



HIVOS EAST AFRICA
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Hivos
people unlimited

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HIVOS EAST AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**HIVOS
EAST AFRICA
AT A GLANCE**

WHO WE ARE

Hivos is an international organisation that seeks new solutions to persistent global issues.

WITH SMART PROJECTS in the right places, we oppose discrimination, inequality, abuse of power and the unsustainable use of our planet's resources. Counterbalance alone, however, is not enough. *Our primary focus is achieving structural change.* This is why we cooperate with innovative businesses, citizens and their organisations. We share a dream with them of sustainable economies and inclusive societies.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to innovate for social change, with smart projects in the right places. At the heart of our strategy are front-runners: artists, activists, human rights defenders, social entrepreneurs and artists at the frontline of innovative solutions, change movements, high impact collaborations and bold approaches.

Based on a track record of more than 15 years in the region, we have made a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable groups and communities by partnering with front-runners in daring, innovative and effective projects. Through this, we actively seek new and creative solutions in order to execute smart solutions to persistent problems that dominate the East Africa region:

- Adverse effects of climate change;
- Millions of people with no access to clean and sustainable energy;
- Unsustainable patterns of food production and consumption;
- Decreasing democratic space;
- Shrinking spaces for change makers;

- Increase in socio-economic inequality;
- Sexual minorities under siege;
- Lack of meaningful political and economic inclusion of women.

OUR VISION

We envision an Open Society that guarantees freedom, diversity and equal opportunities for all. This is where; women and men have equal rights and one where sexual minorities are entitled to same rights as heterosexuals. In this society, there's room for everyone's opinion to be valued; journalists practice their profession freely and governments are transparent. Hivos East Africa enables people to challenge and check societal power through smart and bold projects. An open society is one with active citizens who stand up for their rights.

We pursue a Green Society that is about people who share environmental resources such as food and energy equitably. Hivos East Africa focuses on projects where energy is accessible to the poor through domestic markets and smallholder farmers have access to markets and practice climate-smart agriculture.

WE BELIEVE

Every human being has the right to live in freedom and dignity. When every person is given an equal chance they can positively contribute to the society. Confrontation only arises when human rights are breached by societal powers.

Our humanistic values are held on the premise that one can be who they want to be, have the freedom to believe and speak their mind, able to challenge governments and stir up the established order. The continued depletion of natural resources poses a significant threat to the most vulnerable populations ultimately leading to loss of biodiversity and food insecurity.

OUR VALUES

We are inspired by humanist values that are reflected in the following core ideals:

- Human dignity and self-determination;
- Equality and social justice;
- Respect for people's cultural and social identity;
- Responsible management of natural resources.

In 2018, we set the following goals:

- Upscaling the uptake of renewable energy technologies to those in dire need of clean energy;
- Strengthening the link between sustainable food production and consumption;
- Diversifying farmers' income
- Fostering and reclaiming shrinking virtual and physical spaces for change makers;
- Strengthening participation of citizens in governance

issues through accountability initiatives such as open government;

- Championing human rights for sexual and gender minorities;
- Promoting women's economic rights.

To contribute to these goals, we catalysed innovations in the region through innovative programmes, testing of prototypes and partnering with like-minded organisations and individuals to promote the use of social innovation in addressing social problems.

Our approach was propelled through three strategies:

- Supporting front-runners and developing ideas- we enable front-runners to inspire others by linking them to platforms that connect them to networks. Further to this we support them to prototype their concepts as well as providing grants through challenge funds to promote innovation in various countries.
- Connecting multiple stakeholders and co-creating solutions – we link parties to bring the most promising solutions to scale and offer capacity building of partner organisations to lead change movements.
- Influencing policies and scaling solutions- we help create an enabling political environment in which these solutions can really stand and flourish.

OUR FACTS & FIGURES IN 2018



IMPLEMENTED
15 PROGRAMMES
IN KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA,
RWANDA, ETHIOPIA & BURKINA FASO.



PARTNERSHIP WITH
141 GRANTEES
TO INSPIRE STRUCTURAL CHANGE
IN EAST AFRICA.

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you our 2018 annual report. This report is a representation of our work in East Africa, particularly in advancing a just and fair society.

For almost five decades in East Africa, we have partnered with visionaries, individuals and front-runners to inspire social change. Together, our efforts have given impetus to the birth of a human rights movement that is grounded on establishing better societies for the cause of humanity. While our accomplishments are numerous, each decade often presents new challenges that are opportunities to aspire us to do even better.

