Country Background Note:
Kenya

Version 2.0

May 2020

Preface

Purpose

This note provides a summary of and links to country of origin information (COI) for use by Home Office decision makers handling particular types of protection and human rights claims. It is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of a particular subject or theme.

It is split into two main sections: (1) general background to the country concerned, including demography and geography; and (2) issues which may be relevant to protection claims. Unlike country policy and information notes, it does **not** contain an assessment of risk, availability of protection or reasonableness of internal relocation.

Decision makers **must**, however, still consider all claims on an individual basis, taking into account each case's specific facts.

Country of origin information

The country information in this note has been carefully selected in accordance with the general principles of COI research as set out in the [Common EU [European Union] Guidelines for Processing Country of Origin Information (COI)](), dated April 2008, and the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation's (ACCORD), [Researching Country Origin Information – Training Manual, 2013](). Namely, taking into account the COI's relevance, reliability, accuracy, balance, currency, transparency and traceability.

The structure and content of the country information section follows a [terms of reference]() which sets out the general and specific topics relevant to this note.

All information included in the note was published or made publicly available on or before the 'cut-off' date in the country information section. Any event taking place or report/article published after this date is not included.

All information is publicly accessible or can be made publicly available, and is from generally reliable sources. Sources and the information they provide are carefully considered before inclusion.

Factors relevant to the assessment of the reliability of sources and information include:

- the motivation, purpose, knowledge and experience of the source

- how the information was obtained, including specific methodologies used

- the currency and detail of information, and

- whether the COI is consistent with and/or corroborated by other sources.

Multiple sourcing is used to ensure that the information is accurate, balanced and corroborated, so that a comprehensive and up-to-date picture at the time of publication is provided of the issues relevant to this note.

Information is compared and contrasted, whenever possible, to provide a range of views and opinions. The inclusion of a source, however, is not an endorsement of it or any view(s) expressed.

Each piece of information is referenced in a brief footnote; full details of all sources cited and consulted in compiling the note are listed alphabetically in the [bibliography](#).

Feedback

Our goal is to continuously improve our material. Therefore, if you would like to comment on this note, please email [the Country Policy and Information Team](#).

Independent Advisory Group on Country Information

The [Independent Advisory Group on Country Information](#) (IAGCI) was set up in March 2009 by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to support him in reviewing the efficiency, effectiveness and consistency of approach of COI produced by the Home Office.

The IAGCI welcomes feedback on the Home Office's COI material. It is not the function of the IAGCI to endorse any Home Office material, procedures or policy. The IAGCI may be contacted at:

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Information about the IAGCI's work and a list of the documents which have been reviewed by the IAGCI can be found on the Independent Chief Inspector's pages of the [gov.uk website](#).

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Country information

1.   Geography and demography

1.1   Key facts

Key facts	
Full country name:	Republic of Kenya[1]
Area:	total: 580,367 sq km land: 569,140 sq km water: 11,227 sq km[2]
Border countries:	Kenya has land borders with Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Kenya also has a coastline of 536 km[3].
Flag:	[4]
Population:	47,564,296 (2019 national census). Gender breakdown - 23,548,056 male; 24,014,716 female. Females accounted for 50.5% of the total population. The population has grown to 47.6 million in 2019 from 37.7 million in 2009[5] . See also Population distribution and density, and Birth/death rate.
Capital city:	Nairobi[6]

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[1] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[2] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[3] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[4] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url..
[5] Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, '2019 Kenya Population and Housing…', 4 November 2019, url.
[6] CIA World Factbook 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.

Administrative divisions:	For administrative purposes, Kenya is divided into 47 counties headed by elected governors[7]. Kenya's 47 counties were introduced under the 2010 Constitution of Kenya[8] and are listed on the [Kenya Law Reform Commission website.](url)
	Kenya was previously divided into 8 provinces[9]. Those were (with provincial capital cities in brackets):
	Central Province (Nyeri), Coast Province (Mombasa), Eastern Province (Embu), Nairobi (Nairobi), North Eastern Province (Garissa), Nyanza Province (Kisumu), Rift Valley Province (Nakuru), Western Province (Kakamega)[10].

1.2   Population distribution and density

1.2.1   The population is heavily concentrated in the west along the shore of Lake Victoria. Other areas of high density include the capital of Nairobi, and in the southeast along the Indian Ocean coast. The urban population is 28% of the total population (2020)[11].

1.2.2   The population estimated in Nairobi in 2020 was 4.735 million and Mombasa, 1.296 million[12].

1.2.3   The 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census published figures on the total population numbers within each county as well as the distribution of population by sex, number of households, land area, population density, and sub-location[13]. See the [2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Volume 2](url) for more details.

1.3   Birth/death rate

1.3.1   Kenya's birth rate is 27.2 births/1,000 population (2020 estimate) and the death rate is 5.2 deaths/1,000 population (2020 estimate)[14].

1.4   Map of Kenya

1.4.1   The map below shows international borders, main roads, airports and cities[15]:

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[7] Encyclopaedia Britannica, 'Kenya – Local government', 22 November 2019, [url](url).
[8] Republic of Kenya, 'Constitution of Kenya', 2010, [url](url)
[9] Encyclopaedia Britannica, 'Kenya – Local government', 22 November 2019, [url](url).
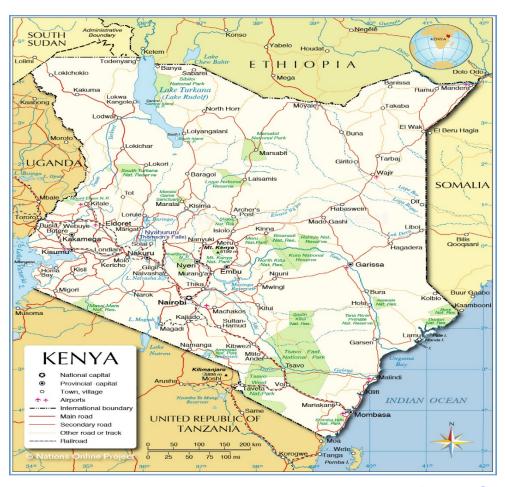[10] Nations online, 'Administrative Map of Kenya', (n.d), [url](url).
[11] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, [url](url).
[12] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, [url](url).
[13] KNBS, '2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Volume 2…', 21 February 2020, [url.](url)
[14] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, [url](url).
[15] Nations online, 'Political map of Kenya', (n.d), [url](url).

1.5   Air transport links

1.5.1   The Kenya Travel Tips website provided the following information: 'Most airports in Kenya are used for domestic flights. The largest airport is Jomo Kenyatta International Airport located in Nairobi. The second largest is Moi International Airport located in Mombasa.' [16]

1.5.2   The other main airports listed in the Kenya Travel Tips website are:

- Wilson Airport [Nairobi], mainly used for domestic flights with light aircraft;

- Eldoret International Airport, used for tourism and to transport export produce, and;

- Kisumu International Airport, the third busiest airport in Kenya, and the country's fourth international airport[17].

1.6   Road transport links

1.6.1   The Kenya National Highways Authority (KNHA) website stated: 'Kenya has a road network of about 177,800 km out of which only 63,575 km is

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[16] Kenya Travel Tips, 'Airports in Kenya – locations and IATA and ICAO Codes', (n.d), url.
[17] Kenya Travel Tips, 'Airports in Kenya – locations and IATA and ICAO Codes', (n.d), url.

classified.'[18] The first Schedule of the Kenya Roads Act classifies the different types of roads as national, rural and urban[19].

1.6.2   The KNHA website also stated: 'The classified road network has increased from 41,800 km at independence to 63,575 km today, a development rate of less than 600 km per annum. During the same period, the paved road length grew from 1,811 km to 9,273 km. It is presently estimated that about 70% (44,100 km) of the classified road network is in good condition and is maintainable while the remaining 30% (18,900 km) requires rehabilitation or reconstruction.' [20]

1.7   Rail transport links

1.7.1   Kenya's total rail network has 2,778 kilometres of narrow gauge, and is managed by the Kenya Railways Corporation, a state corporation responsible for providing rail and inland waterways transport. In June 2017, a new railway line between Mombasa and Nairobi opened. Passenger services began in June 2017 while regular cargo services began in January 2018[21].

1.8   Languages

1.8.1   A wide variety of languages are spoken in Kenya. The lingua franca is Swahili, which is the language of local trade and is also used (along with English) as an official language in the Kenyan legislative body, the National Assembly, and the courts[22].

1.9   Ethnic and minority groups

1.9.1   Kenya's ethnic groups

Kenya's ethnic groups (2019 estimate)[23]	
Name	**Percentage of the total population**
Kikuyu	17.1%
Luhya	14.3%
Kalejin	13.4%
Luo	10.7%
Kamba	9.8%
Somali	5.8%
Kisii	5.7%

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[18] KNHA, road network 'Map – Classification', (n.d), url.
[19] Republic of Kenya, 'Kenya Roads Act 2007', revised 2012, url.
[20] KNHA, road network 'Map – Classification', (n.d), url.
[21] Export.gov, 'Kenya – Construction and Infrastructure', 13 August 2019, url.
[22] Encyclopaedia Britannica, 'Kenya: People - Ethnic groups and languages', 22 November 2019, url.
[23] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.

