Kenya

Conclusion

Enoch Randy Aikins

Last updated 19 July 2024 using IFs v7.84

Conclusion

Chart 44: Recommendations

Kenya is a pivotal economic powerhouse in East Africa, driven by its ambitious Vision 2030, which aims to transform it into a newly industrialised, middle-income country. The economy, the largest in East Africa, has nearly tripled in size from 1990 to 2019 due to strategic economic reforms, infrastructure development and a diversified economic base.

Significant challenges include corruption, rapid population growth, infrastructure deficits, human capital bottlenecks and rising public debt, hindering the achievement of SDGs and Vision 2030. Despite these challenges, Kenya's economy has shown resilience with a potential 685% GDP increase by 2043 under the Combined scenario. Implementing the eight sectoral interventions can raise GDP per capita to US$10 950 by 2043, making Kenya an upper-middle-income country and reducing extreme poverty from 64.6% in 2019 to 6.4% by 2043. This development can be environmentally sustainable if Kenya fully transitions to renewable energies.

Policymakers in Kenya should:

- Strengthen anti-corruption efforts by empowering the EACC, implementing stricter penalties, and increasing transparency in procurement.
- Expand funding and infrastructure for secondary and tertiary education, integrate ICT into curriculums, and develop vocational training programs.
- Invest in modern irrigation, provide financial support to smallholder farmers, and enhance rural infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Accelerate the development of geothermal, solar, and wind projects, encourage private sector investment, and incentivize the adoption of renewable energy.
- Prioritise key infrastructure projects through public-private partnerships as used in the Mombasa to Nairobi expressway project.
- Simplify export procedures, develop industrial parks, and support the growth of non-traditional exports.
- Simplify business registration, provide tax incentives, and remove sectoral restrictions to attract foreign investors.
- Increase healthcare funding, train more healthcare professionals, and implement comprehensive health insurance schemes.
- Expand broadband infrastructure, provide grants for tech startups, and promote digital literacy programs.
- Expand social protection programs, implement progressive tax policies, and promote gender equality initiatives.

Kenya's strategic emphasis on economic reform, infrastructure development and renewable energy positions it well for future growth. However, addressing the underlying issues of poverty, inequality and governance is essential for ensuring that the benefits of growth are broadly shared. With Kenya realising its Vision 2030 and further focusing on governance, education, agriculture and trade, it can become a model of economic progress and social equity in Africa.

Donors and sponsors

Reuse our work

- All visualizations, data, and text produced by African Futures are completely open access under the Creative Commons BY license. You have the permission to use, distribute, and reproduce these in any medium, provided the source and authors are credited.
- The data produced by third parties and made available by African Futures is subject to the license terms from the original third-party authors. We will always indicate the original source of the data in our documentation, so you should always check the license of any such third-party data before use and redistribution.
- All of our charts can be embedded in any site.

Cite this research

Enoch Randy Aikins (2025) Kenya. Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/countries/kenya/ [Online Resource] Updated 19 July 2024.

About the authors

Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021 as a Researcher. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra in charge of local governance reforms, poverty and inequality and public sector reforms. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. Enoch is a Young African Fellow at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute in Florence and has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa's future depends on today's choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.