



wasteaid

**Impact Report
2022 - 2023**



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Foreword

For many, the global waste crisis can often feel like someone else's problem. Something that's happening thousands of miles away with little impact on daily life here in the UK and Europe. Yet, the reality couldn't be further from the truth.

According to the World Bank, by 2050 the world is projected to generate 73% more solid waste than in 2020. The increase will be driven by economic development, urbanisation, and population growth which will have a direct impact on carbon emissions and other toxic pollutants that affect global warming. The organisation warns that "Given the rapid increase in quantities, significant global advances in waste management practices will be required to bring tangible improvements over the status quo."

Empowering people to implement long-term solutions to manage waste goes to the heart of WasteAid's mission. In a world where one in three people have no formal way of disposing of their waste and almost all lower-income countries resort to openly dumping or burning waste, the need for urgent action has never been clearer.

Our focus at WasteAid is on tackling the waste crisis through an inclusive circular economy approach. We work with communities, local authorities and policy makers to identify sustainable, locally appropriate solutions that can continue long after WasteAid's intervention has concluded. Our focus can be at the grassroots level and on supporting micro and small enterprises, but we also work with policymakers, environment agencies, educational establishments and local authorities to find workable solutions.

We think global and act local.



By providing technical and business training, mentoring, and financial support we aim to empower those involved in waste, repair, and recycling to develop sustainable businesses that increase income, support the community, and reduce the volume of dumped and burned waste. We facilitate discussions and engagement as part of our circular economy networks through which we identify the most pressing issues and work with diverse stakeholders to find local, sustainable solutions to make the circular economy a reality that can support those most in need through income-generating opportunities. In doing so, we are not only helping to improve the environment but are also stimulating economic, health, and wellbeing benefits in many vulnerable areas of the world.

WasteAid's Circular Economy Networks and our Wasterpreneur Challenges are ensuring that communities can sustainably manage their waste long after our intervention.

As the need for greater action on the global waste crisis accelerates with increasing recognition of the importance of the circular economy, WasteAid has been actively supporting communities across Africa and Asia to ensure they have the tools and support they need to make a difference.

It is thanks to the generous contributions of our donors and funders that these programmes can run. Thank you to everyone who has helped make our work possible.

This report detailing WasteAid's impact in 2022 and 2023 makes for inspiring reading – from recovering waste plastic into the value chain to manufacture new products to helping waste collectors build thriving green businesses – your support is making a direct difference to the lives of people most impacted by the waste crisis. We are not able to showcase all of our programmes here but will be keeping you updated on our work through our e-newsletter and social media channels so please remember to subscribe and follow us.

Ceris Turner-Bailes, CEO



Our active programmes

Dumped and burned waste, including plastic and electronic items, emit more greenhouse gasses than the global aviation industry. Research has shown that uncontrolled burning of household waste causes an extra 270,000 premature deaths every year around the world. Each year approximately 9 million people die of diseases linked to mismanagement of waste and pollutants - 20 times more than die from malaria. For children, the health risks posed by unmanaged waste and poor sanitation are particularly harmful, including nutritional malabsorption, stunted growth and six times the level of respiratory illness.

Over the last two years, WasteAid has been actively supporting improved waste recovery in six countries and has positively impacted the lives of more than a million people. More than 2,000 people have had the opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge by attending our training programmes, webinars, or participating in our circular economy network events. We have worked with 13 local authorities and delivered 66 new or strengthened waste management systems or recycling enterprises.

Our ambitious plans for 2024 will see us significantly expand our activity by more than 50%. The year will kick off with new activity across three countries. This includes a project funded by the John Lewis Partnership Foundation to support the economic development of the disadvantaged youth in the waste value chain in South Africa, building upon our previous work in the rural region of Mpumalanga. We also plan to replicate our successful Wastepreneur approach in a new country programme in Uganda funded by Bunzl alongside an FCDO-funded programme tackling the second-hand clothing and textiles market in the capital of Kampala. We also plan to continue work in India focusing on waste created by the aviation industry.

