OVERVIEW
The Republic of Kenya has a varied climate. It is hot and humid at the coast, temperate inland, and arid or semi-arid with minimal rainfall in the northeast. However, Kenya has multiple vulnerabilities to climate change: the country may likely see an increase in the intensity of floods common to the region (page 2), alongside changing temperature and rainfall patterns. Such climate-driven events will impact on recent gains in social development and public health [World Bank Country Overview, 2015].

The risk of malaria and other vector-borne diseases are projected to increase in future years due to changing climate conditions. More severe and frequent flooding may displace communities and increase the risk of water-borne diseases, and higher temperatures may threaten food and nutritional security, agricultural livelihoods, and increase heat-related deaths in the elderly.

The government’s development strategy acknowledges such challenges yet commits to economic growth whilst building “a just and cohesive society with social equity in a clean and secure environment” [Kenya Vision 2030 – Social Pillar]. Furthermore, mitigation and adaptation measures – such as Early Warning Systems for malaria – are being implemented in an attempt to limit the impact of climate change [WHO Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Human Health. Kenya Country Profile. http://www.who.int/globalchange/projects/adaptation/en/index6.html].

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS
- Under a high emissions scenario, mean annual temperature is projected to rise by about 4.5°C on average from 1990 to 2100. If emissions decrease rapidly, the temperature rise is limited to about 1.2°C (page 2).
- Under a high emissions scenario, and without large investments in adaptation, an annual average of 503,600 people are projected to be affected by flooding due to sea level rise between 2070 and 2100. If emissions decrease rapidly and there is a major scale up in protection the annual affected population could be limited to about 500 people (page 3).
- Under a high emissions scenario heat-related deaths in the elderly (65+ years) are projected to increase to about 45 deaths per 100,000 by 2080 compared to the estimated baseline of under 2 deaths per 100,000 annually between 1961 and 1990 (page 4).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION
Kenya has an approved national health adaptation strategy and has conducted a national assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation for health. Additionally, Kenya is currently implementing projects on health adaptation to climate change and implementing actions to build institutional and technical capacities to work on climate change and health. Country reported data (see section 6) indicate that there remains further opportunities for action in the following areas:

1) Adaptation
   - Estimate the costs to implement health resilience to climate change and include estimates in planned allocations from domestic and international funds.

2) Mitigation
   - Conduct a valuation of co-benefits to health of climate change mitigation policies.

3) National Policy Implementation
   - Continue implementation of the national climate change action plan (NCCAP, 2013–2017) which aims to build an enabling policy and regulatory framework supporting low carbon climate resilient development.

DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2013)</td>
<td>43.69 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth rate (2013)</td>
<td>2.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population living in urban areas (2013)</td>
<td>24.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population under five (2013)</td>
<td>16.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population aged 65 or older (2013)</td>
<td>2.7 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita (current US$, 2013)</td>
<td>1,257 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2013)</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage share of income for lowest 20% of population (2012)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDI (2013, +/- 0.01 change from 2005 is indicated with arrow)</td>
<td>0.535 ▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEALTH ESTIMATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (2013)</td>
<td>61 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-5 mortality per 1000 live births (2013)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c World Development Indicators, World Bank (2015)
d Global Health Expenditure Database, WHO (2014)

f Global Health Observatory, WHO (2014)
Due to climate change, many climate hazards and extreme weather events, such as heat waves, heavy rainfall and droughts, could become more frequent and more intense in many parts of the world.

Outlined here are country–specific projections up to the year 2100 for climate hazards under a ‘business as usual’ high emissions scenario compared to projections under a ‘two-degree’ scenario with rapidly decreasing global emissions. Most hazards caused by climate change will persist for many centuries.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC CLIMATE HAZARD PROJECTIONS

The model projections below present climate hazards under a high emissions scenario, Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 (RCP8.5) in orange and a low emissions scenario, RCP2.6 in green. The text boxes describe the projected changes averaged across about 20 models (thick line). The figures also show each model individually as well as the 90% model range (shaded) as a measure of uncertainty and, where available, the annual and smoothed observed record (in blue).

