



HIVOS EAST AFRICA
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Hivos
people unlimited

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Selly Thiam is a journalist, filmmaker, writer and the executive producer and host of AfroQueer, a podcast by None on Record, a partner countering the shrinking civic space through free expression.

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: 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;
- Threatened and 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 in 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 2019, we set the following goals:

- Decentralise renewable energy through clean cooking technologies to the community level;
- Strengthen the link between sustainable food production and responsible consumption practices;
- Diversify dialogue and debate in society by supporting a new generation of artists and change makers;
- Support citizens to engage with public contracting information;
- Progressively engage with new allies such as the media in LGBTI issues;
- Promote 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 2019

OUR INTERVENTIONS SCALED ACROSS
07 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA:
KENYA, UGANDA, RWANDA, MALAWI,
TANZANIA, ETHIOPIA & BURKINA FASO

TACKLED:
INEQUALITY, SOCIAL INJUSTICE, CORRUPTION,
FOOD SECURITY ISSUES & ENERGY POVERTY

REACH: **6.8M**

PARTNERED WITH **172 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

MILESTONES

MAY 2019:

Pilot Fellowship program with Thomas Reuters Foundation to train journalists on progressive human rights reporting and influence portrayal of LGBTI persons in the media.

JULY 2019:

New partnership with Nation Media Group and Institute of Economic Affairs to set up the first open contracting information portal for journalists in East Africa.

AUGUST 2019:

Intersex persons included in Kenya's national census for the first time. A big win for the Intersex Persons Society of Kenya.

SEPTEMBER 2019:

Ethiopia's New Labour Proclamation criminalizing sexual harassment at the workplace.

SEPTEMBER 2019:

Restaurants in Uganda's Fort Portal District become champions of sustainable and healthy diets by including traditional healthy dishes in their menus.

OCT - NOVEMBER 2019:

Closing of two iconic Hivos programs through filmmaking: Black Coffee Community and 10 years of powering lives in Africa

NOVEMBER 2019:

The African Crossroads (Africa's biggest gathering of creatives) 'Sense the City' takes place in Mombasa, Kenya.

DECEMBER 2019:

- Makueni's Open Contracting portal goes live publishing 133 contracts worth KES 669 Million
- In partnership with Seed Savers Network Kenya: documentation of 10 rich, underutilised foods in Kenya



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

I welcome you to our 2019 annual report. This report features our work in East Africa where we have been championing just and fair societies since we started working in the region over 50 years ago.

2019 was a year filled with interesting twists and turns but such times only gave us the impetus in propelling extraordinary change. Our ambition in contributing to a free and sustainable world saw us partnering with visionaries, change makers and organizations to advance self-determination particularly in establishing green and open societies.

The very foundations of our humanist principles also reminded us that challenging times can not only be reversed by advancing programs and initiatives that champion social innovation; but for change to happen our true north must be on achieving impact.

Our quality programs across our five thematic areas: Sexual rights and diversity, freedom and accountability, women's empowerment, sustainable food and renewable energy championed social change & progress- whose results we have strived to showcase in this report.

Happy reading!



Mendi Njonjo
Regional Director, East Africa



PERFORMANCE IN 2019

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 change 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.
- **Program development** - Hivos develops innovative programs that address re-current 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 programatic 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.



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.

OPEN DOMAIN IN 2019 AT A GLANCE



17 new Open Up Contracting partners co-create and engage on translating complex data into actionable information to strengthen public procurement in **Kenya, Malawi & Tanzania**



Kenya's Makueni County's Open Contracting portal goes live publishing **133 contracts** and projects worth **KES 669 Million**.



111 creative content makers trained on financial sustainability and audience engagement



198 creative content makers supported to produce critical content free of influence from editors, sponsors and power structures



106 horticultural companies in Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda adopt and implement anti-sexual harassment policies to protect women workers from sexual harassment



Pilot Fellowship program with the Thomas Reuters Foundation to influence narratives around LGBTI persons.