Thanks to funding from the European Union we will scale-up our approach to developing commercially viable compost from organic waste in The Gambia. By tackling the largest waste stream in Africa we will improve food security and yields for women farmers.



Our impact in 2022 & 2023

15 Programme Interventions **ACROSS** **6** COUNTRIES



People positively impacted in 2022-2023

1,366,458



Increased Infrastructure

1

New regional coordination structure convening formal & informal waste sector

66

New & strengthened recycling enterprises & waste management systems

13

Local authorities engaged

Livelihood Opportunities

77% Of training participant with improved livelihoods

228



People in work

Increased Skills & Knowledge

195 Attended workshops & training to build their skills and self-confidence

228 Entrepreneurs completed business incubation training

1,588 Attended circular economy webinars, networking events & campaigns

Supporting innovation

87 Waste entrepreneurs supported through seed funding

1,100 Circular Economy Network members

£113,833 Invested in waste entrepreneurs



Challenge competitions



Developing circular economy waste solutions

Developing circular economy networks in key cities around the world has played an instrumental role in helping WasteAid achieve its aims of finding lasting solutions to the challenges of waste pollution.

The Huhtamaki-funded Circular Economy Network programme was implemented over two and a half years and concluded successfully towards the end of 2022.

During that time, WasteAid embarked upon an innovative programme to support circular economy solutions in Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, Guwahati in India, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

The purpose of the circular economy networks is to bring together diverse stakeholders to exchange knowledge in waste and recycling activities, to facilitate discussions and collaboration between those at different points in the waste value chain and to practically support and finance local entrepreneurs and innovators. The approach is enabling WasteAid to facilitate sustainable solutions to local waste management challenges that will continue long after our intervention.

The circular economy networks attracted more than 1,000 members with more than that number attending a series of online webinars and training sessions that were developed - even the pandemic didn't stop our progress!

By the end of the project, the partnership had supported 36 entrepreneurs through tailored business training and mentoring. Six enterprises were awarded 10,000 Euros each of seed funding to grow their green businesses. Those supported included a plastics recycling enterprise in India, an organics and

composting enterprise in South Africa and an app developer in Vietnam aiming to make waste collection more accessible and efficient.

The collaboration between Huhtamaki and WasteAid has moved the needle in terms of both local perceptions of waste and direct action to reduce waste pollution. By orienting the programme towards supporting and strengthening existing systems and local innovators, the partnership ensured a sustainable legacy.

The approach captured the imagination of other funders keen to implement a meaningful sustainability strategy and the initial circular economy network model has been adapted and exported by WasteAid to two further countries, Gambia and Egypt, and extended further in South Africa.

Overall, the core elements of the Circular Economy Network approach have proven a particularly impactful mix, and WasteAid continues to evolve its programme design as we learn more. However, the multiplier effect is clear to see. The initial ambitious vision developed by Huhtamaki and WasteAid continues to be developed and delivered throughout Africa, impacting thousands of individuals, hundreds of communities and dozens of circular economy enterprises.

WasteAid is delighted to be continuing our partnership with Huhtamaki in South Africa in 2023 and 2024 now focusing on those individuals and businesses on the first rung of the waste value chain.

By the end of 2023, the first cohort of 20 had completed the Wastepreneur training course, and we look forward to following their progress into 2024.

Meet the sustainable enterprises making a difference

Supporting innovation and green entrepreneurs is a key focus for WasteAid. Among the six green businesses to secure funding from the WasteAid and Huhtamaki partnership were a high-speed composting initiative, an app developer that connects waste collectors with households, a business that turns plastic into damp coursing for homes, and a start-up manufacturing firm that makes paper and fibreboard from water hyacinth.



Bokashi Bran: high-speed composting

Bokashi Bran pioneered the Bokashi method in South Africa, a fast-acting composting additive that works on both raw and cooked food waste. The award has helped them to develop a training curriculum and set up a network of Bokashi ambassadors who can start up small composting businesses themselves.



