

RESULTS SUMMARY

Locally led models for Just Energy Transition

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i> Locally led models for a Just Energy Transition
	<i>Partner:</i> Plataforma de Incidencia Política de Mujeres Rurales de Col. (PIPMRC), Fuerza de Mujeres Wayuu (FMW), Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas (ASOMI), Tejido Mujer (ACIN)
	<i>Country:</i> Colombia
	<i>Period:</i> 01 January 2024 - 31 December 2025

CHANGE

Four biodigesters, producing gas and energy from biowaste, have been installed in the regions of Cauca, La Guajira, Putumayo and Boyacá, allowing rural agrarian communities access to autonomously sourced energy and boosting a just energy transition in the country. The solution was created in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), who set the aim of implementing 20,000 energy communities by 2026 in the National Development Plan for climate justice (2022-2026). The biodigesters constitute a model for replication.

CONTEXT

Rural communities in Colombia face limited energy access and frequent, prolonged power outages. To transition to renewable energy sources, the Colombian government established a regulatory framework supporting energy communities. More than 18,000 communities with energy challenges applied. The government aims to establish 3,000 systems by 2026, leaving many potential energy communities unrealised. The framework explicitly calls for multi-stakeholder projects, making it a direct ask for collaborative community-rooted solutions.

CONTRIBUTION

Project partners PIPMRC, FMW, ASOMI and ACIN developed and implemented, with support from Oxfam Denmark and Oxfam Colombia and along with the MME, locally led models for energy transition and created Just Energy Transition (JET) schools to enhance the capacity and participation of communities in the energy transition. This has contributed to sustainable and affordable energy for marginalised and rural communities, while the advocacy from the CSOs have contributed to the political recognition and expansion of the model nationwide.

IMAGES	 <p>Photo credit: Tejido Mujer ACIN</p>	 <p>Photo credit: Plataforma Mujeres Rurales</p>
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Regional CSOs jointly implemented JET schools for 120 women in partnership with PIPMRC and MME, deepening knowledge on JET. Biodigester suppliers and the communities collectively installed biodigesters, followed by training from the supplier, enhancing the skills within communities to manage the biodigesters. The biodigesters constitute practical models for JET complemented by local advocacy efforts contributing to the development of a national policy for JET. Local project partners participated in the Fair of Alternative Community Solutions for JET, sharing the experience of project implementation regarding gender-equality, environmental justice, economy and community autonomy with national institutions. The model was later shared at a global conference on transitioning away from fossil fuels. At the COP30, the regional partner PoIEN joined a roundtable meeting with the Danish Department of Energy on JET and economic diversification, speaking of the benefits of locally led JET solutions and insights from biodigester implementation to an international audience.

LESSONS

The installation of biodigesters near schools and community houses demonstrated several positive effects. The alternative energy sources provide less costly power for gas and electrical lights. The installations have been part of degree projects for students, while the teachings of the JET schools could be successfully integrated in the local educational institutions. Through local participation, they also strengthen the social fabric of local communities. However, continued advocacy work on regional levels is important, for different regions to work together nationally. Based on the implementation, it was confirmed that the management of biodigesters should remain a collective task. As voluntary waste management is usually considered a gendered task in this context, it is important to continuously monitor that the initiatives do not increase the burden of care work on women.

EVIDENCE

Reporting from local partners documents direct connections between implementation of biodigesters and community activities such as strengthening of community councils, strengthened economic initiatives for women and stable energy supply for educational institutions. Based on discussions between Oxfam Colombia and MME on the contribution of local communities to the national energy transition, the MME has expressed support to implementing JET schools in rural areas. This has been the backbone of the government's National Development Plan for climate justice. Oxfam Colombia is currently in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with the MME to continue working with other communities and thus implement more alternative energy generation systems with partner organisations. Oxfam Denmark has conducted interviews with local partners and stakeholders, summing up the results in a briefing note.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Climate, Nature and Environment
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	X
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-