

EU-AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND

ABOUT THE TRUST FUND

The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund was one of the first trust funds to be managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB). While it no longer receives new contributions from donors, it continues to offer ongoing support for infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa that reduce poverty and improve economic growth. The trust fund supports projects financed by the EIB as well as other financiers.

The trust fund has two main areas of activity – infrastructure and sustainable energy. It helps finance cross-border and national infrastructure projects in the energy, transport, water, and information and communications technology sectors. €330 million has been set aside to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that are in line with the UN Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The trust fund offers four types of support:

- **Technical assistance**, to improve the quality, efficiency and sustainability of a project during the preparation or implementation phase. This can help raise standards and fulfil environmental and social requirements.
- **Investment grants**, to help lower the total financing needs for the beneficiary. This is often necessary to unlock projects that have a low financial return or elevated risk, despite high socioeconomic returns. They can also target certain aspects of a project that add specific social or economic value.
- **Interest rate subsidies**, to bring down the overall cost of the investment by reducing the financing costs in cases where the project promoter faces debt sustainability constraints.
- **Financial instruments**, to unlock financing from private and public investors by addressing some of the risks that can hold back investments. They are used to finance equity or quasi-equity investments, guarantee cost or risk-sharing instruments.



€813 MILLION in donor funds contributed

120 grants, of which **38** support the UN Sustainable Energy for All initiative

€11.3 BILLION in total investment mobilised as of the end of 2023

The largest portion of the fund's resources supported infrastructure projects in East and West Africa, together representing nearly three-quarters of the trust fund's approved amounts (see page EU-A 4).

Most of the fund's resources (59%) supported projects linked to the energy sector, in part because of the fund's support for the [UN Sustainable Energy for All initiative](#). These projects include off-grid renewable energy solutions, which give rural communities access to clean energy. The transport sector followed, with 23% of approved resources. These include support for road corridor projects that enable the creation or improvement of cross-border road links, which are important for the regions' economic development (see page EU-A 4).

EXPECTED IMPACT

The trust fund, established in 2007, has made a significant contribution to increasing infrastructure investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Its resources have unlocked projects that are expected to improve the lives of millions of people through access to the internet, renewable electricity, clean drinking water, better roads and the creation of thousands of jobs:

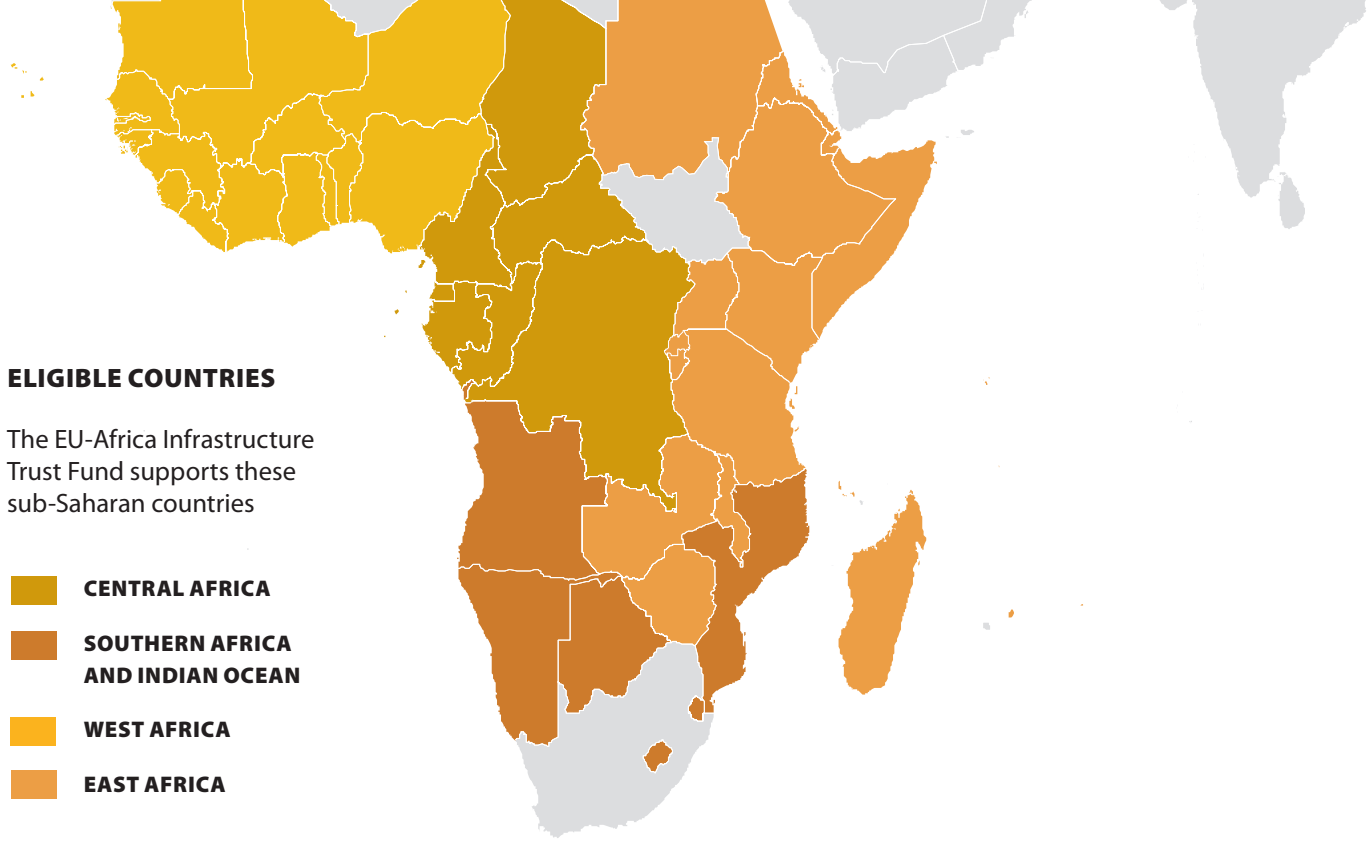
- electricity for **5.6 million homes**;
- **12 000 km** of internet cables;
- safe drinking water for **745 000 homes**;
- **2 000 km** of roads built or upgraded.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUPPORTED



AREAS OF ACTION

Energy
Transport
Water
Information and
communications technology



Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe. **Southern Africa and Indian Ocean:** Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia. **West Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo. **East Africa:** Burundi, The Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Grouped according to the European Commission's regional classification.

Note: The European Investment Bank does not endorse, accept or judge the legal status of any territory, boundaries, colours, denominations or information depicted on this map.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Northern Corridor is a principal transport route that connects people and trade in landlocked countries in Central and East Africa to the ports of Mombasa, Kenya, and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. However, heavy daily congestion on the route impairs trade and economic growth. A project supported by a €16.6 million EU-AITF interest-rate subsidy was completed in 2023. It included the construction or upgrading of 58 km of roads, will **alleviate traffic congestion around Kampala**, the Ugandan capital, and is expected to benefit some 45 000 daily users.
- The Ethiopian government is implementing **a project to build water supply systems in 48 small and medium towns across the country**, supported by a €1.27 million technical assistance grant from the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund. Living conditions in Ethiopia will improve thanks to increased and more sustainable access to drinking water and with it, less illness. The project also contributes to regional stability in conflict-prone areas, as proximity to water systems will reduce cross-border movement of people travelling to find drinking water. The new systems will help prevent water loss and avoid overexploitation of the Nile's sources, benefiting the millions of people who live downstream, for whom the river is a lifeline.
- The Seychelles, a group of islands in the Indian Ocean, is located 1 500 km from mainland Africa. The country was **connected to a submarine fibre-optic cable in 2012** thanks to an EIB loan, making internet access more affordable for residents and leading to a 70% spike in internet connections within two years. The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund provided an investment grant, used by the Seychelles government to purchase an equity stake in Seychelles Cable Systems Company Ltd, which maintains the fibre-optic cable. Part of the income from the government's equity stake was used **to provide free internet access to all public schools in the Seychelles**. As of 2021, more than 17 000 primary and secondary school pupils benefited from free internet access thanks to the grant.

