

Acceleration of electrification program in Kenya

Nicholas Kibet BUNDOTICH, Kenya power and Lighting Co., Ltd, Kenya and Julius NDIRANGU, Kenya Power & Lighting Co., Ltd (KPLC), Kenya

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Access to Electricity in Kenya is slightly above 70% according to statics from Kenya Power & Lighting Co., Ltd (KPLC) and World Bank.

The Government of Kenya (GoK) has targeted 2022 as the year that all Kenyans will have universal access to electricity. Various programs have been initiated, all aimed at stimulating the connectivity process and one of it is Last Mile Connectivity Program (LMCP).

LMCP models looks at both Densification and Intensification approaches. GoK, on its part has partnered with development partners e.g World Bank (IDA), AfDB, AFD, EU, EIB and JICA to provide credits and Grants aimed at improving access to the grid.

Step no. 1 looks at maximization of existing distribution transformers by connecting every single household within the protection distance of 600m. The customers are expected to pay USD 150 per customer which is approximately four times lower subsidies - since the average cost of connecting a customer is approximately USD 600.

Step no. 2 looks at extending medium voltages (11 & 33kV) by approximately 1-2kms to various load centres and optimising the same transformers by connecting all possible households. This approach is slightly costly because of the cost of electrical materials/ equipment where customers are also required to pay the same USD 150 to be connected.

Customers who are unable to pay connection fee upfront are allowed to pay in a structured staggered program where they sign a loan form - which allows upto two years, deductible from their monthly tokens.

This hybrid model has propelled connectivity in the Republic of Kenya from less than 40% in 2013 to 70% in 2018- and hopefully 100% by 2022.

The electrification program has had direct benefits to customers both economically and socially hence turning out to be one of the success stories.