Mean Annual Temperature

Under a high emissions scenario, mean annual temperature is projected to rise by about 4.5°C on average from 1990 to 2100. If emissions decrease rapidly, the temperature rise is limited to about 1.2°C.

Days with Extreme Rainfall (‘Flood Risk’)

Under a high emissions scenario, the number of days with very heavy precipitation (20 mm or more) could double (an increase of about 3 days on average) from 1990 to 2100, increasing the risk of floods. Some models indicate increases well outside the range of historical variability, implying even greater risk. If emissions decrease rapidly, the increase in risk is much reduced.

DAYS OF WARM SPELL (‘HEAT WAVES’)

Under a high emissions scenario, the number of days of warm spell is projected to increase from about 10 days in 1990 to about 250 days on average in 2100. If emissions decrease rapidly, the days of warm spell are limited to about 95 on average.

Consecutive Dry Days (‘Droughts’)

Under a high emissions scenario, the longest dry spell is indicated to decrease from an average of about 80 days to about 70 days, with continuing large year-to-year variability. If emissions decrease rapidly, the decrease is limited to about 3 days on average.

a Model projections are from CMIP5 for RCP8.5 (high emissions) and RCP2.6 (low emissions). Model anomalies are added to the historical mean and smoothed.
b Observed historical record of mean temperature is from CRU-Tsv.3.22.
c Analysis by the Climatic Research Unit and Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia, 2015.
d A ‘warm spell’ day is a day when maximum temperature, together with that of at least the 6 consecutive previous days, exceeds the 90th percentile threshold for that time of the year.
Human health is profoundly affected by weather and climate. Climate change threatens to exacerbate today’s health problems – deaths from extreme weather events, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, infectious diseases and malnutrition – whilst undermining water and food supplies, infrastructure, health systems and social protection systems.

Towards 2070, under both high and low emissions scenarios an annual average of about 503,600 people are projected to be affected by flooding due to sea level rise each year between 2070 and 2100. If global emissions decrease rapidly and there is a major scale up in protection (i.e. continued construction/raising of dikes) the annual affected population could be limited to about 500 people. Adaptation alone will not offer sufficient protection, as sea level rise is a long-term process, with high emissions scenarios bringing increasing impacts well beyond the end of the century.

In Kenya, under a high emissions scenario, and without large investments in adaptation, an annual average of about 503,600 people are projected to be affected by flooding due to sea level rise each year between 2070 and 2100. If global emissions decrease rapidly and there is a major scale up in protection (i.e. continued construction/raising of dikes) the annual affected population could be limited to about 500 people. Adaptation alone will not offer sufficient protection, as sea level rise is a long-term process, with high emissions scenarios bringing increasing impacts well beyond the end of the century.

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Some of the world’s most virulent infections are also highly sensitive to climate: temperature, precipitation and humidity have a strong influence on the life-cycles of the vectors and the infectious agents they carry and influence the transmission of water and food-borne diseases. Socioeconomic development and health interventions are driving down burdens of several infectious diseases, and these projections assume that this will continue. However, climate conditions are projected to become significantly more favourable for transmission, slowing progress in reducing burdens, and increasing the populations at risk if control measures are not maintained or strengthened.

### Exposure to Flooding Due to Sea Level Rise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity of climate change scenario</th>
<th>Without Adaptation</th>
<th>With Adaptation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCP2.6</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCP8.5</td>
<td>503,600</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Medium ice melting scenario  ** Values rounded to nearest 100

### Infectious and Vector-borne Diseases

Towards 2070, under both high and low emissions scenarios about 83 million people are projected to be at risk of malaria. Population growth can also cause increases in the population at-risk in areas where malaria presence is static in the future.

