



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **UK Aid funds WasteAid to recycle ocean-bound plastics in the Gambia**

WasteAid has today been awarded a grant from UK Aid Direct, the Department for International Development (DFID) fund supporting civil society organisations to achieve sustained poverty reduction.

WasteAid is a charity set up by British waste management professionals to spread recycling skills around the world. The grant will be used to implement the first ever plastics recycling programme in The Gambia, creating green jobs and turning ocean-bound plastic waste into useful products.

The programme will train disadvantaged women, youths and people with disabilities to collect, sort and reprocess plastic waste, so that it becomes an economic asset instead of a pollution problem.

Zoë Lenkiewicz, WasteAid Head of Programmes and Engagement, said: "Thanks to this funding from UK Aid Direct, WasteAid will be training dozens of people in the coastal community of Gunjur to recycle their plastic waste. This in turn will have multiple positive benefits, including job creation, reduced pollution, improved public health, and a huge reduction in the amount of plastic reaching the ocean."

WasteAid will be working with The Gambian Trust Agency for Rural Development (TARUD), a community group in the coastal village of Gunjur, as well as Women's Initiative the Gambia (WIG) who will be able to train other communities in the future.

WasteAid has previously worked with partner organisation WIG, training local trainers in organic waste recycling and waste management essentials. More information about WasteAid's work in The Gambia and elsewhere can be found on the website [wasteaid.org.uk](http://wasteaid.org.uk).

UK Aid Direct is a five-year, £150 million challenge fund designed to support the UK's commitments to achieving the [Global Goals](#).

UK Aid Direct is DFID's main centrally managed funding mechanism for small and medium sized civil society organisations, based in the UK and overseas.

UK Aid Direct grants are for UK and international civil society organisations working to reduce poverty overseas and there are 3 grant types currently available:

- [Impact grants](#) for between £250,001 and £4m
- [Community Partnership](#) for up to £250,000
- [Small Charities Challenge Fund](#) for up to £50,000

## **ENDS**

- WasteAid is a UK registered charity set up by waste management professionals to tackle the global waste crisis. 2 billion people do not have their waste collected and 3 billion do not have a decent disposal site, and as a consequence waste ends up in rivers and ultimately the oceans.
- WasteAid works with communities in low-income countries to address the root causes of climate change and marine plastic pollution.
- WasteAid shares waste management knowledge and skills with communities in low-income countries; trains people to become self-employed recycling entrepreneurs; and influences decision-makers and the donor community to increase spending on waste management from the current 0.3% to 3% of international development aid.

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