The state of 2018 was filled with ground shaking events that unfortunately saw incidences such as attacks on civil society organisations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Voices of polarisation and authoritarianism continued to exclude women, the youth and LGBTI from participating in full as equal citizens in society. Good governance was also under threat especially in the transparent use of resources to improve the quality of lives of citizens.

There was also some good news. In West Africa a new alliance led by the government of Burkina Faso signified hope in the decentralisation of clean energy for the communities in dire need of technologies that can build their resilience in adapting to climate change. The cut flower industry in Kenya continued to show its commitment towards enabling decent work for low income workers in flower farms.

Building on our track record in spearheading change through

social innovation, we deepened our work by partnering with front-runners to not only bolster social change but demand for basic fairness especially in ensuring the most vulnerable do not have to bear the burden of social problems alone.

Through our Open Source Seeds Programme, we championed innovations such as Disrupt! Food to coach seed entrepreneurs on marketing their seed enterprises- an action that went a long way in enabling a fairer level playing field for medium and small enterprises in the seed sector. In collaboration with organisations such as the Kenya Climate Innovation Centre, the seed entrepreneurs were incubated in a mentorship program that sharpened their skills in marketing and pitching ideas to potential investors.

Our contribution to good governance through our Open Contracting Program renewed a forge in demanding for transparency and accountability in the use of tax payers funds when it comes to government contracting.

Front-runners such as Makueni County in Kenya committed to delivering quality services to citizens by adopting the open contracting approach in their procurement system.

As an organisation, we are constantly learning and re-shaping our strategy to not only be relevant but tailor solutions that stimulate social innovation. Meeting these societal challenges through social innovation requires taking certain risks such as investing in spaces that have rich grass root voices which are not heard. The Voice Program, echoed this principle through its robust learning agenda where grantees shaped discourses around giving the most marginalised a platform to amplify their issues.

In this report, you will find the most diverse and inspiring stories of our partners whom we refer to as social innovators. It is my hope that our story is a re-affirmation of a dedicated front to establish open and green societies that reflect: responsible citizenship, environmental justice, dignity for excluded groups such as LGBTI persons and sustainable food production practices.

Happy Reading!

Mendi Njonjo

Mendi Njonjo
Regional Director, East Africa





2018 ACHIEVEMENTS
SOME HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE YEAR



Colourful Workplaces Conference

'Business unusual' is emerging as a topic in promoting inclusivity and diversity at the workplace. Against this backdrop is a continuum that is recognising the uniqueness of individuals from the different skillset they have to offer and the added advantage of tapping into talent to contribute to the bottom line of a company.

The Colourful Workplace Program's (CWP) principles are hinged from this notion: inclusive environments are accommodating of everyone's skills and talent and enables them to bring their full selves to work. Spearheading change in the employment sector, CWP has been supporting local and multinational companies to create both diverse and inclusive workplaces where Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) persons can equally contribute as skilled workers.

Through a first of its kind conference in East Africa, Hivos in partnership with Workplace Pride drew stakeholders from government, civil society, development and private sectors to connect, share mutual understanding and explore best practices in propelling inclusivity and equality at the workplace.



Makueni adopts the open contracting approach

In June 2018, Makueni County became the first devolved government in Kenya to adopt the open contracting approach. The move signified its commitment to transform its procurement processes in order to deliver quality goods and services to citizens.

With support from Hivos East Africa and the Development Gateway, the county will develop a viable and sustainable approach for effective procurement processes through data collection, public disclosure of tenders, eradication of corruption in use of public funds and greater transparency and accountability in good governance.

Hivos turns 50

2018 marked the hallmark of Hivos' 50 years of doing transformational work since its founding in 1968. To honour its golden jubilee, Hivos hosted a gala reception in Nairobi to celebrate strides made in East Africa; particularly its track record in the human rights movement.

This celebration saw Hivos allies and friends congregate for the first time in years to share fond memories of the past, explore the present and create a future of inclusive societies.

Hivos' story in East Africa can be traced back to pioneering renewable energy solutions, LGBTI rights, free expression using art and culture, using microfinance to empower communities, gender inclusion in coffee and support to the emergence of tech spaces that promote democratic governance.





