Using an integrated approach to improving child health, we also train health workers to emphasize to families the importance of seeking out and using safe water and adequate sanitation facilities; maintaining a healthy environment; and feeding their children a balanced diet. Undernutrition is an underlying cause in 45 percent of childhood deaths. Vitamin A supplementation is a cost-effective intervention that boosts a child’s immune system and reduces the likelihood – by one-fourth – that a child (under the age of 5) will experience an early death. In 2017, nearly 1.3 million children received vitamin A supplementation.

Nutrition is a defining link between USAID’s agriculture and health programs. This year, 322,389 pregnant women received information and services to instill good nutrition practices through these joint efforts. The U.S. Government’s Feed the Future initiative also helped smallholder farmers learn new agricultural practices that can help them to provide their families with a greater supply of nutritious food. In 2017, nearly 2,700 health workers in facilities were trained in child health and nutrition, and 10,801 community health volunteers received similar training to promote nutrition interventions such as exclusive breastfeeding, timely complementary feeding, vitamin A supplementation and handwashing.

Right: Lokaala Kole holds her 7-month-old daughter, Mary, during a nutrition screening at the Lobei Health Center in Turkana County. Photo: USAID/Alex Maina
EXPANDING ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

293,148 people gained access to basic drinking water services

USAID is helping more Kenyans gain access to water: clean, safe water for drinking and adequate supplies for harvesting their crops, for operating efficient, hygienic health clinics and agricultural businesses, and for household use.

In 2017, 682 million liters of drinking water were disinfected with point-of-use chlorine treatment products subsidized by USAID. This approach, coupled with properly storing drinking water in homes, reduces the prevalence of diarrheal disease among children by 34 percent. Not only are Kenyans learning how essential safe water is to good health, they are also forming water management groups to ensure the responsible use and conservation of natural water resources and maximizing its efficiency using water harvesting techniques. Our programs work with water service providers to close financing gaps and attract private and public investment for the development and expansion of water infrastructure such as clean water kiosks, pipes, water pans and wells.

This year, we teamed up with the U.S. Geological Service to help county governments, particularly those in arid areas, identify aquifers underground that could potentially supply water for the country in the future.

Circle: Ijaba Abdikadir pumps water at Kwasharif Shallow Well in Wajir County. The well was rehabilitated with USAID support. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi

Above: “In previous droughts we had many challenges. The kids would not go to school because there was no water; there were a lot of diseases, and even animals would die,” said Janerica Aule. However, these conditions changed during the 2017 drought thanks to the construction of a nearby sustainable water source supported by USAID, the Isiolo County Water Department and private partner Davis and Shirtliff. The community fared significantly better, as they were able to continue farming and obtain water for household and livestock use. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank
REDUCING MALARIA

More than 1.8 million nets were distributed to protect against malaria transmission

USAID, through the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative, supports Kenya’s national malaria control plan by strengthening local health systems and helping health workers learn how to prevent, identify and treat the disease.

More Kenyans living in endemic areas now have and use insecticide-treated bed nets as a protective barrier against mosquitoes. These behavior changes, coupled with government policies to make diagnoses quicker, and medicines more available and affordable, have prevented cases of malaria in at-risk communities and reduced the number of deaths caused by this treatable disease.

Indoor residual spraying (IRS) protects people from malaria by spraying insecticide on the walls, ceilings, and other indoor resting places of mosquitoes, without harming people or the environment. Through USAID support in 2017, 2,270 people were trained to deliver IRS, and 212,029 houses were sprayed, protecting more than 906,300 Kenyans in Migori.

Continuous distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) through antenatal and immunization clinics ensures coverage of vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and children — while mass campaigns target everyone living in malaria-prone areas. In 2017, 1.8 million ITNs were distributed through these channels.

Below: A technician applies pesticide inside a home in Migori County. Photo: USAID/Alex Kamweru
KENYA REPORT

REDUCING THE SPREAD OF TUBERCULOSIS

1,910 health service providers received training on the WHO Stop TB strategy

Kenya has one of the highest tuberculosis (TB) prevalences in the world, claiming 53,000 lives each year. Co-infection of HIV and TB is common and greatly impacts the ability patients to fight either disease.

In 2017, through a U.S. investment of nearly KSH 3 billion ($30 million), and in collaboration with the National TB and Leprosy Program, the Global Fund, and the World Health Organization (WHO), Kenya completed the country’s first national TB prevalence survey. It found that nearly half of all TB cases were not being diagnosed.

In response, USAID supported active case finding (ACF) activities in 13 high-burden counties. ACF is the systematic identification of people with suspected active TB in predetermined target groups, by use of tests, examinations, or other procedures that can be applied rapidly. This approach has helped to increase the proportion of all TB cases identified nationally by 12 percent and increased the treatment rate of those identified to more than 95 percent.

Below: This GeneXpert machine at Mathare Health Centre, procured with USAID funds, tests for TB within two hours. It is highly accurate and detects resistance to drugs commonly used to treat TB, which reduces the rate of disease transmissions and the number of related TB admissions in Kenya.

Photo: USAID/Alex Kamweru
CONTROLLING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

More than 1 million people are on HIV treatment thanks to PEPFAR support

HIV represents one of the greatest public health challenges confronting the Kenyan people, with an estimated 71,000 new HIV infections among adults and about 6,600 new infections among children annually.

