



This project provides life-saving water filters to families in Kenya, reducing their risk of contracting water-borne diseases and exposure to indoor air pollution, whilst also cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Delivers lives improved against accepted LBG methodology
- ✓ Contributes to SDGs
- ✓ Relevance to DRR
- ✓ Sub-Saharan Africa
- ✓ Improves gender equity
- ✓ Delivers community impacts

SUMMARY OF PROJECT BENEFITS



SAFE DRINKING WATER

Direct to over 4 million people



AWARD-WINNING

One of just nine “lighthouse” projects selected by the UNFCCC, winning multiple awards for sustained delivery of safe water on an unprecedented scale



IMPROVED HEALTH

Reduced risk of contracting water-borne diseases



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

4,000 local Kenyans directly employed in the distribution, monitoring, education and training programmes



SCALE AND IMPACT

This is one of the largest carbon reduction programmes in the world delivering measurable lives improved.

BACKGROUND

The Millennium Development Goals, which expire in 2015, call for the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water to be halved between 1990 and 2015.

In Kenya, 17 million people still don't have access to safe drinking water and 86 children die of diarrheal related illness every day. Kenya is among the top 10 countries in the world with the largest populations without access to improved drinking water. Like much of Africa, Kenya is not on track to meet the MDG for safe drinking water by 2015.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), set to supersede the MDGs next year, recognise the continuing critical importance of enabling access to safe water to improve health and tackle poverty, including a proposed goal to “*ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*” and a proposed target for universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

Prior to the LifeStraw Carbon for Water programme, many households in rural Western Kenya did not have access to safe drinking water or adequate water treatment methods, putting the health of local communities at risk. In Mount Elgon, the majority of households had no access to water treatment and many did not even have protected water sources. Many residents suffered from waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, which is the third leading cause of death among children and adults in Kenya, according the WHO.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is run by Vestergaard, a global company specialising in complex emergency response and disease control products. Without carbon finance, the LifeStraw Family filter could not have been distributed at scale in the region.

Water filters were distributed to households, enabling access to safe water in the home. Repair and replacement of the LifeStraw Family filters is done on an on-going basis with a full-time Sub-county coordinator employed for Mt Elgon, supported by a group of volunteers.

The programme also continually provides education and training services in the local community, including annual health and education visits where volunteers teach about hygiene and safe water, hand-washing and sanitation. The cost of this programme is funded by the sale of carbon credits. There is therefore an economic incentive to ensure the successful implementation of the campaign over the long term as opposed to the shorter term nature of many donor funded campaigns. The project developers are committed to this project for at least ten years.

TECHNOLOGY

The LifeStraw Family is a point-of-use water filter that is designed for routine use in low-income settings. The system requires no electricity or consumables. Water is poured into the top, passes through a filtration process, and is drawn off at the bottom through a tap. The process is gravity-driven.

The system complies with the US Environmental Protection Agency's 'Guide, Standard and Protocol for Testing Microbiological Water Purifiers', providing treated water that is as good as boiled water in terms of treating microbiological contamination.

In Kenya, many households simply cannot afford the fuel to boil water, although they would like to. This is known as suppressed demand - demand that will be realised as people's economic situation improves.

The LifeStraw Family water filter leapfrogs this pathway, providing clean water in a low carbon way and preventing pollution from occurring in the first place.

BENEFITS

LIVES IMPROVED:

- This project will deliver lives improved, measured under the accepted LBG methodology framework.

HEALTH

- Water treatment for viruses, bacteria, and protozoan parasites, meeting WHO's "highly protective" category for household water treatment options, provided to 90% of the population of Western Province.

ECONOMIC

- Less time spent gathering wood / money spent on buying it. Savings from reduced visits to health clinics and purchase of medicine, helping to build economic assets for families and increasing their resilience
- Directly employed 4,000 Kenyans Western Province, including educators and motorbike drivers for the initial distribution campaign and in the subsequent follow-up training and education campaigns.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Less wood used for water boiling
- Lower demand for local wood resources – between 1990 and 2005 Kenya lost 5% of its forest cover.

DELIVERY AGAINST MDGS & SDGS:

- By providing safe water, minimising risk of diarrhoea and disease, this project contributes to Millennium Development Goals, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Additionally, through its contributions towards ensuring healthy lives, access to education, gender equality, safe water, reducing inequality and tackling climate change, it contributes to the proposed Sustainable Development Goals 3,4,5,6,10 and 13.

COMMUNICATIONS VALUE

- Depending on volume purchased, we can provide videos, case studies, impact stories, ongoing reporting and photographs to help you tell the story to your employees and stakeholders and demonstrate your impact
 - We can also organise staff visits to the project on your behalf as part of employee engagement programmes.
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ADDITIONALITY & CARBON FINANCE

- Although there is some penetration of water treatment devices in the region, these are mainly cost-prohibitive or are not widely used. The LifeStraw Family is a safe and practical water treatment device, which is well received thanks to the project's extensive education programme. However, the cost of the filters (US\$25 cost before retailer's margin) means that they are out of reach of the majority of households.
- Carbon finance has enabled upfront investment in the distribution of the filters – in the expectation of carbon income in the future.

EMISSIONS SAVING & METHODOLOGY

- Gold Standard Generation of clean water methodology
- "Indicative Programme, Baseline and Methodology for Improved Cookstoves and Kitchen Regimes, V.02" methodology used.

STANDARDS AND STATUS

STANDARD

- Gold Standard

PROJECT STATUS

- Issued and operational

TESTIMONIAL

JULIUS KESIS

"I used to be sick on and off for 5 years. Whenever I visit hospital I am told you are suffering from Typhoid and Amoeba [Dysentery]. I spent between 2000 to 3000 shillings each time I visited hospital on treatment but still the problem persisted. My appetite became poor and health continued to deteriorate. I went to many hospitals but all in vain.

I was advised to be boiling water for drinking but still my problem even became worse I even contemplated to take out my life. I became a burden to my family instead of helping my family do some productive activity. In my house are 4 destroyed sufurias [water boiling vessels] due to boiling of water which I had to do on daily basis which have kept serving as evidence what I went through. It was costly to buy firewood for boiling water as well as to purchase sufuria once the one in use is destroyed.

Lifestraw Family became my saviour. It came to me like a miracle when I had almost despaired. Since the day I received, I have always used to filter my water. Nowadays I rarely visit Hospitals and when I do, it's because of other infection like Malaria, cough etc. Lifestraw has helped to save money that we used for treatment of typhoid, amoeba, firewood and charcoal to boil water. The money we save, we buy books for our children, food and farm produce".

IMAGE GALLERY