Hivos staff conferred with special honors in Burkina Faso

The tremendous fight against climate change can only be won when individual front-runners champion decentralised initiatives that can build the resilience of communities worst hit by the effect of global warming. Our very own **Jean Marc Sika** understands this narrative too well. As the Program Manager for Renewable Energy, his role has been instrumental in setting up and upscaling a market sector for biogas in sub-Saharan Africa.

Feted at the **3rd West Africa Biogas Conference** in Burkina Faso, Jean Marc was a recipient of the *Monsieur le Grande Chancelier des Ordres burkinabè* award bestowed upon by the **The President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré**.

Jean Marc's leadership has been astounding, particularly in his role as a linking agent with the private sector and government to set up local biogas programs in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso.

PERFORMANCE IN 2018

Inspiring social change!

Hivos East Africa employed 6 instruments of change in supporting partners, pioneers and change makers:

- **Network** - Hivos is a linking agent that brings all parties together to be part of solutions that bring about change. From governments to private sector and civil society we created coalitions of the willing to spearhead social change.
- **Innovation and knowledge** - Hivos supports and brings to scale the most promising solutions. We supported projects that are using social innovation to bring about change in various sectors.
- **Programme development** - Hivos develops innovative programmes that address recurrent social problems such as gender inequality
- **Capacity development** - Developing the capacity of partners is a key part of how we work. Hivos' capacity strengthening to organisations ranges from basic enhancement of institutional structures to international advocacy and networks. We provided grants for strategic planning, administrative and financial reporting systems, management information systems and results assessment.
- **Advocacy** - An integral component of our programmatic work is on mobilising citizens, governments, civil society and the private sector to create an enabling environment for change.
- **Financing** - Hivos manages funds that aim to support local initiatives in a specific sector. We provided grants to partners to catalyse social innovation and inspire social change.

We are constantly learning and re-shaping!

The world we live in is constantly changing. 2018 was a turbulent year marked with significant events: global uprisings with citizens' call for democracy, an immigration crisis propelled by climate change, citizens at the brink of hunger, women's rights- right to bodily autonomy and equal pay under siege and slow economic growth. While these shifts emerged at an unprecedented scale and breadth, this was also an opportunity for Hivos East Africa to re-strategize and respond to the crises with tact by putting citizens at the heart of our strategies.

These events shaped our operational strategy amidst emerging challenges in the different landscapes where we implement programmes. Data backed collection through our different programmes significantly informed knowledge management to examine some of our approaches and draw crucial learnings:

Partners at the forefront of advocacy works

Supporting front-runners to bring about change is part of Hivos East Africa's core strategy in achieving a free, fair and sustainable world.

Pioneering transformational change in our different thematic areas: Renewable Energy, Sustainable Food, Freedom and Accountability, Sexual Rights and Diversity and Women's Empowerment has only been possible in collaboration with strategic partners.

By supporting local partners to attend global human rights gatherings such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York; Hivos East Africa was a linking agent between grass root organisations, government and private sector to bring to scale

the most promising solutions. Further, partners' voices were amplified to take part in leading global conversations that sought to achieve structural change through social innovation. Their significant contribution has gone a long way in shaping global discourses on the human rights agenda.

Our success is derived from partners excelling and taking part in global movements of change.

Co-creation, linking and learning

Bringing grantees together to connect, share and learn from their experiences is a crucial component of our programming. We realise value and meaning is derived from insightful sessions where partners are able to freely share some of the key techniques employed in implementing iconic projects that focus on topics such as equality, good governance and rights. Through programs such as Voice, Hivos East Africa has used such fora to build the capacity of grantees and strengthen their media and advocacy strategies. Learning questions have equally given grantees an opportunity to frame approaches that contribute to the learning agenda of their projects.

In the Open Contracting Program, co-creation mini- sprints with partners were held to leverage the various partners' implementation learnings into jointly shaping project outcomes and maximising on targeted results - for lasting change public procurement.

The intersection of designers, techies, artists, writers and creatives at the Africa Content Creator's Summit was able to birth the rise of a movement of content creators for African content. The summit was a breeding ground of exchanging ideas and solutions on how to counter the shrinking civic space and also learn from techniques and approaches that have not worked.

Tech-based monitoring and evaluation

Our robust monitoring and evaluation system employed an online approach to increase the customer satisfaction experience of the biogas market sector in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. This was influenced by the need to embed quality assurance in the sector and improve the effectiveness of the biogas program in the five countries. The system has been useful in reinforcing our stewardship in enabling access to renewable energy for populations that are not connected to the grid.