Veca: recyclable waste value chain app

Veca is using technology to link waste collectors to households through an innovative phone app which links waste collectors with households. The award allowed them to expand into three new districts and triple the number of households and waste collectors using the app.



Shree Guru Plastics: transforming low-value plastic to damp course

Shree Guru Plastics is a local enterprise that produces damp coursing film used in construction from low-value plastic that would otherwise end up in the Boragaon dumpsite. The fund has enabled them to double their capacity and has created 22 new jobs for women in Guwahati.

Inside Out (turning an invasive weed into fibreboard)

Inside Out is a team of two entrepreneurs who have set up a 'weed to paper' operation, employing 23 people. The start-up manufactures paper and fibreboard from water hyacinth, an invasive species in the wetland areas of Guwahati and many other parts of the world.

A photograph showing two people working in a field of dense green vegetation. One person, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt with reflective yellow stripes, blue trousers, a light blue face mask, and green gloves, is holding a long-handled tool. Another person, wearing a pink shirt and a patterned wrap, is partially visible on the right. The scene is outdoors with bright sunlight.

Biffa and WasteAid working together to tackle waste in Cameroon

WasteAid's Proud Partnership with waste management company Biffa dates back to 2019. Their support has been truly transformational for our charity and, most importantly, for the communities that have benefited from the projects it has funded and from Biffa's engaged team. The communities where we work in Douala, Cameroon, have seen first hand the transformational benefits delivered by the Proud Partnership

The clogged waterways and drains of some of Cameroon's towns and cities have become emblematic of the global waste crisis facing some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

'Thanks to the Biffa partnership and match-funded through the government's UK Aid Match programme, WasteAid has worked closely with communities in Douala to introduce solutions to managing waste collection, sorting and recycling and reducing the amount of dumped waste.

Biffa's team was instrumental in enabling WasteAid to achieve the level of funding required so that this amount could be 'matched' by the UK government. The team contributed a total of £36,000, a fantastic effort in terms of staff fundraising which resulted in a huge step forward for community collection and recycling activities in Douala.

Despite the pandemic resulting in this project being suspended for almost a year, the initiative delivered, setting up a system that saw more than 80 tonnes of mixed plastics collected for recycling – the equivalent of four million plastic bottles - which were transformed into more than 2,500 square metres of paving tiles.

At the same time, 165 programme participants were trained in life skills and recycling techniques, with over half of those now in employment at the end of the programme.

This is a huge achievement and something that everyone at WasteAid and Biffa can be proud of.





Biffa Gala

Celebrating the 4th year of the Proud Partnership

May 2022 saw a spectacular gala event taking place at Oxford's Natural History Museum, attended by some of Biffa's largest customers, suppliers, advisors, and key business partners.

An incredible £104,000 was raised on the night, from table sponsorships, individual donations and a raffle, money which has been used to expand WasteAid's work fighting plastic pollution in Cameroon, building a circular economy network in The Gambia, and supporting waste-picker groups in South Africa.

"It was fantastic to see so many of Biffa's key partners come together in Oxford to raise such an incredible amount of money for such a worthwhile cause."

Alongside fundraising and financial support, Biffa employees contribute their passion, time and technical expertise to help WasteAid deliver waste management and recycling programmes where they are most needed."

Peter Hallard, Biffa's Learning and Organisational Development Director

Plastics Recovery Facility key to delivering an end-to-end solution

To ensure sustainability, WasteAid works within the existing value chain, finding ways of supporting those working within it to earn a dignified and fair living and scale up their impact on improving the environment.

Our approach in Douala III included an initiative to build and support a Plastics Recovery Facility on land allocated by the local authority. Both the mayor and his staff were extremely keen to support our work which they saw as a proof-of-concept on how to tackle the growing waste crisis in the city. The facility is being managed by a new cooperative, Scoops Eco-Friendly, which comprises three informal collector groups with whom we have worked over the last year to build their knowledge and skills to manage the centre and scale up their processing capacity. Some of the members of the collector groups were graduates of our previous training programme under UK Aid Match funding. The local authority has formally adopted the centre into its waste management practices and is looking at how to scale the model elsewhere in the city.