Mijikenda	5.2%
Meru	4.2%
Maasai	2.5%
Turkana	2.1%
others	9.2%

1.9.2 According to World Atlas, the Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kalenjin, and Kamba are the largest ethnic groups in Kenya. The Kikuyu are a Bantu-speaking group that is widely found in the central region of Kenya. The Luhya ethnic group, the second largest ethnic group in Kenya, also belongs to the Bantu group of people. Luos mainly live in the Nyanza Province in western Kenya whilst Kalenjins mostly reside in the Rift Valley region in Kenya[24].

1.9.3 Minority Rights Group, Kenya: Minorities and indigenous peoples, updated January 2018, noted:

'Ethnic/national minorities, such as the Nubians and Somalis, are not recognized as such by the Kenyan government and have problems accessing citizenship documents. In recent years political conflict on ethnic lines has increased dramatically…Nevertheless, ethnic categorizations are complex and sometimes overlapping. Such linguistic minorities as the Terik, Sengwer and Suba are challenged by the near-extinction of their languages. Agriculturalists and pastoralists often have competing claims to land, and nomadic pastoralists are in ceaseless conflict with the authorities, most of whom come from farming tribes.

'No ethnic grouping is numerically dominant, and while a few groups have had opportunities at political power with its associated economic benefits, the Kikuyu, who make up 22 per cent of the population, have tended to dominate politics in the post-independence era. Some groups have never held political power. Competition for power and exclusion from it on an ethnic basis has been a major source of tension in Kenya. Particularly vulnerable minorities include Muslims, such nomadic pastoralists as Somalis and Maasai, and hunter-gatherers.' [25]

1.9.4 For more information on ethnic and minority groups including culture, location and language, see the World Atlas, Largest Ethnic Groups in Kenya[26].

For information on numbers of minority and indigenous communities, see Minority Rights Group, Kenya: Minorities and indigenous peoples[27].

For information on intercommunal conflict during 2019, see the USSD report 2019[28].

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[24] World Atlas, 'Largest Ethnic Groups in Kenya', last updated: 18 July 2019, url.
[25] Minority Rights Group, 'Kenya: Minorities and indigenous peoples', updated: January 2018, url
[26] World Atlas, 'Largest Ethnic Groups in Kenya', last updated: 18 July 2019, url.
[27] Minority Rights Group, 'Kenya: Minorities and indigenous peoples', updated: January 2018, url
[28] USSD, USSD report 2019 (section 6), 11 March 2020, url.

1.10 Religious demography

1.10.1 The United States State Department (USSD) 2018 International Religious Freedom report stated that of a population of 48.4 million (July 2018), approximately 83% of the population is Christian. Of those, 48% are non-evangelical Protestants, 23% are Roman Catholics, and 12% are other Christian denominations, including evangelical Protestants and Pentecostals[29].

1.10.2 Muslims make up 11% of the population. Most of the Muslim population lives in the northeast and coastal regions, where religion and ethnicity (for example, Somali and Mijikenda ethnic groups) are often linked[30].

1.10.3 Groups constituting less than 2% of the population include Hindus, Sikhs, and Baha'is. Much of the remaining 4-5% of the population adheres to various traditional religious beliefs[31].

Section 2 updated: 18 March 2020

2. Economy

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The World Bank provided the following overview of Kenya's economy in September 2019: 'While economic activity faltered following the 2008 global economic recession, growth resumed in the last five years reaching 5.7% in 2018 placing Kenya as one of the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The economic expansion has been boosted by a stable macroeconomic environment, positive investor confidence and a resilient services sector.' [32]

2.1.2 The CIA World Factbook stated:

'Kenya is the economic, financial, and transport hub of East Africa. Kenya's real GDP growth has averaged over 5% for the last decade. Since 2014, Kenya has been ranked as a lower middle income country because its per capita GDP crossed a World Bank threshold. While Kenya has a growing entrepreneurial middle class and steady growth, its economic development has been impaired by weak governance and corruption…

'Agriculture remains the backbone of the Kenyan economy, contributing one-third of GDP. About 75% of Kenya's population of roughly 48.5 million work at least part-time in the agricultural sector, including livestock and pastoral activities. Over 75% of agricultural output is from small-scale, rain-fed farming or livestock production. Tourism also holds a significant place in Kenya's economy. In spite of political turmoil throughout the second half of 2017, tourism was up 20%, showcasing the strength of this sector…

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[29] USSD, '2018 Report on International Religious Freedom', section 1, Kenya, 21 June 2019, url.
[30] USSD, '2018 Report on International Religious Freedom', section 1, Kenya, 21 June 2019, url.
[31] USSD, '2018 Report on International Religious Freedom', section 1, Kenya, 21 June 2019, url.
[32] World Bank, 'The World Bank in Kenya – Overview', 30 September 2019, url.

'Inadequate infrastructure continues to hamper Kenya's efforts to improve its annual growth so that it can meaningfully address poverty and unemployment.' [33]

2.1.3   Reviewing Kenya's 2019 economy, the African Development Bank Group noted:

'Real GDP grew by an estimated 5.9% in 2019, driven by household consumption and investment on the demand side and services on the supply side (such as public administration, information technology, finance and insurance, and transport and storage). GDP was down from 6.5% in 2018, caused mainly by unfavorable weather and reduced government investment.

'Kenya's economic growth has not been inclusive enough: poverty fell to 36% in 2015/16 from 46% in 2005/6. Unemployment fell marginally from 9.5% in 2014 to 9.3% in 2018. The bottom income quintile receives only 4% of income.' [34]

2.2   Key facts

The economy	
Currency:	Kenyan Shilling (KES)[35]
Exchange rate:	1 GBP = 124 KES[36] (25 March 2020)
GDP growth:	5.6% first quarter 2019[37]
GDP per capita:	US$3,500 (2017 estimate)[38] (£3,000.43, 25 March 2020[39])

The labour force (2017 estimate)[40]	
Sector	**Percentage of the workforce**
Agriculture	34.5%
Industry	17.8%
Services	47.5%

- Kenya ranked 143 out of 189 countries in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Indicators and Indices: 2018 Statistical Update[41].

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[33] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[34] African Development Bank Group, 'African Economic Outlook …', (page 175), 30 January 2020, url.
[35] XE currency converter, 25 March 2020, url.
[36] XE currency converter, 25 March 2020, url.
[37] Trading Economics, 'Kenya GDP Annual Growth Rate', (n.d), url.
[38] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[39] XE currency converter, 25 March 2020, url.
[40] CIA World Factbook, 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[41] UNDP, 'Human Development Indicators and Indices: 2018 Statistical Update', url.

- The World Bank noted a decline of population below the poverty line from 46.8% in 2005/06 to 36.1% in 2015/16[42].

2.2.1   For more information, see:

- [The World Bank in Kenya](#)

- [CIA World Factbook – Kenya – Economy](#)

- [African Development Bank Group – Kenya Economic Outlook](#)

Section 3 updated: 15 March 2020

3.   History

3.1.1   For sources that provide information on the history of Kenya, see [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)[43] and [BBC Kenya profile – Timeline](#)[44].

Section 4 updated: 15 March 2020

4.   Media and communications

4.1.1   The American export.gov website stated:

'Kenya has a well-developed telecommunications infrastructure that is reliable and affordable. The three primary mobile networks in Kenya are Safaricom, Airtel, and Telkom Kenya.

'Roaming and international calling charges in East Africa are generally higher than those in Asia and Europe.

'Wi-Fi service in the country is readily available with Wi-Fi hotspots available in major shopping malls, restaurants, salons, and even in some public transport vehicles.' [45]

4.1.2   Key points:

International diallling code	+ 254[46]
Time in Kenya	See [World Clock](#)
Internet domain	.ke[47]
Main press[48]	- Daily Nation - market-leading daily published by the Nation Media Group - The Standard - privately-owned daily, Kenya's oldest newspaper - The Star - privately-owned daily

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[42] World Bank, 'Poverty Incidence in Kenya Declined …', 10 April 2018, [url](#)
[43] Encyclopedia Britannica, 'Kenya - History', 22 November 2019, [url](#).
[44] BBC, 'Kenya profile – Timeline', 7 January 2020, [url](#).
[45] Export.gov, 'Kenya – Business Travel', 13 August 2019, [url](#).
[46] Country Calling Codes, 'Kenya Calling Codes', (n.d), [url](#).
[47] 101domain.com, 'Kenyan Domains', (n.d), [url](#).
[48] BBC, 'Kenya profile - Media', 24 July 2019, [url](#).

	• The EastAfrican - weekly • Taifa Leo - Swahili daily
Radio stations[49]	• Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) - state-owned, networks in English, and Swahili and other indigenous languages • Capital FM - national commercial network, music and hourly news • Kiss FM - national commercial network, music • Radio Citizen - national commercial network
Television stations[50]	• Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) - state-owned • Citizen TV - private, most-watched network, owned by Royal Media Services (RMS) • Kenya Television Network (KTN) - private, operated by Standard Group • NTV - private, operated by Nation Media Group • K24 - private, news

4.1.3   Additionally, it is estimated that:

- 65,644 have access to the landline telephone network[51].

