

# Kenya: At a Glance



## Gender Moments

### Introduction

The Deliver for Good campaign is rooted in the premise that girls and women are key drivers of sustainable development and powerful agents of change. As the local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begins, now is the time to ensure that national decision-makers consistently prioritize girls and women – whether in health, environment, or education policies – thereby enabling their potential to impact and improve the economic, political, and environmental situations of their nations. The Deliver for Good campaign partners have selected India, Kenya, and Senegal as focus countries to launch locally-led advocacy campaigns that will keep girls and women at the center of decision-making during the SDG era.

Each Deliver for Good focus country will convene campaign coalitions and define campaign priorities that are appropriate to the local policy landscape. Deliver for Good partners will ensure that the campaign aligns with SDG priorities and perspectives at the country level and focuses on sparking policy action for girls and women.

The following is a summary of the current political landscape and country-based civil society efforts on issues affecting girls and women.

### Statistics

Data points that reflect the status of girls' and women's health, rights, and wellbeing

**Population, female (percentage of total):** 50%<sup>1</sup>

**Fertility:** 4.3 children/woman<sup>2</sup>

**Maternal mortality rate:** 510/100,000 live births<sup>3</sup>

**Contraceptive prevalence, any methods:** 58%<sup>4</sup>

**Health facilities with minimum infrastructure (electricity, clean water, and improved sanitation):** 56.9%<sup>5</sup>

**Child marriage:** Married by 15: 4%, Married by 18: 23%<sup>6</sup>

**Is Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting legal, and under what circumstances?** As of 2011 acts of FGM is criminalized for all girls and women. The prevalence for girls is around 3%, for women it is 21%.<sup>7</sup>

**Are there laws around violence against women, and what are the penalties?** Yes, the Sexual Offenses Act 2006 introduced stronger penalties for sexual offenders, however enforcement is not consistent.<sup>8</sup>

**Female adult literacy rate:** 74%<sup>9</sup>

**Women-held registered land titles:** Solely women held: 1%, jointly held 5-6%<sup>10</sup>

**Females age 15+ with an account at a financial institution:** 51.9%<sup>11</sup>

**Proportion of national parliamentary seats held by women:** 20%<sup>12</sup>

**Use of improved sanitation facilities (overall %):** 30%<sup>13</sup>

**Government collecting gender disaggregated data? For how long and at what levels?** Yes, but the data sheets are not easily accessible online and the latest data available online is from 2011.<sup>14</sup>

### Political Landscape

Kenya is a presidential democracy. The president is head of state and head of the government. Under the 2010 Constitution, Kenya is divided into 47 counties. The National Assembly has 349 members that includes 47 women (one selected from each county). There is also a senate with 67 members: 47 elected from counties acting as single member constituencies, 16 women nominated by political parties, a man and a woman representing youth and a man and woman representing people with disabilities.<sup>15</sup>

The freedom of civil society is protected under Kenyan law; however, the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to hold the government to account may be limited. Freedom House has rated associational and organizational rights in Kenya as seven out of 12, and political pluralism and participation as ten out of 16, contributing to an overall Freedom rating of four out of seven.<sup>16</sup> Although CSOs and trade unions have successfully influenced the legislative and political agenda, increasing tensions with the government have led to deregistration threats and other impediments to their



**1984**

Kenya ratifies the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women



**1994**

Kenya participates in the International Conference on Population and Development, and adopts the Programme of Action



**1995**

Kenya attends the Fourth World Conference on Women and endorses the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action



**2001**

Kenya passes the Children's Act, prohibiting early marriage



**2006**

Kenya establishes the Sexual Offenses Act



**2008**

Kenya establishes a Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Development to promote gender equality and women's empowerment



**2010**

Kenya adopts a new Constitution, which introduced strong protections and provisions needed to support women's human rights, including guaranteeing the presence of 50% female representatives in the national legislature



operations,<sup>17</sup> and there have been concerns over forceful responses to peaceful assemblies and demonstrations.<sup>18</sup> Kenya's judicial system, however, is robust and regularly exercises its independence from the government,<sup>19</sup> as evidenced by its recent decision to nullify the results of the August 2017 presidential election in response to concerns over irregularities.<sup>20</sup>

Kenya has demonstrated commitment to achieving targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has established an Inter-Agency Technical Committee and developed an SDGs Road Map in order to streamline the SDGs into national and county policies. Although inadequate baselines and continued insufficient data collection result in an incomplete picture of overall progress, several indicators reported in the latest Voluntary National Review highlight some relevant progress. The percentage of the population without access to essential education, health and social protection services has dropped from 21.2 percent in 2014 to 20.2 percent in 2016. While maternal mortality and under-five mortality remain high, the percentage of births with skilled birth attendants rose from 43% in 2011 to 61.8% in 2016. Kenya has also increased allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. For example, between 2014 and 2016 funds devoted to the Women Enterprise Fund rose from 1.74 billion KSh to 2.43 billion KSh. In education, Kenya has achieved slight increases in education parity at the secondary and tertiary level, although has seen slight decreases in parity at the pre-primary and university level.<sup>21</sup>

## About the Deliver for Good Campaign

Deliver for Good is a global campaign initiated by Women Deliver and partners, that applies a gender lens to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promotes 12 critical investments in girls and women to power progress for all. The evidence-based advocacy campaign calls for enhanced policies, programming, and investments in girls and women. Deliver for Good highlights the ripple effects of investing in girls and women so decision makers understand the central role that gender equality plays in global development efforts.

With nearly 300 supporters in more than 50 countries, Deliver for Good is mobilizing supporters across sectors and issues areas to redefine the narrative around girls and women—from the most vulnerable, to agents of change and critical drivers of progress. The campaign is building a movement to fuel concrete action and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the global and country levels.

## ENDNOTES

- [1 http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS)
- [2 http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?view=chart](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?view=chart)
- [3 http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?view=map](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?view=map)
- [4 http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=health-nutrition-and-population-statistics](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=health-nutrition-and-population-statistics)
- [5 http://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdi/](http://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdi/)
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- [7 https://data.unicef.org/resources/state-worlds-children-2016-statistical-tables/](https://data.unicef.org/resources/state-worlds-children-2016-statistical-tables/)
- [8 http://kenyalaw.org/kl/index.php?id=4512](http://kenyalaw.org/kl/index.php?id=4512)
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- [15 "A New Structure Under a New Constitution" 2017. Web. Sep 6 2017. http://www.kenya-information-guide.com/kenya-government.html](http://www.kenya-information-guide.com/kenya-government.html)
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- [18 https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2016/09/01/kenya-overview/](https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2016/09/01/kenya-overview/)
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- [21 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15689Kenya.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15689Kenya.pdf)