Citizen agency

Building sustainable citizen agencies is a new frontier in strengthening civil society organisations that recognise the role of citizen's voices in demanding for a democratic society. Influencing the foundation of sustainable citizen agencies that can provide front-runners with a strong platform in advocating for a fair and just society informed our strategic role as a linking agent, peer and coach for strong grass root organisations where citizens can drive social accountability initiatives.

Opportunities also budded to forge strategic partnerships with 'unlikely' partners to accelerate inclusive growth and the realisation of human rights for all.



SECTION 1

OPEN SOCIETY

OPEN SOCIETY

Our thematic portfolios across the open domain seek to bolster respect for human rights, transparency and accountability and sustainable economic development.

In 2018, we worked in a landscape dominated by the following challenges:

- Governance crisis through lack of transparency and accountability of public funds.
- Disregard for human rights through attacks on human rights defenders, freedom of expression, gender inequality and intolerance to criticism by government.

OPEN DOMAIN IN 2018 AT A GLANCE



SAFETY & SECURITY

TRAINING FOR LGBTI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



ADOPTION

OF THE OPEN CONTRACTING APPROACH BY MAKUENI COUNTY



50% OF EAST AFRICAN

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORS HAVE INCREASED RESPONSIVENESS TO CITIZEN'S CONCERNS ON GOODS & SERVICE DELIVERY



16 HORTICULTURAL

COMPANIES IN **KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA, ETHIOPIA** AND **RWANDA** ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PRACTICES THAT ENHANCE WORKPLACE SYSTEMS AND CULTURE.



100 FARMS

REACHED TO ENFORCE BEST PRACTICES SUCH AS ETHICAL CONSUMERISM

FREEDOM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Human rights under siege

The civic space in East Africa has been shrinking at a rapid pace. We witnessed human rights defenders arrested, gagged and some unfortunately disappeared for using their voices to speak out against powerful forces and authorities. The context in East Africa featured rising incidences of media shutdowns, internet censorship, 'femicides' and attacks on civil society organisations.

Alternative spaces for free expression were also under high scrutiny with a leading trend of online and offline surveillance in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Repressive laws and caveats for screening artistic films on sexual diversity glaringly led a 'profiling and sensationalist movement' against sexual and gender minorities. The resulting effect of this norm stifled the growth of the creative economy contributing to the mushrooming unemployment index in the region.

Lack of transparency and accountability in the use of public funds was a significant threat in enabling good governance practices that can establish inclusive democracies.

Spiralling Change: Spotlight projects

Makueni County and open contracting

The Open Up Contracting Program catalysed change by partnering with front-runner devolved governments such as Kenya's Makueni County to promote a culture of transparency, disclosure and accountability in public contracting. The partnership resulted in the adoption of the open contracting approach by the devolved government, a move that will foster real transparency by disclosing

information at all stages of the procurement process, from planning, tendering, awarding, contracting, and implementation to oversight.

Advocacy and movement building

We further deepened our advocacy work by influencing formulation of policies at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York to adopt the principles of open contracting in ensuring that marginalised groups such as women's enterprises are empowered to do business with governments through public procurement.

On network building, the establishment of communities such as the Open Contracting Editors Group comprising of newsroom editors from Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi facilitated emergence of media movements that are driving informed and objective news reporting on public procurement.

Enabling an accommodating policy environment comes with considerable investment by working with like-minded partners. To trigger policy change in Kenya and Tanzania, Hivos East Africa built the capacity of infomediaries to generate accessible information on tools and lobby track approaches that can support governments to fast-track transparency in the extractives sector and public finance.

Content for Africa

Africa's contribution to the global debate on sustainable development through arts, culture and diversity has come a long way in influencing and shaping dialogue around democracies and inclusive societies. While this is an immense step in positioning content from Africa by Africa; artists, creatives, techies, designers and writers still lack



requisite platforms that can elevate their contribution to the global debate around topical issues such as fashion, sexual harassment, green energy, environmental justice and open societies. Through the Africa Content Creators Summit, Hivos East Africa brought together futuristic content creators from Africa to exchange, reflect and share ideas on innovation that can shape the African context and its subsequent growth through robust content from makers.