- 49,501,430 people have mobile telephone subscriptions (97 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants)[52].

- 12,165,597 people have access to the internet[53].

Section 5 updated: 5 January 2020

5.   Citizenship and nationality

5.1.1   The Constitution of Kenya states that in relation to retention and acquisition of citizenship:

'(1) Every person who was a citizen immediately before the effective date retains the same citizenship status as of that date.

'(2) Citizenship may be acquired by birth or registration.

'(3) Citizenship is not lost through marriage or the dissolution of marriage.' [54]

5.1.2   In relation to citizenship by birth, the Constitution states:

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[49] BBC, 'Kenya profile - Media', 24 July 2019, url.
[50] BBC, 'Kenya profile - Media', 24 July 2019, url.
[51] CIA World Factbook 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[52] CIA World Factbook 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[53] CIA World Factbook 'Kenya', 15 March 2020, url.
[54] Constitution of Kenya 2010, (Chapter 3 – Citizenship, section 13), url.

'1) A person is a citizen by birth if on the day of the person's birth, whether or not the person is born in Kenya, either the mother or father of the person is a citizen.

'(2) Clause (1) applies equally to a person born before the effective date, whether or not the person was born in Kenya, if either the mother or father of the person is or was a citizen.

'(3) Parliament may enact legislation limiting the effect of clauses (1) and (2) on the descendents of Kenyan citizens who are born outside Kenya.

'(4) A child found in Kenya who is, or appears to be, less than eight years of age, and whose nationality and parents are not known, is presumed to be a citizen by birth.

'(5) A person who is a Kenyan citizen by birth and who has ceased to be a Kenyan citizen because the person acquired citizenship of another country, is entitled on application to regain Kenyan citizenship.' [55]

5.1.3   In relation to citizenship by registration, the Constitution states:

'(1) A person who has been married to a citizen for a period of at least seven years is entitled on application to be registered as a citizen.

'(2) A person who has been lawfully resident in Kenya for a continuous period of at least seven years, and who satisfies the conditions prescribed by an Act of Parliament, may apply to be registered as a citizen.

'(3) A child who is not a citizen, but is adopted by a citizen, is entitled on application to be registered as a citizen.

'(4) Parliament shall enact legislation establishing conditions on which citizenship may be granted to individuals who are citizens of other countries.

'(5) This Article applies to a person as from the effective date, but any requirements that must be satisfied before the person is entitled to be registered as a citizen shall be regarded as having been satisfied irrespective of whether the person satisfied them before or after the effective date, or partially before, and partially after, the effective date.' [56]

See also the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011[57] for the law on citizenship.

Section 6 updated: 11 December 2019

6.   Official documents

6.1   Registration of births and deaths

6.1.1   The Constitution of Kenya and the Births and Deaths Registration Act 2012 provide the mandate for the government to perform the following functions, as cited by UNICEF:

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[55] Constitution of Kenya 2010, (Chapter 3 – Citizenship, section 14), url.
[56] Constitution of Kenya 2010, (Chapter 3 – Citizenship, section 15), url.
[57] Republic of Kenya, 'The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act', 2011, url.

- Registration of all births and deaths occurring in the country and of Kenyan citizens occurring abroad;

- Issuance of certificates of births and certificates of deaths on demand;

- Production and dissemination of statistics from the records of births and deaths;

- Safe custody of all records of births and deaths[58].

6.1.2 The World Bank report, 'The State of Identification Systems in Africa – Country Briefs', stated:

'The Kenya Department of Civil Registration has a mandate to register births and deaths, and to issue the corresponding paper certificates…
Birth registration is mandatory and must be completed within the child's first three months, according to Kenya's Birth and Deaths Registration Act CAP 149. The birth registration rate of children below five years of age is 63 percent, and the latest figure for the institutional birth rate is 60 percent. The village subchief is responsible for registering home births. The local registration office gives each registered child a unique birth registration number consisting of 12 digits.' [59]

6.1.3 The Birth and Deaths Registration Act 2012 provides for the registration of deaths. It is a legal obligation for all deaths to be registered at local civil registry offices[60].

6.1.4 A notification of death has to be signed by a medical practitioner or community registration agent who is then required to forward the notification to the registrar of deaths[61]. A burial permit or notification of death - Form D4 (application for a death certificate) - has to be completed[62]. A death certificate is issued upon application by the person who registers the death[63].

6.1.5 See Birth and Deaths Registration Act 2012 and Constitution of Kenya.

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6.2 Registration of marriages

6.2.1 The Marriage Act 2014 provides for the registration and regulation of marriages. It recognizes five types of marriage - civil, Christian, customary, Hindu and Islamic. Civil marriages are conducted in the Registrar of Marriages, Deputy County Commissioners or Assistant County Commissioners offices[64]. It is a legal obligation for marriages to be registered at local civil registry offices. The legal age of marriage is 18 years

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[58] UNICEF, 'Kenya profile', (n.d), url.
[59] World Bank, 'The State of Identification Systems in Africa - Country Briefs', Kenya, 1 April 201, url.
[60] UNICEF, 'Kenya profile', (n.d), url.
[61] World Bank, 'The State of Identification Systems in Africa - Country Briefs', Kenya, 1 April 2017, url.
[62] USSD, Bureau of Consular Affairs, 'Reciprocity Schedule', Kenya, (n.d), url.
[63] UNICEF, Kenya profile, (n.d), url.
[64] Kenyan government OAGDJ, 'Getting Married in Kenya', (n.d), url.

of age. A marriage is valid and can be registered if both the man and woman are present at the marriage ceremony[65].

6.2.2   The International Bank for Reconstitution and Development/World Bank (IBRD/WB) report, ID4D Country Diagnostic: Kenya, stated: 'Marriage registration is complicated by the multiple forms of marriage recognized in Kenya's multiethnic society, including traditional marriage and polygamous marriage. The Marriage Act of 2014 (Cap 150) mandates that traditional marriages be registered within 6 months but compliance, as for death certification, is likely to be less than complete.' [66]

See also Marriage Act 2014[67].

6.3   National identity cards

6.3.1   The Kenyan Department of Immigration Services (DIS) website stated:

'The Department of National Registration Bureau was established in 1978 to implement and enforce the Registration of Persons Act (Cap 107), Laws of Kenya. The Act provides for compulsory identification, registration and issuance of identity cards to all persons who are citizens of Kenya and who have attained the age of eighteen years and above.

'National Identity Cards play an important role in the security, social economic and political development of the country through identification of Kenya citizens, facilitating voting process and promoting economic activities.' [68]

6.3.2   There is a semi-automated registration system that issues secure national identity cards to all eligible citizens. The categories of applications for identity cards are:

- not previously registered. No fees are paid to access this service

- duplicates - resulting from lost, defaced or mutilated card

- change of details resulting from change of name(s) and residence which attracts a fee of Kshs.300 and 1000 (depending on the request)[69].

6.3.3   The Kenyan DIS website stated:

'The Registration Process

'All persons seeking initial registration are required to prove their citizenship, age and be positively identified by local National Government Administration officers (Assistant chiefs, Chiefs and Assistant County Commissioners) before they are registered.

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[65] UNICEF, 'Kenya profile', (n.d), url.
[66] IBRD/WB, 'ID4D Country Diagnostic: Kenya', page 8, 2016, url.
[67] Kenya Law, Marriage Act, 2014, url.
[68] Kenyan DIS, National Registration Bureau, (n.d), url.
[69] Kenyan DIS, National Registration Bureau, (n.d), url.

'Applicants in border and cosmopolitan areas are vetted by identification committees comprising local elders, immigration officers (where present), Registration officers and local security personnel.

'The department maintains an electronic database of registered Refugees and Foreign nationals. It also processes Refugees and Foreign Nationals identity cards on behalf of Immigration and Refugees and civil servants identity cards and government staff identification badges.' [70]

6.4 Passports

6.4.1 The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011 stated that: 'Every citizen is, subject to this Act, entitled upon application, in the prescribed manner, to be issued with a passport or other travel documents to facilitate international travel.' [71]

For more information on the types, validity and application for issuance of passports, see the [Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011](url) (Part 5)[72].

For information on the process and documents required to obtain a Kenyan passport, see the [Department of Immigration Services](url) website[73].

Section 7 updated: 6 April 2020

7. Healthcare

7.1 Organisation of the healthcare system

7.1.1 The Allianz Care (health insurance company) website stated:

'The Kenyan health system can be divided into three categories. Public providers, private non-profit organisations (including faith-based and mission hospitals as well as local and international NGOs) and private for-profit health care providers…

'Basic government-funded public healthcare is provided at primary healthcare centres and dispensaries. The government pharmaceutical chain KEMSA provides medication and medical supplies to government dispensaries. These are usually run and managed by nurses. Public health centres provide free services for simple ailments such as the common cold and flu, uncomplicated malaria and minor skin conditions. Those patients with conditions that cannot be handled by a nurse are referred to clinics and hospitals…

'The Central Province and Nairobi offer the best public healthcare facilities, whereas the North-Eastern Province is the most under-developed.

