



## Country fast facts

**Name:** Kenya

**Capital:** Nairobi

**National symbol:** Lion

**Population:** 45 million (2014 estimate)

**Official language:** Kiswahili and English

**Money:** 1 Kenyan shilling = 100 cents

**Life expectancy:** men = 62 years, women = 65 years

**Climate:** tropical along the coast, arid in the interior

(source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)



## Margaret's Story

**This is Margaret, 10, who lives on a rubbish dump with her mum, dad and three younger brothers in Mombasa, Kenya.**

**Both of Margaret's parents work on the rubbish dump, scavenging for scraps to sell.**

**Margaret used to scavenge all day too, until her mum decided to pay for her to go to school so that she can have a better future.**

"My name is Margaret and I live at the dump site and am in class 2. Before I joined school I was scavenging at the dump site all day."

"At school I like Social Studies, Maths, English and Science. When I finish school I want to be a teacher."

"In the morning, before I go to school, I scavenge and make about 50 shillings [35p]. I give the money to my mother to buy food for the evening. Things are hard though and sometimes my mother will struggle to find us enough to eat."

"I hate the dump site. I am afraid of the older people on the dump site who scavenge. I am not happy to be at the dumpsite because the place smells bad and there are broken bottles, nails and syringes. I am also afraid of the fire that is always burning and sometimes explodes."

"My dream is to leave it all behind and be able to by a house for my mother and brothers far away."



Margaret at school.  
PHOTO: KATE HOLT/SHOOT THE EARTH/ACTIONAID



Margaret with her family outside their house on the rubbish dump.  
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