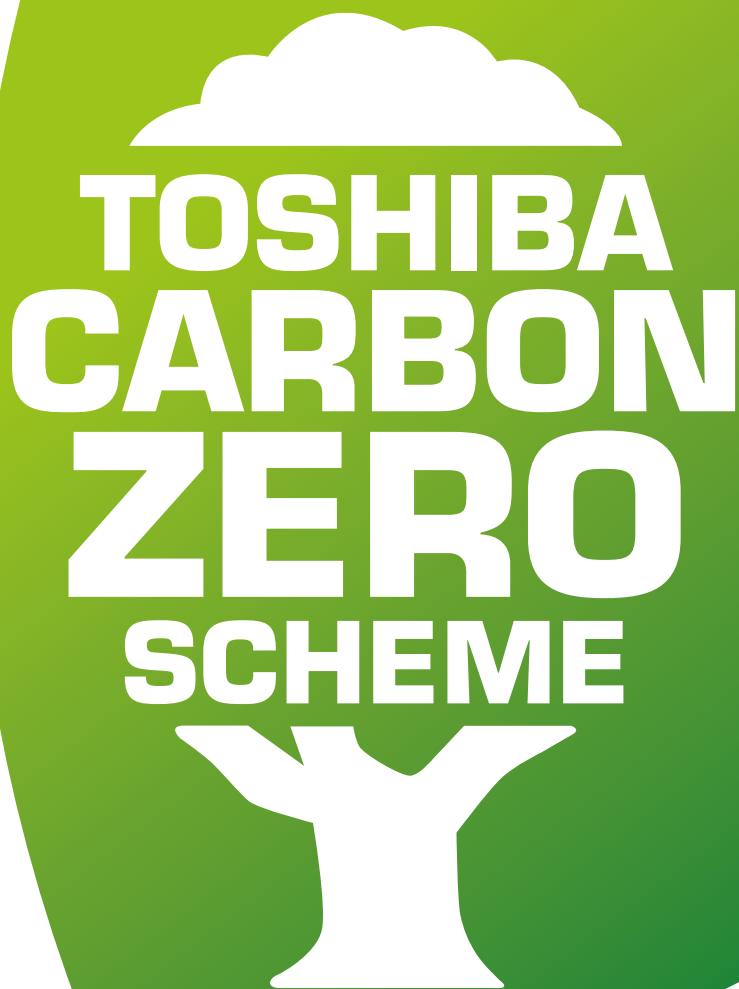


CASE STUDY

Efficient Energy Stove
Project in Kenya

> Mercy and Mamma Fatuma



MERCY AND MAMMA FATUMA

The success of our projects is determined, in part, by the incredible work done by our Carbon Zero staff on the ground. These field officers are the people that are working tirelessly within the communities to ensure that our projects are implemented to the highest possible standards. We are aware that implementing projects on the ground does not come without its difficulties and frustrations; however, our field officers, working behind the scenes on project implementation, manage to quietly overcome these obstacles, and successfully ensure that the community gains the maximum benefits from our energy efficient cook stoves.

Mercy Keraro works as a CO2balance community projects officer in charge of the Msambweni projects and environs based in Diani, Kenya. Mercy is an undergraduate degree holder in Environmental Science. Working with CO2balance for about 8 months now, Mercy comments “I love my job because I have a passion for community development and environmental conservation. I have learnt a lot from interaction with the community members.”

On a daily basis Mercy’s job involves working alongside the stove building teams in the village. Once the stoves are built Mercy will collect the stove identification information



Mercy Keraro
Employee at CO2balance in Kenya

which includes taking GPS photos of every stove, and assisting the households to fill in and sign the necessary forms. This can be very difficult because often people are illiterate. The role also involves monitoring kitchen surveys, to ensure the villagers get the very best use out of their new stove. “I also have to talk to the Village Chief and Village elders from time to time, for the smooth running of the project. The chief is very important and needs to be informed on everything that is happening with the project.” says Mercy.

We followed Mercy to Gombato Location. The village is semi urban with many multiple family homesteads. This means you can find anything between one and six families living in the same compound. Many families have moved to locations like this and set up homes as it is closer to the towns providing more opportunities of employment. Gombato, like most villages along the coast suffers from poverty, unemployment, poor hygiene and health problems as well as food security problems. Periodic, infrequent rainfall means that the land is not always fertile for crops. The climate and temperature makes many of these villages especially susceptible to Malaria and other water borne diseases. There is no electricity or fresh water source in Gombato. Despite the terrible conditions here, the villagers were smiling and welcoming. Walking through Gombato we were greeted by many women and children who were all familiar with the CarbonZero stove projects. They welcomed us into the community and all had positive things to say about the project. We went with Mercy as she entered various households and talking to people about their experiences with their new stove.



Map: NordNordWest, Licence: Creative Commons by-sa-3.0 de

We were welcomed into the house of Mamma Fatuma Mohamed Tenga and proudly shown her new stove. Mercy carried out a series of quality checks on the stove. She then began chatting to Mamma Fatuma about how the stove has affected her day to day living.

“I must thank Carbon Zero very much because this new *jiko* (stove) has saved me many money since I begin to use it. You see, I am purchasing firewood because I do not have time to collect. If I had time I would collect because it is not costing money. But I have many family children to look after while their parents are working so I have to stay at home. So I used to buy lots of firewood. Maybe I would use a bundle which is like 12 pieces before with the 3 stone *jiko*. Now I am only using 3 or 4. This means I am saving so much money. So yes, this is a good project. I am saving firewood, and I am saving money. Now I can take my money and buy more things like maybe food. It is a good, good project for me. *Asante Sana* (thank you very much). Come I show you my firewood outside.”

Mamma Fatuma took us outside and explained that she would use about 12 pieces from this pile for every meal. She then picked up a small bundle of about 4 pieces of firewood and showed us how, as a result of the improved cook stove, the amount of firewood needed for cooking has significantly decreased. Mamma Fatuma was very impressed with the project and its cost saving benefits.

It was wonderful to hear about these benefits from the women themselves. They were genuinely happy and appreciative of the stoves and had a lot of praise for the associated positive benefits. Mercy herself has benefited from the CarbonZero projects. She is an educated young Kenyan who was finding it difficult to find a paid job within the environmental sector. She is now a full time CO2balance employee and is rapidly gaining new knowledge and skills that will be of great benefit to her in the future.

“With positive printing you help the environment and improve the lives of the people involved.”



Mamma Fatuma Mohamed Tenga

Using the energy efficient stoves as significantly reduced the amount firewood she needs to cook for the family.

About CO2 balance

Established in 2003, CO2balance UK Ltd is a leading, UK based, carbon management provider offering carbon calculation, management and reduction services to leading blue chip companies including, BSkyB, Toshiba and Gaz De France. As a project developer co2balance UK Ltd creates African Gold Standard and CDM projects that focus on social, health and community benefits to the families within the project area, in addition to carbon savings.



To find out more about CO2balance, the CarbonZero stove projects and other carbon management products and services please visit www.co2balance.com

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