USAID works through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in close partnership with the Government of Kenya. These efforts expand access to antiretroviral therapy to keep more Kenyans living with HIV alive and well, to reduce new HIV infections, as well as to decrease risky behavior among those who are infected, most-at-risk, or otherwise vulnerable. Girls and young women are particularly susceptible and account for a substantial portion of new HIV infections. PEPFAR’s DREAM (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) program addresses broader societal factors such as inequality, sexual violence, and a lack of education and employment opportunities that contribute to this higher risk.

Providing a better life for children and young people orphaned or left vulnerable due to AIDS is a key feature of USAID support. Our programs create an environment where these children, their guardians and parents can connect with comprehensive health and social services, as well as learn skills and tap into village savings and loans associations to generate income that will help them protect and care for their families. In areas of the country where there are high numbers of affected children, USAID works with local child welfare organizations and the Department of Children Services to build stronger systems that can better support and respond to the needs of vulnerable children.

Left: When Redemptor Wanjiku met a caseworker from DREAMS, she had recently left her husband who was physically and emotionally abusing her husband daily. She was desperate to earn money to care for her 9-month-old daughter. “Since I joined DREAMS my life has changed,” she said. The counseling and training gave her the courage to apply for jobs and she was hired at a car wash in an informal settlement of Nairobi. With the salary from her new job, she is able to provide for herself and her daughter. Photo: USAID
Top: Ruth Munini Mutungi, 60, has been the sole caregiver of her four grandchildren since their mother, who was HIV-positive, passed away six years ago. USAID has helped Ruth set up a kitchen garden and raise livestock to provide for the children. Photo: USAID

Bottom: DREAMS safe spaces provide an environment where girls can share their experiences and learn from each other, while building important life skills. Photo: USAID/Global Communities
An instructor provides guidance to a student training to become a sewing machine operator. Working with Kenya’s Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives; the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and businesses; USAID is preparing 2,000 Kenyan youth for jobs in the apparel industry. Photo: USAID/Dickson Mworia
EDUCATION AND YOUTH
IMPROVING EARLY GRADE READING

3.3 million learners reached in reading programs at the primary level

Research has demonstrated that the most important skill one can master in the early days of formal education is not a specific language, but rather reading fluency itself. Building basic literacy skills requires the right foundation.

USAID’s partnership with Kenya’s Ministry of Education has, after nearly a decade of partnership in literacy research, identified and implemented evidence-based approaches proven to help Kenyan children learn to read fluently. This methodology is packaged into the Tusome (Let’s Read) Early Grade Reading initiative. For the last four years, more than 3 million Class One and Two pupils have become strong, confident, new readers.

In May 2017, an external midterm evaluation of the Tusome initiative was conducted. It found that children’s ability to read in English and Kiswahili had significantly improved since Tusome began in 2015. On average, pupils reading rates improved by between seven and 20 words per minute, which is considered a strong and significant gain in USAID-supported reading activities globally.

Top: Justa Makena, a teacher at the Kisima Primary School in Isiolo County, helps her student with a Kiswahili lesson. Photo: USAID
Bottom: A Class One pupil at Methodist Church of Kenya Kisima School in Isiolo County packs a Tusome homework book. Photo: USAID/RTI
The study also found a decrease in the percentage of children who could not read at all. Key to the success of Tusome is improving the effectiveness of teachers. Through intensive trainings, in-class supervision and assistance, teachers receive one-on-one coaching and mentoring that helps them improve their instructional techniques and monitor student progress toward achieving literacy goals and standards. With this rigorous professional development, teachers have helped more than 68 percent of learners reach reading fluency and comprehension at the appropriate grade level. From 2015 to 2016, the number of Class Two pupils who could not read a single word was cut in half for Kiswahili and by two-thirds for English. With more than 20 million new Tusome textbooks and learning materials reviewed and updated annually, every student has access to the tools they need to practice reading in school and at home. Understanding what students know is essential to being able to customize instruction effectively. Teacher coaches, known locally as curriculum support officers, report students’ progress in reading skills and provide instructional feedback through an electronic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system linked to educators and administrators throughout the country. This oversight strengthens accountability and gives decision-makers the feedback they need to adjust effective teacher training and materials accordingly.
EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Nearly 20,000 youth are benefiting from new or improved employment after completing workforce development programs.

Helping all Kenyan children access quality primary and secondary education boosts economic prosperity, empowers women and girls, improves health, and promotes peace and security. However, many barriers to education persist that prevent children from realizing their full potential and contributing meaningfully to society.

In 2017, USAID worked with Kenyan businesses and organizations to provide nearly 3,000 high-achieving students from disadvantaged backgrounds with scholarships and ongoing mentorship throughout secondary school and university. This support gives young people the chance to continue their studies and guides them along their academic and social journeys.

In addition to scholarships, our partnerships provide mentorship, work-readiness and life skills training, as well as a platform for young people who want to give back by becoming mentors themselves.

Left: Mercy Otinga grew up in Kakamega County. Her father passed away when she was 6 years old and her mother struggled to pay school fees for Otinga and her siblings. After performing well in primary school, Otinga was placed in one of the top high schools in the country. There, she was awarded a university scholarship from USAID and the Global Give Back Circle to study at Kenyatta University.

