

tearfund

Tackling waste for good

Plateau State, Nigeria

Proposal for Kerith

Sept 2023 to Sept 2026



Waste pickers - and goats - sort through an array of plastics and other items that fill the landscape in front of Nigeria's beautiful hills. Source: Tearfund

Overview

The world has a rubbish problem. One in four of us has no safe way to dispose of our waste, and the impact is felt nowhere more than in Nigeria. Communities in Plateau State are finding themselves under increasing pressure, waste is piling up and climate change is impacting lives and livelihoods.

Nigeria is a nation where widespread poverty exists in the midst of plenty. Though rich in natural resources, instability and corruption have made some communities vulnerable. Conflict in northeast Nigeria has left 2.1 million people displaced from their homes, most of them remaining within the country, with some now slowly returning home. Access to food is a huge issue. People are on the brink of famine. In the three most affected states, almost seven million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, more than half of them children.

But your support could provide the means to protect communities, livelihoods and the environment, not just now, but for the generations to come.

Waste is a toxic problem

Mismanaged waste has a huge impact on the lives of people living in poverty.¹ The relentless growth in plastic pollution is making this worse. 2 billion people have no safe way to dispose of rubbish. This is a toxic problem that is killing up to a million people each year, that is one death caused by waste every 30 seconds.² And it is people living in the world's poorest countries who are suffering the most.

Tearfund is working in a range of ways which protect communities across Plateau State, through waste management initiatives, such as learning to convert 'trash to cash' and making **briquettes from 'waste products'** which will mean less wood for fuel, and the creation a new, 'green' income stream.

Your generous support over the next three years will help to pilot these waste initiatives, **and will contribute to other community initiatives to improve the environment,** such as tree planting, improved water sanitation and climate smart training for farmers. We know that the challenges faced from waste and climate change need tackling in a range of ways across communities.

What role does faith play in this work?



Joint action to bring about change can be incredibly powerful. In 2018, a national expression that supports a restorative economy (*an economy of systems which restore balance, ending poverty and the thriving of all*) began in Nigeria. Known as Renew Our World, it aims to mobilise and organise the church, Christians and Christian institutions in ways which help them pray and act to bring about lasting, transformative and sustainable change. **Your support for this project would contribute to joint action by faith-based organisations** such as Scripture Union West Africa (SUWA), Rural Counsellors of Nigeria (RURCON) and The Ecwa Aid Ministry (TEAM) to drive this work in Jos.

During this year, this action would include the planting of trees in schools and churches; the establishment of environmental clubs in schools; offering workshops and seminars about stewarding the environment; support messaging on social media; information through radio shows, and the organisation of litter-picking sessions.

¹ Plastic pollution is directly impacting the achievement of over half of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. It is also contributing directly to the climate emergency through plastics production and emissions from the burning of plastic waste.

² Source: <https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/policy-reports/no-time-to-waste>



Renew our World waste demonstration in Nigeria. Source: Renew our World Nigeria



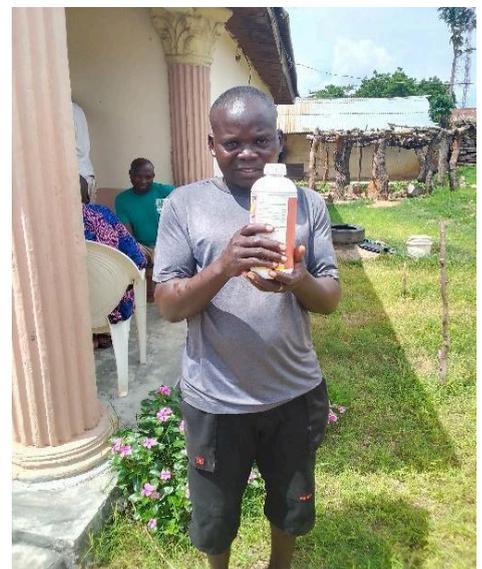
Renew our World tree planting in Nigeria. Source: Renew our World Nigeria

Nature's 'gold star' means of recycling

Kamil³ was one of 20 farmers in his area to take part in a project supported by Tearfund. Through them, the farmers learnt about a range of ideas to help them get the most out of their work.

One particular training session proved transformative. The farmers learnt how to use natural, local materials to make a liquid fertiliser (see picture, right of Kamil with one such fertiliser. Source: Tearfund).

Getting back after their training, the farmers split into groups. One person showed each group how to use banana peel to produce liquid fertiliser for their nursery plants. In Kamil's group, they were able to gather materials to produce compost, biocides and liquid fertilisers, which they then experimented with on their banana plantations.



