



OCTAVIA
CARBON

Community Impact

REPORT

2026 UPDATE



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Executive Summary

Octavia Carbon is the Global South's first Direct Air Capture (DAC) company, headquartered in Kenya. We are designing, building, and deploying DAC technology that filters carbon dioxide (CO₂) directly from the atmosphere for permanent storage. Leveraging Kenya's renewable energy and the geological advantages of the Great Rift Valley, our mission is to help reverse the effects of climate change while catalyzing green growth across the region.

Project Hummingbird is our pilot DAC and geological storage plant that we are deploying in Gilgil, Kenya, in partnership with a CO₂ storage partner. The project represents an important step toward demonstrating durable engineered carbon removal in Africa while laying the foundation for future DAC deployment across the region. The success of long-term climate infrastructure depends not only on technical performance but also on strong relationships with host communities.

This report presents our community impact approach and the early outcomes of programs implemented since 2025. The report builds on our Community Engagement Strategy, released in January 2025, which established the framework for how we engage with communities in our project area.

Since early 2025, we have implemented community initiatives focused on education, workforce development, youth engagement, and economic resilience in the Gilgil and Kikopey area. These programs included the Breaking Barriers initiative supporting girls' menstrual health and education; TVET workshops and sponsorships aimed at strengthening technical skills; the Community Livelihoods Program supporting women-led enterprises; and Building Futures, a youth engagement initiative that combines sports development with practical learning opportunities.



Executive Summary

Looking ahead, our focus will be on scaling and strengthening these initiatives as Project Hummingbird progresses. Priorities for 2026 include expanding reusable menstrual health solutions under the Breaking Barriers initiative, strengthening partnerships with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, formalizing apprenticeship and certification pathways, and evolving the Community Livelihoods Program into a revolving support model that can support additional community groups. We will also strengthen our monitoring and evaluation framework to track long-term outcomes and ensure that community initiatives remain measurable and responsive to local needs.

Impact to date



2250+

Community members reached across initiatives



766

Girls receiving support through menstrual health products



120+

TVET Students trained in DAC manufacturing & operations



10

Women entrepreneurs supported through a poultry enterprise



1500+

Students benefiting from improved sports facilities



4

TVET Scholarships awarded



24

Full-time jobs created in Kikopey 8 filled by local community members



250+

Community members engaged through townhalls

Introduction

As the Global South's first Direct Air Capture (DAC) company, based in Kenya, we design, build, and deploy machines that filter carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere for permanent storage, helping mitigate climate change. Leveraging Kenya's renewable energy potential and suitable geology for durable carbon storage in the Great Rift Valley, we aim to scale DAC down the cost curve while catalyzing green growth within the region.

Project Hummingbird is our pilot DAC and geological storage plant that we are deploying in partnership with a CO₂ storage partner in Gilgil, Kenya. As with any long-term infrastructure project, successful deployment depends not only on technical performance but also on strong relationships with the communities surrounding project sites. At Octavia Carbon, we view community engagement as a core operational pillar that helps build trust, strengthen our Social License to Operate, and ensure that our DAC operations deliver meaningful local benefits alongside global impact.

The communities near our project areas are diverse and dynamic, with livelihoods rooted primarily in agriculture, small-scale enterprise, and pastoralism. These communities are also experiencing the growing impacts of climate change, making inclusive, locally grounded climate innovation especially important.

Through this report, we highlight our community impact approach, the principles guiding our engagement with local stakeholders, and the early outcomes of community initiatives implemented since 2025. It builds on our **Community Engagement Strategy** released earlier in 2025, which established the framework for how we engage with communities around our project sites. With this report, we aim to provide transparency to our partners and community on how our community engagement is integrated into responsible project development.



