



Photo Sven Torfinn

Hivos Biogas  
Carbon Credits

# KENYA

Hivos believes in the power of people everywhere to improve their situation and control their lives. Most poor people live in rural areas and their basic livelihoods depend on the state of their natural environment, which is coming under increasing threat from climate change. Using renewable energy sources and climate-smart agricultural methods both improve their living conditions and help to mitigate climate change. Carbon finance makes these new technologies more affordable. Hivos supports access to carbon finance for the rural poor by implementing domestic biogas programmes and selling carbon credits.

## Kenya Biogas Programme

Type of project	Biogas digesters
Time sequence project	2009 – present
Emission reduction	4.6t CO <sub>2</sub> e/year per digester

Domestic biodigesters provide a way for individual households with livestock to reduce their dependence on polluting firewood and expensive fossil fuels. Cooking on biogas is fast and smokeless. It improves the health of especially women and children. Leftover slurry from the biogas process is an excellent organic fertilizer that can be applied to improve crop yields. Selling more vegetables provides families with extra income.

**"I don't have chest problems anymore and I don't have to wake up early to go and fetch firewood. My health has improved immensely and I feel a lot more relaxed."**

Susan Wanjiru Githiri

The Kenya biogas programme provides biodigesters to individual households. The programme was founded by the Africa Biogas Partnership Programme (ABPP), a partnership between the Dutch government, Hivos and SNV Netherlands Development Organization. ABPP has supported national programmes in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, with Hivos as fund and programme manager. The overall objective of ABPP is to develop a commercially viable biogas sector that supports the use of domestic biogas as a local, sustainable energy source.

The approach of brokering partnerships between existing organisations and institutions, as well as starting new construction companies bears fruit. Since the start of the programme in 2009, over 17,000 biodigesters have been built across Kenya. Entrepreneurship is encouraged and so far nearly 100 masons have started their own business entities.

To enable many eligible clients to take up biogas technology, the programme has initiated credit partnerships with financial institutions. Working together with rural micro finance institutions and saving cooperatives, it ensures that biodigester buyers get most favorable credit terms. Income from carbon credit sales benefit directly biogas users in forms of after-sales support, bioslurry training and other useful services.

### Facts & Figures (till March 2020)

- 14,950 smoke-free kitchens
- 103,440 direct beneficiaries
- 365,200 tCO2 reduced
- 223,000 ton of wood saved
- 13,700 productive slurry users
- 31 private enterprises
- 107 full time jobs plus part-time unskilled day labour



### Interested?

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