'The private healthcare sector in Kenya has become more prominent in recent years. Private clinics of varying standards exist in most major urban

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[70] Kenyan DIS, National Registration Bureau, (n.d), url.
[71] Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011, url.
[72] Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011,url.
[73] Department of Immigration Services, 'Application for ordinary/ East African Passport', (n.d), url.

centres, including the coastal beach resort areas like Diani and Malindi. Private hospitals exist mainly in Nairobi, with a few options in Mombasa.

'…private healthcare in Kenya can be prohibitively expensive without the assistance of a comprehensive health insurance policy.' [74]

7.1.2   The World Health Organization/Alliance for Health Policy and Systems (WHO/AHPS) Research report 2017, Primary Health Care Systems (PRIMASYS) – Case Study from Kenya, stated:

'The Kenyan health system defines six levels of the hierarchy, as follows: level 1, community services; level 2, dispensaries and clinics; level 3, health centres and maternity and nursing homes; level 4, sub-county hospitals and medium-sized private hospitals; level 5, county referral hospitals and large private hospitals; and level 6, national referral hospitals and large private teaching hospitals. PHC services are primarily provided at levels 1 to 3… Public PHC facilities are governed by health facility committees, which include the facility in-charge and community representatives. For private PHC facilities, government oversight is provided through regulation, implemented through eight regulatory agencies.' [75]

7.2   National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)

7.2.1   An academic article, published by Taylor & Francis in September 2018, entitled Kenya National Hospital Insurance Fund Reforms: Implications and Lessons for Universal Health Coverage, stated:

'The NHIF [National Hospital Insurance Fund] is a public institution that was established in 1966 to provide mandatory health insurance to formal sector employees, and its mandate later expanded to cover informal sector workers in 1998. Membership in to the NHIF is mandatory for formal sector workers, who pay an income rated monthly contribution through statutory deductions, whereas it is voluntary for informal sector workers, who pay a flat rate contribution directly to the NHIF. Previous analysis has shown that NHIF's purchasing is passive rather than strategic. Health insurance coverage in Kenya is generally low…The NHIF is the main health insurer in Kenya, covering 16% of Kenyans, whereas the 32 private health insurers collectively cover a mere 1% of the Kenyan population.' [76]

More information about the National Hospital Insurance Fund is available on its website.

7.3   Universal Health Coverage Plan

7.3.1   A Health Policy Watch article, Kenyan President Launches Benchmark Universal Health Coverage Pilot, To Become Nationwide In 18 Months, dated 13 December 2018, stated:

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[74] Allianz Care, 'Healthcare in Kenya', (n.d), url.
[75] WHO/AHPS, 'Primary Health Care Systems (PRIMASYS) – Case Study from Kenya', 2017, url.
[76] Taylor and Francis Group, 'Kenya National Hospital Insurance Fund Reforms…', 2018, url.

'Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta today announced the launch of a universal health coverage (UHC) plan, positioning Kenya as a leader in achieving quality and affordable healthcare in the African continent…

'The first pilot phase will cover four strategically located Kenyan counties – following review of the pilot, the plan is to be extended to the rest of the country over the next 18 months, with the aim to reach 100 percent coverage by 2022, …

'The programme being implemented in Isiolo, Machakos, Nyeri and Kisumu counties will see all citizens receiving free basic health care services in all public health facilities. The selected counties face a diverse array of problems, including a high incidence of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, maternal mortality and road traffic injuries.

'Kenya currently allocates only about 4 percent of its national budget to healthcare. To meet the new UHC goals, the government will set aside some US$40- 45 million in new funds, officials said. This will be financed by new taxation sources, reallocation funds from other government ministries, and external donors.' [77]

7.3.2   The Institute of Health and Society at the University of Oslo noted in January 2020 that:

'Although they [government officials tasked with implementing UHC] generally agreed that UHC is a "good thing", as one of our informants told us, "before, people could not afford health care and were just suffering at home", these civil servants were given little time to make preparations for the huge increase in patients coming for free healthcare at public facilities when user fees were removed in December 2018. The delivery of medicines through the parastatal Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) initially began well, but laboratory services quickly became handicapped by problems in supply chains of reagents. While patients received free health care, they faced long waiting times for consultations, laboratory tests, radiology services and operations. By May 2019, supplies of medicines and provision of some laboratory services were dwindling, forcing patients to use private pharmacies and laboratories if they could afford them. In Kisumu County, health workers have been overwhelmed by patient numbers. During 2019, strikes by health workers demanding better pay and conditions of work draw attention to the challenges of rolling out universal health coverage under conditions of austerity. Nurses strikes, lasting from July to October 2019, have paralysed services, raising questions about the meaning of UHC.' [78]

7.4   Healthcare infrastructure, practitioners and treatment

7.4.1   The WHO's Country Cooperation Strategy Kenya report, circa 2014, citing the government's own data taken from 2014 reported the total number of government, private, NGO and faith-based health facilities in the country[79]:

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[77] Health Policy Watch, 'Kenyan President Launches…', 13 December 2018, url.
[78] Wangamati, et al, 'Kenya is making moves…', 4 January 2020, url.
[79] WHO, 'Country Coperation Strategy Kenya' (p11), 2014, url.

Dispensaries	Health centres	Medical clinics	Country hospitals	National hospitals
3,911	932	2267	463	16

7.4.2   The US Embassy and the British High Commission in Kenya provided lists of medical practitioners and facilities (including GP practices, pharmacies and hospitals) for the use of US/UK citizens travelling to Kenya, and also provided an indication of the range of services available in public, private and NGO-run facilities[80] [81]. These included:

- cardiology
- chemotherapy
- centistry
- castroenterology
- cynaecology
- cephrology
- obstetrics
- oncology
- orthopedics
- paediatrics
- radiology[82].

7.4.3   The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council website also lists medical practitioners and facilities registered with the organisation, and information about practitioners' specialisms[83].

7.5   Standard of healthcare facilities

7.5.1   The Allianz Care website stated:

'…public healthcare programmes and facilities tend to be understaffed, poorly equipped and lacking supplies…The Kenyan healthcare system has been plagued by issues of low-quality and counterfeit medication...

'Emergency services in Kenya are limited and largely unreliable. Ambulance response times tend to be slow as there are not many rapid response vehicles available.' [84]

7.5.2   The Pacific Prime website stated:

'Public healthcare in Kenya is generally of low quality due to widespread corruption and limited resources. Loans made to Kenya in the 1980's by

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[80] US Embassy in Kenya, Medical assistance, (n.d), url.
[81] UK FCO, British High Commission, 'Kenya – List of Medical Practitioners', 31 May 2018, url.
[82] British High Commission, 'Kenya – List of Medical Practitioners', 31 May 2018, url.
[83] KMPDC, Homepage, (n.d), url.
[84] Allianz Care, 'Healthcare in Kenya', (n.d), url.

international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank were typically conditional, and the prerequisites typically relied on Kenya cutting various budget expenditures. As a result, public healthcare has been suffering tremendously, even up until today, as medical facilities now have fewer supplies and user fees are more and more common. Compounding this problem, many medical professionals choose employment in the better-paying private healthcare sector.' [85]

7.5.3   The Child Fund International website noted that:

'Kenya faces a number of serious problems, including widespread poverty, income inequality, and lack of access to healthcare. One of the biggest challenges in Kenya is to make healthcare available to all of its citizens. With approximately half its population living in poverty, Kenya struggles to provide access to basic health care services and medical treatment to its citizens, especially those living in rural communities and the densely populated slums…

'According to UNICEF, Kenya was considered to be one of Africa's success stories in terms of economic development and access to basic services such as health care and education. However, the violence that erupted amid allegations of political corruption in the country's presidential elections in 2007 resulted in numerous setbacks to government programs, including reform of the country's ailing health care system.

'…according to the World Health Organization, only 4.6 percent of the nation's GDP was invested in its health care system. With more than 43 million children under the age of 15 living in Kenya, this lack of investment has serious implications for the country's urgent health care problems. Kenya's health care system cannot meet the vast needs.

'Despite making significant gains in promoting awareness of health and wellness in Kenya, preventable diseases remain a serious issue. Malaria is one of the country's biggest problems, with thousands of children dying every year from this treatable disease. Although rates of HIV and AIDS infection have slowed in recent years, millions of families are impacted by these serious conditions. Poor sanitation in urban areas and a lack of affordable medications in rural communities further contribute to the spread of disease, and many children do not have access to even basic healthcare.' [86]

7.5.4   The World Health Organization/Alliance for Health Policy and Systems (WHO/AHPS) Research report 2017, Primary Health Care Systems (PRIMASYS) – Case Study from Kenya, stated: 'Public primary health facilities have been reported to be pro-poor, particularly across rural locations.' [87]

7.5.5   In October 2018 Abbott, an American medical devices and health care company, reported: 'In the most rural parts of the world, such as western Kenya, quality healthcare is hard to come by. With limited access to

[85] Pacific Prime, 'Kenya Medical Insurance', (n.d), url.
[86] Child Fund International, 'Struggles Facing the Kenyan Health Care System', (n.d), url.
[87] WHO/AHPS, 'Primary Health Care Systems (PRIMASYS) – Case Study from Kenya', 2017, url.

healthcare, incomplete training, and poor supply chains complicating care, many Kenyans suffer from chronic health problems, like diabetes, that often go undiagnosed and untreated.' [88]

7.5.6   The USSD Overseas Security Advisory Council crime and safety report of March 2020 noted that: 'The blood supply in Kenya is generally unsafe; the Embassy does not recommend the use of blood products.' [89]

7.5.7   The 'Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Kenya' compiled by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for the 35th session of the Human Rights Council to be heard in January 2020 provided information on the availability of medical care in the following areas:

- Maternal health

- Reproductive health

- HIV/AIDS treatment

- Access to healthcare for people with albinism, children with autism[90].

