

# TWAM

Tools with a Mission

# About Us

Updated May 2023



Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives

We are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools,

refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits, and



What we do in  
**Africa**



What we do in  
**The UK**

The tools that are donated to us get refurbished by our incredible team of volunteers. They are then packed into trade kits, ready to be used in skills training centres to teach trades such as carpentry, tailoring, mechanics, and many more. The graduates then receive these tool kits once they graduate, allowing them to start earning immediately.



19,000 toolkits



600,000 individual tools

...will be sent to developing communities this year.

Our work targets the most vulnerable members of society, those living in extreme poverty and facing terrible hardship. We believe that they don't need a one-off financial handout; they need a sustainable way to generate their own income, put poverty in the past for good, gain their independence, and know that **they will be able to feed their families every single day.**

**That is what tools and training can offer.** They strike at the roots of poverty. Rather than offering a temporary solution, tools are the key to a sustainable career. With tools, they don't need to rely on external support - they are supported by their own hands.

The training courses are often a deep source of comfort and companionship for the trainees. Many of them are orphans, homeless, or stuck at home in abusive relationships. Tools are their key to a brighter future, and that is exactly what we give them.

As of 2023, we send tools to six countries in Africa: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, and DR Congo.

Whilst our focus is Africa, we also care deeply about helping local communities and involving local people here in the UK. **Our volunteers are with us every step of the way:** from driving our vans or collecting tools from the public to refurbishing the tools in our refurbishment centres and even helping out in the office. In short, **we couldn't do anything without them.**

Many of our volunteers are also with us for their mental health. Coming in to volunteer gives them a space where they can use their skills to make a significant, tangible impact, improving thousands of lives in Africa. They also have a place to socialise, to sit and have a cup of tea and chat with friends. Volunteering with TWAM allows them to **make friends whilst making a difference.** You can find out more about our volunteering opportunities on our dedicated volunteering website: [timefortwam.uk](http://timefortwam.uk).



We have a team of over 500 volunteers nationwide who make our work possible.

We also support local organisations. For example, we send haberdashery materials to crafts groups who support people with physical and mental disabilities. We work with organisations to provide work experience opportunities to young people with additional needs.

We're incredibly passionate about helping out where we can and making a widespread impact.

 We will send tools to over 750 organisations this year, each serving between 20 and 120 vulnerable members of their communities.



sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.



## What we do for The Earth

**Sustainability is at the heart of what we do.** We are extremely passionate about alleviating the effects of climate change. The tools that we send to Africa are all collected from people living in the UK. We prevent these tools from ending up in UK landfills and give them a new life.

The majority of tools that are donated to us are refurbished and sent to Africa, but unfortunately, some tools are not suitable to send, either due to their age or because they simply would not be used. We also have some tools donated in such quantities that we can not use all of them. On these occasions, we will attempt to sell them to raise vital funds for our work. This ensures that they continue to be used and also helps us to continue our livelihood-creating work.

Another way that we deal with waste is by selling our scrap metal to waste-management companies. They process the scrap into usable material, which they then sell. We send around 100 tonnes of metal to be recycled and reused every year, including copper stripped from wires and any other scrap.

We will send around **350 tonnes of donated, usable, refurbished tools to Africa this year**, which, if bought new, would cost over £2 million. Donated tools are a crucial part of our mission to prevent pollution to our water and soil systems.



Our work refurbishing, recycling, and reusing tools saves over 1,900 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.



## Lives transformed by The power of tools



**Nicholas** is a great example of someone who was helped by tools at just the right time before he got caught up in a life of crime and gangs. He lost his parents at a young age and had to drop out of school. With no education and no parents to support him, Nicholas' situation was bleak.

Fortunately, a friend introduced him to Faith Orphanage, who use tools that they receive from TWAM to teach useful skills to people who have struggled with formal education. There, he learned carpentry, as well as business skills to help him open his own business. He was given his own TWAM carpentry kit when he graduated, allowing him to start his own business immediately.

It's very fortunate that Nicholas found Faith Orphanage when he did because it would be very easy to turn to a life of crime in his situation, with seemingly no alternatives.

**Nicholas' life was transformed by a combination of hard work and donated refurbished tools.**

**"I am what I am today because of Mindset and my TWAM sewing machine."**

**Diana** had to drop out of school because she got pregnant as a teenager, and her studies suffered as a result. She had minimal employment prospects until a friend told her about Mindset, our main partner in Uganda, who work with TWAM to provide training courses and tools to those who need them.

After graduating from the course, Diana received a TWAM sewing machine and sewing kit, as do all the graduates, thanks to TWAM's generous supporters. Diana now runs her own tailoring business making dresses, using a sewing machine which was adapted into a treadle, as there is no electricity in the space that she rents. She makes seven dresses a week and can feed her family every single day.

**Her life has been completely transformed by her TWAM sewing machine and her unrelenting perseverance.**



# Want to support our work? You could make a donation

**By post** - I enclose a cheque made payable to Tools with a Mission for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send it to our Ipswich Centre. The address is at the bottom of the page.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

## Could you gift aid your donation and increase your gift by 25% without paying a penny more?

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made over the past 4 years to Tools with a Mission. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that TWAM will reclaim 25p for every £1 I donate. I agree to notify TWAM if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Online** - Donate online at [twam.uk/donate](https://twam.uk/donate) OR via bank transfer using the account details below with your surname and postcode as a reference (please inform us of your donation at [post@twam.uk](mailto:post@twam.uk) when donating via bank transfer to allow us to acknowledge your gift)

**Barclays Bank: account no. 33190994 sort code: 20-44-51**

## You could give some of your time to us

We are always looking for enthusiastic new volunteers to join our team of over 500 volunteers nationwide. Whatever your experience level, we would be happy to have you as part of the team. You could **collect tools, drive our van, refurbish tools in our refurbishment centre**, amongst other roles.

If you are interested in joining the TWAM team, head to our dedicated volunteering website [timefortwam.uk](https://timefortwam.uk), where you will find all of our volunteering opportunities.

## You could donate your old tools to us

We take a wide variety of tools used by carpenters, mechanics, builders, electricians, tailors, and more. For the full list of tools that we take, head to our website [twam.uk/donatetools](https://twam.uk/donatetools). There, you will also find our postcode checker, where you can find your nearest volunteer tool collector who you can contact to pick up your tools.

### Your local collector

## Tools with a Mission

2 Bailey Close, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate, Ipswich, IP2 0UD

Registered charity in England and Wales no: 1104903 | Company no: 5114575 | VAT registration no: 347292286



 [twam.uk](https://twam.uk)

 01473 210220

 [post@twam.uk](mailto:post@twam.uk)