Photo: USAID/GGBC
Top: Young women participate in a USAID-supported training led by the African Center for Women and ICT. The training creates employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for these girls to reduce their chances of contracting HIV. Photo: USAID/Global Communities

Bottom: 2017 graduates of the Global Give Back Circle can now continue their education through secondary school and university, as well as build on their commitments to give back to the communities where they came from. Photo: USAID/KCDF
In Kenya, youth represent the bulk of those who are unemployed. Creating solutions to reduce youth unemployment can produce significant returns — not only to the young people themselves, but to the success of Kenya’s national and county economies. The risks of failing to address the crisis, however, are enormous. When young people are idle, feel rejected or are economically excluded, they may turn to violence or extremism, which can have enduring costs for individuals, society, businesses, and all levels of government.

USAID is committed to ensuring that the youth of today can continue to learn through technical and vocational training and education (TVET) and as a result participate productively in the workforce. Through county vocational training centers (VTCs), the Kenya Youth Employment and Skills Program (K-YES) model is elevating the core skills of young people to meet the needs of a dynamic and evolving labor market. County decision-makers and VTC managers are changing the way they think about TVET by adopting competency-based curricula, investing in staff training to improve the quality of courses, and marketing to learners who have traditionally not accessed TVET. K-YES has further facilitated the establishment of County Youth Employment Compacts, a cross-system collaboration of stakeholders from the public and private sectors that aligns youth skills training and workforce development with county economic growth strategies. These Compacts are county-level skills training and youth employment system reform efforts in line with national policy. They seek to meet public and private sector needs in the area of youth workforce development by engaging stakeholders to work towards shared objectives.

Left: A participant in a USAID workforce development training program. The country’s apparel sector has a shortage of 10,000 to 15,000 skilled workers. To fill this gap, USAID and the American Apparel and Footwear Association created a training program that has trained 450 students, securing long-term jobs for 266 graduates. Photo: USAID/Dickson Mworia
Increasingly, employers in Kenya identify the need for young people to increase their set of employability skills. Our programs work closely with businesses to tailor training programs around marketable skills that are important to potential employers. The Generation Kenya model, derived from a public-private partnership with the McKinsey Social Initiative, is proving successful. Generation goes beyond just teaching strong technical skills; young people learn a broader set of skills, attitudes, behaviors and personal qualities that enable them to effectively navigate the work environment, collaborate with others, perform well and achieve their goals.

To date, nearly every graduate has secured employment in their target industry, thus meeting the needs of both unemployed youth and the emerging job market. Since 2014, 91 percent of 7,200 Generation Kenya graduates have found employment immediately upon completion of the program, and 100 percent of supervisors say they would hire Generation Kenya graduates again. More than half of graduates are women, compared to the national average of 29 percent in the formal sector.

Above: In 2017, Julia Mwihaki opened her own salon in Kwale County. “After attending the K-YES workshop, I was confident about taking a loan and finally starting my own business,” she said. Photo: USAID/Faith Njoki
Although two-thirds of East Africans are under 35 years of age, young people continue to be undervalued and underutilized. Young people in the region are creative and energetic but lack the knowledge, connections and opportunities to use these attributes to better their communities. USAID, through the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Center East Africa, is investing in young African leaders aged 18 - 35 from 14 countries in East and Central Africa, namely Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The center provides state of the art leadership training and mentorship in the fields of business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management, fostering an environment of connection and collaboration. Over 2,400 young people have graduated from the Center and continue to work together in country alumni chapters in each of the 14 countries. Most of these leaders have gone on to “pay it forward” by investing their time and resources to serve people in their communities. Other alumni have expanded their enterprises and created jobs. As a result of these initiatives, several YALI alumni have received international awards and recognition for their work.
Members of the White Star Football Club during a match practice session in Garissa County. USAID works with community and religious organizations to encourage open and honest conversation about violent extremism among youth. Photo: USAID/Irene Angwenyi
SUPPORTING DEVOLUTION

43,000 county and national officials received training or mentorship

USAID encourages the devolution process as central to the country’s economic growth and development. In 2017, 43 policies that support devolution progressed towards approval and implementation because of USAID assistance. Our programs are helping national and county government leaders, as well as civil society and community members develop, lead and contribute to institutions, processes, and systems that can deliver quality public and social services.

In 2017, USAID and the World Bank supported the development of the “Open County” portal and mobile application that highlights county budgets and expenditures, as well as important results on development indicators. By expanding public access to information on county performance, governments are more transparent and accountable.

By supporting 12 key state institutions that are critical to the success of devolution, our programs strengthen its underlying infrastructure. The Council of Governor’s (CoG) provides a platform for governors to track the progress of devolution, identify challenges, share best practices and speak with one voice on county matters. With USAID support, the CoG finalized its five-year strategic plan.

Over the last two years, driven by common interests, more than 30 of Kenya’s 47 counties formed regional economic blocs to speed up development in rural areas. In 2017, USAID supported the CoG and the Kenya Law Reform Commission to develop policies for the formation of the Lake Basin Regional Economic Bloc. The Lake Region, one of the most densely populated regions of Kenya, comprises 13 counties and has significant agricultural potential due to substantial amounts of fertile land and healthy rainfall.

