



TOSHIBA CARBON ZERO SCHEME

UN Sustainable Development Goals

- > The UN has 17 measurable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), several of which are supported by the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme. This report focuses on **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** explaining the impact of the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme and its link to this goal.
- > SDG 10 is aiming to promote and sustain income growth for the bottom 40 per cent of the global population at a rate exceeding national averages. Achieving this requires facilitating access to capital and high-quality jobs.
- > The Toshiba CarbonZero Scheme supports the ongoing activities to rehabilitate and maintain boreholes in Uganda. These are mainly boreholes which have fallen into disrepair, denying communities access to safe water and forcing people to boil water to make it safe, thereby contributing to CO2 emissions.

FACTS

- > The economies of developing countries are mainly growing at a very fast rate, with average annual growth rates of 3.1% in 2014, compared to 1.4% for developed countries. However, the fruits of this growth are not evenly distributed, with living standards often improving rapidly in urban areas whilst rural areas are left behind.
- > Inequality is also stark on a global scale, with the richest 10% of the global population earning approximately 40% of global income, whilst the poorest 10% of the population earns approximately 2% of global income.
- > In developing countries such as Uganda, inequality between the sexes is a major challenge, with women's potential to independently pursue careers and earn their own income frequently hampered by the weight of their domestic responsibilities. This concentrates responsibility for household income generation in their male relatives, thereby reducing women's ability to make key household decisions due to economic dependence on men.

Ugandan Borehole Case Study

Anna Akullu lives in Te-Oboke village, which is in Otuke district in Northern Uganda. She is 52 years old and a mother to 6 grown children. Her family use the recently rehabilitated borehole at Te-Oboke as their principle water source.

She recounts that, prior to the rehabilitation of the borehole at Te-Oboke, her family had immense challenges to access water, having to travel to a pool 2 kilometres away in order to collect water. Typically, she would personally spend around 5 hours a day collecting water to contribute to her family's water needs. Her children also had to spend large parts of their evening gathering water, time which could otherwise have been spent doing homework or at play. In addition to gathering water, large amounts of time would also need to be spent gathering firewood to boil the water in order to make it safe, which again took up valuable hours. Additionally, the quality of the water would frequently make family members sick, with money having to be spent on medications and the children missing countless days of school.

All this has changed since the family has had access to the borehole in Te-Oboke. Anna can now gather all the water needed for the family's needs within half an hour. She usually gets this done first thing in the morning and then has the rest of the day to spend on much more productive activities. With the time saved, she has joined the women's business group which

is based in the village, and learnt from her fellow members how to produce shea butter from the abundant shea nuts in the area, and to do other crafts such as fashioning shopping bags from papyrus. Products such as these have a significant market value, and the group earns income from selling produce in the weekly market in the nearby village of Barjobi. Anna's participation in this group brings her a steady income to invest in her own agricultural activities, and she also has the opportunity to take a loan from the group, should she wish to pursue her own business idea.



Overall, the women's group is allowing its members to advance their situation by ensuring that they have income and can therefore influence decision-making at the household level. It is also an example of a key driver in the growth of the rural economy, enabling marginalised rural people to use their skills and the resources at their disposal to increase their income and gain valuable skills. Anna and many other members of the group would never have had this opportunity without the borehole, which has saved them several hours a day to invest in productive activities.

Toshiba's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

This case study shows how the project activities in Uganda contribute to SDG 10 in the following ways:

- Rehabilitation of boreholes removes the time burden of gathering water, giving people like Anna the opportunity to spend time on income generation.
- Due to the heavy burden on women in particular to gather water, reducing this time burden is key to reduce household-based gender inequality, increasing women's financial independence as they have time to invest in their own business opportunities.
- Reducing the time burden on people in marginalised rural areas generally of gathering water is a key way to close the urban-rural wealth gap that is so prevalent in developing countries.
- The reduced burden on children to gather water enables them to focus more on their studies, reducing potential future inequality by enabling children to become better qualified for job opportunities.

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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