Media and governance

With an extensive track record in accelerating freedom of expression through media development, Hivos East Africa's role in the Community Media Fund contributed to citizens' access to quality relevant information that empowers them to support policies and practices that impact inclusive economic and human development through the media in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Seed grants were provided to community media organisations that champion citizen and community reporting on transparency, accountability, social justice, financial and economic issues.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

No longer silenced but rising

The rise of feminist movements globally has resulted into change in policy, general awareness on the importance of gender responsive governance and new frameworks that position women's issues. However, the realisation of women's empowerment still remains a mirage particularly for women in informal sectors such as domestic work, horticulture and the fashion industries. Issues of unequal pay continued to disproportionately affect women working in these sectors coupled with poor working conditions and sexual violence.

Spiralling Change: Spotlight



Decent work in informal sectors

Hivos East Africa's track record in women's rights has involved linking government, civil society actors and the private sector to be responsive to women's issues such as reproductive health rights, the right to equal pay for work and safe work spaces.

Our Women@Work program has particularly been a champion in supporting decent work for women working in horticultural value chains such as the cut flower and vegetable industries in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia. In 2018, the approach was simple; influencing the enactment of gender equitable legislation and encouraging the private sector to enforce better working conditions for women. Working with 17 partners from the 5 East Africa countries, the campaign was able to influence over 100 farms to enforce best practices such as ethical consumerism that advocate for decent wages and safe working environments for women workers.

Innovative CSR platforms

A Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal jointly developed by Hivos East Africa, Ufadhili and True Price was launched to quantify the social performance of businesses by measuring the impact of their practices on decent pay, social security, freedom of association, healthy and safe working spaces. The portal has been useful in supporting individual horticultural growers to enhance their social responsibility by embedding ethical practices in their profit-making strategies.

Stronger 'voices' through partners

Our capacity building strategy focused on giving partners a lever to strengthen their lobby and advocacy abilities. From international meetings such as the CSW in New York to the UN Business Human Rights Forum in Geneva, 5 partners convened side events to strengthen the policy frameworks that protect vulnerable and poor workers. Actions such as robust stakeholder meetings with actors from the horticultural sector convened by FIDA Uganda resulted into a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Lobby and advocacy trainings also enriched the efforts of partners to take part in dialogue and debate of local issues that sometimes seem remote in international platforms.

'Lab' model

As women's issues persistently arose, there was need to co-create viable solutions with like-minded partners in ending tentacles of inequality such as sexual harassment. As women's issues persistently arose, there was need to co-create viable solutions with like-minded partners to end forms of inequality such as sexual harassment through an anti-sexual harassment programme which creates safe work spaces for women.



Grooming women leaders

Meaningful change in society can only take place if women are given a seat at the table. The turf particularly in countries such as Kenya has been difficult for women to advance in leadership positions, a norm that has led to a continuous trend of underrepresentation of their voices in decision making processes. Rwanda has however set a different precedence: women leadership works. In 2018, the Rwanda Women's Network and the Rwanda Workers' Trade Union Confederation (CESTRAR) equipped women in the flower farms with leadership skills. This is an action that inspired them to set up and take charge of gender committees that oversee improvement of working conditions in the farms.



SEXUAL RIGHTS & DIVERSITY

Free to be Me

In 2018, the LGBTI context in East Africa was many times filled with doleful news. From repressive laws to attacks on human rights defenders, most LGBTI organisations particularly in Tanzania were often in trouble with the state. The ban on 'Rafiki' film by Kenya's Film and Classification board also signified tough times while raids on LGBTI organisations in Uganda depicted shrinking civic liberties. Reproductive health rights were also under duress following an announcement in Tanzania banning pregnant girls from going back to school.

Spiralling Change: Spotlight

Hivos East Africa's response to this spiralling context was fuelled by the resolve to challenge unequal power relations that perpetuate exclusion of marginalised and discriminated groups such as LGBTI persons, young women and girls.

Our approaches were multi-tiered: supporting courageous activists and human rights defenders to carry out their work, strengthening lobby and advocacy approaches of grass-root civil society organisations and building immunity around safety and security of threatened spaces and actors.

Equal voices

Voice's¹ support to 'traditionally' excluded LGBTI grassroots organisations included provision of empowerment and innovative grants to challenge increasing restrictions on freedom in Kenya and Tanzania. This support also sometimes included mentorship and a 'nudge' in the right direction to improve the confidence of grantees.

