



AINA PAOLO ACADEMY

**ELABORATED BY
AINA ETS
FOR
ACORN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

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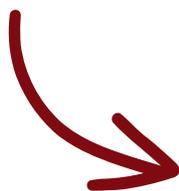
THE ORIGINS OF THE PROJECT

The AINA project “**Bimbi del Meriggio**” – known in Meru County, Kenya, as AINA Children’s Home – was created to provide shelter and care for **HIV-positive children** (both boys and girls) who have been abandoned or mistreated, responding to an urgent need for assistance. The mission of the center has its roots in the 1990s, with support provided to children in difficulty at **St. Anne’s Hospital in Igoji**, an initiative launched by Dr. Vittoria Quondamatteo, now President of the association.

Over time, the need for a stable and long-term intervention became increasingly evident: many children were being abandoned, often in severe health conditions, malnourished, or orphaned due to the worsening HIV epidemic. This led AINA to develop a **long-term project** that not only offered material care but also provided education, affection, and support – to help build a future filled with hope.

From this need, the “Bimbi del Meriggio” project was born. In 2005, a fundraising campaign was launched, followed by the purchase of land and various construction phases, leading to the opening of the center in 2010.

In detail, AINA is involved in:



- Providing the children with a **welcoming home, affection, and proper nourishment**.
- Ensuring access to **medical care** and the regular intake of **antiretroviral drugs**, which help slow the progression of HIV, while also supporting the children in coping with the stigma associated with being HIV-positive.
- Offering access to **education**, an essential tool to improve their living conditions, break the cycle of poverty, and contribute to the well-being of their families and the wider community.



FACILITY

The AINA Children's Home covers an area of over 10 hectares and includes:

School structure: is equipped with 21 classrooms, two staff rooms, an administrative office, a welcoming library, and a science laboratory. This structure provides a complete and supportive learning environment, allowing children to progress smoothly through the different stages of their education.

Kitchen and dining hall: a key facility for village life and one of its main expenses. It provides daily meals and tea to all students and staff, serving over 600 people. By ensuring everyone receives proper nutrition, it plays an essential role in supporting health and well-being within the community.

Farm: near the village, fields and orchards provide fresh produce throughout the year, though not yet enough for full self-sufficiency. The nearby farm, home to cows, goats, pigs, and 40 hens, also serves as a valuable hands-on training ground where students can learn and practice modern farming techniques.

Recreational areas: a playground, a volleyball and basketball court, and a soccer field.



Aina Paolo Academy employs approximately **42 local personnel** and one Italian manager. Their roles encompass various areas essential to the daily operations and well-being of the children:

- **Teachers:** A team of 27 licensed teachers, including early childhood education, primary and junior secondary certified teachers.
- **Kitchen Staff:** A dedicated team of 4 cooks and 1 baker manage meal preparation, ensuring nutritious and culturally appropriate food for the children.
- **Cleaning and Security:** A team of 4 cleaners maintains hygiene standards, while 1 security guard ensures the safety and security of the premises.
- **Specialized Staff:** Village Manager, Accountant, Counselor/HR Officer, Secretary, 2 drivers for school transportation.

Additionally, AINA hosts annual volunteers from Italy and engages youth through the Servizio Civile Universale program, fostering cross-cultural exchange and community involvement in the school.



OVERVIEW



Aina Paolo Academy was inaugurated in January 2013 and to provide quality education to children from the AINA Children's Home and nearby villages. The school's mission goes beyond learning: it promotes **inclusion** and helps fight the **stigma** surrounding HIV-positivity and institutionalization.

After years of stigma, the school gained strong community support, enrolling over **400 external students**. To meet growing demand, a new Junior School was built in 2023, with 10 classrooms, a staff room, and a laboratory.



AINA PAOLO ACADEMY

Today, Paolo's Academy ranks among the top schools in the Meru district, recognized by the **Ministry of Education**. Academic and extracurricular performance continues to rise, and increasing enrollment confirms that our mission is succeeding.