Top: Kakamega County Governor Wycliffe Oparanya and Bomet Governor Joyce Laboso sign documents that establish the Lake Region Economic Bloc. Photo: USAID
INCREASING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

159 civil society organizations are stronger and more effective

Citizen engagement is a key pillar of devolution. The Intergovernmental Technical Relations Committee (IGRTC), with USAID support, conducted a study on the “status of implementation of public participation”. By highlighting effective and meaningful approaches locally and throughout the world, the study emphasized the need to embrace inclusivity in the management of public affairs and informed the drafting of the Public Participation Policy and Act, a national framework for effective public participation. Forty-one counties have adopted similar guidelines and legislation.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) provide opportunities for people to come together to share ideas openly and publicly. USAID strengthens the ability of these organizations to respond to the needs of citizens. We also advocate for an environment where CSOs can operate freely and are viewed by governments as vital participants in development. USAID supports organizations on the Coast and in the Northern Arid Lands — both areas of Kenya that have been historically marginalized. Many of these CSOs support healthy debate on corruption, countering violent extremism, and land tenure — issues that often create tension between government and communities.

Below: Johnson Mvakazi, a national news anchor, hosts the launch of the NikoEducatable (“I am educatable”) campaign that helped Action Network for the Disabled, a local CSO, raise community funds to educate 90 young people with disabilities. Photo: USAID/Joanne Lewa
SUPPORTING FREE, FAIR AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

Nearly 32 million people were reached with civic and voter education, resulting in increased voter registration and turnout.

Kenya’s 2017 general elections, the first since the introduction of devolution, were critical for the country, and a top policy priority for the U.S. government. USAID placed a significant emphasis on delivering voter and civic education to support credible, transparent and non-violent elections.

During a longer-than-usual election season, our programs also supported key elections management bodies including the Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and trained elections observers. Our efforts also helped women, youth and other groups who have been historically sidelined as candidates and voters, become more engaged in the election process.

USAID trained 58 national-level IEBC staff and 47 county information and communication technology officers on the integrated electronic election management and results transmission system. Our programs also trained 1,700 observers in parallel vote tabulation to report, track, and analyze data from polling stations and constituency tallying centers on election day.

To improve access to critical services for survivors of violence, and to track instances of violence against women, USAID partnered with Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) to operate a nationwide 24-hour gender-based violence helpline. During the elections, HAK’s #1195 helpline responded to 224 cases and provided emergency tele-counseling services and referrals to services.

Through Food For Peace (FFP) funding USAID also supported contingency planning for response efforts.

Left: A young woman participates in a peace march organized by Kenyan NGO, Act!, the Mombasa County government and the Uwaino Platform for Peace. Photo: USAID/Faith Njung’e.
PROMOTING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION

Due to historical marginalization of women and dominant of men in political leadership, efforts to increase the number of women in elected positions require longer-term approaches that extend beyond any single election cycle. Women leaders are more likely to prioritize issues such as health care, education and economic issues that impact the daily lives of citizens.

In 2017, for the first time, Kenyans elected three governors and three senators who are women, and 29 percent more women ran for office than in the previous election. Women now hold 172 of the 1,883 elected seats in Kenya, up from 145 after the 2013 elections.

In 2017, USAID’s partnership with the United Nations Development Program, and National Democratic Institute increased the number of women voters and helped more than 5,000 women aspirants from various political parties strengthen their candidacy through leadership and media training, cultural outreach, and mentorship.

Despite these achievements, women still face significant obstacles in seeking elective office, including inadequate support from political parties (particularly in the primaries), intimidation, a lack of financial resources, gender-based stereotyping and violence. USAID’s #BetterThanThis digital campaign offered a dramatic narrative on violence against women in Kenya’s electoral process. Three powerful video ads were shared across social media channels, raising awareness about barriers to women’s political participation.

On August 8th 2017, all registered Kenyans will have the opportunity to elect our leaders. Make sure you vote, peacefully!

Your Vote Your Future

Top: USAID partners used digital media and face-to-face outreach during the YVote campaign to educate, engage and motivate young people during the 2017 election season. Constituencies covered by the campaign reported a 10.4 percent increase in participation and/or awareness of IEBC voter education activities. Photo: USAID/IFES
Working together for peaceful elections in Kenya
PREVENTING CONFLICT AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

USAID provided grants to a network of 17 civil society and faith-based organizations

Violent extremism (VE) is a major threat to progress and development in Kenya, and is sustained and fueled by a wide range of grievances related to social and political marginalization; historical injustices; poverty and inequality; high rates of unemployment; lack of formal services or social amenities; and human rights violations and lack of rule of law.

USAID provided grants to a network of 17 strong, well-coordinated civil society and faith-based organizations to support their work with communities to resist and reduce the threat of radicalization. Local leaders from the council of elders, CSOs, local administration, security agencies, and religious and youth groups are often best placed to understand grievances, encourage information sharing, and deliver messages to and dialogue with communities on countering violent extremism (CVE). These groups and individuals have pierced the silence long held by their communities on violent extremism and are emerging as credible voices.

Kenya is one of the first countries in Africa to pursue national-level coordination of all CVE efforts. In 2017, with the help of a USAID-supported CSO, Kwale joined Lamu and Mombasa as one of three counties in Kenya to establish their own county-level CVE action plans in line with the national strategy. The Government of Kenya highlighted it as a model for public participation and intergovernmental collaboration for other counties to follow.

USAID addresses the reasons that individuals might be “pushed” or “pulled” toward violent extremism. A dearth of economic opportunities and simmering ethnic tensions have created a unique vulnerability among youth, making them particularly susceptible to recruitment. Our programs offer young people more productive options for their futures through education, skills and job training. Young people who participated in sessions to increase their awareness of the perils of radicalization also received business training and assistance in applying for government loans or grants to start their own businesses. In 2017, seven youth groups and individuals registered businesses; two successfully applied for small loans and two secured tenders with government and private sector entities to provide goods and services.