### Mean relative vectorial capacity for dengue fever transmission

The mean relative vectorial capacity for dengue fever transmission is projected to increase slightly towards 2070 under both a high and low emissions scenario, reaching from about 0.59 on average during the baseline period of 1961–1990 to about 0.68 under a high emissions scenario (figure not shown).

### Key Implications for Health

Kenya also faces inland river flood risk. It is projected, that by 2030, an additional 75,100 people may be at risk of river floods annually as a result of climate change and 36,700 due to socio-economic change above the estimated 29,600 annually affected population in 2010.*

In addition to deaths from drowning, flooding causes extensive indirect health effects, including impacts on food production, water provision, ecosystem disruption, infectious disease outbreak and vector distribution. Longer term effects of flooding may include post-traumatic stress and population displacement.

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*a World Resources Institute, [Aqueduct Global Flood Analyzer](http://www.wri.org). Assumes continued current socio-economic trends (SSP2) and a 25-year flood protection.


d Country-level analysis, completed in 2015, was based on health models outlined in the Quantitative risk assessment of the effects of climate change on selected causes of death, 2030s and 2050s. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2014. The mean of impact estimates for three global climate models are presented. Models assume continued socio-economic trends (SSP2 or comparable).
Climate change is expected to increase mean annual temperature and the intensity and frequency of heat waves resulting in a greater number of people at risk of heat-related medical conditions. The elderly, children, the chronically ill, the socially isolated and at-risk occupational groups are particularly vulnerable to heat-related conditions.

**Key Implications for Health**

Climate change is expected to increase mean annual temperature and the intensity and frequency of heat waves resulting in a greater number of people at risk of heat-related medical conditions. The elderly, children, the chronically ill, the socially isolated and at-risk occupational groups are particularly vulnerable to heat-related conditions.

**Undernutrition**

Climate change, through higher temperatures, land and water scarcity, flooding, drought and displacement, negatively impacts agricultural production and causes breakdown in food systems. These disproportionally affect those most vulnerable to hunger and can lead to food insecurity. Vulnerable groups risk further deterioration into food and nutrition crises if exposed to extreme climate events.a

Without considerable efforts made to improve climate resilience, it has been estimated that the global risk of hunger and malnutrition could increase by up to 20 percent by 2050.b

In Kenya, the prevalence of stunting in children under age 5 was 35.2% in 2009, the prevalence of underweight children and wasting in children under 5 was 16.4% and 7.0%, respectively, in 2009.c

---

*a* Country-level analysis, completed in 2015, was based on health models outlined in the Quantitative risk assessment of the effects of climate change on selected causes of death, 2030s and 2050s. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2014. The mean of impact estimates for three global climate models are presented. Models assume continued socioeconomic trends (SSP2 or comparable).

*b* World Food Project 2015 https://www.wfp.org/content/two-minutes-climate-change-and-hunger

CURRENT EXPOSURES AND HEALTH RISKS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION

Many of the drivers of climate change, such as inefficient and polluting forms of energy and transport systems, also contribute to air pollution. Air pollution is now one of the largest global health risks, causing approximately seven million deaths every year. There is an important opportunity to promote policies that both protect the climate at a global level, and also have large and immediate health benefits at a local level.

OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE

Key Implications for Health

Outdoor air pollution can have direct and sometimes severe consequences for health. Fine particles which penetrate deep into the respiratory tract subsequently increase mortality from respiratory infections, lung cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Short lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon, methane and tropospheric ozone are released through inefficient use and burning of biomass and fossil fuels for transport, housing, power production, industry, waste disposal (municipal and agricultural) and forest fires. SLCPs are responsible for a substantial fraction of global warming as well as air-pollution related deaths and diseases. Since short lived climate pollutants persist in the atmosphere for weeks or months while CO₂ emissions persist for years, significant reductions of SLCP emissions could reap immediate health benefits and health cost savings.¹ and generate very rapid climate benefits – helping to reduce near-term climate change by as much as 0.5°C before 2050.²

In Kenya, it is projected that a reduction in SLCPs* could prevent about 10,400 premature deaths per year from outdoor air pollution from 2030 onwards [Source: Shindell, D., Science, 2012].