For more information, see the ['Summary of Stakeholders' submissions](#).

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7.6   Mental healthcare

7.6.1   The World Health Organization (WHO) Mental Health Atlas 2017, published in 2018, stated that in 2017 there were 30 mental health outpatient facilities attached to a hospital, and 15 psychiatric units in general hospitals. A total of 12,000 people were inpatients in psychiatric units in 2017. Most people who use mental health facilities paid for these services and any medication prescribed with their own money. In 2017, Kenya had only one psychiatric hospital[91].

7.6.2   The Business Daily noted in November 2018 that:

'A review of the Health ministry records by the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) reveals that as at 2015, there were only 92 psychiatrists in the country instead of the 1,533 required. Similarly there were 327 psychiatrist nurses instead of 7,666...The country's present reliance on dysfunctional referral system for the provision of mental healthcare services is attributed to the fact that the government has not taken sufficient steps to roll out such services in more health centres despite the increasing number of patients with mental disorders. By December 2014, there were 3,956 government-owned health centres providing general health services across the country. However, besides Mathari National Referral Hospital, mental healthcare services are only available in 29 of the 284 hospitals…But even at Mathari Hospital all is not well…the hospital is expected to provide the highest level of specialised care for patients with mental illnesses…The hospital has

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[88] Abbott, Transforming healthcare in Kenya, 23 October 2018, url.
[89] USSD, OASC, 'Kenya 2020 Crime and Safety Report', 5 March 2020, url.
[90] UN OHCHR, 'Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Kenya' (para 86-94) 5 November 2019, url
[91] WHO, 'Mental Health Atlas 2017', Kenya, url.

nonetheless failed to operate optimally, partly due to bureaucratic systems of management that have hindered financial planning.' [92]

7.6.3   In September 2019, Kanco, a membership organisation in the health sector, noted that:

'In Kenya, mental health is underfunded and there is no separate budget for mental health. The country has approximately 100 psychiatrists for a population of 45 million (ratio 1:450,000). In addition, clinical psychologists and medical social workers who are central to the management and treatment of mental illness are very few. They are relatively inaccessible to the majority who need mental health services due to geographical distance as majority are based in the urban areas with high consultation fees. This forces most of those suffering to seek private treatment which is very costly and those who cannot afford are force to deal with their conditions themselves without professional assistance…Mathari Hospital, is the only affordable public facility and the only public hospital in the country offering specialized psychiatric services and training.' [93]

See also Kenya Ministry of Health and WHO Mental Health Atlas 2017

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Section 8 updated: 18 March 2020

8.   Children

8.1   The constitution and international child conventions

8.1.1   The Kenyan constitution states that:

'53. (1) Every child has the right—

'(a) to a name and nationality from birth;

'(b) to free and compulsory basic education;

'(c) to basic nutrition, shelter and health care;

'(d) to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour;

'(e) to parental care and protection, which includes equal responsibility of the mother and father to provide for the child, whether they are married to each other or not; and

'(f) not to be detained, except as a measure of last resort, and when detained, to be held – (i) for the shortest appropriate period of time; and (ii) separate from adults and in conditions that take account of the child's sex and age.

'(2) A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.' [94]

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[92] Business Daily Africa, 'Sorry state of Kenya's mental health system', 5 November 2018, url
[93] Kanco, 'Mental Health Status in Kenya', 24 September 2019, url
[94] Republic of Kenya, 'Constitution of Kenya 2010' (part 3 – section 53(1)), url.

8.1.2   The UNICEF report, 'Taking child protection to the next level in Kenya', published in December 2015, stated:

'The Government of Kenya ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990; acceded to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict in 2002; and became a signatory in 2000 to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Kenya also ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoptions, the Palermo Protocol and the Millennium Declaration 2000. To date, Kenya has ratified seven of the eight labour-related conventions, including International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions No. 138 (on minimum age) and No. 182 (on the worst forms of child labour).' [95]

8.2   Education

8.2.1   The Kenyan constitution, in Article 53 (1) (b) states that every child has a right to free and compulsory basic education. In accordance with these constitutional provisions, the Basic Education Act (No 14 of 2013) was passed into law to regulate the provision of basic education and adult basic education in the country. The Education Act makes primary and secondary education compulsory, and parents who fail to take their child to school are breaking the law. The Children's Act also acknowledges and protects every child's right to education, and other laws guarantee the implementation of the right to education[96].

8.2.2   The Encyclopedia Britannica stated: 'The national educational system consists of three levels: eight years of compulsory primary education (beginning at age six), four years at the secondary level, and four years of higher education. The government provides free primary and secondary education. Entrance into secondary school is contingent upon obtaining the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education by passing a national exam.' [97]

8.2.3   The United Nations Human Rights Council Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OCHCR), Summary of Stakeholders Submissions on Kenya, 5 November 2019, in the submission by Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, (Switzerland) and – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, noted: '.. that (a) access to education remained a concern especially for the poorest children living in the rural areas; and (b) the quality of education was compromised by class-room overcrowding and limited educational resources.' [98]

8.2.4   The same report, in a joint submission by Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children, Nairobi (Kenya) and ECPAT International, Bangkok (Thailand) stated that: '…children in rural communities continued to have significantly

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[95] UNICEF, 'Taking child protection to the next level in Kenya', December 2015, url.
[96] Right to Education Project, 'Right to Education Country Factsheet – Kenya', March 2014, url.
[97] Encyclopaedia Britannica, 'Kenya - Education', 22 November 2019, url.
[98] UN OHCHR, 'Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Kenya' (para 67), 5 November 2019, url.

less access to health, security, and educational resources compared to children in urban areas.' [99]

8.2.5 According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the estimated illiterate population in Kenya in 2018 for 15-24 years was 1,290,638. In 15 years and older it was 5,714,459. The estimated literacy rate for 15-24 years was 87.83%, for 15 years and older was 81.53% and for those 65 years and older it was 57.42%[100].

8.2.6 CEIC Data noted:

'Kenya's KE:Adjusted Net Enrollment Rate [the number of pupils of the school-age group for primary education, enrolled either in primary or secondary education, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group]…was reported at 83.119 % in Dec 2012. This records an increase from the previous number of 78.871 % for Dec 2009…

'Kenya's KE: Adjusted Net Enrollment Rate [for females]…was reported at 84.942 % in Dec 2012. This records an increase from the previous number of 79.439 % for Dec 2009.

'Kenya's KE: Adjusted Net Enrollment Rate [for males]…was reported at 81.322 % in Dec 2012. This records an increase from the previous number of 78.311 % for Dec 2009.' [101]

8.2.7 The United States State Department (USSD) Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2019 (USSD report 2019) stated: 'While the law provides pregnant girls the right to continue their education until after giving birth, NGOs reported that schools often did not respect this right. School executives sometimes expelled pregnant girls or transferred them to other schools.' [102]

See also the [Constitution of Kenya 2010](#), [Education Act 2013](#) and [Healthcare](#).