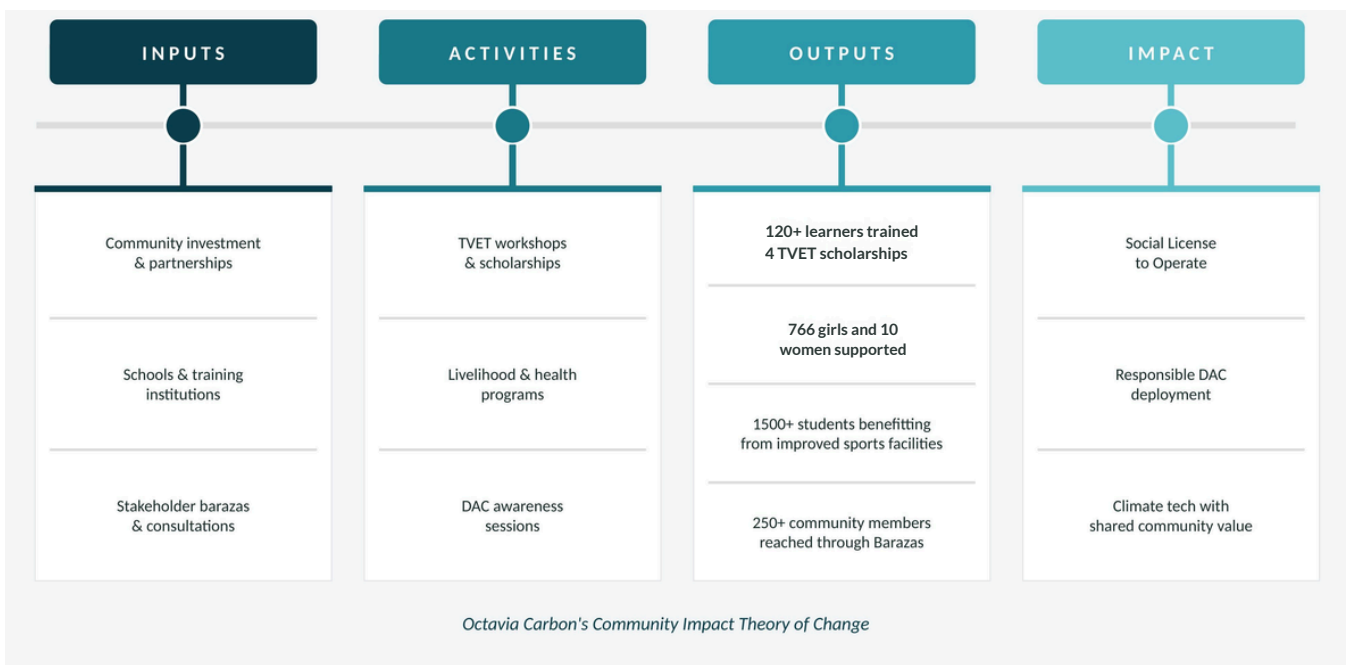
Theory of Change

Our community impact strategy is built on an inclusive innovation model that positions local stakeholders as active participants in the green transition rather than passive beneficiaries. By investing in skills development, sustainable livelihoods, and open community engagement, we aim to ensure that the deployment of DAC in Kenya contributes to both climate mitigation and local economic opportunities.

Our approach begins with targeted **inputs**, including financial investment in community programs, partnerships with local schools and training institutions, and sustained stakeholder engagement through community townhalls and consultations. These inputs enable a range of activities, such as Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) workshops, sustainable livelihood programs, and community engagement sessions.

Through these activities, we generate measurable **outputs**, including training >120 learners, sponsoring four TVET students, placing the first local DAC plant operations technician on-site, providing menstrual health support to ~766 school-going girls, and supporting 10 women entrepreneurs through the Msingi Jaika Chicken Women's Group. These outputs contribute to broader outcomes, including strengthened local skills for participation in the green economy, improved household income diversification, reduced school absenteeism linked to period poverty, and stronger community trust in Octavia Carbon's operations.

Over time, these **outcomes** support the long-term impact of responsible DAC deployment with strong community support, a Social License to Operate, and a model for climate technology development that generates shared value for both local communities and global climate goals.



Community Impact Approach



Our work with communities is guided by our Community Engagement Strategy, published in January 2025. The strategy outlines how we foster trust, participation, and responsible project development as we pioneer DAC in Kenya. We recognize that scaling DAC to megaton levels requires more than geological suitability; it requires a deep and sustained commitment to the people in the regions where projects are deployed.

This strategy is built around five foundational principles designed to ensure meaningful community participation and responsible development:

- **Local Leadership:** We believe trust is built through teams that reflect the communities they serve. With a 99% Kenyan workforce, we prioritize local recruitment and engage primarily in Swahili and local dialects to ensure accessible communication.
- **Relationship Building:** We prioritize long-term relationships over transactional engagement. By embedding our team within the community and participating in the local social fabric, we aim to build lasting trust and presence as responsible neighbours.



Community Impact Approach

- **Informed Consent:** We follow a “*show, don’t just tell*” approach to transparency. Through hands-on demonstrations and site visits to our manufacturing facilities, community members can understand our technology and safety protocols before providing informed support.
- **Local Value Creation:** We ensure that the economic benefits of projects developed in Kenya remain within the region. This includes investing in local research and development and prioritizing regional suppliers and partnerships wherever possible.
- **Zero Corruption:** We uphold a strict zero-corruption policy that protects the integrity of our partnerships and ensures all interactions are conducted with fairness, accountability, and respect for stakeholder rights.

