



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**POVERTY REPORTS FOR THE YEARS 2019, 2020 AND 2021**

**Introduction**

The Government through Kenya National Bureau of Statistics has produced the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Poverty Reports based on the annual Kenya Continuous Household Surveys (KCHS). The poverty reports provide updated indicators and trends on:

- i. The dimensions of food poverty, overall poverty, hardcore poverty;
- ii. Inequality measures at national, rural-urban and county levels.

**What does it mean to be poor or living below poverty line?**

The poverty line is the minimum expenditure (on consumption) required by an individual to fulfill his or her basic food and non-food needs. Different poverty lines are applied in Rural and Urban areas because of different consumption patterns. In 2021, the overall poverty line was KSh 7,193 in urban areas and KSh 3,947 in rural areas per individual per month. This implies that an individual spending unable to spend KSh 7,193 in urban areas and KSh 3,947 in rural areas are considered to be poor.

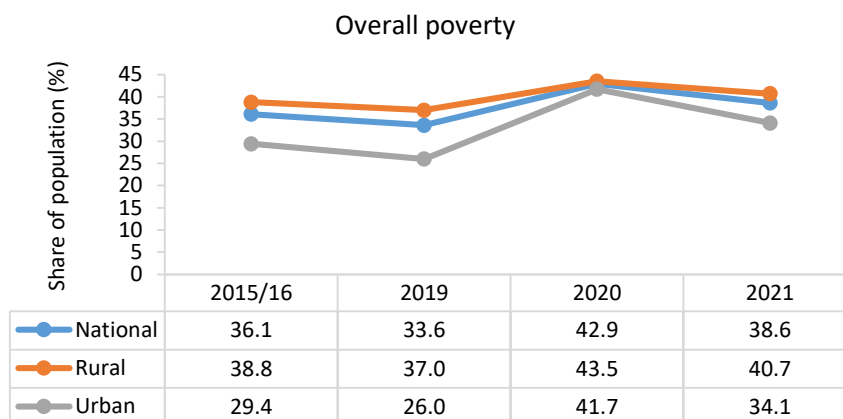
**Table 1: Poverty Lines in KSh in Current Prices**

Year	Food poverty line		Overall poverty line	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
2019	1,952	2,551	3,255	5,994
2020	2,231	2,796	3,783	6,915
2021	2,331	2,905	3,947	7,193

**What is the current status of poverty?**

In 2021, the overall poverty rate was 38.6 per cent compared to 36.1 per cent in 2015/16. However, this is a reduction compared to poverty rate of 42.9 per cent recorded in 2020. This indicates that 19.1 million individuals were poor in 2021.

**Figure 1: Trends in Overall Poverty Rates**



### What is food poverty and why is it important?

To better understand poverty, the concept of food poverty is important. Food poverty is lack of enough food to perform daily activities or having inadequate food to provide a minimum calorific energy required) per person per month (food poverty line). Being food poor means that one is unable to afford the minimum requirement. Food poverty moved from 32.0 per cent in 2015/16 to 30.5 per cent in 2021. This indicates that 15.1 million individuals were food poor.

**Table 2: Food Poverty Rates in Percentages**

Year	2015/16	2019	2020	2021
<b>National</b>	32.0	30.5	34.4	30.5
<b>Rural</b>	35.0	34.0	35.1	32.2
<b>Urban</b>	24.4	22.5	33.0	26.8

### Why does it matter to monitor status, trends and where are the poor?

- i. **Inform policy making, planning, and monitoring** progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) on ending extreme poverty.
- ii. **Resource allocation:** in social sectors (i.e. education, health, water and sanitation), social protection programs and county resource allocation.
- iii. **Gauge effectiveness of interventions** and poverty impacts of other policies.

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