8.3   Child labour and the law

8.3.1 The USSD Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2019 (USSD report 2019) stated:

'The minimum age for work (other than apprenticeships) is 16, and the minimum age for hazardous work is 18. These protections, however, only extend to children engaged under formal employment agreements, and do not extend to those children working informally…

'The law allows children ages 13 to 16 to engage in industrial undertakings when participating in apprenticeships. Industrial undertakings are defined under law to include work in mines, quarries, factories, construction,

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[99] UN OHCHR, 'Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Kenya' (para 107), 5 November 2019, [url](#).
[100] UNESCO, 'Kenya' (illiterate Population, Literacy Rate), (n.d), [url](#).
[101] CEIC, 'Kenya Education Statistics', (n.d), [url](#).
[102] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 7c), 11 March 2020, [url](#).

demolition, and transportation, which the list for children includes as hazardous work…

'Employment of children in the formal industrial wage sector in violation of the Employment Act was rare. The law does not prohibit child labor for children employed outside the scope of a contractual agreement.' [103]

8.4 Enforcement of the child labour laws

8.4.1 The US Department of Labor (US DOL) in its 2018 report 'Findings on the worst forms of child labor' noted that:

'In 2018, Kenya made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government greatly increased the number of labor inspectors, inspections conducted, and child labor violations identified. However, children in Kenya engage in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation. Children also engage in child labor in agriculture… the minimum age for work law does not protect children working outside the scope of a formal employment contract or in circumstances in which children derive no benefit from their labor. The government has also not committed sufficient resources to child labor enforcement.' [104]

8.4.2 The USSD report 2019 stated:

'The law provides for penalties for any person who employs, engages, or uses a child in an industrial undertaking in violation of the law. Fines in the formal sector were generally enough to deter violations…

'The Ministry of Labor enforces child labor laws, but enforcement remained inconsistent due to resource constraints. Supplementary programs, such as the ILO-initiated Community Child Labor monitoring program, helped provide additional resources to combat child labor. These programs identified children who were working illegally, removed them from hazardous work conditions, and referred them to appropriate service providers. The government also worked closely with the Central Organization of Trade Unions, and the Federation of Kenyan Employers to eliminate child labor.' [105]

8.5 Exploitation of children

8.5.1 The USSD report 2019 stated: 'The law explicitly prohibits forced labor, trafficking, and other practices similar to slavery; child soldiering; prostitution; the use, procuring, or offering of a child for the production of pornography; the use, procuring, or offering of a child for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; and the use by an adult for illegal activities (such as drug trafficking) of any child up to age 18. The law applies equally to girls and boys.'[106]

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[103] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 7c), 11 March 2020, url.
[104] US DOL, '2018 Findings on the worst forms of child labor' (page 677), October 2019, url
[105] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 7c), 11 March 2020, url.
[106] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 7c), 11 March 2020, url.

8.5.2   The US DOL in its 2018 report, Findings on the worst forms of child labor, noted that: 'Kenya has yet to ratify the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.' [107]

8.6   Child marriage

8.6.1   The Social Institutions and Gender Index stated:

'The legal age of marriage for both women and men is 18 (Marriage Act, Sec. 4). The law does not provide for any legal exceptions in this regard. The minimum age applies to all forms of marriage, i.e. civil, Christian, Hindu, Islamic and customary. The violation of the legal age renders a marriage contract void (Marriage Act, Sec. 11). Similarly, a marriage that fails to be registered is void (Marriage Act, Sec. 12) as a measure to ensure that the minimum standard of age is obeyed. A marriage to a person under the age of 18 is considered as an offence and punishable to imprisonment up to 5 years and/or a fine (Marriage Act, Sec. 87). Whereas celebrating or witnessing to a child marriage is a subject to imprisonment penalty of maximum 6 months or a fine (Marriage Act, Sec. 92). The ban of child marriage is confirmed in the Children Act (2001) stating that no one shall impose a child to harmful cultural rites and practices such as child marriage (Children Act, Sec. 14). Moreover, the law provides for children in need of care and protection from child marriage to be placed in separate facilities from their offenders (Children Act, Sec. 119). In addition, the court may render a marriage null and void ab initio and send a child to school (Children Act, Sec. 125)…The ban of child marriage is also supported by the criminalisation of the sexual activities with a person under 18 (Sexual Offences Act, Sec. 8, 16; IDLO, 2010).' [108]

8.6.2   The UNICEF Kenya website stated:

'The national child marriage prevalence has decreased from 26.4 per cent (KDHS [Kenya Demographic and Health Survey] 2008-2009) to 23 per cent (KDHS 2014). Child marriage is a reality for far too many Kenyan girls, especially those from disadvantaged communities where poverty is rife.

'In terms of regional child marriage prevalence: North Eastern (56%) is highest, followed by Coast (41%), Nyanza (32%), Rift Valley (30%), Western (27), Eastern (18%), Central (17%), and Nairobi (7%) (KDHS 2014).' [109]

8.6.3   The United Nations Human Rights Council Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OCHCR), Summary of Stakeholders Submissions on Kenya, 5 November 2019, in the submissions by various groups noted:

'…that: (a) child marriage was widely practices among some communities; (b) marriage for persons below the age of 18 years was illegal although Section 49 of the Marriage Act provided that "[a]ny provision of this Act

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[107] US DOL, 2018 Findings on the worst forms of child labor (page 677), October 2019, url
[108] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, url.
[109] UNICEF, Kenya, 'Harmful Practices', (n.d), url.

which is inconsistent with Islamic law and practices shall not apply to persons who profess the Islamic faith", potentially permitting child marriage.

'…many cases of child marriage were settled within the community with the assistance of local administrators, thereby evading the justice system…

'…the lack of availability of statistical data on child marriage was not readily available to inform the design and programming of interventions towards tackling child marriage.' [110]

8.6.4 The USSD report 2019 stated: 'The minimum age for marriage is 18 years for women and men. Media occasionally highlighted the problem of early and forced marriage, which some ethnic groups commonly practiced. Under the constitution, the kadhi courts retained jurisdiction over Muslim marriage and family law in cases where all parties profess the Muslim religion and agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts.' [111]

See the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Children Act 2012.

8.7 Children's social care and support organisations

8.7.1 The UNICEF report, Taking child protection to the next level in Kenya, stated: 'Kenya has over 830 residential care institutions known as Children's Charitable Institutions, housing an estimated 40,000 to 42,000 children (the exact number is unknown and may be higher). These institutions were established to provide care, protection or rehabilitation of children.' [112]

8.7.2 The UNICEF report also stated:

'The Department of Children Services is tasked with coordinating and supervising child protection services for children and their families. To implement its activities, the department works closely with development partners including non-governmental, faith-based and community-based organizations. In March 2013, the Department of Children Services was moved from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development to the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services (currently the Ministry of Labour and East African Affairs since December 2015). The latter has a large and diverse mandate, some of which commands high public interest, such as wages. As a result, action on child protection issues has suffered.' [113]

8.7.3 A number of NGOs provide care and support to children with disabilities, special needs, or who are otherwise vulnerable in some respect:

- Childline Kenya
- SOS Children's Villages
- Cariad Kenya
- Girl Child Network

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[110] UN OHCHR, 'Summary of Stakeholders' submissions…' (para 108-9), 5 November 2019, url.
[111] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 7c), 11 March 2020, url.
[112] UNICEF, 'Taking child protection to the next level in Kenya', December 2015, url.
[113] UNICEF, 'Taking child protection to the next level in Kenya', December 2015, url.

- [Sense International](url).

See also the [Marriage Act](url) and the [Children Act](url).

9. Security and crime

9.1 Crime

9.1.1 For information on the security forces and their capabilities, see [Country Policy and Information Note Kenya: Actors of protection](url).

9.1.2 The United States State Department (USSD) Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Kenya 2020 Crime & Safety Report (USSD OSAC 2020 report) stated:

'The greatest threats continue to be road safety and crime. Violent and sometimes fatal criminal attacks, including home invasions, burglaries, armed carjackings, and kidnappings can occur at any time and in any location. Criminals frequently use weapons during the commission of their crime.

'Street crime is a serious problem, particularly in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kiambu, Meru, and other large cities. Most street crime involves multiple armed assailants. In some instances, large crowds of street criminals incite criminal activity, which has the potential to escalate into mob violence with little notice.' [114]

9.2 Terrorism

9.2.1 The USSD OSAC 2020 report stated:

'Terrorism remains a high-priority concern. The U.S. government continues to receive information regarding potential terrorist threats aimed at U.S., Western, and Kenyan interests in the Nairobi area, counties bordering Somalia, and in the coastal areas including Mombasa and Malindi. Past terrorist acts have included armed assaults, suicide operations, bomb/grenade and improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, kidnappings, attacks on civil aviation, and attacks on maritime vessels in/near ports.

'The porous border with Somalia remains a concern. Kenya is a participant in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and initiated military action against al-Shabaab by crossing into Somalia in 2011 and 2012. Kenyan troops within AMISOM continue to pursue al-Shabaab in southeastern Somalia. In response to the Kenyan intervention, al-Shabaab and its sympathizers have conducted retaliatory attacks against civilian and government targets in Kenya, including targeting Westerners. Al-Shabaab frequently uses ambushes and IEDs to target Kenyan security forces in Wajir, Garissa, Lamu, and Mandera counties.' [115]

9.2.2 The USSD Country Report on Terrorism 2018 stated:

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[114] USSD OSAC, 'Kenya 2020 Crime & Safety Report', 5 March 2020, [url](url).
[115] USSD OSAC, 'Kenya 2020 Crime & Safety Report', 5 March 2020, [url](url).

'Kenya continued to experience al-Shabaab terrorist attacks in the region bordering Somalia during 2018, particularly through IEDs and ambushes targeting Kenyan police and military forces. However, Kenya saw a decrease in fatalities from al-Shabaab attacks in 2018 owing to fewer indiscriminate attacks on civilians. Although al-Shabaab has shifted the focus of its attacks to security forces personnel and infrastructure, attacks targeting civilians still occur. The rest of the country remains vulnerable to attacks by terrorist groups…

'Terrorists continued to exploit Kenya's sparsely populated border regions and largely uncontrolled land borders to conduct attacks and move operatives in and out of the country.' [116]

9.2.3 The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website stated:

'The main terrorism threat is from extremists linked to Al Shabaab, a militant group in Somalia opposed to the Somali government. Al Shabaab has issued public threats against Kenya due to Kenya's military intervention in Somalia. The Kenyan authorities have increased security to counter potential reprisal attacks by Al Shabaab. There is some evidence of growing support for Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL) in Kenya...

