



ASIRT Lite Summer Travel Series Kenya Q & A

Q: Does ASIRT-Kenya work with law enforcement?

A: ASIRT-Kenya does not directly work with law enforcement. We have however had programs that involved training of law enforcement officers.

Q: I know that China is engaged in constructing roads in Kenya. Is it more than pothole repair? Does China also build road furniture—signage, guardrails and lighting? Does China's involvement have an impact on the country?

A: China does everything when it comes to road construction and is now building stadiums, multistory apartments and offices. Most household goods, including electronics, are made in China. China offers the developing world very easy terms with little money down and a long grace period prior to starting repayment. Thereafter, the contract terms are stringent with China receiving ownership in lieu of full payment when the recipient country defaults. This is especially challenging now during COVID.

Q: Are the herbs and acacia trees currently used for healing?

A: There is little that grows in Kenya that is not used for medicine or foods, traditionally. Traditional healers know a great deal about which herbs, barks, leaves, or roots, to use for what conditions. I am often impressed by their good results. We use some as well. For example, we use the wild marigolds mixed with hot peppers that we grow in a "tea" as an insecticide on our garden vegetables. We also use it to clear out bees. We have aloe growing wildly and, of course, that is wonderful for burns.

Q: Is there a large Jewish population or German-Jewish population in Kenya?

A: No. Almost all German Jews left between 1952 and 1963, when the winds of change towards Kenya's independence began. Our current Jewish population is variable depending on the economic opportunities. The Jews are primarily expatriates from Israel, about 85% of our small community. Currently, we are under 100 families.

Q: How many adults and children die because of poor quality or lack of water?

A: I would have to look it up on WHO but there is a significant number, mainly due to poor quality of water. Diarrheal diseases, especially among children, remain a major cause of illness and death.

See WHO for more information: https://www.who.int/gho/phe/water_sanitation/burden/en/