The centre was funded by three generous donors, Bunzl Plc, Partners Group and, following their hugely successful fundraising gala, Biffa, as a proportion of funds raised went towards supporting this project. Not only does the plastics recovery centre help connect waste collectors to a local, modern, and safe centre to clean and sort their waste, more quickly, but it is also helping waste collectors to increase their income.





**Transforming lives and
inspiring her community:
Meet Mama Pasto**



One of the first people to take part in WasteAid's UKAID-funded programme in Cameroon was Djoukou Tapang Julienne who's known to most as Mama Pasto. Her story truly shows how lives can be transformed when people are given the opportunity, support, and the right tools.

When WasteAid first met the 49-year-old mother of five she was working as a "Buy and Sellam" selling bread loaded with boiled and seasoned beans, after losing her job as a fund collector at a savings and credit union following an accident.

As age began to catch up with her, Mama Pasto decided that she needed another way to support her family.

Mama Pasto initially took part in a training course delivered by WasteAid to learn how to manufacture paving tiles but after realising that she didn't have the space or time to make the tiles she joined the charity's programme to become a waste collector.

The WasteAid training scheme taught her collection techniques and from there, Mama Pasto was given a paid internship with a local waste collection company where she collected waste from rivers and businesses. These two experiences gave her the skills and confidence she needed to become an independent collector with an income that has allowed her to support her family. She has since been running her own informal cooperative of pickers. Over the last year she and leaders of two other informal cooperatives have been working with WasteAid and the local authority to develop a Plastics Recycling Facility, for which she is now managing the day-to-day operations under the new, formal cooperative Scoops Eco-Friendly.

Collaboration and empowering communities are at the heart of WasteAid's ethos and is a commitment that Mama Pasto is passionate about.

"Now, I'm also training others as we need to involve our peers so that the work can continue what has been started. Even if I am no longer here (I'm getting old at 49 you know!) I can say that I left a legacy and young people are working because of me."

Mama Pasto's commitment to sharing the benefits of WasteAid's programme has seen her launch her own paid summer internship for young people to help them earn money for notebooks. She is also committed to training and employing members of her community.

"I paid them around £91 per month and my concern was just to make sure that we were all making money together. More than 23 tonnes of plastic waste have been collected and sold this year through my endeavours and my wonderful team. While we have some work to do to improve the quality of plastic being collected, it's a good start to see people recognising the work I am doing and getting involved."

"What makes me proud is to see that people I worked with understand the work and the necessity to work - not only for money but to help the community to cope with their waste. I love how people's understanding and behaviour evolves when they see how the things that I have done have changed people's lives," she said.



Launching a vital plastics recycling initiative in The Gambia

From plastic bags in Norway to plastic recycling in The Gambia a new two-year partnership between WasteAid and the Norwegian Retailers' Environmental Fund (NREF) commenced in February 2023 and is helping to provide employment and improved income opportunities for young people in the country.

The project has seen WasteAid join forces with several plastic recycling companies in The Gambia and linking them with new collector groups in three coastal communities.

To date, the project has selected and trained three new collector groups, established new collection points and linked the groups to buyers.

The scheme will drive the recovery of recyclables, not only significantly reducing the amount of plastic that is either dumped or burned but will also help to build sustainable income streams for waste collectors, assisting the development of a vibrant circular economy in The Gambia.

WasteAid's initiative aims to drive the collection of over 140 metric tonnes in one year, creating a regular income for more than 30 young people and their families. The charity will draw on its wide network to open end markets for the collected and recycled waste – helping to increase the economic outlook across the region.





Supporting the growth of sustainable entrepreneurs in South Africa

Empowering waste collectors to improve both their income potential and gain the respect they deserve is an important part of WasteAid's activity. One of the ways we achieve that is through entrepreneurial challenges that provide essential training, mentoring, and financial support to facilitate their business initiatives. The Bunzl Waste Entrepreneurial Challenge in South Africa trained 40 wastepreneurs in business and life skills, of which, 31 were able to pitch and receive seed funding to enable them to grow their businesses.

