



The LifeStraw Carbon for Water project distributes LifeStraw Family filters to households in Kenya's Kakamega County, providing safe water to over 1 million people and protecting an important gateway to one of the few remaining tropical forests in Africa.

Located In the Western Province of Kenya, Kakamega County has high rainfall supporting a thriving agricultural sector, predominantly in sugar cane production, with three major sugar companies providing employment in the area. However, despite plentiful rainfall and productive, fertile land, for a long time the region has suffered with water-borne diseases like typhoid, cholera and diarrhoea.

By providing safe water, together with comprehensive support and education programmes, the LifeStraw® Carbon for Water Program is addressing these issues. At the same time the project is supporting local education scholarships and sports tournaments. Kakamega is a centre for budding sports men and women who hone their football, rugby and athletics prowess in very tough high school tournaments and many go ahead to represent their country.

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 over 1 million 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.

Protecting rainforest: Reducing demand for wood

Engaging stories



"For a long time we have suffered with water-borne diseases like typhoid, cholera outbreaks and diarrhoea. This was in fact very rampant with almost 60% of infant mortalities arising from water infections. We are pleased that these rates of these diseases are reducing and my office is working on data to show how these interventions have assisted us. Lifestraw is very welcome in this Province."

Timothy Olubero, Provincial Public Health Officer, Western Province.

Opportunities

- Commit to purchase one year's carbon credits and the projects in the Kakamega area.
- Report the lives improved through your offset using the [LBG methodology](#).
- Organise employee and media visits to the project.
- Piggy back off the project's awards and 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 Issued

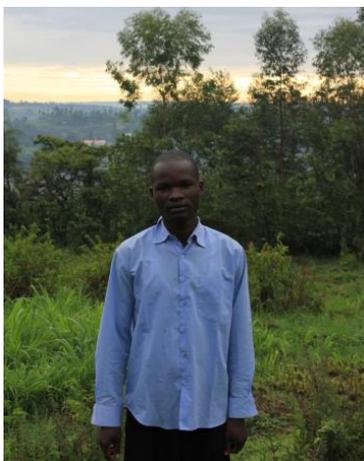
Photographs and stories

Fred Amudavi, District Public Health Officer



“We get all of the condensed data here, and if you look at it there has been a gradual reduction in diarrhoea figures since the LifeStraw programme began. We get more cases of diarrhoea in the rainy season because our water sources are more contaminated at that time, so the filters are especially key in that season.

On our posters and in our outreach, we repeat the message that you must drink from the LifeStraw every time.”



Samuel Kutsusha is a dairy and banana farmer who lives and works in the hills of Eshisiru, in the countryside outside of Kakamega Town. While the views from the hilltop home he shares with a co-worker are picturesque, his health was less rosy before he received a LifeStraw Family as part of the Carbon for Water programme.

“I once had typhoid for four months,” Sam recalls. “But since I received the LifeStraw my health has been very good.” Not only has LifeStraw Family left him feeling better, but it has also brought better economic prospects for the young farmer. “I no longer lose work days to being ill, and my employer has even given me a raise because of the increased yield that I harvest.”

Sam says that he often talks to his friends about LifeStraw, and encourages them to use the filter on a daily basis. “Many of them use and like their LifeStraws too,” he says. His enthusiasm for the filter has led him to use it to treat the water with which he washes his hands as well as fruits and vegetables.

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