These principles are operationalized through structured engagement processes that maintain continuous dialogue with the local stakeholders. A central element of this approach is the use of community townhalls (‘barazas’ - open public forums) that bring together local residents, leaders, and project representatives. These gatherings provide an accessible platform for sharing project updates, addressing questions, and gathering feedback.

Engagement also takes place through ongoing consultations with local leadership, schools, and community groups, ensuring that community perspectives inform project planning and community initiatives. Discussions are conducted primarily in Swahili and local dialects, helping ensure that information about our activities is accessible and clearly understood.

Maintaining a consistent presence within the host region further supports this approach. Regular interaction with community members helps ensure that we remain aligned with local priorities. Together, these engagement channels create a continuous feedback system that informs decision-making and strengthens accountability as projects evolve.





Monitoring & Evaluation

Continuous learning and feedback guide how we evaluate the outcomes of our community initiatives. We combine data collection with ongoing field engagement and community feedback to understand how programs are performing and where adjustments may be needed.

New initiatives are often piloted on a smaller scale before broader implementation, allowing us to evaluate adoption and refine program design based on early learning. Community townhalls and stakeholder consultations also serve as key feedback channels, helping ensure that initiatives remain responsive to local priorities while aligning with international standards such as the **International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards** and the **Core Carbon Principles (CCPs)** established by the **Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Markets (ICVCM)**.

Looking ahead, we are strengthening this approach by formalizing a more comprehensive M&E framework that will support consistent impact tracking. This includes integrating gender-disaggregated data and monitoring changes in income diversification and asset ownership as our livelihood initiatives evolve.



Community Programs & Investments

From 2025, we implemented a set of community initiatives in our project deployment area focused on education, economic empowerment, and workforce development. These programs include the Breaking Barriers initiative, which supports menstrual health; a women's livelihood program with the Jaika Women's Group; and technical training and education support through TVET partnerships. Developed through ongoing community engagement, these initiatives address locally identified needs while creating pathways for community participation in Kenya's emerging climate technology ecosystem.

Breaking Barriers

Breaking Barriers is our flagship community initiative addressing systemic social challenges that undermine girls' education and dignity in our host communities. The program was informed by extensive community townhalls and consultations with local leaders in the Gilgil/Kikopey region in 2024, where period poverty was identified as a key driver of absenteeism and school dropout among adolescent girls. Since 2025, we transitioned from consultation to implementation, rolling out the program initially in Murindu Primary and Kikopey Secondary Schools.



Community Programs & Investments

The program was implemented in collaboration with non-profit partners, including the Ann Mwithaga Foundation, Huru International Foundation, and TAG Initiative, through the provision of menstrual health education and disposable sanitary kits to adolescent schoolgirls. By directly tackling period poverty, the initiative reduces school absenteeism, removes stigma associated with menstrual health, and enables girls to pursue their education without interruption, thereby promoting gender equity and long-term educational outcomes.

Activities & Outcomes

We provided sanitary kits and menstrual health education to ~766 girls from the following schools: Murindu Primary (300 girls), Kariandusi Primary (89 girls), Kariandusi Secondary (33 girls), Kikopey Primary (84 girls), Kikopey Secondary School (150 girls), Ndogo Primary School (60 girls), and Huruma Kikopey CBO (50 girls), significantly improving access to essential menstrual health resources and education within the community. With quarterly visits to each school, we closely monitor the pad banks and the program's impact, with at least 5 girls from each school visiting the pad banks daily, resulting in increased menstrual hygiene and confidence among the girls.

To promote community well-being and menstrual health, we partnered with the Huru Foundation to launch a reusable sanitary towels program. In October, 20 girls from Murindu Highway Primary School received training and reusable sanitary kits. One month later, 7 had adopted reusable towels with positive feedback. Monitoring will continue for a year to understand adoption, address barriers, and improve future programs. We engaged professional health practitioners for the menstrual hygiene training and support. Depending on the pilot's success, we plan to expand the use of reusable kits to more schools to enhance sustainability.



Community Programs & Investments

TVET Workshops & Sponsorship

The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Workshops and Sponsorship Program focuses on strengthening local technical capacity and creating employment pathways within the emerging DAC sector. The initiative was developed in partnership with Gilgil Technical Vocational College and Kikopey Polytechnic to address the local technical skills gap and create a sustainable employment pipeline within the DAC sector.

Through this program, we collaborate with partner institutions to provide practical training, exposure to DAC technology, and targeted support for promising learners from underserved backgrounds. The initiative aims to connect vocational education with real-world opportunities, ensuring that local talent can participate in and benefit from the development of climate technology projects.