Left: Sheik Isaac Abdulahi leads a discussion between clans in Garissa County.
Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
Top: Mohammed Noor attends a meeting to resolve conflicts between clans over grazing land and watering holes in Garissa County. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi

Bottom: Members of the Sunna Football Club with their mentor, Muktar Abdi. The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims received a USAID grant to create a mentorship program that reaches youth at risk of radicalization and recruitment. Photo: USAID/Irene Angwenyi
Shidi Kul waits to load goats into a lorry at Isiolo Livestock Market. The father of six has been working at the market since it was upgraded by USAID. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
Agriculture is the key driver of economic growth in Kenya, and is central to the country’s development strategy. Supporting the approximately three-quarters of Kenyans who make some part of their living in agriculture has immense potential to boost Kenya’s national economy. To help smallholder farmers exploit this potential, Kenya is a focus country for Feed the Future, an initiative launched by the U.S. Government in 2009 to help countries develop their agriculture sectors and reduce hunger, poverty and undernutrition. These efforts help farmers to access and profit from markets, promote farmer-friendly partnerships with the private sector, and empower farmers to produce beyond the subsistence level. In 2017, Feed the Future provided nearly 800,000 smallholder farmers with training and access to finance and new markets — factors that can help them graduate to ‘for-profit’ producers.

As the worst drought in decades ravaged large parts of Kenya in 2017, millions of already vulnerable people in the arid and semi-arid lands were at risk of losing their basic livelihoods. Feed the Future’s resilience efforts expanded opportunities in the agricultural and livestock sectors to help these communities break the cycle of poverty and develop capacities that will help them better prepare for the next drought.

In 2017, more than 106 million hectares of land benefited from improved agricultural technologies or land management practices used by smallholder farmers. As a result, farmers earned more from their crops. Returns on maize, for example, went up from $252 to $420 per hectare; dairy sales more than doubled from $528 to $1,242 per cow; and French beans earnings increased from $1,265 to $2,428 per hectare — significant increases that, at household level, can mean the difference from being aid dependent or food secure.

Left: “When I first started growing passion fruits, my neighbors thought I was mad, because no woman in the village had done this before. Now, they call me ‘Mama Matunda’ (Mother of Fruits).” With USAID support, Rose Okello from Siaya County is steadily increasing her yield and harvest and thus her income and ability to provide for her family. Photo: USAID
LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Innovators, input suppliers and processors accessed $8.6 million of private capital leveraged through USAID

Linking the private sector to smallholder farmers is an essential factor in the long-term phasing out of development assistance. USAID partners with entrepreneurs and invests in new ideas and technologies, bringing to scale market-driven solutions that have the potential to improve the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers and their families. USAID works with smallholders, businesses, and national and county government partners to address constraints up and down the value chain, and to expand access to vital finance for farmers, entrepreneurs, and businesses. Partnerships with businesses — ranging from small-scale partnerships with local start-ups to global partnerships with multinational companies — more than tripled the amount of private capital leveraged compared to the previous year.

Viazi Power is a fusion farming approach that uses seed dressing and crop nutrition to boost Irish potato yields for smallholder farmers while maintaining soil fertility. The innovation combines the best of “bio-control” and bagged fertilizer products. More than 2,000 farmers in Kenya have adopted the innovation.

Top: Innovators showcase their agricultural products at a Feed the Future fair. Over a five-year period of fostering private sector innovations, USAID has helped bring 24 new agricultural solutions to food insecurity and poverty to more than 200,000 smallholder farmers across Kenya. Through these efforts, more than 6,000 jobs were created at business and farm level. Photo: USAID/Albert Mwangi
EXPANDING ACCESS TO FINANCING

Agricultural and rural loans provided through USAID assistance exceeded $25 million in 2017

Top: Following training in farming the high-yielding snow peas crop, Nipher Nelima (right) was linked to credit providers to expand her farm. After her first harvest, she more than doubled her income, earning a profit for the first time. Photo: USAID

Farmers need access to capital to profit from agriculture. However, this is a challenge in rural areas as small-scale farmers are viewed as ‘high risk’ by most commercial banks. Unable to make periodic loan payments, as most of their earnings are generated seasonally after harvest, smallholder farmers often never gain access to inputs such as seeds and fertilizer that they need to prosper.

Feed the Future works with microfinance institutions, commercial banks, and other intermediaries, such as savings and credit cooperative organizations, to help farmers, entrepreneurs, and businesses access credit that will help them expand operations and increase profits. In 2017, Feed the Future supported innovative asset-based financing. Instead of cash, microfinance institutions lent farmers inputs such as high quality seeds and fertilizer on a flexible repayment schedule. As part of the loan, farmers were required to attend weekly agricultural trainings and implement what they learn. In this model, lenders were more likely to loan to farmers because they were confident in how the investment was being used in a profitable business model.

Feed the Future also encouraged local banks to lend to small and medium enterprises providing clean energy and working in key agriculture value chains through the Development Credit Authority, a partial guarantee facility. These efforts released more than $25 million in agricultural loans in 2017, mostly to smallholder farmers.
EMPOWERING WOMEN TO IMPROVE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

13 million women farmers received agricultural loans through USAID assistance

Despite being the main contributors to food production, traditional gender norms present significant barriers to Kenyan women reaching their full potential. Women are often the ones to grow the food, prepare it, store it, and sell it, while balancing household chores and child care responsibilities. Men, however, enjoy better access to credit, markets and training, and are typically the ones who control land, household income and assets.

