

# IDEV

Independent Development Evaluation  
African Development Bank

*From experience to knowledge...*  
*From knowledge to action...*  
*From action to impact*

## Kenya: AfDB's Contribution to the Transport & Energy Sectors

### Introduction

Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB or "the Bank") conducted an evaluation of the AfDB's country strategy and program in Kenya for the decade 2014 to 2023. During this period, the Bank approved 59 projects worth nearly USD 4 billion. A large share of the Bank's support went to the transport sector, followed by water supply and sanitation, finance, and energy sectors, respectively. The evaluation concluded that the Bank's support was relevant to the needs of the country and aligned with the Government, beneficiary needs, and Bank corporate strategies. It was designed and implemented in ways that took into consideration a volatile global and country economic situation. Notable results were attained in improving the transport network and bolstering access to energy in Kenya. This note highlights the results of the Bank's contribution to Kenya's transport and energy sectors, which received portfolio shares of 32% (largest) and 13% respectively. The Bank's support to both sectors was geared to infrastructure development.

### What did IDEV find?

#### Transport Sector

The Bank's transport sector projects sought to improve transport infrastructure connections and reduce transport costs and time. The evaluation found that the Bank's support to the sector had contributed to meaningful reductions in travel time within the country and to reduced freight costs for the regional countries. This reduced the cost of doing business and, therefore, enhanced competitiveness. Table 1 illustrates cuts in travel times on roads that were improved with the Bank support.

The AfDB financed Mombasa-Nairobi route and Mombasa-Mariakani route played a key role in the reduction of transport freight rates from Mombasa port to cities in neighboring

landlocked countries. Freight charges to cities in Uganda, Rwanda, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan declined by more than 10%, between 2016 to 2021 (see Table 2). This has contributed to improving the environment for trade and commerce in the region as observed by the marked increase in the total value of exports from Kenya to other Eastern African countries.

**Table 1:** Travel time along Bank supported roads (in hours)

	Before	After
Mombasa Port to Malaba border	68	57
Mombasa Port to Busia border	69	66
Nairobi Outer Ring-Road travel	2	1/3

Source: The Northern Corridor Transport Observatory (NCTO), 2020

#### Energy sector

Access to electricity is a key enabler for all sectors of the economy, particularly for industrialization. To this end, the Bank's energy sector projects aimed to deliver more affordable and reliable electricity in the country. Evidence shows that the Bank's projects led to a reduction of energy costs, hence contributing to increased economic competitiveness. Specific results that the evaluation observed were:

Source: Joint NCTO & Central Corridor Transport Observatory (CCTO) Report, 2022



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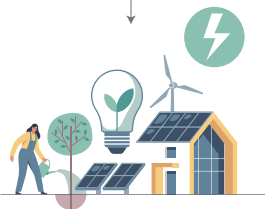
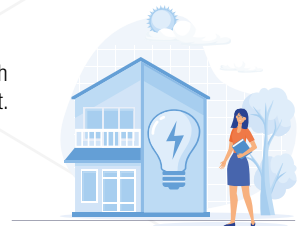
**An increase in renewable energy generation in Kenya:** The Lake Turkana Wind Power and the Ethiopia-Kenya Electricity Highway supply **475 MW** of electricity. This capacity is set to increase upon the completion of the Menengai geothermal and the Kopere solar projects.

**Commercial electricity tariffs** dropped by between 9-14% since 2018, largely due to the provision of cheap wind energy, such as that produced by the Lake Turkana Wind Power project.



**Significant increase in Kenya's power transmission capacity:** The Kenya–Ethiopia Electricity Highway project added **2,000 MW** transmission capacity; This is set to increase to **3,500 MW** when the Kenya–Tanzania interconnection is finished.

**A total of 531,979 households** got connected to electricity through Phases 1 and 2 of the Last Mile Connectivity Project.



**The Bank's projects were found to have significantly contributed to the share of renewable energy in the energy mix of Kenya.** Data from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) show that the share of renewable energy hit the target by reaching 87 percent in 2022 (rising from 79 percent in 2017 and 32 percent in 2014) in Kenya's national grid.

## What Key Lesson did IDEV draw for these Sectors?

**Strong counterpart involvement, an emphasis on strategic investments, and a long period of engagement with key institutions in the infrastructure sectors contributed to impressive results in transport and energy sectors.** The benefits from continuity and multi-pronged engagement were assessed to be particularly notable in the

transport sector, in which the Bank's technical assistance contributed not only to important connectivity investments, but also to transforming policies and practices within the sector. In the energy sector, path-breaking private-public partnerships demonstrated a pathway to energy independence and a clean energy future. The evaluation found that the trust built up by the Bank and key counterpart agencies over time enabled it to play a catalytic role in these key sectors. ■

## About IDEV

Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) at the African Development Bank carries out independent evaluations of Bank operations, policies, and strategies, working across projects, sectors, themes, regions, and countries. By conducting independent evaluations and proactively sharing best practice, IDEV ensures that the Bank and its stakeholders learn from past experience and plan and deliver development results to the highest possible standards.

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