³ Pictured right. Source: ACET/Tearfund

They got good results from this new fertiliser. So much so that Kamil decided to take his experimentation to another level and produce fertiliser using moringa seeds and leaves.

Kamil shares: 'The high cost of procuring the inorganic fertiliser is now history, as I now leverage on the liquid fertiliser I produce. In addition, I can pay my children's school fees and meet up with demands from the home front. People and other farmers now come to me to get fertilisers to grow their crops.' Teaching on effective waste management through Church and Community Transformation has resulted in Kamil using organic fertiliser, which has reduced waste, boosted Kamil's crops and enabled him to support his family.

Organic fertiliser is offering Kamil's family a better future. With a way to cover school fees, his children can gain an edge in a competitive market. Fellow farmers gain a way to reduce their overheads.

Organic fertilisers, like compost, are turning waste into wealth. Kamil explains: 'Farmers in our communities embraced the liquid fertiliser technology which helped reduce the cost of buying fertilisers as the materials needed are around the community; littered around'.

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is one of the most powerful actions we can take to reduce our waste, address climate change, and build healthy soils. By turning food scraps and garden trimmings into compost, we can transform our waste into a beneficial, value-adding mix for topsoils.

How will this project make a difference?

Tearfund is working **in a range of ways** which protect communities across Plateau State. Ways that see livelihoods thrive and the land flourish. So that farmers, like Kamil, have enough food and income, not only for the coming season but for seasons far beyond.

Your support this year could directly impact as many as 1,800 people, helping them to create communities where their land and livelihoods flourish.



The reduction, reuse and recycling of waste can play an important part in the health and wellbeing of a community. It offers a way to keep the environment clear of litter which can block waterways, break down in the environment, or end up being burnt as there is no other means to clear it. What was once considered waste can also become a means to earn a living. With your support this year:

- **100 people will be trained in ways to convert 'trash' to 'cash'.** They will receive ongoing support as they identify ways and means to put these recycling ideas into action.
- **As part of a pilot project, people will find out how to make briquettes from 'waste products' such as groundnut shells and rice husks.** If this pilot proves successful, people would not only need to chop down less wood for fuel, but they will sell the briquettes they produce to others, creating a new, 'green' income stream.



Water, sanitation and hygiene are a core part of good community health. With your support this year:

- 100 people will take part in training on this important subject. This will offer information and ideas that they can use and promote amongst as many as 1,000 people. These hygiene promoters will go on to receive support from ACET throughout the year.
- A block of six public toilets will be constructed.



Climate-resilient crops and techniques could provide a firm foundation for farmers hoping to grow food and earn a living. With your support this year:

- 100 farmers will take part in a three-day training session on *Climate-Smart Agriculture* and *Farming as a business*. This will include training on subjects like composting, as a means to create natural, enriching additions for farmers' soils.
- 40 trained farmers will receive 5kgs of improved quality rice seeds and 5kg of improved quality groundnut seeds. This will provide them with healthy, resilient seeds with which to plant crops for the season to come.
- 500 smallholders will also each receive 50 cashew seedlings - helping grow as many as 25,000 new trees.



Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) can be a great way of building capital and creating spaces which offer ongoing support to people who are trying to strengthen their livelihoods. These groups of roughly 15 to 20 people meet together regularly, often weekly, to save money together and encourage one another. Over time, these groups save enough to offer a member a low-interest loan to invest in an income-generating activity. They are an incredibly effective way for people to lift themselves out of poverty. With your support this year:

- A two-day training session will be run to support the creation of as many as 10 Self-Help Groups (two in each community). It will also offer a means to support Self-Help Groups on a monthly basis.



Tearfund will offer information, education and communication (IEC) materials on subjects including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Climate-Smart Agriculture and Waste Management.



Baseline surveys of each community's situation, ongoing visits and wellbeing assessments will also be arranged to help support and measure the impact of the work happening. This will include surveys on WASH, climate, and waste disposal stakeholders. It will include meetings on the project with community leaders, faith leaders and other stakeholders. It will analyse and raise awareness around issues of conflict to support communities as they respond and mediate in situations which arise.

The use of Tearfund's measure to monitor change across a person's life, known as the LIGHT Wheel, will be used to understand a range of areas which are considered to impact overall well-being within a community. This includes social connection, material resources, physical health and emotional and mental wellbeing, to name just a few.



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How can Kerith support this work?