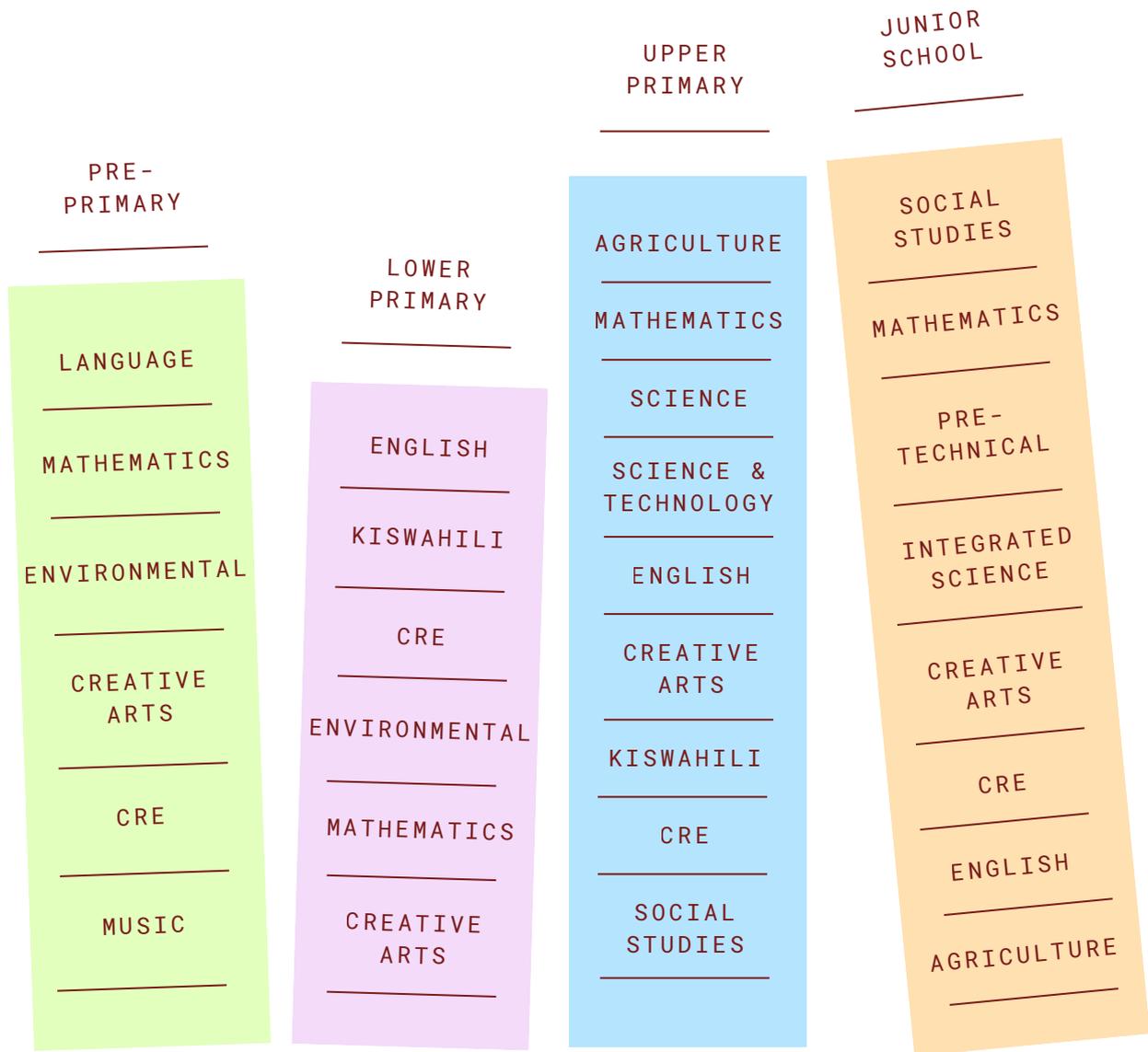
This project has become our top priority, ensuring that children can continue their education – a **fundamental right** for the community we serve. Despite the many challenges, it represents a significant achievement for AINA Onlus: the school is now recognized as a place of quality learning, and the community has come to understand that studying alongside HIV-positive children poses no risk. Our ultimate goal is to make the school fully **self-sustaining** in the near future.



ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

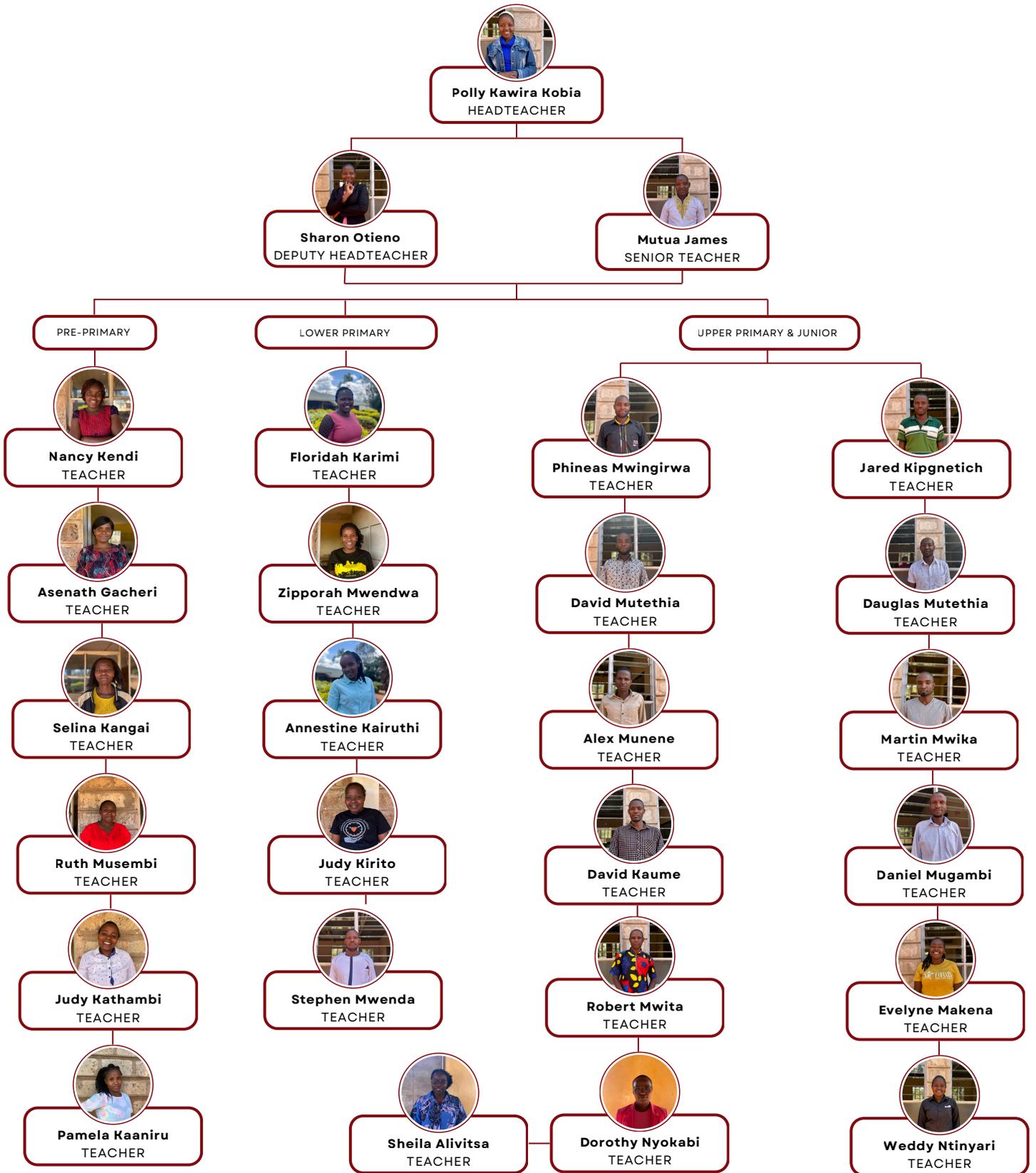
The learning in the school is divided as follows:

- 3 years of Pre-Primary:
 - 1 year of Playgroup (PG)
 - 2 years of Pre-Primary (PP1 & PP2)
- 6 years of Primary
 - Lower Primary (Grades 1–3)
 - Upper Primary (Grades 3–6)
- 3 years of Junior School (Grades 7–9)



CRE: CRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE TEACHERS



SCHOOL POPULATION

Aina Paolo Academy is composed of residents of Aina, sponsored students, and members of the surrounding local communities. The following is the detailed breakdown.

RESIDENTS

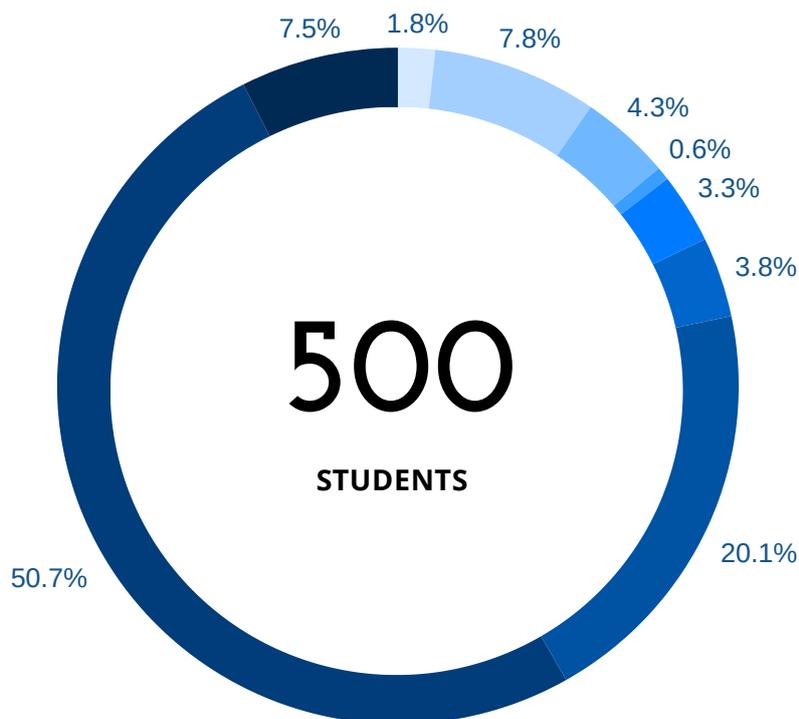
- 11 - PRE-PRIMARY
- 49 - PRIMARY
- 27 - JUNIOR SCHOOL

SPONSORED

- 4 - PRE- PRIMARY
- 21 - PRIMARY
- 24 - JUNIOR SCHOOL

COMMUNITY

- 126 - PRE-PRIMARY
- 190 - PRIMARY
- 48 - JUNIOR SCHOOL



EDUCATION COSTS

Below is a detailed breakdown of the yearly costs for Aina Paolo Academy, based on the level:

PRIMARY SCHOOL FEES STRUCTURE					
	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TOTAL	
Pre - primary	6.000,00 KES	5.500,00 KES	5.500,00 KES	17.000,00 KES	125,93€
Lower primary	6.500,00 KES	6.000,00 KES	6.000,00 KES	18.500,00 KES	137,04€
Upper primary	7.300,00 KES	6.800,00 KES	6.800,00 KES	20.900,00 KES	154,81€

JUNIOR SCHOOL FEES STRUCTURE					
	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TOTAL	
Grade 7	9.500,00 KES	9.000,00 KES	9.000,00 KES	27.500,00 KES	203,70€
Grade 8	9.800,00 KES	9.300,00 KES	9.300,00 KES	28.400,00 KES	210,37€
Grade 9	9.800,00 KES	9.300,00 KES	9.300,00 KES	28.400,00 KES	210,37€

Since these costs can often be challenging for families in vulnerable situations, Aina **offers sponsorships also for children from outside** the village, ensuring that more young learners have the chance to access quality education.

