



PRESS RELEASE

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UK Aid to fund a WasteAid community recycling centre in Kenya

WasteAid has 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 set up a recycling centre in Kwa-Muhia, an informal settlement on the southern shore of Lake Naivasha.

The recycling centre will collect waste and turn it into useful products which can be sold to generate an income.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

“Whether it’s plastics in the ocean or poorly managed waste, environmental issues overwhelmingly impact the livelihoods of the world’s poorest people.

“I’m proud UK aid is supporting WasteAid to help keep Kenya clean, using world-leading UK expertise to reduce the spread of disease and pollution, while creating jobs in these communities.

“Small charities do an extraordinary amount of good in the world. They do not allow their size to limit their ambitions and UK aid’s Small Charities Challenge Fund is there to make sure they get the support they need to help us end poverty once and for all.”

Many of the residents of Kwa-Muhia work on nearby flower farms producing cut flowers sold in UK supermarkets. WasteAid is working with the Kwa-Muhia Environmental Group (KMEG),

a community group in the informal settlement of Kwa-Muhia. KMEG has a well-established network of stakeholders and supporters in the local area.

Duncan Oloo, KMEG project manager, said: "Waste is a serious problem in Kenya. Thanks to the funding from UK Aid Direct, and support from WasteAid, the Kwa-Muhia Environmental Group (KMEG) will be able to clean up our informal settlement and convert waste into wealth.

"This project will improve public health in the village by reducing diseases spread by uncollected rubbish, especially among young children who play on the waste dumps. We are reaching out to all members of the community to help us and we are working with the less advantaged to help us in our mission towards zero waste.

"This UK Aid-funded project will also stop waste from Kwa-Muhia polluting Lake Naivasha which is an internationally important wetland site. Overall the project is good for people, good for the environment, and makes good economic sense too."

Jill Matthews, WasteAid project manager, said: "We are really excited to be bringing UK Aid support to the shores of Lake Naivasha. A simple waste management service can have a significant positive impact on people's lives. We will be working with our partners KMEG to introduce simple and affordable waste management and recycling skills, creating jobs and cleaning the environment for current and future generations.

"We hope to develop a low-cost model for other settlements in Kenya and elsewhere to follow. We will be posting regular updates demonstrating how we are turning waste into wealth, using simple and affordable techniques."

WasteAid previously worked with KMEG to produce an [action plan](#) to tackle the growing waste menace. More information about WasteAid's work can be found on the website wasteaid.org.

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

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- WasteAid is also running a [UK Aid funded Small Charities Challenge Fund project in The Gambia](#), capturing ocean-bound plastic waste and turning it into useful products.
- 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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