

Expanding energy access in Sub-Saharan Africa to support development and climate resilience

The IEA works with partners across Sub-Saharan Africa on energy access, power systems, financing energy transitions, methane abatement, energy data and energy efficiency through policy support and capacity building

- **Accelerating clean cooking access, with more than 50 new national policies and 17 targets adopted since the IEA's 2024 Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa**
- **Providing hands-on support to finance and deliver energy access, including investment plans for Uganda's grid and Kenya's clean cooking strategy**
- **Strengthening national capacity through the Africa Energy Efficiency Policy Training Weeks in Accra, Dakar and Johannesburg and African Energy Efficiency Facility**
- **Nigeria became the fourth Sub-Saharan African country to join the IEA family as an association country in 2026, alongside Kenya, Senegal and South Africa**

Key facts

16% **of the world's population**

2.7% of the world's cumulative energy-related **CO_2 emissions** to date, the **lowest** emissions **per capita** of any region

47% of the total continent's population, or almost **600 million people lack access to electricity**

60% of the **best solar resources** globally, yet **only 1% of installed solar PV capacity**

40% of **global reserves of cobalt, manganese and platinum** has huge potential to produce hydrogen

Around 1 billion Africans lack access to clean cooking

Sources: IEA (2026), World Energy Balances; IEA (2026), Clean Cooking in Africa 2026; IEA (2026), Renewables 2026; IEA (2026), Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2026

Working ever closer with African partners

In June 2026, Nigeria – Africa's most populous country and a major energy producer – joined the IEA as an Association country. The partnership has deepened the Agency's engagement across the region. Nigeria has become the fourth Sub-Saharan African country in the IEA family, joining Kenya, Senegal and South Africa, a sign of the region's growing role in the global energy dialogue. The inaugural IEA-Nigeria Joint Work Programme sets out close collaboration on energy security, investment, data, methane, energy efficiency and clean cooking.

Clean cooking for all

Nearly half of the world's two billion people without access to clean cooking live in Sub-Saharan Africa, where reliance on polluting fuels results in millions of premature deaths each year, particularly for women and children. The IEA's *Clean Cooking in Africa 2026* report finds that universal access could be achieved with around USD 4 billion per year. Since the IEA's 2024 Clean Cooking Summit in Africa, more than 50 new policies and 17 national targets have been adopted, and USD 740 million has been deployed. In September 2026, the IEA, Kenya and Norway convened world leaders at the UN General Assembly in New York to accelerate progress for the millions of Africans still living without access.

Cutting methane emissions

Cutting oil and gas methane emissions is one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions and improve energy security, and around 70% could be avoided with existing technologies. In November 2025, the IEA, Nigeria's Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the African Energy Commission brought over 100 stakeholders from nine countries together in Abuja to turn methane pledges into action. Through its Global Methane Engagement Programme, the IEA helps producers strengthen abatement, monitoring and access to finance.

Financing and delivering the transition

Turning ambition into projects on the ground is the hardest part of the transition, and the IEA works hand in hand with African governments and partners to achieve it. Its analysis covers the region's financing challenge, from the world's first tracking of Africa's clean energy investment needs to Financing Electricity Access in Africa, which outlines how to reach the nearly 600 million people still without power and the USD 15 billion a year this requires. Under South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency, the IEA helped shape a Clean Cooking Infrastructure Investment Action Plan endorsed by G20 leaders. In 2026, it delivered investment plans for Uganda's transmission grid and Kenya's National Cooking Transition Strategy and is helping Kenya integrate its fast-growing renewables.

Energy efficiency and capacity building

Lasting transitions depend on countries' own capacity to plan and deliver them. The IEA works with partners such as the African Energy Commission and the African Energy Efficiency Alliance to strengthen efficiency policy, delivering training on building energy codes in West Africa and providing analysis to help inform efficiency policy in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. Its Africa Energy Efficiency Policy Training Weeks, held in Accra in 2025 and Johannesburg in 2026, equip policymakers with practical skills. The IEA has also joined the new African Energy Efficiency Facility, launched under South Africa's G20 Presidency, to unlock investment in efficiency projects across the region.

Building climate resilience

Droughts, floods and extreme heat are increasing risks to Africa's energy systems, affecting hydropower generation and electricity infrastructure. The IEA helps governments plan for these risks through national climate resilience assessments, including through assessments for Mozambique in 2025 and Kenya in 2026.

Opportunities for engagement

- **Accelerating clean cooking access in Sub-Saharan Africa**
  The IEA is convening a second Clean Cooking Summit in Africa in January 2027. By establishing a task force on clean cooking, the IEA aims to strengthen international coordination and accelerate implementation on clean cooking access across the region.

- **Africa as an Energy Innovation Hub**
  The IEA is engaging with countries across the region, including Kenya and Nigeria, to support local energy innovators through policy analysis, technical guidance and capacity building that can help bring new technologies to the market.

- **Strengthening national capacity**
  Working with governments across the region to plan and deliver their own transitions, the IEA will help strengthen national energy data, statistics and strategies, deliver modelling and policy training for experts across Africa. This includes recent Africa Energy Efficiency Policy Training Weeks in Accra, Dakar and Johannesburg, and capacity-building workshops with Ethiopia to advance energy sector reform and renewable energy deployment.

This work is supported by the **Clean Energy Transitions Programme,** the IEA's flagship programme for taking action to achieve a clean energy transformation worldwide.

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