SPONSORED STUDENTS- PRIMARY



Mitchelle Kawira
F - PP1



Kelvin Mwiti
M - PP1



Brian Muchui
M - PP2



Emmanuel Karani
M - PP2



Peace Gakii
F - GRADE 1



Ezra Munene
M - GRADE1



Michael Murithi
M - GRADE 2



Sandy Mwendwa
F - GRADE 2



Lilian Gatwiri
F - GRADE 2



Princess Kendi
F - GRADE 3



Dorcas Wanja
F - GRADE 4



Annarita Makena
F - GRADE 4



Emmanuel Mwendwa
M - GRADE 4



Bonface Kaiga
M - GRADE 4



Christopher Mutugi
M - GRADE 5



Silvia Wangari
F - GRADE 5



Eve Kanario
F - GRADE 5



Gabriel Mwaniki
M - GRADE 5



Sheila Mwende
F - GRADE 5



Ronny Mureti
M - GRADE 6



Judith Karimi
F - GRADE 6



Praise Makena
F - GRADE 6



Alex Mwiti
M - GRADE 6



Shirleen Mwendwa
F - GRADE 6



Dennis Mutembei
M - GRADE 6

SPONSORED STUDENTS- JUNIOR SCHOOL



Milka Wanja
F - GRADE 7



Phineas Mutembei
M - GRADE 7



Haggai Kaguri
F - GRADE 7



Blessing Makena
F - GRADE 7



Precious Kagwiria
F - GRADE 7



Kennedy Mutethia
M - GRADE 7



Nelly Wanja
F - GRADE 7



Collins Munene
M - GRADE 8



Blessy Gachui
F - GRADE 8



Feddy Kendi
F - GRADE 8



Velvin Koome
M - GRADE 8



Naomi Kanana
F - GRADE 8



Winfred Nkatha
F - GRADE 8



Sharon Mwendwa
F - GRADE 8



Chris Mutuma
M - GRADE 8



Vincy Kawira
F - GRADE 8



Emmanuel Mutuma
M - GRADE 9



Beatrice Makena
F - GRADE 9



Clair Kathure
F - GRADE 9



Blessy Kawira
F - GRADE 9



Lenah Kawira
F - GRADE 9



Lina Muthoni
F - GRADE 9



Karen Makena
F - GRADE 9



Risper Gacheri
F - GRADE 9



LIBRARY

2500

BOOKS

READ & DISCOVER

At Aina Paolo Academy, students can enjoy a well-equipped library with around **2500 books**, including both school textbooks and leisure reading.

It has become a welcoming space for learning, culture, and discovery, where students can deepen their **knowledge** and explore new interests.

The library is also equipped with **four computer stations**, allowing students to begin exploring the world of technology and develop their **digital skills**.



BOOKS AND STATIONARY

Aina Paolo Academy provides quality education not only to the children residing at Aina Children's Home but also to students from the external community. The school is committed to offering **affordable yet high-quality education**, ensuring that more children have access to learning opportunities.

One of the essential but financially demanding aspects of running the academy is the procurement of school materials, including:

- **Stationery** – Pens, pencils, notebooks, and other classroom essentials.
- **Books** – Textbooks and learning materials necessary for a comprehensive curriculum.

These resources are critical to maintaining the school's educational standards, but they also represent a **significant operational cost**. Continued support is crucial in sustaining the academy's mission of providing accessible and high-quality education to all students.



Below is a detailed breakdown of the yearly costs for Aina Paolo Academy, based on expenses incurred in 2024 and pending orders for 2025. These costs reflect the financial requirements necessary to sustain the school's operations and ensure access to quality education.

