



TOSHIBA CARBON ZERO SCHEME

UN Sustainable Development Goals

- > The UN has 17 measurable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Toshiba supports these goals. This report focuses on **SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing**, explaining the impact of the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme and its link to this goal.
- > SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, focusing particularly on improving maternal and child health by ensuring access to clean water and sanitation and fighting treatable diseases (e.g. malaria and tuberculosis). Reducing pollution-related deaths and illnesses is also key to this SDG.
- > The Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme supports the ongoing activities to promote and disseminate improved cook stoves in Kenya. These stoves replace the traditional 3-stone fires that are used throughout Kenya and sub-Saharan Africa, which require vast amounts of firewood, emit large amounts of greenhouse gases and expose their users to illnesses associated with indoor air pollution.

FACTS

- > Major strides have been made in global health in recent decades, with 17,000 fewer children now dying per day than in 1990. However, 3.2% of children globally still die before their fifth birthday; this figure is above average in Kenya, with 3.83% of children not reaching their 5th birthday.
- > Children born into poverty are almost twice as likely to die before the age of 5 as children born into wealthy backgrounds.
- > Every year, 3 million people die of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPDs), accounting for 6% of all deaths worldwide, a key driver of which is indoor air pollution caused by cooking on open fires.

Kenyan Cook Stove Case Study

Christina Mashala lives in Kasighau village in Kenya's Shimba Hills with her husband and 2 children. Her family was the recipient of one of more than 10,000 improved cook stoves that have been disseminated in the Shimba Hills through the Toshiba Carbon Zero scheme. She says:

"Before receiving the improved cook stove I used to spend so much time gathering firewood because the 3-stone fire used so much wood. It would also emit a lot of smoke. Can you imagine spending 4 hours every day in a room full of smoke? I used to have to go to the clinic at least once a week to receive treatment for coughing. My nose would run and my eyes would water uncontrollably, and my clothes always smelt of smoke and were full of ash. My family was badly affected, especially my children who struggled to read and do their homework due to the smoke from the fire, causing them trouble at school as a consequence."

Christina's family's health therefore suffered greatly as a result of exposure to indoor air pollution, which was very detrimental to their health and to the children's education. Christina also reports how costly the problems could be, with the majority of the family's modest income being spent on medicines to treat the associated health problems.

Receiving an improved cook stove through the Toshiba Carbon Zero scheme has changed her family's fortunes for the better:

"Today I am a happy woman, mother and wife because my family is not bedevilled by the smoke that used to fill our house with the old 3-stone fire. The coughs, runny noses and chest infections that we used to suffer from are now things of the past. The money I used to spend on medications now go towards my children's books, uniform and school fees."



Thanks to the reduced smoke inhalation, Christina's family is now in much better health on a day-to-day basis and is not so exposed to the potential longer term health challenges. The funds saved on medication can also be invested into farming inputs to diversify the food grown by Christina's household, with a wider range of vegetables improving the family's nutrition and therefore contributing to their long-term health.

Toshiba's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

This case study shows how the project activities in Kenya contribute to SDG 3 in the following ways:

- Improved cook stoves reduce families' exposure to indoor air pollution, reducing the risk of exposure to short-term and long-term chronic respiratory problems.
- The time families save on gathering firewood and the funds saved on buying medicines can be invested into educating the children and income-generating activities, ensuring that the family has funds available to overcome future challenges.
- The additional time and money can also be spent on working on crops to increase yields and grow a more diverse range of products, thereby improving food security and allowing people to have a more balanced diet, which is vital to avoiding illness.

For more information about the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme please visit our website:
www.toshibatec.eu/about/sustainability/carbon-zero/

In cooperation with



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