Freedom and Accountability

There's room at Hivos East Africa for change makers and infomediaries

In Focus: Resource of Open Minds (R.O.O.M) program

Freedom of expression in East Africa has experienced significant bottlenecks in its realisation. Crackdowns were the norm in 2019, with many activists arrested and their spaces vandalised while carrying out their work. We witnessed authorities tighten censorship rules, which further silenced critics, curtailed artistic freedom, restricted the use of online platforms and prevented journalists from exercising their right to access and disseminate information.

In line with its work of supporting a new generation of makers such as artists, filmmakers, designers and musicians amongst others; R.O.O.M continued to contribute to dialogue and debate of the shrinking civic space that is rapidly taking force in the region.

Big Win!

Our approach in R.O.O.M to support makers was four-pronged: financing, knowledge sharing, capacity building and experimentation and learning. Using grants we supported partners to scale their projects and increase their resilience with additional complementary support to increase their knowledge through exchange programs facilitated by Creative Hubs Academy- a partnership with the British Council and Nesta- and the Digital Arts Fellowship.

The second African Crossroads hosted in Kenya brought together 170 participants from 30 countries to debate on cutting-edge developments anchored in African

intellectual and technological traditions and propose positive changes for African cities. Under the theme 'Sense the City', the community of African thinkers, designers, futurists, filmmakers, techies and artists set out to discover how alive African cities are to the realities around them such as access to clean water, sustainable food, convenient public transport and governance systems.

Our commitment in building the sustainability of artistic collectives and hubs is hinged on our humanistic principles that advocate for open societies where people are free to express themselves and make informed choices that influence their quality of life.

In Focus: Open Contracting program

The push for openness in the use of public funds has often lacked political will power necessary in strengthening systems where citizens can freely access information and use it to demand for accountability. Public procurement is one prime example where corruption has easily found a loophole through misappropriation of funds, vendor collusion with the quality of life of citizens compromised.

Hivos East Africa's Open Up Contracting program has been an anchor in strengthening citizen's participation in public contracting by partnering with infomediaries to translate complicated information into ¹actionable data.

¹ An infomediary translates complicated contracting/procurement data into actionable information for citizens.



Big Win!

Using an ecosystem approach to catalyse change in public procurement, 17 more infomediaries from Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi were on-boarded in 2019 to co-create innovative initiatives and projects that allow citizens to interface with public contracting information.

In deepening sub-national governments' work in fostering a culture of transparency, disclosure and accountability in public procurement, Kenya's Makueni County continued to be a leading champion by launching a live open contracting portal. This portal published 133 contracts and 326 projects valued at KES 669million (Euro 6M) signalling the county's commitment in fighting corruption and delivering quality goods and services for its citizens through roads, hospitals and schools. This milestone was the result of a partnership between Hivos East Africa, Development Gateway and Makueni County in strengthening the use of accountability data and redress mechanisms through the adoption of the Open Contracting Data Standard for its procurement systems.

In July 2019, a new partnership with the Nation Media Group and the Institute of Economic Affairs in Kenya was a forge in informing objective media reporting in public procurement. Through a new open contracting news portal, journalists will find information necessary to shape their stories through fact-based story telling when it comes to premier public procurement news pieces.



"The underbelly of all our efforts must support people to seek, receive and impart information through the media of their choice."

Stephanie Muchai is the Country Engagement Developer of the Open Up Contracting Program in East Africa.



Women's Empowerment

Campaigning for Decent work for women

In Focus: Women@Work Campaign

Economic progress has often come at a price of social exclusion for populations most vulnerable to labour injustice. The precarious nature of this effect has seen inequalities thrive such as unequal pay particularly for women workers in the low-income sector. Women in this sector have often found themselves having to cope with a bare minimum where their dignity is compromised and exacerbated through lack of a minimum wage, poor working conditions combined with sexual violence and abuse.

Hivos East Africa has been a leading front-runner in advancing women's rights by calling for just practices in the multi-billion horticultural sectors in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Rwanda. We have played a linking agent role by bringing together government, civil society actors and the private sector to be responsive to the plight of women workers and advocate for decent work.

