



FAY FENGO NAFAA-SIYATA

Making Waste Useful

Innovation and Enterprise in The Gambia

Waste can cause problems in the environment, but it is full of useful and valuable materials.

Since April 2015, unemployed women and young people in The Gambia have been making and selling high quality products from waste, with help from WasteAid UK.

What steps did we take?

Step 1: Find out what materials are being wasted locally

For the first time ever in The Gambia, we separated and weighed the different materials in the waste – paper and card, plastics, food waste, leaf litter, stones.



This useful information is available to everyone.

Step 2: Use simple methods to turn waste into quality products

Leaf litter is being turned into charcoal briquettes that are cleaner burning than traditional charcoal, and don't rely on timber from the forest.



Plastic waste is being turned into paving slabs that are hard wearing and help keep the plastic out of the rivers where they choke wildlife.

Fish waste is being turned into fishmeal, a high protein food for use in aquaculture.

Food waste is being turned into compost, which farmers can use to feed their crops without needing chemicals that pollute the groundwater.



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Step 3: Share the knowledge

We have trained local organisation, **Women's Initiative in The Gambia**, to become trainers in reprocessing and to spread the word about how to manage waste so it doesn't become a problem in the environment.



We then set up a **Waste Training Centre** in Brikama, a market town in Western Gambia, in partnership with the local Council, to train people in the processes that turn waste into valuable products.



We have already trained **40 waste entrepreneurs** in these recycling techniques and are helping them to set up local enterprises to market and sell their products.

We have developed **robust business cases** for all of our reprocessing enterprises and are training all of our entrepreneurs in business development.

What next?

People from across The Gambia and neighbouring Senegal want to learn how to set up and run sustainable businesses from waste. We are now producing a **'How To Guide'** for setting up a waste and recycling businesses.

We are supporting local entrepreneurs to set up a **recycling social enterprise** focussed on the **tourism sector**.

We are creating **five rural 'waste hubs'** to help spread the word about careful waste management and the business opportunities from waste.

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Thanks to: **Womens' Initiative The Gambia (WIG)**, **Concern Universal Senegal Gambia** and **WasteAid UK** working in partnership in **Brikama Local Government Area** in West Coast Region, The Gambia.