* Through implementation of 14 reduction measures; targeting methane emissions and the rest, emissions from incomplete combustion. See source for further detail.

HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION

Kenya

Percentage of population primarily using solid fuels for cooking (%), 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RURAL AREAS</th>
<th>URBAN AREAS</th>
<th>NATIONAL TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;95</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Global Health Observatory, data repository, World Health Organization, 2013.

Percent of total deaths from ischaemic heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (18 years +) and acute lower respiratory infections (under 5 years) attributable to household air pollution, 2012.

Total Deaths: 44,000

[49%]

Attributable to household air pollution

Source: Global Health Observatory, data repository, World Health Organization, 2012.

Key Implications for Health

Air pollution in and around the home is largely a result of the burning of solid fuels [biomass or coal] for cooking.

Women and children are at a greater risk for disease from household air pollution. Consequently, household air pollution is responsible for a larger proportion of the total number of deaths from ischaemic heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and COPD in women compared to men.³

In Kenya, 59% percent of an estimated 19,000 child deaths due to acute lower respiratory infections is attributable to household air pollution [WHO, 2012].

Note: Data on outdoor air pollution (PM₂.₅) in Kenyan cities was not available in the WHO Ambient Air Pollution Database [WHO, 2014].


Health co-benefits are local, national and international measures with the potential to simultaneously yield large, immediate public health benefits and reduce the upward trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions. Lower carbon strategies can also be cost-effective investments for individuals and societies.

Presented here are examples, from a global perspective, of opportunities for health co-benefits that could be realised by action in important greenhouse gas emitting sectors.

**Transport**

Transport injuries lead to 1.2 million deaths every year, and land use and transport planning contribute to the 2–3 million deaths from physical inactivity. The transport sector is also responsible for some 14% (7.0 GtCO₂e) of global carbon emissions. The IPCC has noted significant opportunities to reduce energy demand in the sector, potentially resulting in a 15%–40% reduction in CO₂ emissions, and bringing substantial opportunities for health: A modal shift towards walking and cycling could see reductions in illnesses related to physical inactivity and reduced outdoor air pollution and noise exposure; increased use of public transport is likely to result in reduced GHG emissions; compact urban planning fosters walkable residential neighborhoods, improves accessibility to jobs, schools and services and can encourage physical activity and improve health equity by making urban services more accessible to the elderly and poor.

**Electricity Generation**

Reliable electricity generation is essential for economic growth, with 1.4 billion people living without access to electricity. However, current patterns of electricity generation in many parts of the world, particularly the reliance on coal combustion in highly polluting power plants contributes heavily to poor local air quality, causing cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease. Outdoor air pollution is responsible for 3.7 million premature deaths annually, 88% of these deaths occur in low and middle income countries. The health benefits of transitioning from fuels such as coal to lower carbon sources, including ultimately to renewable energy, are clear. Reduced rates of cardiovascular and respiratory disease such as stroke, lung cancer, coronary artery disease, and COPD; cost-savings for health systems; improved economic productivity from a healthier and more productive workforce.

**Household Heating, Cooking and Lighting**

Household air pollution causes over 4.3 million premature deaths annually, predominantly due to stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic respiratory disease, and childhood pneumonia. A range of interventions can both improve public health and reduce household emissions: a transition from the inefficient use of solid fuels like wood and charcoal, towards cleaner energy sources like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), biogas, and electricity could save lives by reducing indoor levels of black carbon and other fine particulate matter; where intermediate steps are necessary, lower emission transition fuels and technologies should be prioritized to obtain respiratory and heart health benefits; women and children are disproportionately affected by household air pollution, meaning that actions to address household air pollution will yield important gains in health equity; replacing kerosene lamps with cleaner energy sources (e.g. electricity, solar) will reduce black carbon emissions and the risk of burns and poisoning.