Art and expression

The Out Film Festival in Kenya has been an art space of expression particularly for the LGBTI community. With a journey that traces back in 2011 for the first time in Nairobi, the festival normally features film screening, panel and plenary discussions with visiting filmmakers. In 2018, Hivos East Africa's Strong in Diversity Program proactively supported the festival primarily as a 'safe space' where Kenyan LGBTI persons can engage in current issues and affairs and share lived realities. This was within the program's trajectory of propelling alternative online and offline safe spaces where LGBTI persons can freely express themselves.

Inclusivity across the board

Through the Right Here Right Now program, Hivos East Africa's efforts to promote safety and security of threatened activists continued to grow. By partnering with the Frontline Defenders and Protection International we were able to offer safety and security havens for 14 individuals and organisations under siege.

Further, RHRN played an integral role in lobbying governments to influence sexual reproductive health services and goods that are inclusive to the needs of LGBTI persons, young women and girls.

Central to our LGBTI rights portfolio has been championing diversity and inclusion in local and multi-national companies through robust policies that breed talent and skill of all employees. This action often includes influencing the private sector to create safe workspaces where LGBTI persons can freely use their talent and skills without stigma and discrimination. Through the Colourful Workplaces conference in 2018, Hivos East Africa and Workplace Pride brought together decision makers, human resource



¹ Voice is an innovative grant facility jointly executed by Hivos and Oxfam.

professionals, civil society and academia to discuss challenges and opportunities in promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace. It also marked the launch of the UN Standards of Conduct for Business on tackling LGBTI discrimination for the first time in Africa.



STORY OF CHANGE

It's not all Rosy

Kenya is considered the flower garden of Europe. Famed for being the 3rd largest exporter of flowers in the world, the country's red roses contribute to the world's love language. However, just like any other sector, inequality has been a looming factor in Kenya's flower farms. While women are majority of workers, they remain under represented in leadership positions and left to dominate lower echelons ranging from picking, spraying to arranging flowers for export. Worse still, they constantly have to fight through barriers such as sexual violence and unequal pay for their voices to be heard.

Ruth Wanjiru, a former shop steward in a flower farm, knows too well the narrative of inequality having endured its ripple effects. Her story is that of courage and perseverance to uphold the rights of women workers in the flower farm.

She started off as a grader (charged with inspecting the quality of roses and wrapping them for export). After having her first child, she would later have to change departments due to demanding workload and extra work time.

Ruth's eye-opening moment would later emerge when she landed a new position as a shop steward. Her job required 'extra muscles' as she put it, to defend the rights of workers, especially women. Appalled at her employer's reluctance to implement the new collective bargaining agreement that would see workers get a minimum wage, she opted to use her voice to speak out. Unfortunately, this is a choice that came with the price of losing her job. Rose was laid off together with 94 workers after a strike. "Gross delays of salaries became the norm in the company and even when I issued a formal complaint to my supervisor, nothing was done about it" she adds.

She attributes that she found her voice through Hivos East Africa's Women@Work campaign where she was trained on gender equality, HIV rights and labor rights. "They simply empowered me to be aware that I do have rights", she indicates.

**"THEY SIMPLY EMPOWERED ME TO BE AWARE THAT
I DO HAVE RIGHTS"**

Ruth Wanjiru.





SECTION 2

GREEN SOCIETY

GREEN SOCIETY

Hivos East Africa supports transition towards renewable energy and a diverse, resilient and fair food system. Together with partners we demonstrate that renewable energy is not a dream, but simply the best choice. Providing access to sufficient, affordable and healthy food to all, in particular for low income consumers, can create substantial economic opportunities and generate positive environmental returns.

OUR WORK AT A GLANCE IN 2018



5 MULTI-ACTOR

INITIATIVES ESTABLISHED TO
PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FOOD
OPTIONS IN **KENYA, UGANDA &
TANZANIA**



2,000 SMALLHOLDER

COFFEE FARMERS IN **KENYA & UGANDA**
DIVERSIFIED THEIR INCOME THROUGH
DAIRY & BANANA FARMING



6,887 BIOGAS PLANTS

CONSTRUCTED IN **KENYA, UGANDA,
ETHIOPIA & BURKINA FASO** PROVIDING
OVER **40,000 PERSONS** WITH A CLEAN
SOURCE OF ENERGY



527, 548 TONNES

OF GREEN-HOUSE GASES REDUCED
THROUGH THE BIOGAS PROGRAM

GREEN FOODS & PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

The quest for fair foods

The growing population in East Africa together with climate change has imposed quite significant challenges on the food system. Worse still, feeding habits in 2018 brought to light unusual findings such as obesity and malnutrition co-existing in the same household. Food production practices also continued to erode crop bio-diversity and ecosystems threatening food security.