Our Women@Work campaign is a prime champion that works to improve labour conditions for women working in horticultural value chains such as the cut flower and vegetable industries. One of our core strategies is partnering with champion flower farms with ethical business practices in the sector to influence other farms in adopting the same approach in their policies.

In 2019, the campaign intensified its lobby and advocacy efforts by strengthening the capacity of women workers and civil society organisations to cascade knowledge on gender and women leadership, labour rights, and sexual harassment and negotiation skills.

A curriculum guide developed by Akina Mama wa Afrika was useful in training a total of 2,484 women on leadership and groom role models who would mentor other

women to take up roles in committees and unions within flower farms.

Big Win!

Avenues such as the Ms President, a reality TV show on women's leadership offered Hivos East Africa an opportunity through a partnership with Media Focus Africa to train contestants on precarious labour issues for women in low-income jobs. Within the timeline of the 26 –episode TV series, 71 women contestants gained tremendous skills in what constitutes good labour conditions, fair income, security at the work place and participation of women workers in leadership forums such as unions.

The ratification of the ILO Convention Number 190 was a big milestone in creating safe workspaces by addressing injustices such as sexual harassment particularly experienced by women workers. In 2019, this milestone became a preamble for Ethiopia's government, which promulgated a new law that included new provisions on sexual harassment by stipulating what constitutes a relationship between an employer and employees. The new labour law provides for worker-employer relations governed through basic principles of rights and obligations in general and declaring sexual harassment a punishable crime if a perpetrator is found guilty.

Sector specific engagement with stakeholders from the horticultural sector contributed to adoption of gender policies in flower farms. In Kenya, Uganda,

Tanzania and Ethiopia, a total of 106 horticultural companies adopted gender responsive policies into their legal frameworks in an effort to create safe workspaces particularly for women workers.

Campaigning as we learnt over the years requires significant partnerships with the media to call for action and boost advocacy. Our media partner in Kenya, Africa

Women and Child Features (AWC) worked with journalists to commission stories highlighting the plight of women in flower farms. As a result, 11 issues of the Kenyan Woman newsletter, newspaper articles, interactive radio shows and documentaries were run on different platforms.





Sexual Rights & Diversity

New allies in LGBTI inclusion

In Focus: Strong in Diversity

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all human beings are born free and have equal dignity. This right extends to having control over your body, sexual orientation and gender identity together with relationships as an essential human right. Yet, in many instances, we have observed LGBTI persons unable to love freely and express who they are due to dangerous narratives that have fuelled discrimination and stigma.

Hivos East Africa strives to create societies where sexual and gender minorities can enjoy their sexuality and live in dignity without stigma or discrimination.

In 2019, our approach centralised on supporting courageous activists to defend their work and continue to engage powerful allies who can change the narrative around LGBTI persons.

Big Win!

Through the Strong in Diversity Program, we partnered with the Thomas Reuters Foundation to pilot a fellowship program that would link 10 LGBTI activists and 10 journalists to discuss the portrayal of LGBTI persons in the media. The training was useful in enriching journalists with new ways of reporting LGBTI issues in a balanced and impartial way without sensationalising stories. Activists also enhanced their interpersonal skills to develop meaningful communication with journalists during interviews. As a result, 5 journalists from the training were able to write insightful pieces on the contextual realities of LGBTI persons in Kenya and Uganda.

In Focus: Voice Program

Voice Program² continued to provide empowerment and innovative grants to traditionally excluded LGBTI grassroots organisations to lobby and challenge the existing 'normal' where minorities are muzzled and cannot freely break barriers to participate in societal issues. In Kenya, the Intersex Persons Society of Kenya (IPSK) received an empowerment grant to create awareness on the plight of intersex persons and lobby for their inclusion in the national census. Their engagement with the lawmakers yielded great results by Kenya becoming the first African country to recognize intersex persons in the census by introducing a 'third marker'.