'There have been a number of terrorist attacks in Kenya in recent years: On 5 January 2020 there was an attack on a military camp at Manda Airstrip (Lamu County) in which 3 people were killed. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack

'On 15 to 16 January 2019, there was an attack at the hotel and commercial complex at 14 Riverside in Nairobi, resulting in injuries and loss of life. One British national was killed…

'Several attacks took place in Garissa County in 2015, including an attack on Garissa University College on 2 April 2015 in which at least 148 people were killed…

'There are frequent attacks in the north-eastern border regions, particularly in Garissa, Lamu and Mandera counties and other areas close to the Somali border, most of which were attributed to Al Shabaab. These have killed members of the Kenyan security forces as well as civilians. The Kenyan security forces have increased their presence in the affected areas. Armed militia groups operate within the Boni Forest and along the border between Garissa County and Somalia.' [117]

Key issues relating to protection claims

Section 10 updated: 2 January 2020

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[116] USSD, 'Country Report on Terrorism 2018', October 2019, url.
[117] FCO, 'Foreign travel advice – Kenya', 11 January 2020, url.

10. Female genital mutilation (FGM)

10.1.1 See the Kenya [Country policy and information note: Female genital mutilation (FGM)](#).

Section 11 updated: 2 January 2020

11. Sexual orientation and gender identity

11.1.1 See the Kenya [Country policy and information note: Sexual orientation and gender identity](#).

Section 12 updated: 6 April 2020

12. Women

12.1 Legal rights

12.1.1 An article published on the website of the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COWAW) by Fatuma Ahmed Ali, Associate Professor of International Relations at the United States International University - Africa and an external researcher of the Interuniversity Institute for Social Development & Peace of the Universitat Jaume I of Castellon in Spain noted:

'…the 2010 Constitution of Kenya under the Bill of Rights (Chapter 4) recognizes the rights and fundamental freedom of all citizens and guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination on any grounds, including sex.

'…Article 27 in the Bill of Rights stipulates that women and men have the right to equal treatment, including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural, and social spheres.' [118]

12.1.2 The Social Institutions and Gender Index also stated that the: 'Kenyan Constitution protects equality within marriage and provides women with the same rights as men to be recognised as the head of household (Constitution of Kenya, Sec. 27, 43, 45, 53). Women are not legally required to obey their husbands.' [119]

12.1.3 The UN Women website stated:

'Kenya brought in a new progressive, rights-based constitution in 2010, which provides the legal framework for the government to fulfil basic rights, and for marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially women and children, to claim their rights. However, women still face challenges including the ability to participate effectively in decision making and leadership and that the majority of the female members of the national parliament and the county assemblies are new to the legislature. The situation is compounded by the absence of a credible and vibrant women's movement to advocate for the constitutional gender equality gains.' [120]

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[118] Ali, F.A., 'Women's Agency and Violence against Women..' (p51–65), 2017, [url](#).
[119] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, [url](#).
[120] UN Women, 'Kenya', (n.d), [url](#).

12.1.4 The USSD report 2019 stated:

'The constitution provides equal rights for men and women and specifically prohibits discrimination on the grounds pregnancy, marital status, health status, ethnic or social origin, color, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, dress, language, or birth. The justice system widely applied customary laws that discriminated against women, limiting their political and economic rights.

'The constitution prohibits gender discrimination in relation to land and property ownership and gives women equal rights to inheritance and access to land. The constitution also provides for the enactment of legislation for the protection of wives' rights to matrimonial property during and upon the termination of a marriage, and it affirms parties to a marriage are entitled to equal rights at the time of marriage, during the marriage, and at its dissolution. According to a June [2019] report by FIDA-K, Isiolo Gender Watch, and Shining Hope for Communities, however, the law has not been amended to comply with these constitutional provisions and perpetuates discrimination. Additionally, the components of the law that do stipulate how to apply for succession were little known and thus many inheritances continued to pass from fathers to sons only.' [121]

12.1.5 Other pieces of legislation that affect women are the Sexual Offences Act (2006), Employment Act (2007), Prohibition of FGM Act (2011), the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act (2010), the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, Gazettement of Sexual Offences Medical Treatment Regulations and Post Rape Care (PRC) Form, and the Victims Protection Act[122].

12.1.6 The United Nations Human Rights Council Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OCHCR), Summary of Stakeholders Submissions on Kenya, 5 November 2019, in a joint submission by a number of organisations stated: '…that there was a lack of specific frameworks at the county level dedicated to monitoring the implementation of national laws and policies aimed at addressing the economic exclusion of girls and young women.' [123]

See also State protection for victims of SGBV.

12.2   Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

12.2.1 An article published on the COWAW website by Fatuma Ahmed Ali stated:

'The magnitude of violence against women and girls, particularly physical, psychological, sexual, and gender-based violence, in Kenya is disturbing and on the rise…Despite the existence of legislation, administrative directives, judicial sanctions, and awareness-raising efforts by a variety ofrganizations and the government, gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and harmful practices, such as forced child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), is still endemic in Kenya. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

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[121] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 7c), 11 March 2020, url.
[122] Ali, F.A., 'Women's Agency and Violence against Women...' (p51–65), 2017, url.
[123] UN OHCHR, 'Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Kenya', (para 103), 5 November 2019, url

(KNBS) report of 2014, 47% of women between the ages of fifteen and forty-nine reported that they have experienced either physical or sexual violence. Thirty-three percent have experienced physical violence only, 3% have experienced sexual violence only, and 12% have experienced both physical and sexual violence. The percentage of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence increases steadily with age, from 35% among those aged fifteen to nineteen to 54% among those aged forty to forty-nine (KNBS 2014: 302).'[124] The USSD report 2018 stated: 'The National Police Service recorded 2,557 reports of sexual gender based violence (SGBV) between January and June [2018] on the National Sexual Gender Based Violence Information System. Authorities investigated 2,393 cases, leading to 454 prosecutions, with six convictions as of June [2018].' [125]

12.2.2   The USSD report 2019 noted: 'The judiciary recorded 3,832 cases of sexual and gender-based violence filed in court between October 2018 and September [2019]. Authorities reported 947 convictions during the year… Authorities cited domestic violence as the leading cause of preventable, nonaccidental death for women during the year.' [126]

12.2.3   The Social Institutions and Gender Index stated:

'In Kenya, domestic violence remains a challenge; it is difficult to investigate and prosecute. Women rarely report domestic violence offences as they are often socialised to tolerate and rationalise such offence (Demographic and Health Survey, 2014). Police officers are not likely to deal with issues concerning domestic sphere as it is considered as a private family matter… Moreover, they are known to accept bribes or send victims back to their family perpetrators to reconcile the problem individually (IMPOWR Database).' [127]

12.2.4   An article published on the COWAW website by Fatuma Ahmed Ali stated:

'In the case of Kenya, most of the incidences of violence against women and girls occurs within the family and the community where perpetrators are close acquaintances of the victims. It is also important to note that violence at the family and community level is condoned by the state due to its lack of effective prosecution of gender-based crimes. One common form of state-level violence against women in Kenya is sexual violence, which often occurs in the context of other forms of violations against women, such as extra-judicial killing, serious injury, torture, and forced displacement.' [128]

12.2.5   The United Nations Human Rights Council Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OCHCR), Summary of Stakeholders Submissions on Kenya, 5 November 2019 in submissions by a number of organisations stated:

[124] Ali, F.A., 'Women's Agency and Violence against Women...' (p51–65), 2017, url.
[125] USSD, 'USSD report 2018' (section 6), 13 March 2019, url.
[126] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 6), 11 March 2020, url.
[127] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, url.
[128] Ali, F.A., 'Women's Agency and Violence against Women...' (p51–65), 2017, url.

'…there has been an increase in the number of women killed on account of their gender, which was attributed to inter alia the "normalization" of violence against women propagated in social media and other public spaces.

'….in the work place gender based violence mostly manifested in the form of sexual harassment. Most private sector form have not adopted framework to address gender based violence.' [129]

12.2.6 For more information on SGBV during and after the 2017 elections, see the Human Rights Watch report, '"They Were Men in Uniform" – Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Kenya's 2017 Elections'[130] and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) 2018 report, 'Silhouettes of Brutality'[131]

12.3 State protection for victims of SGBV

12.3.1 The Sexual Offences Act 2006 contains provisions that protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. This legislation introduces new offences, including gang rape, child prostitution, and trafficking for sexual exploitation. The Act also introduces mandatory minimum sentences for rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. The sentencing provisions under the Sexual Offences Act are imprisonment of not less than 10 years to life for rape (section 3). Attempted rape is punishable with not less than five years imprisonment (section 4). The Act also provides for increased penalties for aggravated forms of rape (section 7, 10, 24)[132].

12.3.2 Section 43 of the Sexual Offences Act 2006 states that the provisions relating to rape: '…shall not apply in respect of persons who are lawfully married to each other', thus making rape within marriage exempt from criminal prosecution[133].