Umsebenzi Wethu Waste Management Co-op joined the training programme in 2022. They were an existing cooperative working in Freedom Park in Soweto, Johannesburg, and through the programme they have been able to negotiate and increase their tonnage contracts. Co-operative member Siview Innocent Ntongo has said:

"My journey of Wasteaid's Wastepreneur programme has been very helpful in terms of knowledge on how to run a recycling business."

"What I discovered is there are waste streams that you can make money out of through recycling and of course forms part of saving our environment."

"What I like about recycling is that it's a continuous business that never stops as people throw trash everyday, which means more money everyday for us as wastepreneurs."



As part of this programme, WasteAid hosted a pitching event in Randburg, South Africa, at the end of 2022. It was due to funding from corporate partner Bunzl plc that 20 wastepreneurs working in the informal sector received tailored training over a 12-week programme.

This was the first cohort to complete the training and we were honoured to have a visit from the Bunzl team, including James Pitcher, their Head of Sustainability and Melanie Harris.

Witnessing WasteAid's work first-hand.

An interview with Bunzl Plc's Melanie Harris

Bunzl Plc has been a long-term committed partner of WasteAid supporting programmes in Indonesia, Cameroon and South Africa since 2020. Our partnership impact includes:

- 132 direct beneficiaries
- 25,000 indirect beneficiaries
- 16.5 metric tonnes of plastics removed from the environment
- 107 people completed personal development and business incubation training

Melanie Harris, a Key Account Manager from Bunzl in Western Australia saw WasteAid's activity in action when she joined a Wastepreneur pitching panel event in Randburg, South Africa. It was the culmination of a 12-week programme where sustainable entrepreneurs presented their business idea in a bid to secure funding. She shared her thoughts on her visit.

What were your first impressions of WasteAid and our work?

I was blown away by the passion and commitment of the WasteAid members who are all such lovely people. The work that WasteAid is doing in marginalized communities is beyond inspiring.

Did your expectations of the visit match with the realities?

In reality, I didn't know what to expect but there is no way I could have envisioned such an amazing experience. The visit was a life-changing experience; to see the realities of life in South Africa and what these young people face was both confronting and inspiring.

In Diepsloot waste is literally everywhere and burning of waste contributes to 10% of global GHG's.

On the Pitch Day, to see waste collectors strive to make a better life for themselves and their families and to see such joy and pride shine through...it will stay with me forever.

What was the main takeaway you had from the visit?

So many - it's hard to narrow it down to one. My first impression is how good we have it in Australia compared to the environment these people are living in. But also, how a programme like this can change people's lives. It's also a reminder that sustainability is something different to everyone – for the people we met it means making a living.

Do you think a partnership like the one between WasteAid and Bunzl is important, and if so, why?

Absolutely! The partnership is impacting people's lives. We saw this first-hand. I have never been more proud of Bunzl and can't stress enough how crucial it is that we continue to support charities in this manner.



A woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue floral patterned top, stands in front of a green WasteAid banner. The banner has the WasteAid logo and the text 'Impact. Where it matters. Join us and shape the story.' The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or community space with various items hanging on the wall.

Turning waste into wisdom: Meet Mpho Motatinyane

Despite life throwing many obstacles in her path Mpho Motatinyane has never given up on her passion for caring for others and educating her community's youngsters. She has combined an unrelenting determination with an entrepreneurial spirit to set up a budding business that turns waste cardboard into teaching cards for children.

The mother of two has always been willing to go the extra mile to turn her dreams into reality. From working to support herself through college to setting up a creche when she was unable to find childcare. More recently, Mpho has turned her attention to the piles of discarded cardboard boxes and paper generated by her son's school tuckshop. She realised that there could be an opportunity to recycle these and turn them into something useful rather than the waste being dumped or burned.

She decided to try turning them into spelling and educational cards for his fellow students.

"The schools have no resources. We have a crisis reading in this country. Our children don't read because their parents don't read. I decided we needed to cut out the excuses and create something that parents can afford," says Mpho.