² Voice is an innovative grant facility jointly executed by Hivos and Oxfam Novib

A close-up portrait of a smiling woman with dark hair in a braid. She is wearing a black wide-brimmed hat with a colorful band. Her face is painted with white body paint, featuring a central design that includes a bird and the word 'GROW' across her nose. She is wearing a green shawl with a white zigzag border and a red beaded necklace. The background is dark.

SECTION 2 GREEN SOCIETY

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Hivos East Africa supports the upscale of decentralised renewable energy technologies to populations lacking access to clean energy and a diverse, resilient and fair food system. Our quest for a green society is simple, we believe that renewable energy is not a pipe dream but the best choice; equally, sustainable food that is produced and consumed responsibly is crucial in sustaining the planet's resources and countering climate change. This is a promise that we have kept together with partners in demonstrating these ideals are possible and can generate positive returns critical in this era of climate change.

GREEN SOCIETY IN 2019 AT A GLANCE



Reached **340** food entrepreneurs to create awareness on diverse, nutritious and healthy foods



5 restaurants in Uganda's Kabarole District partnered with the Fort Portal municipality to prepare traditional healthy dishes



Hivos East Africa's partner Seed Savers Network launches a book on **10** rich underutilised crops in Kenya



Black Coffee Community film showcasing the close out of a **6-year** coffee project.



Celebration of **10 years** of powering lives in Africa through biogas.



An additional **32,000** households accessing a clean source of energy through biogas.



Green foods and Productive Landscapes

Food ecosystems have been significantly affected over the past couple of decades due to climate change. The worrying trends of changing food consumption and production habits have increased malnutrition and lifestyle diseases while inevitably contributing to soil infertility due to mono cropping. We have also witnessed food choices controlled by multinationals that have now monopolised the global seed sector pushing out smallholder farmers from the food chain.

Our story in enabling human rights in the food agenda is now relevant more than ever and has given us the resolve in working with front-runners to strive for sustainable food systems through open source seeds systems and sustainable and healthy diets.

In Focus: Sustainable Diets for All

Our five year Strategic Partnerships Program, Sustainable Diets for All has been a game changer in using evidence generated by citizens to help low-income communities to improve their access to sustainable, diverse and nutritious food. Implemented in Kenya and Uganda the program aims to deliver policy change in three areas: healthy and diverse consumption, linkages with small and medium enterprises in the food sector and nutritious and diverse production all with the aim of achieving sustainable diets for all.

Big Win!

In 2019, the program intensified its lobby and advocacy approaches by convening multi-stakeholder policy dialogues workshops at the sub-national and national levels in Kenya and Uganda to influence change in food and nutrition. This was useful in influencing a myriad of bills and policies. In Kenya, one of our partners BEACON was able to make recommendations in the Proposed Food Crops Regulation of 2018. Buikwe district in Uganda passed by-laws in food and nutrition security and

environment management- a move that was critical in protecting biodiversity by limiting mono-cropping.

To enable good agricultural practices, over 5,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya and Uganda were trained on good agronomic practices and nutrition dense foods. 70 model farmers from this training were able to use knowledge obtained to engage agricultural extension officers to include diversification of crops in farming practices.

Lastly we celebrate Uganda's Fort Portal municipality which continued to be a leading champion in food and nutrition by gazetting 11 sites as designated spaces for providing healthy foods for the low income urban populations.



In Focus: Open Source Seeds Systems

Enhancing access to diverse seed was also one of our approaches in sustainable food in 2019. Through the Open Source Seeds Program Hivos East Africa sought to strengthen seed initiatives in the region by fostering linkages between potential investors and seed entrepreneurs. This was against the backdrop of the shrinking crop biodiversity due to climate change and very little being done to support farmers to preserve their generational indigenous seeds.

In Kenya, our partner the Seed Savers Network embarked on documenting 10 rich underutilised nutritious foods that are on the brink of disappearing from the plate. Launched in 2019, the booklet was used to increase awareness on the need to preserve indigenous seeds for healthy diets and food security.