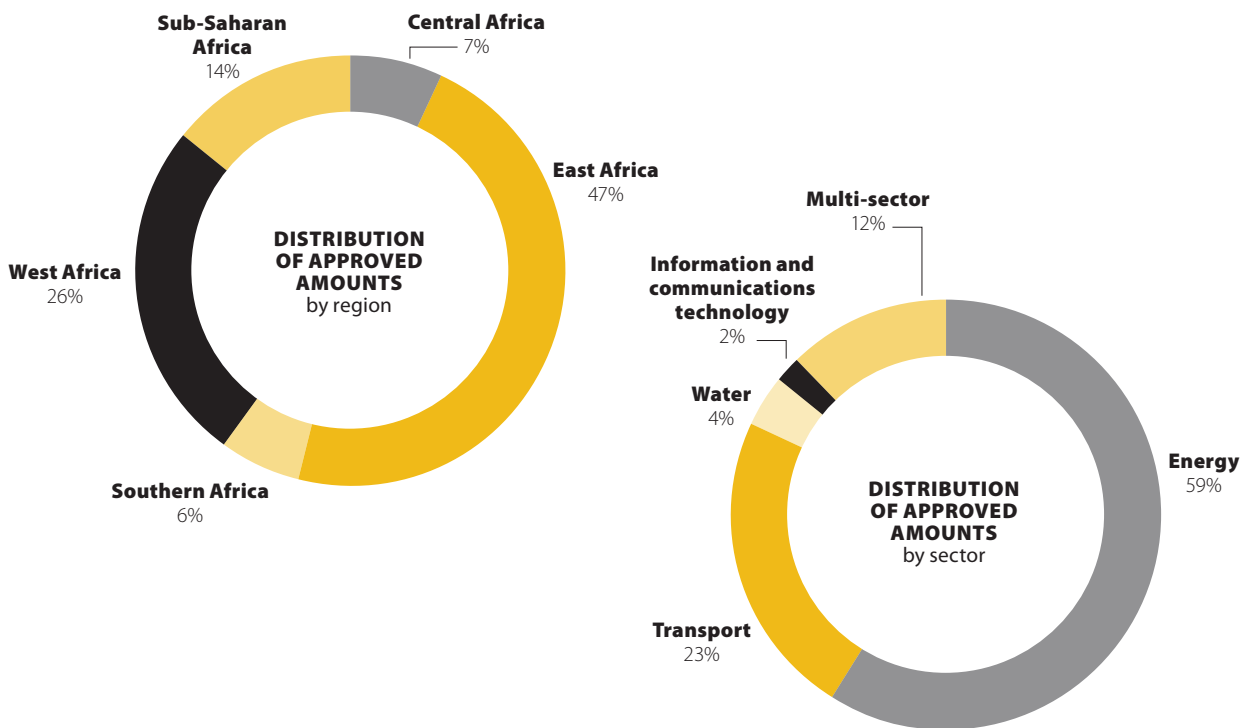
EU-AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND AT A GLANCE

€813 MILLION in donor funds contributed

€791.3 MILLION allocated to operations

€11.3 BILLION of investments supported

121
operations



OUR DONORS

This trust fund is multi-donor. The donors' contributions are pooled to achieve greater impact.

AUSTRIA	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM	GREECE	PORTUGAL
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	HUNGARY	SPAIN
FINLAND	ITALY	UNITED KINGDOM
FRANCE	LUXEMBOURG	