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Kenya is an emerging leader in the global clean energy landscape, with renewables accounting for nearly 90% of energy generated and consumed in 2021. It has also made strong progress towards achieving universal access to electricity, doubling electricity access from 32% in 2013 to 75% in 2022. This includes increasing access to electricity to over 97% of the urban population and 68% of the rural population in 2021, and according to the IEA, Kenya is on track to provide electricity to its entire population by 2030. Electricity demand in Kenya has increased in the past few years, marked by a 9% increase in demand for electricity and 3% increase in peak electricity demand in 2021 with expansion in GDP of about 8%.

The government of Kenya has set out a range of strategies and plans aimed at achieving universal energy access and 100% renewable power by 2030. The Kenya Vision 2030 sets out a long-term development blueprint aiming to transform Kenya into "a newly-industrialising, middle income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment." Under this vision, development of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and increasing electricity access are focus areas in the strategy for Deploying World Class Infrastructure Facilities & Services, indicating intentions to provide greater support for addressing energy demand to facilitate greater integration of renewable energy.

Energy efficiency is a relatively low-cost solution that can temper demand growth, reduce the strain on existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, support increased rates of access to electricity, and improve affordability. As demand for, and access to, electricity in Kenya increases, policy makers need to ensure that appropriate measures are introduced to limit impacts on overall affordability. Managing this balance effectively will require measures to boost energy efficiency in buildings, support access to efficient appliances and cooking solutions, and ensure adequate power system investment in actions to electricity system losses.

This report gives suggestions on potential policy actions that can be taken to enhance progress, drawing on case studies and examples from Kenya and other countries in Africa and globally. The report also explores the potential of digitalisation for unlocking new opportunities as well as the importance of ensuring an inclusive energy transition that provides economic opportunity and improves livelihoods, especially those of women and children. Recommendations follow the IEA policy package approach for energy efficiency, built on the foundation of three essential elements: regulation, information and incentives.



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