Activities & Outcomes

We conducted six technical workshops reaching more than 120 learners from Gilgil Technical Vocational College and Kikopey Polytechnic. The workshops introduced students to climate change and DAC technology while also providing hands-on training in welding and fabrication skills relevant to plant operations.



Community Programs & Investments

Through the sponsorship program, we supported four exceptionally talented and high-performing learners from the local community by covering their tuition fees. In addition, the apprenticeship program served as a direct job-creation mechanism, successfully training and placing the first local DAC maintenance technician at the site, thereby validating the model's effectiveness. To date, 8 of the 24 full-time employees at the project site are from the local community.

Beyond technical skills development, the workshops have contributed to increased motivation and engagement among participating students. Post-workshop surveys reveal significant gains in independent technical application and safety. This was most evident during the building futures program, where select TVET trainees demonstrated leadership by supporting the fabrication and installation of professional goalposts at Murindu Primary School. This allowed them to apply welding and structural skills to live infrastructure, improving local sports facilities while giving back to the community.

Moving forward, the program will focus on strengthening the talent pipeline between partner TVET institutions and plant operations. Planned next steps include establishing DAC Clubs within partner institutions to support continued learning and peer collaboration, expanding the sponsorship program for promising students, and providing additional training equipment to strengthen technical capacity within partner colleges.



Community Programs & Investments

Community Livelihoods Program

The **Community Livelihood Program** was launched in Q4 2025 to strengthen household economic resilience and support community-led income-generating activities. The initiative focuses on climate-appropriate livelihood opportunities such as poultry farming, beekeeping, and goat rearing. Through a combination of financial support and capacity-building, the program aims to help participating groups establish sustainable enterprises that improve household incomes and resilience to economic and climate-related shocks.

A key feature of the program is a revolving fund model in which beneficiary groups reinvest a portion of their earnings once their enterprises become profitable. This approach is designed to expand support to additional community groups over time and scale the impact of livelihood initiatives across the region.

Activities & Outcomes

The Jaika Chicken Women's Group became the first beneficiary of the program, supporting an initial cohort of 10 women entrepreneurs aged 25 to 64, each representing households with an average of 4 members. The project focuses on a poultry enterprise selected for its suitability to local climatic conditions and its potential for relatively fast returns. Participants received 200 six-week-old layer chicks, along with essential inputs, including infrastructure improvements, vaccines, medication, and starter feeds required before egg production begins.



Community Programs & Investments

The enterprise operates under a self-sustaining model in which revenue from egg sales will cover the ongoing costs of feed and other operational inputs. In addition to providing the required infrastructure, the group received training in poultry management and best rearing practices through collaboration with an agricultural extension officer from the County Government of Nakuru, who continues to provide technical guidance as needed. The initiative builds on the group's prior experience, learning from a similar 2019 poultry project that was disrupted by COVID-19. This program strengthens the approach with improved technical support and more structured capacity-building to enhance long-term viability.

Sustained success of the project will require continued technical support, particularly in poultry disease prevention and management, to minimize mortality and productivity losses. Ongoing financial literacy and enterprise management support will also be critical to ensure effective use of revenues, timely loan repayments into the community livelihood fund, and long-term scalability.

Going forward, the program will focus on strengthening enterprise management skills within the group while monitoring the performance of the poultry project as egg production begins. As the enterprise becomes profitable, the revolving support model will allow the program to expand to additional community groups, enabling more households to participate in the program.



Community Programs & Investments

Building Futures & Sports Sponsorship

The initiative combines sports support for local youth teams with the *Building Futures* program, which links sports activities with educational and technical learning opportunities. Through sports-based activities, the initiative also creates opportunities for young people to engage in conversations about climate action and the role they can play in building more resilient communities. By linking recreation with learning and community participation, the program complements existing educational support initiatives in the area.

Activities & Outcomes

Our sports support activities focused on engaging local youth through football by partnering with Jaika's Talanta Stars Football Club. The program supported approximately 35 young men by providing essential training equipment, including footballs, jerseys, bibs, and cones. Engagement activities also included a friendly match between Octavia Carbon staff and the community team, creating opportunities to strengthen relationships with young people outside formal engagement settings. Efforts are also underway to support the team's registration in the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) sub-county league, which will provide a structured platform for competitive participation.



Community Programs & Investments

The Building Futures program complements the Breaking Barriers initiative by encouraging positive engagement among boys in school while supporting talent development through sports and practical learning activities.