Feed the Future helps smallholder farmers, particularly women, access agricultural training, equipment and opportunities that can improve their lives permanently. Of the 832,407 smallholder farmers who applied improved technologies and management practices in 2017, nearly half were women. Similarly, women made up more than half of the recipients who accessed $25 million in agricultural and rural loans to expand productivity.

Below: Despite being in the midst of one of the worst droughts in decades, community members in Moruese village, Turkana, are still planting and harvesting thanks to an irrigation scheme and agricultural training from USAID. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank
Severe droughts affected large parts of Kenya in 2017, drying up water resources in half of the 47 counties. USAID works closely with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and other public and private institutions, including county governments and development and humanitarian partners, to coordinate responses and help affected communities cope with and recover from drought.

Building the livestock chain increases the resilience of pastoralists and accelerates sustainable economic growth in areas affected by drought. USAID constructed or upgraded 12 livestock markets in Isiolo and Marsabit counties, benefitting nearly 25,000 rural households and about 15,000 women and youth. These structures provide modern and permanent platforms for continued trade and economic growth, even during periods of drought and conflict. For example, Oldonyiro market started on a small piece of land where livestock was traded in an open field. People assembled under the trees to exchange money for foodstuffs. After the USAID renovation, traders across three counties, some from as far away as the capital Nairobi, bought space at the market to sell a wider range of goods and services. The market frequency increased to a weekly basis from the once every two weeks. Soon after, a leading mobile network operator erected a communication mast, and trading and access to financial services via mobile money became easier with better mobile coverage. Despite the severe drought in 2017, the value of livestock sales in arid and semi-arid lands totaled $114 million — only slightly down from the previous year.

With access to adequate water and sanitation, pastoralists can keep both their families and their livestock healthy. A public-private partnership with global and local partners such as Coca-Cola and the KCB Foundation has improved access to safe and clean water for about 190,000 people living in Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands.

When families have alternative sources of income they can reduce their dependence on steady rainfall and livestock. USAID is supporting an emerging culture of entrepreneurship to lead development in drought-prone areas. Business development grants to entrepreneurs are strengthening the livestock industry and creating local jobs, as well as viable markets to encourage dairy and poultry farming. Since 2015, more than 20 grants have been awarded in Isiolo and Marsabit counties.
Bernard Mutira shows off the cows he purchased at Isiolo Livestock Market. The 40-year-old father of three travels often from Meru to buy and sell cattle at the market. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
EXPANDING ACCESS TO ENERGY

The Power Africa initiative has helped more than 2.4 million off-grid users with access to electricity

Kenya has one of the most developed power sectors in sub-Saharan Africa. Still, just over half of the population has access to electricity, leaving an enormous potential for growth, and with it, the opportunity for increasing the provision of clean energy.

The national electricity grid still does not reach many Kenyans living in rural areas. This has sparked innovative approaches to off-grid solutions. The U.S. government’s Power Africa initiative supports the development of Kenya’s power sector and the increase of cleaner, more affordable energy through a combination of financing, transaction and technical assistance, advocacy, and investment promotion. The initiative addresses key challenges of integrating intermittent renewable energy such as geothermal, solar and wind into the national grid.

In partnership with the Government of Kenya, Power Africa supported the formation of a high-level steering committee to explore ways to overcome the estimated $14-18 billion funding gap necessary to achieve the government’s generation, transmission, distribution and off-grid electrification targets. The committee provides a unique forum for public-private dialogue and strategic problem solving to overcome sector hurdles. Its policy recommendations have become a roadmap for Power Africa programming and the entire power sector in Kenya.

Right: Turbines at the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project in Loiyangalani District, Marsabit County. One of the first projects supported by Power Africa, the wind park is the single biggest power generator in Kenya. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
Jerryson Lenkonyeki takes care of an orphaned rhino at the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary in Namunyak Conservancy.
Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
CONSERVING & PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES
INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

More than 4.1 million hectares (7 percent of Kenya’s land mass) are now under improved management.

Kenya is globally recognized for its diverse, well-functioning ecosystems and iconic landscapes and wildlife — a critical foundation for human well-being and economic activity. In recent years, these natural resources have become extremely vulnerable to climate change and other external factors such as wildlife crime, urban expansion and population growth.

Meeting these challenges requires working directly with the Government of Kenya and local communities for the careful management of the country’s natural capital in critical areas across Kenya and by promoting low-emission and climate-resilient development. With more than 60 percent of Kenya’s wildlife living outside protected areas, partners work within and beyond these boundaries — in community and private lands — to conserve, restore and sustainably use natural resources such as land, water, soil and plants that are essential for both animals and humans.

Communities play a key role in the management of natural resources and the conservation of wildlife. USAID, in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service, pioneered the community conservancy model — a widely recognized approach to conservation that protects wildlife outside protected areas, expands economic opportunities for communities, and enhances the ability of people and landscapes to withstand drought and other climatic shocks through resilience efforts. Programs are supported through regional conservancy umbrella organizations such as the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) and the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust. At the national level, the associations are anchored in the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) which provides a powerful voice on common issues affecting conservancies. A USAID-funded policy and legislative reform program through the Nature Conservancy and the KWCA protects the interests of all the 150 conservancies in Kenya.

Collectively, USAID support of the Northern Rangelands Trust benefits 329,000 people in 35 community conservancies. This partnership has helped create space for the 65 percent of wildlife outside Kenya’s parks and reserves. Training and mentorship is helping conservancies work towards financial sustainability and are enabling fledgling governance structures to mature.

