

Africa's Mission 300: 50 Million People Connected to Electricity, 250 Million More by 2030

Executive Summary

Mission 300 (M300) has made significant early progress, but the scale of Africa's electricity deficit means much more remains to be done. Launched by the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the initiative aims to connect 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa to electricity by 2030.

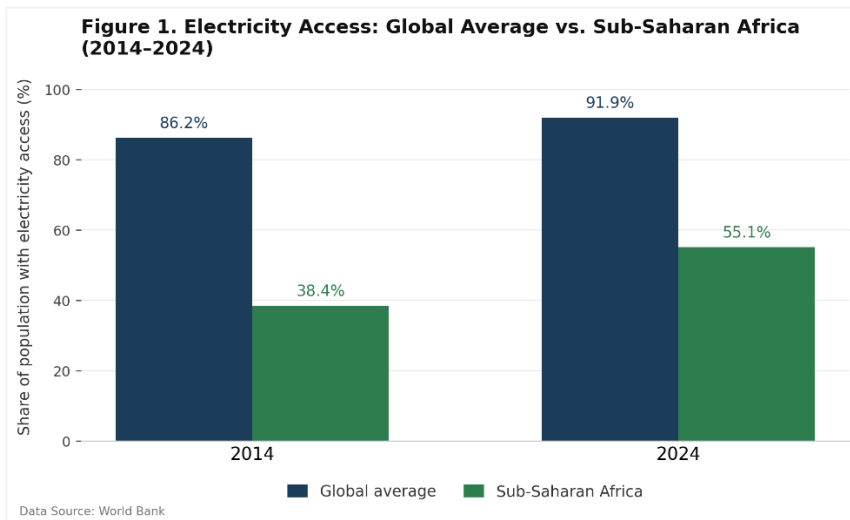
By mid-2026, M300 had connected more than 50 million people across 40 African countries, reaching 17% of its target in two years. With another 250 million people still to reach, maintaining this pace will require faster project execution, increased investment and stronger utility performance.

Reliable electricity is essential for economic growth. Better access can support manufacturing, agriculture and digital services, while reducing a major infrastructure constraint for African businesses and households.

M300 is therefore combining infrastructure investment with reforms to improve the performance of the power sector. The World Bank and AfDB are using financing, policy support and private-sector participation to expand access and strengthen electricity systems. The progress so far is encouraging, but the scale of the remaining gap means delivery will need to accelerate significantly through 2030.

Electricity Access Remains Substantial

Despite steady improvement, electricity access in Sub-Saharan Africa remains well below global levels. Regional access increased from 38.4% in 2014 to 55.1% in 2024, compared with a global average of 91.9%. The gap highlights the scale of the challenge M300 is addressing and the need for continued investment in both grid and off-grid electricity solutions.



KEY INSIGHTS

Mission 300 is moving Africa's electrification agenda from individual projects to a coordinated investment model. By linking financing to policy and utility reforms, the initiative can reduce investment risk, attract private capital and build more sustainable power markets.

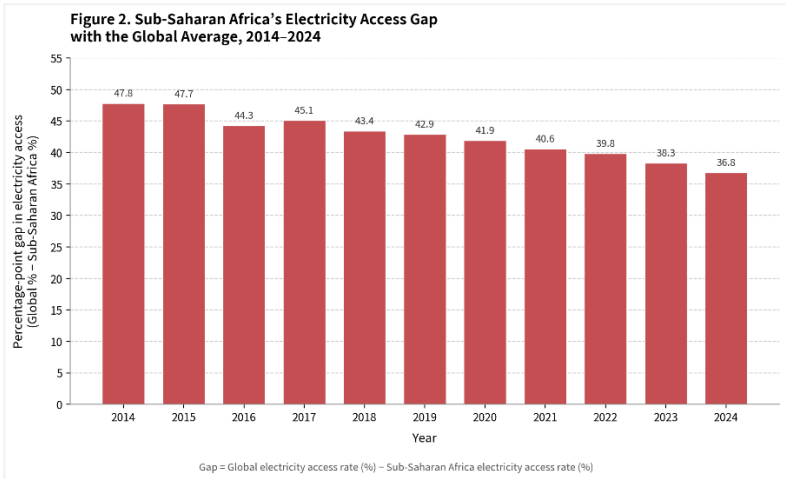
BY THE NUMBERS

- 565–600 million Africans lack reliable electricity — over four-fifths of the global unelectrified population
- M300 target: 300 million new connections by 2030 (WBG: 250m; AfDB: 50m)
- 50m+ people connected across 40 nations by mid-2026 — 17% of target in 2 years
- Total investment required: US\$238bn; WBG committed US\$30bn (2024–2030)

Closing the Electricity Gap, Slowly

Over the past decade, Sub-Saharan Africa has steadily narrowed its electricity access gap with the rest of the world. The gap fell from nearly 48 percentage points in 2014 to just under 37 points in 2024. The direction is positive, but the pace remains too slow to close the deficit within the timeframe required. Accelerating progress will require not only stronger implementation, but significantly more investment.

