

## Corona pandemic slowing construction of biogas digesters

*Nairobi, April 15th 2020*

Like many countries around the globe, Kenya currently has a lockdown in place. All travel in and out of Nairobi is prohibited. This is slowing construction of new biogas digesters in our project in Kiambu county close to Nairobi. Our project partner David Karanja, director of Sustainable Energy Strategies Ltd. (SES) is based in Nairobi. He says: „I am currently not allowed to leave the city to visit households in the project region.“ This means that he can neither commission newly built biogas digesters, nor can he sign contracts on the construction of further biogas units.



The Corona crisis has not been the first challenge for the progress in our project in the last couple of months: Heavy rainfalls and flooding in the last quarter of 2019 temporarily brought construction to a standstill. Roads to the kilns in which the bricks for the digesters are produced became inaccessible, bricks could not be dried, and excavations pits for the digesters filled up with water.



Still, David Karanja is optimistic: „I have received calls from several farmers in the project region who would like to build biogas digesters.“ David is now trying to make the most of the lockdown in his Nairobi office: He is looking for marketers so that sales and construction of new biogas units can progress the faster as soon as the travel ban for Nairobi will be lifted.