Mpho enrolled on a 12-week WasteAid Wastepreneur Challenge where she learned about the circular economy and business basics such as budgeting and forecasting. At the end of the programme, she took part in a pitching competition to secure a grant to turn her business idea into.

Since completing the course, Mpho secured 80 orders for her word cards, within her first four weeks of trading, which she sells to local parents for R120. She has already been able to employ two part-time teenagers to support her and is already planning to expand and has partnered with a designer to create an activity book that educates the local community about recycling and the circular economy.

Mpho hasn't stopped there. She is also working with a local outlet of a national grocery store to turn damaged paper bags into phonics cards too.

"Before I began working with WasteAid I had no opportunities. I had ideas but I didn't know how to channel them," says Mpho.

"Now I have been able to start a business and I have people around me who are just a call away if I need help. I just needed the right people to help me and that's what WasteAid has given me. The people I've met through this initiative are exceptional."

"With their help, I can now afford my family more opportunities like paying for extra lessons for my sons and buying food. There's a lot of pressure to make it happen but it's lifted me up and helped me see a future. I'm just very grateful for the opportunity," she said.

Mpho hopes what she is doing will inspire other parents to follow in her footsteps and also turn waste into educational resources.



Expanding The Gambia's thriving circular economy network

The success of WasteAid's circular economy network in The Gambia is a shining example of what can be achieved when we attract partners who share our vision and our values. In 2022 WasteAid further developed its relationship with the Chartered Institute of Wastes Management (CIWM) to deliver an 18-month circular economy network programme in The Gambia, named locally as Dennakuwo meaning 'Together We Can'.

When it launched this circular economy network was the first of its kind in The Gambia bringing together more than 165 active members who include professional waste collectors, business leaders, entrepreneurs, as well as regional and national politicians and policymakers. This has since grown to 215.

Not only is CIWM providing funding toward the circular economy network and the launch of three Wastepreneur Challenges, but its members have been volunteering their time to share valuable industry insights and mentoring. The combination of financial support and skills exchange ensures we are able to deliver lasting improvements.



Sarah Poulter, CEO of CIWM, said:

"We are proud to have supported WasteAid's activity in The Gambia since 2021 and are delighted to have the opportunity to expand on the project's successes so far through this important second phase. There are currently no similar initiatives in the country which makes it even more crucial that we work with people at every level of the waste value chain to help them identify long-term solutions to their waste management challenges.

Resource efficiency is a global social responsibility, and inspiring and enabling action worldwide is a key aspect of CIWM's strategy. Our purpose is to move the world beyond waste, and the collaboration and innovation facilitated by international initiatives such as the Circular Economy Network in Greater Banjul are vital to achieving this."

Project Dennakuwo is already delivering benefits:



There are 215 Circular Economy Network members, with more joining every month. Seven networking events have brought members together to exchange ideas on their businesses, meet others and brainstorm on specific waste topics. Members have been able to attend any of 18 training sessions on different topics to improve understanding of circular economy principles and opportunities.



There is a vibrant youth sector driving innovation in the circular economy network. More than 50% of the members are under 35 and many are starting out in their own business careers.



The network has helped to fast-track local solutions to the circular economy, building the capacity of local entrepreneurs such as African Swag which makes fashion items out of bubble wrap, Green Waste Collection which makes biochar (a soil improver) from organic food waste, and Plastics Recycling Gambia as well as many others who have benefitted from better knowledge on making the circular economy work.



The network has supported vulnerable groups, such as 30 women farmers who were supported to create a sustainable biochar business (Bakau Briquette Kaffo) in Greater Banjul to stabilise their otherwise seasonal income. They went from zero to manufacturing over 6000 briquets in a month for onward sale.



The network has enjoyed extremely high levels of visibility amongst the key institutions from the British High Commission, the National Environment Agency, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs as well as local authorities.



In August 2023 it was announced that CIWM would be continuing to fund this impactful programme for a further 18 months ensuring that this intervention will leave a real and sustainable legacy in Gambia.