As part of the program, a practical session was conducted at Murindu Primary School to improve sports infrastructure and provide hands-on learning opportunities. The activity involved the fabrication and installation of football goalposts and the donation of nets and footballs, benefiting more than 1,500 students. The project also created a practical learning opportunity for five students from Kikopey Polytechnic, who volunteered to participate in the fabrication and installation process. This allowed them to apply welding and fabrication skills gained during the TVET workshops in a real-world community setting.

Future efforts will focus on supporting youth participation in organized sports, facilitating the Talanta Stars team's participation in formal league competitions, and expanding initiatives that integrate sports engagement with practical learning opportunities for students.



Community Programs & Investments

Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement with neighboring communities is an essential part of how we develop and operate our projects. Through regular dialogue and consultation, we ensure that community perspectives inform project activities while maintaining transparency and accountability throughout the project lifecycle. Our engagement practices are guided by our Community Engagement Strategy and align with internationally recognized standards, including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards and Puro.earth stakeholder engagement requirements, which emphasize meaningful and continuous stakeholder participation in project development.

Activities & Outcomes

Throughout the year, we held a series of stakeholder dialogue sessions across the project area, including Kikopey and Jaika. Each session brought together approximately 30–50 participants, with more than 250 community members engaged in total.



Community Programs & Investments

Participants represented a broad range of local stakeholders, including women and youth groups, educators and students from nearby primary and secondary schools, representatives from Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, and community-based organizations such as Huruma Kikopey.

We also partnered with local stakeholders on community clean-up activities and organized a tree-planting event with Ndogo Primary School, thereby strengthening relationships and encouraging greater community participation. These engagements allowed us to share project updates, gather feedback, and strengthen relationships with the community.

Looking ahead, we will continue to hold regular baraza sessions while expanding collaboration with local institutions and community organizations. These engagements will help ensure that our projects remain responsive to community priorities as our activities evolve.



Learnings & Takeaways

This implementation phase served as the first real test of our community-led model and provided practical insights that are shaping our approach going forward.

Technical innovation alone does not secure a Social Licence to Operate

While DAC technology attracts significant interest, sustained trust is built through consistent presence, responsiveness to local concerns, and programmes that respond to everyday community priorities.

Programme design must be grounded in community consultation

Initiatives such as Breaking Barriers were developed directly from priorities identified during baraza sessions. This approach helped ensure strong participation and community ownership from the outset.

Financial support alone is insufficient to sustain community enterprises

The Jaika Chicken Women's Group had previously attempted a similar project that collapsed during COVID-19 due to supply chain disruptions and lack of technical support. The current model combines asset provision with continuous technical oversight, significantly improving the likelihood of long-term success.

Applied learning deepens both technical skills and community trust

TVET workshops revealed that students rarely had access to hands-on opportunities. Involving trainees in real-world projects, such as fabricating goalposts at Murindu Primary School, demonstrated how applied learning can simultaneously strengthen technical confidence and deepen community trust.

Pilot at a small scale; every programme benefits from early learning

The reusable sanitary products pilot and the initial poultry enterprise are being closely monitored to understand adoption patterns, operational challenges, and long-term sustainability. These pilots are helping us refine programme design before expanding support to additional schools and community groups.



Looking Ahead: 2026 Strategy

As we transition into 2026, our focus will be on scaling and strengthening the sustainability of our community initiatives. Building on the lessons from the initial implementation phase, we will expand successful programs while establishing stronger systems to support long-term and measurable impact.

A key priority will be **scaling the use of reusable sanitary products under the Breaking Barriers initiative**. Expanding this approach will improve program longevity, reduce long-term costs, and support environmental sustainability while maintaining consistent engagement with participating schools.

We will also pursue strategic partnerships to **expand the reach of both the Community Livelihoods Program and our collaborations with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions**. Increasing the reach and capitalization of the livelihoods initiative will enable more community groups to participate in income-generating activities, while strengthened partnerships with TVET institutions will support improved training environments and broader access to technical skills development.

Another priority is **formalizing the apprenticeship and certification pathway by establishing a structured training curriculum in partnership with TVET institutions**. We aim to create a clear pipeline from technical education to employment opportunities within future DAC plant operations. This approach will strengthen technical capacity, enterprise management skills, and long-term employability for learners from the surrounding communities.

Finally, we will establish a more robust **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework** to track the long-term outcomes of our community programs. This system will focus on measurable changes in areas such as income diversification, asset ownership, and participation in training opportunities, supported by gender-disaggregated data to ensure equitable impact.

Together, these priorities will help ensure that as our technical operations grow, our community initiatives continue to evolve in ways that are inclusive, measurable, and responsive to local needs.



