

Case Study

co2balance in the community

Local Expertise & Employment

Unlike many offset providers co2balance manage their own projects on the ground. Directly employing local, talented people to work within our communities.

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. Our field officers, working behind the scenes on project implementation, manage to quietly overcome a wide range of obstacles, and successfully ensure that the community gains the maximum benefits from our energy efficient cook stoves, throughout the life of the project.

One of the Gold Standard projects our customers have helped to support is in the Msambweni district of Kenya.

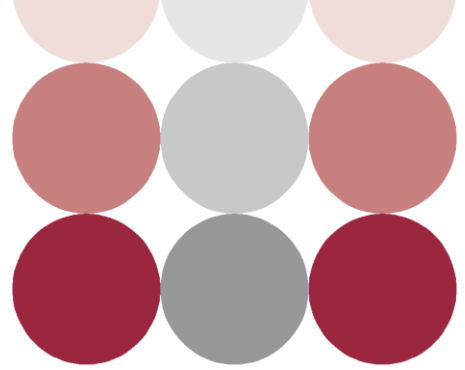


About co2balance UK Ltd

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 Europe, Gaz De France, Fiat and Flybe. 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.



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Working with the Local community

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 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. Gomboto, like most villages along the coast suffers from poverty, unemployment, poor hygiene and health problems as well as food security problems

We went with Mercy as she entered various households and talking to people about their experiences with their new stove. 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.

MAMMA FATUMA: *"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."* We were shown outside to a pile of firewood she had bought for cooking on the traditional stove. She 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.

Mercy like many of her colleagues 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 and the communities where she works in the future.

To find out more about our CarbonZero stove projects or other products and services please visit our website: www.co2balance.com