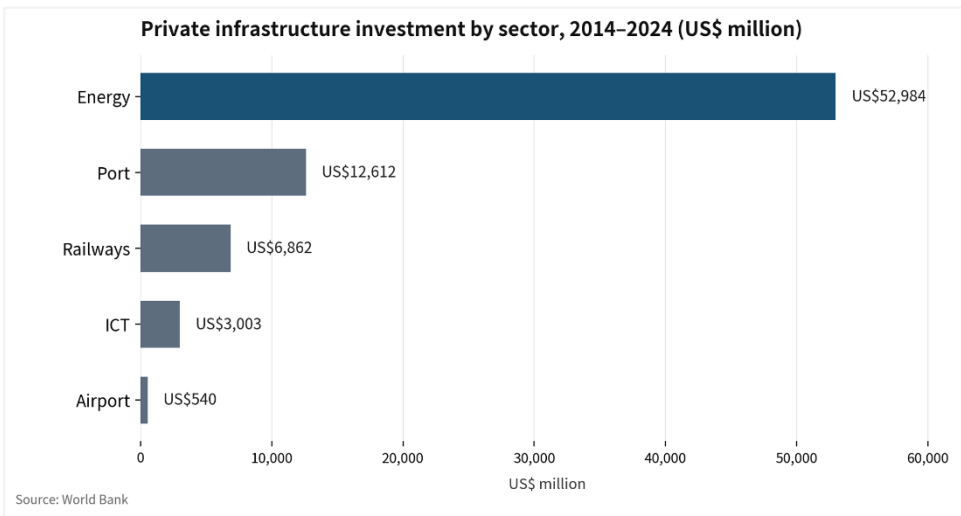
- M300 achieved 14% progress in 2years. (From the initial 6 years plan). At this pace it would reach 42% of it initial target (126 million people by 2030).



Data Source: World Bank

Private Capital Can Help Close the Financing Gap

Energy already attracts the largest share of private infrastructure investment in Africa. Between 2014 and 2024, the sector attracted approximately US\$53 billion, more than four times investment in ports and nearly eight times investment in railways. This existing investor appetite provides a foundation for M300, but the scale of the remaining electricity deficit demands significantly more capital.

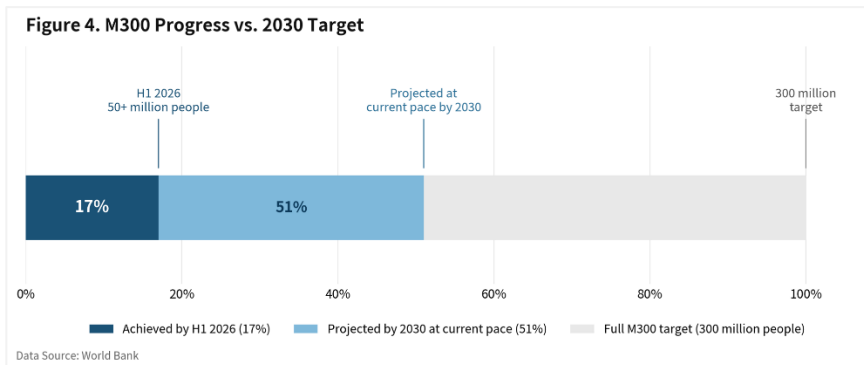


M300 is significantly increasing the scale of investment needed to close Africa’s electricity access gap. With more than US\$238 billion required and US\$30 billion committed by the World Bank Group, mobilising additional private capital will be critical to translating funding commitments into projects and accelerating electricity access.

M300 Progress, Investment and the Challenge of Scale

M300 is gaining traction, but the pace must accelerate. By mid-2026, the initiative had connected over 50 million people across 40 African countries, reaching 17% of its 300 million target in two years. At the current pace, it would reach approximately 51% of its target by 2030.

Grid expansion and off-grid deployments are driving early gains across Tanzania, the DRC, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Zambia. National Energy Compacts are reinforcing implementation, with 48 countries endorsing the framework and 30 implementing country-specific plans linking policy reforms to investment pipelines. Twelve pioneer countries, including Nigeria, DRC, Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Zambia, plan to nearly double installed generation capacity from 56 GW to 108 GW.



Scaling these gains will require significantly more investment. M300 needs to mobilise more than US\$238 billion to close Africa's energy access gap, compared with US\$30 billion committed by the World Bank Group and over US\$6 billion pledged by development and philanthropic partners. The programme is using IFC and MIGA guarantees, local-currency solutions and competitive procurement to reduce investment risks and attract private capital. Greater private-sector participation will be critical to turning M300's early progress into the scale of infrastructure delivery required by 2030.

Key Insights & Macroeconomic Implications & Strategic Outlook

M300 combines grid expansion with distributed renewable energy to reach underserved communities faster. More reliable power can ease constraints on MSMEs and support manufacturing, agro-processing and digital services. However, weak utility finances, currency depreciation, political transitions and supply-chain pressures could slow progress and raise costs. Reaching the remaining 250 million people by 2030 will therefore require faster execution, sustained investment, stronger utility governance, private-sector participation and continued political commitment.

- More PPI investment is needed in to scale project execution rate.