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The Lake Turkana wind turbines in Kenya. Photo credit: Power Africa

EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA ENERGY PROGRAM

Two out of three people in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to electricity. Through the Power Africa East Africa Energy Program (EAEP), USAID works to optimize power supply, increase grid-based power connections, strengthen utilities and other power sector entities, and increase regional power trade. EAEP covers nine countries in the Eastern Africa region and is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

EAEP aims to optimize the power supply through technical assistance, capacity building, and investment promotion. The activity works to ensure that new, renewable power projects are brought to a financial close and that stalled transactions are reviewed and moved forward. We increase the capacity of the industry to strengthen the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity through strategic power planning, competitive procurement, and grid modernization. We also provide technical assistance to utility companies to procure and implement new technologies, and to improve planning and management of grid extension initiatives through geographic information systems (GIS) and enhanced data analysis.

Utility strengthening is at the core of the EAEP activities. The activity provides technical and capacity support to utilities to improve their operational and financial performance, enhance cost recovery and quality of service, and reduce technical, commercial, and collection losses.

KENYA

While Kenya's power sector is one of the most developed in sub-Saharan Africa, the country still suffers from challenges like unreliable electricity supply, long delays in new grid connections, and an inefficient and financially struggling utility sector. Kenya currently has an electricity access rate of 75 percent, which is skewed towards the urban and peri-urban areas. The activity supports the Government of Kenya's vision of attaining universal electrification by 2022, through increasing access to clean, adequate, reliable, and cost effective electricity supply to drive Kenya's economic development, enhance sustainability, and viability of the utilities while providing opportunities for increased private sector participation. The interventions include financing, grants, technical assistance, advocacy, and investment promotion in the energy sector.

THE EAST AFRICA REGION

The activity is working with host-country energy sector stakeholders and regional bodies like the Eastern Africa Power Pool and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program to build the regional power market in East Africa.

EAEP works to advance gender equity for end-users and in decision and policy making by supporting the integration of more women into the energy workforce. The activity supports utility companies to adopt and implement gender-equitable human resource practices and policies, and through facilitation of internship opportunities for women in energy sector companies.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2020)

- 511,484 new on-grid connections for the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC)
- An 11% reduction in losses for KPLC in the Nairobi Region, from 35% to 31%
- 23 laws, policies, regulations, standards, and administrative procedures to support energy sector governance have been passed, including 14 regulations to support the implementation of the Energy Act 2019

BUDGET: USD \$65.5 million

DURATION

2018-2022

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Uganda, DRC, Djibouti

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Research Triangle International (RTI)

KEY PARTNERS

Tetra Tech
Fieldstone Africa
Norton Rose Fulbright
Centre for Climate Change Strategies
Khulisa

MISSION CONTACT

Eng. William Madara,
Energy Program Team Lead
Email: wmadara@usaid.gov

PARTNER CONTACT

Dawie Pieterse,
Chief of Party
Email: dpieterse@PowerAfrica-eaep.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidkea@usaid.gov
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Twitter: @USAIDKenya