TEXT BOOKS						
CLASS/GRADE	KES		USD		EUR	
3	KES	33.050	\$	264	€	245
4	KES	56.300	\$	450	€	417
5	KES	51.850	\$	415	€	384
6	KES	54.150	\$	433	€	401
7	KES	66.800	\$	534	€	495
8	KES	72.500	\$	580	€	537
9	KES	113.175	\$	905	€	838
SETBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTARIES	KES	36.340	\$	291	€	269
TOTAL	KES	484.165	\$	3.873	€	3.586

AINA PAOLO ACADEMY STATIONERY EXPENDITURE						
	KES		USD		EURO	
Annual expenditure	KES	674.900	\$	5.399	€	4.999
TOTAL	KES	674.900	\$	5.399	€	4.999

PHOTOS



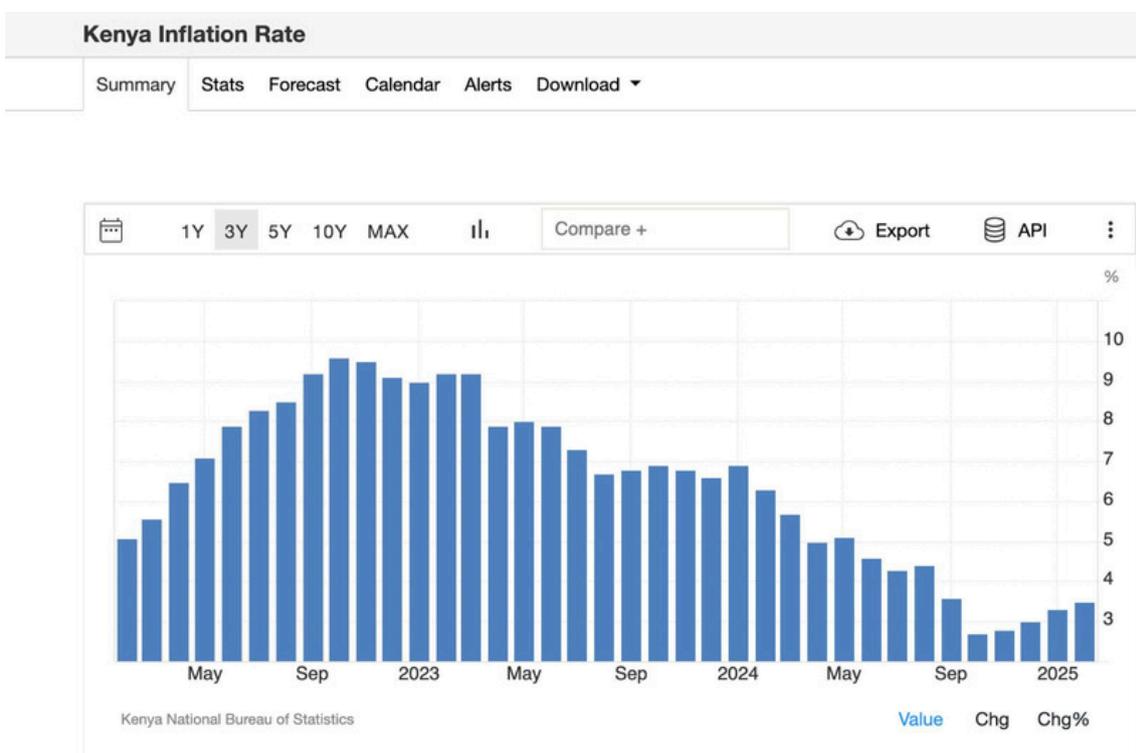
CONVERSION RATE

Exchange rate applied in the KES-USD conversions:

1USD=125KES

1EUR=135KES

[↗ Kenya Inflation Rate](#) - Changes in average retail prices of selected commodities in the last one year (2024)



From [↗ Trading Economics - Kenya Inflation Rate](#)



2025
THANK
YOU

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