From lectures to lighting up The Gambia with clean energy

Most people in Sulayman Darboe's position would be considering a comfortable office job with all the security that goes along with it. However, the 26-year-old Gambian has never been one to follow the crowd. The first one of his family to go to university, he has his sights set on far loftier ambitions – playing a role in improving the air quality, health and opportunities in rural communities by providing a greener alternative to burning firewood for cooking.

As a young boy, he saw first-hand the impact of using wood for fuel on the women and children in the village where he grew up. Health conditions related to breathing in smoke, such as heart conditions, were common while children missed out on time to do homework because they were busy collecting firewood – not to mention the environmental impact of cutting down trees.

Today, that experience is fuelling the growth of his green business, providing a sustainable, healthier alternative to burning wood by turning coconut husks and peanut shells, which would usually be shipped to other countries as waste, into briquettes that can be burned for cooking.

“People often ask me why, with my degree in business management I don't work in a bank! They say, ‘Why are you struggling and taking such a difficult path?’ but you have to make an impact, even just a small one and that's what I'm trying to do,” says Sulayman.

It was while he was at the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of The Gambia located in Kanifing that he had the idea for his business, Green Waste Initiative. Together with his friends Modou S. Jeng, who was studying climate change and alternative energy sources, and Mansata Jabai who was studying marketing they took part in – and won – the Hult Prize on Campus Competition, to pitch their environment idea to judges. Fresh from that success, the second-year students decided business life was for them and they officially launched their business.

Not long afterwards, Sulayman saw an advert for WasteAid's Waste to Use Challenge part of the CIWM-funded Dennakuwo project that was delivered in 2022 and 2023. He decided to apply. It was a decision that would be a major turning point for the business as he was accepted onto

one of three places in the programme, which enabled him to develop his business and finance skills.

“I had seen the great work that WasteAid had been doing in other West African countries and it had been a dream of mine to get involved with the charity.

“Although I had a background in accounts, the trainer really made sure that I had the right spreadsheet, and my sales book up to date. We use what we learned there every day. The training was amazing.

“We also were given a mentor. I've had mentors in the past, but our mentor understood my business – he had the technical experience of alternative energy sources and helped us to focus on the method of production. They provided me with the right mentor to make a difference to my business.”

The team has worked hard to generate demand for the fuel briquettes, working directly with communities to educate them on the health risks of burning firewood and the alternatives available, radio appearances have also helped to get the word out. The next step is to secure investment so that they can update and automate the production of the briquettes which are currently made manually.

As the business grows Sulayman hopes that not only will the business help improve the quality of lives for communities who rely on burning wood for fuel but that he will be able to create further job opportunities for people in rural areas.



Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and supporters who help us to deliver inclusive and sustainable waste management where it is needed most.