Left: Community conservancies generated $1.5 million from wildlife-based tourism, livestock and women’s beadwork enterprises in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Northern Kenya, despite severe drought. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

92 percent of people living in USAID-supported conservancies report “feeling safe”

USAID has been an ardent supporter of Kenya’s wildlife sector since the 1970s and was part of the six-donor coalition that supported the establishment of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in 1990. As the largest donor to the wildlife sector, the KWS partnership contributed to an 83 percent decline in rhino poaching and 78 percent decline in elephant poaching recorded between 2012 and 2016.

USAID works with local and international partners, including KWS, to enhance wildlife management, address wildlife trafficking, and support the enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crimes. USAID’s partnership with the U.S. Department of Interior is providing rapid response assistance which supports the critical and time-sensitive work of organizations such as Save the Elephants, Elephant Crisis Fund, among a host of others.

In collaboration with the U.S. National Academies of Science and the U.S. Global Development Lab, USAID supports research grants for Kenyan scientists to explore innovative, multi-disciplinary ways to strengthen wildlife management and the prosecution of wildlife crimes.

Below: Mike Learka is a ranger at the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary on Namunyak Conservancy in Samburu County. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

23 automatic weather stations procured and installed across Kenya

A crescendo of extreme weather, including cycles of droughts and floods, threatens to undermine Kenya’s development. As rainfall patterns shift, USAID supports the country’s two-pronged climate change approach: (1) reduce the emissions that contribute to climate change (mitigation), and (2) help communities learn and use smart practices to cope with life in a changing climate (adaptation).

Transitioning to a low-carbon economy is a key component of Kenya’s Vision 2030, the long-term development blueprint for the country. Recognizing the relationship between sustainable national development and climate change, the Government of Kenya pioneered the enactment of the nation’s first Climate Change Act in 2017, as well as a national action plan that outlines a coordinated and coherent response to the challenges and opportunities presented by long-term shifts in climate. To support the act’s implementation, 25 government officials were trained on climate change policy, planning and budgeting through the Kenya School of Government.

USAID is supporting counties to mainstream climate change considerations into their laws. In 2017, three counties in the arid northern regions incorporated mitigation measures into their county integrated development plans in the agriculture, energy and infrastructure sectors. The Kenya Meteorological Department bought the 23 automatic weather stations across Kenya with USAID support, resulting in more accurate weather information for improved decision-making.

Many of the benefits derived from natural resources appear to be free, as their values are not captured in markets and prices or considered in decision-making. In 2017, USAID supported scientists from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute and the U.S. Forest Services to conduct a socio-economic and environmental valuation of three key water towers in Kenya: Mt. Elgon, Cherangani Hill and the Mau Complex. The assessment established that water towers provide critical ecological services such as water storage, river-flow regulation, flood mitigation and water purification. They also contribute to local economies in the Rift Valley and Western Kenya. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC) also concluded that the main causes of water tower degradation include over-grazing, over-harvesting or exploitation of particular species, and human encroachment. These findings will inform the development of a strategy to improve the management of water towers in Kenya.
Above: The Magado Crater in the Nakuprat Gotu community conservancy in Isiolo County. In 2017, an estimated 60,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions were avoided through clean energy initiatives supported by USAID. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi

Circle: During the 2017 dry season, Turkwell River water levels should have been at the usual 80cm. But because of the 2016/2017 drought, vast parts of the vital waterway dried up for the first time in over 30 years, leaving thousands of communities without their essential water supply. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank
FOOD FOR PEACE
Dominic Mailu walks to his farm in Makueni County. After experiencing back-to-back droughts, his family, like many others in the area, relied heavily on food assistance for many years. Through USAID training, he learned new ways to farm and can now grow and sell his own food to provide for his family, even during dry seasons. Photo: USAID/Alex Maina
RESILIENCE

1.1 million food-insecure Kenyans and more than 468,000 refugees received food and nutrition assistance

Through a partnership with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), USAID provided food and cash assistance to communities in exchange for their work to build or rehabilitate lasting community assets such as rainwater harvesting structures, farm ponds and tree nurseries. This resilience-building approach assists vulnerable people in times of crisis while creating valuable resources that increase a community’s ability to handle future shocks such as droughts or floods. In 2017, more than 680,000 Kenyans participated in and benefited from this asset-creation approach.

WFP also works to build capacity of county governments through asset creation activities, helping establish ownership and responsibility within county government structures while maintaining close coordination with the National Drought Management Authority and other relevant national ministries. FFP also worked with WFP and the Government of Kenya (GoK) to implement GoK-funded relief cash-based transfers during post-harvest months through a mobile payment platform called “Chakula kwa Jamii.” FFP complemented these transfers with support that enabled WFP to target and register beneficiaries.

Above: Women carry food packets of fortified flour from a USAID food distribution in Turkana County. In 2017, malnutrition rates in many parts of the county were at emergency levels due to severe drought. Photo: USAID/Alex Maina
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Severe drought in 2017, after multiple consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, led to millions of Kenyans experiencing hunger and hundreds of thousands suffering from malnutrition. FFP worked with WFP to provide nutritious food supplements. These supplements supported malnourished populations and prevented deterioration of nutrition conditions among vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating women in Marsabit and Turkana counties, where populations were experiencing extremely high levels of acute malnutrition. Through UNICEF, FFP purchased therapeutic food supplements produced locally at the Insta EPZ Limited factory, supporting Kenyan manufacturers and enabling a timely response to treat severely malnourished children. In preparation for the Kenyan general elections, FFP also provided in-kind and cash-based food assistance in the event of elections-related insecurity and displacement.