1. Act - Support Tearfund's Rubbish Campaign

We know that the world has an urgent rubbish problem. We're facing mountains of plastic pollution. 2 billion people have no safe way to dispose of rubbish, and it's people in poverty who are suffering the worst impacts of this rubbish problem. They are forced to live and work among piles of waste, which is making them sick, releasing toxic fumes, flooding communities and causing up to a million deaths each year.

But Jesus told his followers that even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains. As Tearfund we are calling on Christians to unite to take global action, we are asking you to put your faith into action and join us in demanding an end to plastic pollution. And we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do just that. During 2023 and 2024, nearly 150 governments are meeting to develop the [first-ever global treaty on plastic pollution](#). But it's not a done deal. Please add your voice to demand an end to plastic pollution and its harmful impact on people living in poverty. Poverty is not God's plan. You are.

For ways to engage in this as a church visit the [Rubbish Campaign page](#) for more information about our world's rubbish problem and how it is impacting people living in poverty the most. [Watch our campaign film](#) and [sign our petition](#) calling on world leaders to end plastic pollution. You can also use our [free resources](#) to host a rubbish event in your church, reduce your own plastic with our [Rubbish Challenge](#) and use our [prayer guide](#) to pray for the *Rubbish Campaign*.



Photo: Ruth Towell/Tearfund

2. Give - Your support can help transform lives in Nigeria.

Your support, at this time in their journey, could prove transformative for communities in Plateau State. It could offer a means to embed systems that drive sustainable change, combat the effects of climate change, improve community health and wellbeing, and strengthen and open up the workplace with the introduction of new techniques and new employment options.

This year, we're aiming to raise **£60,976***. We would love you to help, **contributing with other donors** towards the cost of this amazing work.

3. Pray - Please pray for Nigeria.

Nigeria is a nation where widespread poverty exists in the midst of plenty. Despite immense resources, years of debilitating military rule have left the country vulnerable to poor governance, corruption, economic instability and severe human rights violations.

The conflict provoked by Boko Haram in North East Nigeria has left 2.1 million people displaced from their homes, most of them remaining within the country. The government has taken back control in some areas, and internally displaced people have slowly started returning to their hometowns. However, they are finding that their communities have been destroyed, and there is a severe lack of resources to rebuild.

Insufficient access to food is a huge problem, with many parts of the northeast on the brink of famine. In the three most affected states, almost 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, more than half of them children. Please pray for Nigeria - for God's peace, restoration and that the church is a beacon of light, bringing the good news of Jesus and seeing the transformation of this nation.

- Please pray - recent conflict and kidnappings
- **Pray for the amazing facilitators as they plan and work towards the visions they hope for their communities this year.** Pray for good communication as they collaborate and camaraderie as they work alongside one another.

What next?

We would love for you as a church to invest in the transforming work in Nigeria. If you would like to support this project we will create a Memorandum of Understanding between Tearfund and you as a church with useful information to support this partnership.

Appendix 1: Budgets Explained

We believe all people have the potential to lift themselves out of poverty. Sometimes, during a crisis, such as a famine, immediate needs must be met. But where possible, rather than spend money on physical handouts, Tearfund seeks lasting change. This means changing mindsets and equipping people with skills and knowledge. For this sustainable change to happen, individuals, churches and communities need to be envisioned and empowered to change their own future. This is done, for example, by running vocational workshops, establishing Self Help Groups, training farmers, or raising awareness of the risk of trafficking. Interventions like these require expert local partner staff and time. The impact these experts have on poverty reduction is huge and lasting. For instance, by employing a nutritional advisor, hundreds of mothers

can learn how to prevent malnutrition in their children. In the long run, employing a trainer to prevent malnutrition is much more cost-effective and impactful than purchasing and providing food.

You may also be wondering what 'support costs' are. We want to be good stewards of your money, and to successfully run a project we've calculated it takes around 18% of support costs, which we term indirect cost recoveries. Without these costs, Tearfund would not be able to function sustainably. Support costs include financial management (UK & regional), Human Resources, IT support, Logistics (UK & Regional), regional salaries, and UK premises. All these areas play a vital role in helping Tearfund run as efficiently and effectively as possible, allowing your money to go further, and seeing more people lift themselves out of poverty.

Appendix 2: A note on the global inflation crisis

The Heads of the World Bank Group (WBG), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations World Food Program (WFP), and World Trade Organization (WTO) recently made a joint statement: "The world is shaken by compounding crises. The fallout of the war in Ukraine is adding to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Sharply higher prices for staples and supply shortages are increasing pressure on households worldwide and pushing millions more into poverty." These higher prices are having an impact on our partners' work across the world. **We are hoping to implement this project as planned but would ask for your patience and understanding if future cost rises affect some of the activities.**

Thank you



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