In Focus: Black Coffee Community Film

We closed an incredible coffee project through a film: **Black Coffee Community**. Implemented for 6 years in Kenya and Uganda, the 4S@Scale project was able to reach 80,000 coffee smallholder farmers with an aim of addressing systemic injustices that have existed in the coffee sector for decades and improving the livelihood of farmers.

4S@Scale's approach hinged on four focus areas: diversifying farmers' income to cushion them against erratic coffee prices, using bio-digester technology to improve quality of yields, engendering good agricultural practices that are not harmful to the environment and lastly, promoting inclusion of women and youth in the coffee supply chain.

Facing significant highs and lows during its implementation especially in an erratic sector, the project was able to double the income of coffee farmers in Kenya and Uganda and additionally train over 93,000 farmers to achieve optimum results in the coffee supply chain by creating jobs.

Big Win!

The end of this project signified Hivos' direct contribution to the coffee sector for over two decades by addressing systemic injustices that have left smallholder coffee farmers at the mercy of global monopolies that control coffee pricing.



SECTION 3
RENEWABLE
ENERGY





People
Unlimited



RENEWABLE ENERGY

A positive disruption has been taking force in the renewable energy sector. This transformation has been led by the Sustainable Development Goals particularly goal 7 that seeks to accelerate affordable and clean energy for all. This acceleration is being realised by calls to decentralise renewable energy technologies through clean cooking to the communities most affected by climate change and lacking access to clean energy.

Big Win!

In Focus: Africa Biogas Partnership Program

Hivos East Africa has been working with front-runners and leveraging on multi-stakeholder partnerships to upscale clean cooking technologies in sub-Saharan Africa. Our track record goes back to 2009 when we established the largest biogas program in 5 African countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso. The Africa Biogas Partnership Programme (ABPP) has been a cogwheel in linking governments, private sector and civil society to build a commercial market sector for biogas thus enabling thousands of households to have access to clean energy for cooking, lighting their homes, practicing organic agriculture and boosting income through green enterprises.

In 2019, together with our partners: SNV, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) and Energising Development (EnDev), we celebrated 10 years of powering lives in Africa along the sidelines of the global Clean Cooking Forum in Nairobi. This signified the close-out of the 10-year ABPP program while looking at the milestones it was able to accomplish during its tenure. Frontrunners such as the government of Burkina Faso shared their experience in leading the West Africa Bio digester Alliance especially in bringing together countries in the Sahel most hit by the effects of climate change to set up national biogas programs that can strengthen the resilience of their populations.

Our journey has shown that investment in innovations such as Result-Based Financing in enabling uptake of biogas technologies can bring returns. With support from EnDev, ABPP accelerated the market uptake of biogas by incentivizing private sector actors to stimulate construction of high quality digesters and provide good after-sales service (AFSS) and customer care. This was in the realisation that quality assurance is necessary in customer satisfaction and accelerating uptake of the technology in households.

In Focus: Green and Inclusive Energy Program

Intensifying efforts in lobby and advocacy was an incredible milestone in 2019. Through the Green and Inclusive Energy program we continued to advance long-term engagements with journalists in Kenya and Tanzania to increase storytelling in renewable energy.

In Tanzania we partnered with Nukta Africa and the Journalists Environmental Association through the iconic journalism boot camp to influence both policymakers and citizens towards renewable energy.

In Kenya, we intensified our approach in influencing draft renewable energy policies at the sub-national level in Bomet, Kisumu, Makueni, Kwale and Homabay counties through partners such as Africa Centre for Technologys Studies (ACTS), Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK), Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) and Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG).

OUR BIOGAS INTERVENTION CONTRIBUTED TO:



A total of **22,000 tCO₂eq**
carbon emission reduction



Reduction of **1,650 ha** of
deforestation



Reducing **460** workload years for both
women and children when it comes to
fetching firewood for cooking and lighting



Reduced indoor pollution for **27,000**
women and children and the associated
risks often leading to diseases and death



THANK YOU

2019 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 free and sustainable world.



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