Our Funders



Corporate Funders



Trusts and Foundations

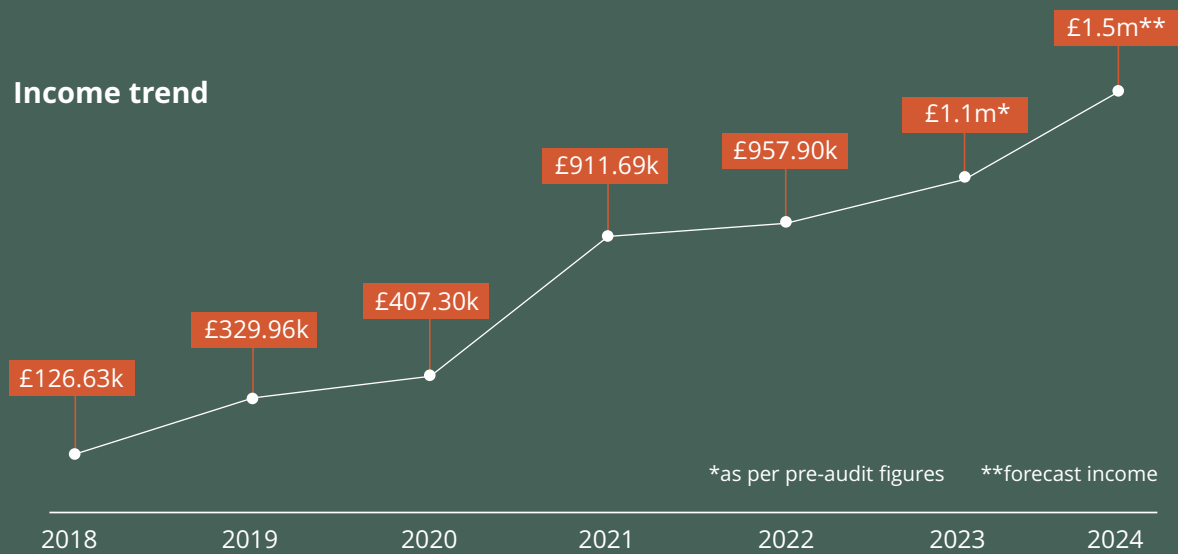


Our Supporters

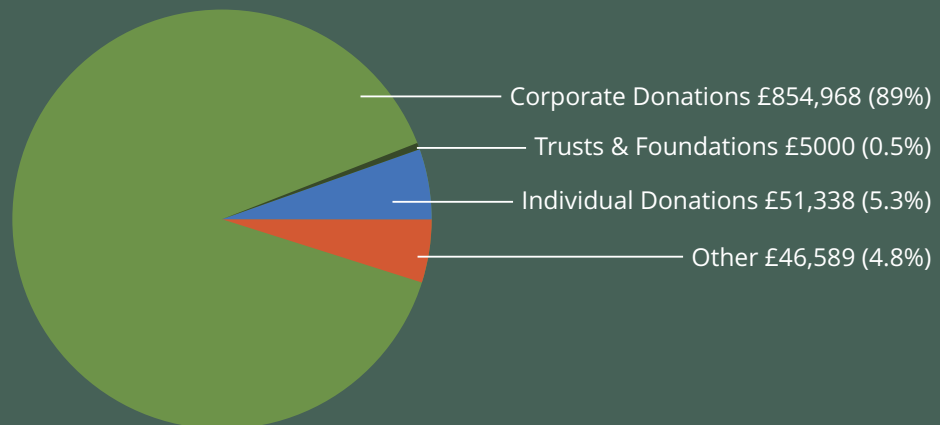


Finances

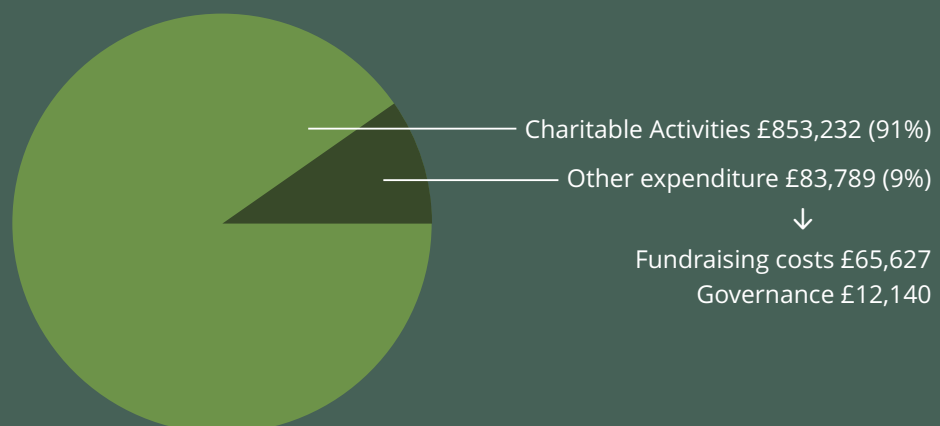
Income trend



2022 Income Breakdown



2022 Expenditure Breakdown



2022 Spend in the Pound

£0.91

Project Delivery
Costs

£0.07

Cost of Raising
Funds

1%

Governance
Cost