12.3.3 An article published on the COWAW website by Fatuma Ahmed Ali stated:

'According to Odhiambo Orlale (2015)…72.6% of survivors of GBV were unwilling to pursue justice; while only 5% who were seen in health facilities in 2014 were willing to go to court, owing to insensitivity of law enforcement. The report notes that the victim protection system is weak and worsened by high levels of legal illiteracy in the country, especially among GBV survivors (Orlale 2015).

'It is also important to note that violence at the family and community level is condoned by the state due to its lack of effective prosecution of gender-based crimes. One common form of state-level violence against women in Kenya is sexual violence, which often occurs in the context of other forms of violations against women, such as extra-judicial killing, serious injury, torture, and forced displacement.' [134]

12.3.4 The USSD report 2019 stated:

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[129] UN OHCHR, 'Summary of Stakeholders' submissions…'(para 104,106), 5 November 2019, url.
[130] HRW, '"They Were Men in Uniform"…', Summary, 14 December 2017, url.
[131] KNCHR 'Silhouettes of Brutality', 2018, url.
[132] Republic of Kenya, 'Sexual Offences Act 2006', url.
[133] Republic of Kenya, 'Sexual Offences Act 2006', url.
[134] Ali, F.A., 'Women's Agency and Violence against Women:..' (p51–65), 2017, url.

'The law criminalizes rape, defilement, sexual violence within marriage, and sex tourism, but enforcement remained limited. The law criminalizes abuses that include early and forced marriage, FGM/C, forced wife "inheritance," and sexual violence within marriage. The law's definition of violence also includes damage to property, defilement, economic abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, harassment, incest, intimidation, physical abuse, stalking, verbal abuse, or any other conduct against a person that harms or may cause imminent harm to the safety, health, or well-being of the person. Under law, insulting the modesty of another person by intruding upon that person's privacy or stripping them of clothing are criminal offenses punishable by imprisonment for up to 20 years.

'The law provides a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for rape when the victim is older than 18, although sentences were at the discretion of the judge and usually no longer than the minimum of 10 years (see also section 6, Children). In August the Milimani High Court sentenced two rugby players to 15 years' imprisonment for the gang rape of a singer, noting "a deterrent sentence is necessary."' [135]

12.3.5   The USSD report 2019 also noted:

'Although police no longer required physicians to examine victims, physicians still had to complete official forms reporting rape. Rural areas generally had no police physician, and in Nairobi there were only three. NGOs reported police stations often but inconsistently accepted the examination report of clinical physicians who initially treated rape victims… Except in cases of death, police officers generally refrained from investigating domestic violence, which they considered a private family matter… Sexual harassment was often not reported, and victims rarely filed charges.' [136]

12.3.6   The Social Institutions and Gender Index stated:

'Kenya adopted the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015) providing protection and relief for spouses, children and any dependants within family…The following are recognised: abuse that includes child marriage, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced wife inheritance, interference from in-laws, sexual violence within marriage, virginity testing and widow cleansing; damage to property; defilement; economic abuse; emotional or psychological abuse; forcible entry into the applicant's residence where the parties do not share the same residence; harassment; incest; intimidation; physical abuse; sexual abuse; stalking; verbal abuse; any other conduct against a person, where such conduct harms or may cause imminent harm to the safety, health, or well-being of the person (Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, Sec. 3). It refers to abuse both, from former partners and within the family (Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, Sec. 4)…The perpetrator is liable for its breach and faces imprisonment for a period not exceeding twelve months and/or a fine.' [137]

12.3.7   The Social Institutions and Gender Index stated:

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[135] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 6), 11 March 2020, url.
[136] USSD, 'USSD report 2019' (section 6), 11 March 2020, url.
[137] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, url.

'Professionals who may deal with sexual violence cases are equipped with the National Guidelines on the Management of Sexual Violence…Although, poor police training on investigating sexual and gender-based violence cases is noted, all police recruits obtain basic training in this matter while at police academy…In addition, across the country "gender desks" have been created at police stations to serve as entry point for victims of sexual violence seeking to report and open a case (International Review of the Red Cross, 2014).' [138]

12.3.8 The HRW report, '"They Were Men in Uniform" – Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Kenya's 2017 Elections', stated: 'Although Kenya has enacted important laws and guidelines to fight sexual violence, the problem remains endemic and the number of prosecutions and convictions low. Lack of, and delayed reporting by survivors to either the police or health facilities are a great impediment to the documentation necessary to punish offenders, provide medical and psychosocial care, or pay reparations to survivors.' [139]

12.3.9 See Protection Against Domestic Violence Act 2015, the National Guidelines on Management of Sexual Violence in Kenya, and the Country Policy and Information Note Kenya: Actors of protection.

12.4   Support for victims of SGBV

12.4.1 The Social Institutions and Gender Index stated:

'The Attorney-General has appointed and constituted the Task Force on the Implementation of the Sexual Offences Act in charge of undertaking initiatives towards effective implementation of the Act. It provides for minimum standards of care to be provided to victims and survivors across several sectors – health, psychosocial and legal. The Kenyan government has launched the National Policy on Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence which provides a framework towards the elimination of gender-based violence across the country (CEDAW, 2016). In addition, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework towards the Prevention of and Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kenya established one integrated and functional multi-sectional monitoring and evaluations system.' [140]

12.4.2 The Social Institutions and Gender Index also stated:

'The Gender Based Violence Recovery centres in the biggest public hospitals have been already established…

'Kenya launched in 2013 the gender-based violence hotline that is free and operates on 24-hour basis. Women can call the helpline seeking advice and access to gender-based violence services. The helpline provides supports for victims of all forms of discrimination…

'There is no specific National Action Plan addressing domestic violence. The law partially provides for integrated services for girls and women who

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[138] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, url.
[139] HRW,'"They Were Men in Uniform"…', Chapter 4, 14 December 2017, url.
[140] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, url.

survived the domestic violence. A person to whom a complaint of domestic violence is made or who investigates any such complaint is obliged to advise the victim of all relief measures available including access to shelter, medical assistance or any other required assistance (Protection against Domestic Violence Act, Sec. 6). The free helpline is also available.' [141]

12.4.3 The United Nations Human Rights Council Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OCHCR), Summary of Stakeholders Submissions on Kenya, in a submission by a number of organisations, stated: '…there was a lack of political will to combat sexual and gender based violence; and that there were no government funded shelters or safe houses for victims…safe houses for victims of domestic violence were limited in number.' [142]

See also State protection for victims of SGBV.

For more information on SGBV and support during and after the 2017 elections, see the Human Rights Watch report, '"They Were Men in Uniform" – Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Kenya's 2017 Elections'[143]

12.5   Forced marriage

12.5.1 The Social Institutions and Gender Index stated:

'Contracting a marriage requires free consent of the parties, therefore it is punishable up to three years of imprisonment and/or a fine, if a party to a marriage knows or has a reason to presume that the consent of a second spouse was induced by coercion or fraud (Marriage Act, Sec. 89). In addition, the offence of forced marriage is recognised as an abuse under Protection against Domestic Violence Act (Sec. 3). Despite the legal framework, forced marriages still occur in rural areas (UNICEF, 2016a).' [144]

See also Constitution of Kenya 2010 and Child marriage.

For information on access to housing and land rights for women, see Country Policy and Information Note Kenya: Internal relocation.

12.6   Single women

12.6.1 In sources consulted (see bibliography), CPIT could not find any recent information on the situation for single women in Kenya.

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[141] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, url.
[142] UN OHCHR, 'Summary of Stakeholders' submission on Kenya' (para 105), 5 November 2019, url
[143] HRW,'"They Were Men in Uniform"…', Summary, 14 December 2017, url.
[144] OECD, 'Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019', Kenya country profile, url.

Terms of Reference

A 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) is a broad outline of what the CPIN seeks to cover. They form the basis for the country information section. The Home Office's Country Policy and Information Team uses some standardised ToRs, depending on the subject, and these are then adapted depending on the country concerned.

For this particular CPIN, the following topics were identified prior to drafting as relevant and on which research was undertaken:

- Geography and demography
  - Key facts
  - Population distribution, density and birth/death rate
  - Transport links
  - Languages
  - Ethnic groups
  - Religious demography
- Economy
  - Overview
  - Employment
  - Key facts
- History
- Media and communications
- Citizenship and nationality
- Official documents
  - Registration of births, marriages and deaths
  - Identity cards
  - Passports
- Healthcare
  - Organisation and personnel
  - Standard of healthcare facilities
  - Mental healthcare
- Children
  - Education
  - Child labour laws and enforcement
  - Exploitation of children
  - Child marriage

- Children's social care and support organisations
- Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)
o Security and crime
o Key issues relevant to protection claims
- Women
  - Legal rights and gender equality
  - Social and economic rights
  - Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)
  - State protection for victims of SGBV
  - Support for victims of SGBV
  - Access to support services
  - Forced marriage
  - Single women

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Version control

Clearance

Below is information on when this note was cleared:

- version **2.0**
- valid from **20 May 2020**

Changes from last version of this note

Updated COI.