Kenya hosts a sizable population of refugees. While the number of Somali refugees has decreased since 2016 as they repatriate, worsening insecurity and hunger in South Sudan has pushed an increased number of South Sudanese into Kenya. In 2017, FFP provided food and nutrition assistance to support approximately 468,000 refugees (primarily from South Sudan and Somalia), which included cash-based transfers for food, support for local procurement of cereals and pulses, and a pilot program to develop refugee-managed milling operations in the refugee camps to promote self-reliance.

Above: A boy eats a sachet of ready-to-use therapeutic food at Lodwar County Referral Hospital in Turkana County. In 2017, through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), FFP bought nearly $4 million worth of nutritional commodities from Kenyan businesses. These efforts help build the local economy, while meeting emergency needs. Photo: USAID/Alex Maina
ALLOCATED FUNDS FROM 2013-2017

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*Funds represent allocations based on USAID’s 2017 fiscal year (FY) Operation Plan for Kenya and the Country Operation Plan for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in Kenya. In addition to FY 2017 allocated funds, USAID’s programs in Kenya operated with approximately $12.2 million in central USAID headquarters funding for peace and security, democracy and governance, and agriculture and health. The Office of Food For Peace budget allocation for FY 2017 was $86 million.
USAID ACTIVITIES

**Economic Growth and Intergration**
- Accelerated Value Chains Development Project Dairy, Horticulture and Livestock (AVCD)
- Africa Lead - Value Chains and Resilience Program
- Asset-Based Financing for Smallholder Farmers (ABFSF)
- Building Climate Change Resilience and Food Security Program
- Cooperative Development Program
- Feed the Future (FtF) Kenya Innovation Engine (KIE)
- Financial Inclusion for Rural Micro Enterprise (FIRM)
- Groundwater Exploration and Assessment
- Increasing Smallholder Farmer Productivity and Profitability (ISPP) Project
- Integrated Agriculture Research for Development (KALRO)
- Kenya Agricultural Value Chain Enterprises (KAVES)
- Kenya Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project (KIWASH)
- Kenya Resilient Arid Lands Partnership for Integrated Development (Kenya-RAPID)
- Marketplace for Nutritious Foods (MNF)
- Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Program plus (NHP+)
- Power Africa
- Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Land (REGAL-AG)
- Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands (REGAL-IR)
- Tegemeo Agriculture Policy Research and Analysis Program II (TAPRA 2)
- Vazi Power - Potato Fusion Farming Technology
- Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA)

**Environment and Natural Resources**
- Improving Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Laikipia - Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF)
- Low-Emission and Climate-Resilient Development Project
- Mombasa Butterfly House Project - National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
- Northern Rangelands Trust Support Program - Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)

**Health**
- Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH)
- Accelerating Progress against TB in Kenya
- APHIAplus (Nairobi/Coast)
- APHIAplus Health Communications and Marketing (HCMP)
- APHIAplus Imarisha (Northern Arid Lands)
- APHIAplus Kamit (Central/Eastern)
- APHIAplus Nuru ya Bonde (rift Valley)
- APHIAplus Western (Nyanza/Western)
- Applying Science to Strengthen Systems
- Child Survival Health Project
- CORE Group Polo Project
- Demographic and Health Survey 7
- Evaluation Services and Program Support
- Funzo Kenya
- Health Commodities and Services Management (HCSDM)
- Health Policy Project (HPP)
- Human Resources for Health Capacity Bridge Project
- Informing Decision-Makers to Act
- Integrated Program for Both HIV-Infected and Affected Children and Their Households
- Inuka Community-Based Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Project
- Kenya Medical Supplies Agency Fixed-Amount Reimbursable Agreement
- Kenya Pharma
- Leadership, Management and Sustainability
- Malaria Care
- Malaria Vaccine Development Program
- Maternal Child Support Project (MCSP)
- MEASURE Evaluation - Pima Project
- National Health Management Information System
- Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Program Plus
- People Who Inject Drugs Program
- Promoting the Quality of Medicines
- Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS)
- Translating Research into Action Project
- USAID DELIVER
- Watoto Wazima Initiative
- Wezesha Project
- WHO Africa Grant

**Democracy, Governance and Conflict Prevention**
- Agile and Harmonized Assistance for Devolved Institutions (AHADI)
- Kenya Electoral Assistance Program (KEAP)
- Kenya NiWajibu Wetu (NIWETU)
- Peaceful Empowerment in Arid Areas (PEARL)
- Strengthening Community Resilience against Extremism (SCORE)
- Strengthening Institutions of Governance and Service Delivery to Entrench Transparency and Accountability
- Support to Electoral Reforms and Processes in Kenya
- Supporting the Kenyan Constitutional Implementation Process
- Women’s Peacebuilding Leadership Program (WPPL)
- YETU Initiative

**Education and Youth**
- Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) Generation
- Global Give Back Circle Program (GGBC)
- Kenya Youth Employment and Skills (K-YES)
- Tusome Early Grade Reading Program
- Wings to Fly: Orphans and Vulnerable Children Scholarship and Leadership Program (WTF)
- Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)

**Humanitarian and Resilience**
- World Food Program (WFP)
- UNICEF