**Healthcare Systems**

Health care activities are an important source of greenhouse gas emissions. In the US and in EU countries, for example, health care activities account for between 3–8% of greenhouse gas (CO₂-eq) emissions. Major sources include procurement and inefficient energy consumption. Modern, on-site, low-carbon energy solutions (e.g. solar, wind, or hybrid solutions) and the development of combined heat and power generation capacity in larger facilities offer significant potential to lower the health sector’s carbon footprint, particularly when coupled with building and equipment energy efficiency measures. Where electricity access is limited and heavily reliant upon diesel generators, or in the case of emergencies when local energy grids are damaged or not operational, such solutions can also improve the quality and reliability of energy services. In this way, low carbon energy for health care could not only mitigate climate change, it could enhance access to essential health services and ensure resilience.

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For a complete list of references used in the health co-benefits text please see the Climate and Health Country Profile Reference Document, http://www.who.int/globalchange/en/
**5 EMISSIONS AND COMMITMENTS**

Global carbon emissions increased by 80% from 1970 to 2010, and continue to rise. Collective action is necessary, but the need and opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions varies between countries. Information on the contribution of different sectors, such as energy, manufacturing, transport and agriculture, can help decision-makers to identify the largest opportunities to work across sectors to protect health, and address climate change.

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**KENYA ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

(metric tonnes CO₂ equivalent)

The most recent greenhouse gas emissions data for Kenya is from the year 1994. At that time, carbon emissions were highest in the agricultural sector. Through intersectoral collaboration, the health community can help to identify the best policy options not only to eventually stabilize greenhouse gas emissions, but also to provide the largest direct benefits to health.


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**NATIONAL RESPONSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>KENYA RATIFIED THE UNFCCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>KENYA ACCESSION TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>KENYA ENERGY ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE STRATEGY (NCCRS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>SCALING UP RENEWABLE ENERGY (SREP) INVESTMENT PLAN FOR KENYA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2017</td>
<td>NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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A 2°C upper limit of temperature increase relative to pre-industrial levels has been internationally agreed in order to prevent severe and potentially catastrophic impacts from climate change. Reductions are necessary across countries and sectors. In order to stay below the 2°C upper limit it is estimated that global annual CO₂-energy emissions, currently at 5.2 tons per capita, need to be reduced to 1.6 tons per capita.²

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² Pathways to deep decarbonization, Sustainable development Solutions Network, 2014 report.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>KENYA RATIFIED THE UNFCCC</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The following table outlines the status of development or implementation of climate resilient measures, plans or strategies for health adaptation and mitigation of climate change (reported by countries).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNANCE AND POLICY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country has identified a national focal point for climate change in the Ministry of Health</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country has a national health adaptation strategy approved by relevant government body</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Communication submitted to UNFCCC includes health implications of climate change mitigation policies</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH ADAPTATION IMPLEMENTATION</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country is currently implementing projects or programmes on health adaptation to climate change</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country has implemented actions to build institutional and technical capacities to work on climate change and health</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country has conducted a national assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation for health</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country has climate information included in Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system, including development of early warning and response systems for climate-sensitive health risks</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country has implemented activities to increase climate resilience of health infrastructure</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINANCING AND COSTING MECHANISMS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated costs to implement health resilience to climate change included in planned allocations from domestic funds in the last financial biennium</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated costs to implement health resilience to climate change included in planned allocations from international funds in the last financial biennium</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH BENEFITS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The national strategy for climate change mitigation includes consideration of the health implications (health risks or co-benefits) of climate change mitigation actions</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country has conducted valuation of co-benefits of health implications of climate mitigation policies</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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a Supporting monitoring efforts on health adaptation and mitigation of climate change: a systematic approach for tracking progress at the global level. WHD survey, 2015.