



780 million people in the world still do not have access to safe drinking water. Many suffer from waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea - the third leading cause of death among children and adults in Kenya.

The LifeStraw Carbon for Water project distributes LifeStraw Family filters to households in Kenya's Busia County, providing safe water to approximately 728,000 people. The gravity driven point-of-use water filters require no electricity or consumables.

Busia County lies in the Lake Victoria basin and is one of the most flood prone regions of Western Kenya. The Budalangi division in particular lies in a flood plain, with [major flooding often displacing residents](#). Prior to this project bouts of flooding often resulted in major episodes of waterborne disease including outbreaks of cholera in 2005, 2008, and 2009. However, there have been no documented cholera outbreaks since the LifeStraw Carbon for Water program began in 2011.

The project relies on carbon finance. Without it, water filters would not have been distributed at scale in the region and the on-going operations, including education campaigns, could not be maintained. As well as safe water and carbon reductions, the project has created local jobs and is one of just nine 'lighthouse' projects selected by the United Nations. It has won a host of awards acknowledging its innovation and impact.

[Watch this short video to find out how your carbon offset will support this project.](#)

## Key benefits



**Safe drinking water:** Direct to 728,000 people in this area.

**A World First:** First project to link carbon credits with water provision, at scale.

**Improved Health:** Studies are underway to measure health impact.

**Local Jobs:** Distributing filters, training and monitoring use.

## Engaging stories

**Francis Jerry Makwogo**, a LifeStraw Educator from Samia District of Busia County, records basic demographic information from Evelyne Naliaka, mother-of-six. Francis then uses his phone for education prompts as he instructs Evelyne on LifeStraw usage and the importance of safe water and hygiene practices.

Vestergaard Frandsen maintains a database of every household that received the filter in Busia County.



## Opportunities

- Commit to purchase one year's carbon credits and support Carbon for Water in the Busia Area
- Organise employee and media visits to the project
- Piggy back off the project's awards and positive media coverage
- Use award winning photography and videos

Film makers and journalists alike have been intrigued by the impact of this innovative project. [Watch the Award winning Carbon for Water video](#) and [Read this recent article in the Guardian](#)



**Standard:** Gold Standard for Verified Emission Reductions

**Carbon Status and Availability:** 2011/12 issuance is sold for this area.

## Photographs



Local boy collects water from Lake Victoria for his family.

Prior to distribution of LifeStraw, many families in lake communities of Samia district either boiled their water for treatment or drank water directly from the lake, exposing them to risk of waterborne disease such as cholera, typhoid and worms.



Boniface Mudambo, an Educator in Bunyala district of Busia from the LifeStraw Carbon for Water project explains to a family on Sumba Island, situated in Lake Victoria how to clean and maintain their water filter, and ensures they understand how to filter their water and make it safe to drink. Boniface's colleague, Patrick Okora, another Educator from Bunyala, washes the filter for the family.

Representatives from the project visit families every six to twelve months to monitor use and maintain equipment.