Small scale farmers' rights were also threatened particularly when it comes to access to income for marginalised groups such as women and the youth. This emanated from the merger of global food companies that now had a lion's share in the food chain.

Our story in enabling human rights in the food agenda has constantly involved working with front-runners to strive for sustainable food systems. From the open source seeds systems to sustainable diets we have challenged the thinking around food monopolies and their impact on citizen's access to diverse, fair and healthy foods.

Spiralling Change: Spotlight projects



'Disrupting' food sectors

Through the Open Source Seed System programme, Hivos East Africa explored design thinking in accelerating innovation around 'freeing the seed'. A design thinking methodology integrating musicians, spoken word artists and storytellers as front runners played a significant role in

inspiring and challenging practices in the seed sector. 10 seed enterprises were additionally given a lever to accelerate their value proposition towards smallholder farmers involved in seed exchange and breeding.

The future of coffee: women and the youth

Our partnership with Twin Trading Ltd under the Gender and Generational Programme continued to integrate the use of Gender Action Learning Systems in Tanzania's coffee sector. This approach was at the front-line of promoting the inclusion of women and youth in coffee production by working with the Vuasu Cooperative Union in Same District. By identifying household champions, men and women were trained to come up with vision journeys for their families. This often comprised sharing joint responsibilities and income distribution to sustain their livelihoods in the coffee market whose global prices are often erratic. The ripple effect of these actions included an increase in coffee production to 23% which was significant growth from 2017. Women's capacity in decision making was also enhanced as a result enabling them to have more control over finances and land distribution.

Farmers' rights

Brokering relationships in the horticultural sector between farmers and the private sector has always been a key component of our approaches in providing immunity to smallholder farmers. To improve farmers' access to the market, over 5,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya were supported, an action that notably increased their income by 40%.

Diversifying income for farmers has become paramount in casting their nets for wider revenue streams. The 4S@Scale Program has been a game changer in Kenya's and Uganda's



coffee sector. In 2018, coffee farmers were mentored to not only diversify to other crops- given the shifting coffee prices globally- but also integrate good agricultural practices that are respectful to the environment. A total of 90,363 were reached with farmer to farmer extension services to equip them with necessary skills adaptive to climate change. In Kenya and Uganda, 32,410 farmers diversified into dairy and banana increasing their income security with close to 4,892 jobs created.

Inclusive policies

In the three East African countries, Hivos East Africa has been consistent in contributing to increased sustained food production and distribution without destroying the environment. We believe that influencing policy and practices of markets, government institutions and other key players will change and improve livelihoods of small scale farmers and contribute to the ultimate consumer's well-being.

Our Sustainable Diets for All Programme reinforced its policy approach by strengthening partnerships with Kenya's Nakuru County government and Uganda's Buikwe District. Through several sensitizations, a resolution was passed in Buikwe's local government to limit the practice of mono-cropping; a factor that has contributed to malnutrition in Uganda. The passing of a new law: the Genetic Engineering and Regulatory Act by Uganda's parliament in 2018 was a significant milestone in protecting farmers and having stricter liability measures for companies and corporates that develop GMO crops. At the citizen agency front, communities in Uganda were supported to hold food festivals in areas affected most by undernourishment. Over 2,000 people attended these festivals and were sensitized on the value of consuming healthy foods.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Let's decentralise energy!

The narrative around energy has taken a good turn around over the years. The shifts to renewable energy are beginning to bear fruit globally with deliberate efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Africa, countries like Burkina Faso are emerging as ambassadors in the push for decentralised energy especially for citizens in dire need. The country is now a linking agent, negotiating with other governments in the Sahel region to adopt biogas for clean cooking. This massive transformation is only sustainable if there are deliberate efforts to invest in areas most hit by climate change. While this is a positive for West Africa, the picture is not the same in East Africa where there has been a lag in upscaling clean cooking solutions. From policies hinged on massive energy projects to lack of political good will, majority of the citizens who are not connected to the grid are at most risk of economic exclusion. Decentralised energy solutions such as biogas and solar are not only necessary for lighting up homes and meeting the energy needs of the pro-poor; but building their resilience to adapt to climate change.

