The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line fell from 46.8 percent in 2005/06 to 36.1 percent in 2015/16. Most of the poverty decline is attributable to the progress observed in rural areas, where poverty declined from around 50 percent in 2005/06 to 38.8 percent ten years later. This contrasts with stagnant poverty incidence in urban areas, particularly outside Nairobi. Of concern is the fact that the wellbeing of the population in the north and north-east of the country lags considerably behind the rest of Kenya. Moreover, these areas saw little progress between 2005/06 and 2015/16, remain prone to food insecurity, and present very low levels of educational attainment, access to improved sanitation, and, to a lesser extent, access to improved water. The annualized consumption growth for the bottom 40 percent has been a satisfactory 2.86 percent per year between 2005/06 and 2015/16, a pattern that is more pronounced in rural areas. Consistent with this pro-poor pattern growth, inequality declined in Kenya for this period, with the Gini index falling from 46.5 in 2005 to 40.8 in 2015. This level is comparable to neighboring Tanzania and Uganda, whose Gini indices are 40.5 and 42.8, respectively.

Different methodological approaches have been used to assess poverty trends since 2015/16, adapting to data availability. All poverty estimates suggest a continuing decline in the poverty rate. Between 2015/16 and 2019, the share living below the national poverty line fell at the rate of a percentage-point per year. Since 2019, simulations based on the relationship between GDP growth and poverty reduction suggest a modest decline in the incidence of extreme poverty (US$ 1.90 PPP) between 2020 and 2021 (35.7 percent in 2020 to 34.9 percent in 2021). Microsimulations based on wellbeing indicators collected via rapid response phone surveys of Kenyan households suggest an increase in poverty in 2020 and a modest pace of recovery to pre-pandemic poverty levels in 2021. As the economic recovery continues, poverty is projected to continue its pre-COVID-19 downward trend but will need to be accompanied by targeted and inclusive policies.

### Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Poor (million)</th>
<th>Rate (%)</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Poverty Line</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Poverty Line</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidimensional Poverty Measure</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Shared Prosperity

- Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent: N/A

### Inequality

- Gini Index: 40.8
- Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth: N/A

### Growth

- Annualized GDP per capita growth: 2.81
- Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey: N/A

### Median Income

- Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita: N/A

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.
Since 1990, data collection in Kenya has been infrequent and ad hoc. Only five household surveys have been conducted since then, and the resulting poverty measures were often not strictly comparable. With the World Bank’s support, a survey was implemented in 2015/16. The resulting poverty measures are comparable with the previous survey conducted in 2005/6. From 2019 onward, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) started to collect household survey data allowing for the updating of poverty indicators. Consumption in 2019 is estimated in 2015/16 prices by modelling the relationship between consumption and household-level characteristics in 2015/16 and applying this relationship to households in 2019 using a multiple imputation approach. Poverty for 2019 is estimated by comparing imputed consumption to the 2015/16 poverty lines. Microsimulations are used to predict the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on poverty in 2020. Household consumption is projected from 2015/16 to 2020 using private consumption growth rates. Consumption loss resulting from the pandemic is estimated by changes to wages, household enterprise earnings, agricultural earnings, and remittances, with estimates based on the rapid phone surveys. However, poverty estimates from 2019 are not Kenya’s official poverty statistics. The official poverty statistics for 2015/16, produced by the KNBS, use national poverty lines. The overall rural and urban poverty lines are, respectively, 3,252 and 5,995 Kenya shillings (Kshs) per month per person (in per adult equivalent terms) and include minimum provisions for both food and non-food expenditures. These poverty lines are also used for 2019 and 2020, as consumption is predicted in 2015/16 prices. The food poverty lines without provisions for non-food expenditure correspond to the expenditure needed in 2015/16 to attain the minimum recommended daily intake of 2,250 kilocalories.

Harmonization

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.