Spiralling Change: Spotlight projects

ABPP as a linking 'party'

Hivos East Africa's track record in renewable energy can be traced back to 2009 during the establishment of the largest biogas program in Africa: the Africa Biogas Partnership Program (ABPP). By partnering with inspiring front-runners,

we have brought to scale the most promising solutions around green energy for all. This promise was our 'cog wheel' in 2018 by linking governments, private sector and civil society to mostly walk the talk and deliver decentralised energy.

Deliberate advocacy yields results

The Green and Inclusive Energy program put on its lobby 'hat' through advocacy power to influence the media. Using the iconic energy safari in Tanzania, the program was able to on-board journalists in a learning journey where they were exposed to knowledge on renewable energy and influenced to have more informed reporting in storytelling. A media fellowship in partnership with Energy lab in Tanzania was a breeding ground in interesting journalists to the renewable energy landscape and the human interest transformative stories that can emerge from it. In Kenya, the collaboration with University of Nairobi's School of Journalism trained county journalists on renewable energy and encouraged academia to create curriculum that would model potential students pursuing journalism with a focus on the topic.

Alliance building in West Africa

West Africa's biogas alliance in 2018 saw 8 countries in the Sahel region commit to establishing biogas programs for their populations. Through a second biogas conference in West Africa, representatives from Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo reached a consensus on creating national household biogas markets in their countries and forged the alliance to fast-track this commitment.



As an effort of promoting customer satisfaction in the biogas sector, Kenya Biogas Program's (a national program under ABPP) Biogas Enterprise Acceleration Facility's (BEAF) support towards 24 Biogas Construction Enterprises (BCEs) resulted in more than half of the total Kenya brick dome production. Furthermore at least 3 of the supported BCEs have won government tenders for construction of institutional bio-digesters.



STORY OF CHANGE

Coffee is no longer a male crop

Sakina Badi Msingi is a farmer and mother of six children. Her fond memories of coffee trace back to a young bride when her late husband introduced her to the crop. The memories would be cut short when the global prices of coffee dipped in the market with a ripple effect on her household income. "I had actually given up on coffee before Hivos and partners began work in this sector. I was not gaining anything from my harvest," she says.

In her locality, coffee was a man's crop. The odds against her were double tiered first as a woman and a widow. "I would grapple with thoughts of who will stand with me to raise my children," she says.

She later shifted her focus to dairy and banana farming to make ends meet. Hivos and local partners such as Faida Mali and Vuasu Cooperative Union would later arrive on the scene with trainings on gender empowerment using the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) approach. "I attended my first training in Same, where we were taught how to market

coffee and earn equitable income and also how to integrate good agricultural practices such as spraying, pruning, mulching and harvesting," she says. "Equality -through gender justice in coffee- was also an overarching principle in the training," she adds.

Her locality was also filled with experiences of people who had uprooted coffee from their farms. They would argue that they spent so much money to maintain plantations with little or no returns. The GALS training would later shift the tides and give them a new perspective on how to come up with joint visioning. In addition, farmers were also linked with potential local marketing unions to support them market their coffee to international brands.

Through insights from the training, Sakina came up with her own vision journey with targets and tactics of how she would achieve her goals annually. One of her targets was setting up a tank to harvest water during the rainy season to lessen the burden of having to fetch water from the river every morning. She used part of her savings to purchase a water tank that has since become useful in her household.

"I ATTENDED MY FIRST TRAINING IN SAME, WHERE WE WERE TAUGHT HOW TO MARKET COFFEE AND EARN EQUITABLE INCOME AND ALSO HOW TO INTEGRATE GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES SUCH AS SPRAYING, PRUNING, MULCHING AND HARVESTING."

Sakina Badi Msingi.





THANK YOU

2018 was an exciting year for Hivos East Africa! Without the support of our friends and partners who believed in our cause to champion for change through social innovation we wouldn't be able to propel a just and fair society in the region.

Hivos East Africa would like to take this opportunity to recognise and appreciate our generous donors and partners for their vital support in form of resources and technical guidance.

Finally we would also like to thank our staff; valuable front-runners and everyone who gave their time and commitment in helping us champion for a cause that forms part of our DNA.



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