



YOUR UPDATE

SPRING 2025
ISSUE 27



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Dear Supporters,

Spring is here, and so is your latest update! In this edition of our newsletter, we're thrilled to share the most recent highlights from our projects across West Africa and Ethiopia. These updates are a testament to the incredible support we receive from you.

We are delighted to announce two completed projects. The first is in Burkina Faso where the project aimed to support women, young people and internally displaced people by empowering them to grow and care for moringa and baobab trees. Read more on page 4. The second is in Mali, where the project focused on improving governance in four communes and increasing women's roles in forest management. Read more on page 7.

Your support is creating change in Africa's drylands, helping people grow trees, protect their environment, and build thriving, sustainable futures. Thank you for continuing your support and being part of this incredible transformation.

Best wishes,



Tom Skirrow, CEO



www.treeaid.org | info@treeaid.org | 0117 909 6363

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Registered office: Tree Aid, Brunswick Court, Brunswick Square, Bristol, BS2 8PE.



NEWS & UPDATES

Rooted in action: Tree Aid at COP

The team was busy during climate conference season, both hosting and speaking at events to build support and unlock barriers for the communities we work with.

A standout moment was receiving the Global Centre on Adaptation's Local Adaptation Champion Award for our work on food security in Burkina Faso. Community leader and project participant Awa Convolbo was there to accept the award, reinforcing how international decisions shape lives on the frontlines of the climate crisis. **Read more about this on page 8.**

The 16th UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP16) addressed critical issues like land degradation, drought resilience, and sustainable land management. We highlighted the importance of empowering Sahelian communities to combat desertification and advance the Great Green Wall.

We also launched two new reports evidencing our work and the need for funding to reach communities on the ground at a much quicker rate.

Interested in our advocacy work? Make sure you're following us on LinkedIn for all the latest updates.

Celebrating 5 Years of Partnership with Prestige!

This year, we're thrilled to celebrate five incredible years of partnership with Prestige, supporting Tree Aid. For every Eco Pan sold, Prestige donates £1, and thanks to this partnership, they've contributed **over £140,000** to growing a greener future. Here's to the power of partnership and many more years of impact!



Scan here to visit our LinkedIn page



COMPLETED PROJECT: GROWING FOOD AND INCOMES IN BURKINA FASO

This project directly supported women, young people, and internally displaced people (IDPs), who often face the greatest risk of hunger and poverty.

Here, participants established nutrition gardens and learned how to grow and care for moringa and baobab trees. This has boosted their ability to withstand climate and security shocks with sustainable and diverse food production. The project has further supported IDPs by providing emergency tree-based food kits, sourced from project groups, to enhance the food and nutritional care of both displaced individuals and their host communities.

Since 2017, we have been working with communities in Burkina Faso,

where poverty and hunger are widespread issues. During the long dry months, people struggle to grow enough food. Children often suffer the effects the most, with mothers being forced to rely on non-nutritious foods like maize to feed them.

One-third of the country's farmland is already degraded due to the effects of the climate crisis and deforestation – the clearing of trees for things like farms. This is making it even harder for people to grow enough crops to eat and sell to earn an income.

But at Tree Aid, with the amazing support from people like you, we've seen some incredible results that are supporting communities and the environment.

Doli Tapsoba,
Burkina Faso



This is what the project has achieved



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

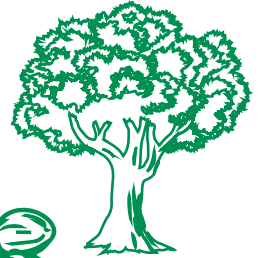
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

442,774

TREES PLANTED

Their roots stop the ground being washed away in floods. They also store water when there's no rain and help the land to stay fertile so other crops can grow.

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96

NEW VILLAGE ENTERPRISE GROUPS

This means communities can make and sell tree produce into products like shea butter.

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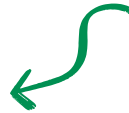
55 new nutrition gardens for internally displaced people (read more on page 6)

238

NEW NUTRITION GARDENS

Small communal village plots dedicated to cultivating fast-growing trees like moringa that produce leaves after three months.

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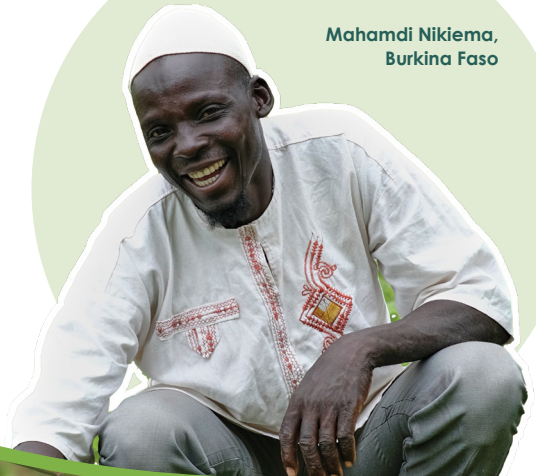


22

NEW MARKET KIOSKS

These are shops that will help people sell their tree products!

Mahamdi Nikiema,
Burkina Faso



UNDERSTANDING TREE AID'S WORK WITH INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

Every year, hundreds of thousands of people in and around the Sahel region of Africa are forced to leave their homes because of growing insecurity, conflict, and extreme weather caused by climate change. Many settle in communities already struggling with poverty and hunger.

Displaced people, including internally displaced people (IDPs), are among the most vulnerable in the world. They have often lost their homes, livelihoods, and sense of safety. Many face long, difficult journeys with little access to food, clean water, or sanitation, leaving them more likely to fall sick or get

injured. Even after reaching a new place, life remains tough. They often lack food, shelter, income opportunities, support networks, and access to basic services like healthcare.

In response, Tree Aid is working with an increasing number of IDPs and addressing their needs by providing emergency food kits made from tree produce to help families feed their children.

We work with both the IDPs and the host communities, enabling them to work together so that they can integrate and create safe, secure and happy lives. **We support IDPs to access land and learn how to grow nutritious food for their families.**



COMPLETED PROJECT: PROTECTING FOREST GOVERNANCE IN MALI

*This is what
the project
has achieved:*

106,662
TREES PLANTED

Over the last three decades, nearly two million hectares of forest have been lost from Mali, mostly to make space for farmland – this is known as deforestation. The Ségou region of Mali has been hit particularly hard by deforestation and the effects of the climate crisis.

With rainfall becoming more unpredictable, and soil losing its fertility, people are struggling to grow trees and crops – something which they depend on for food and income. As a result, over half of Mali's population live in poverty.

This three-year project improved governance in four communes by involving more people in decision-making. It focused on empowering women in forest management, supporting them to protect natural resources. The project has restored land, improved soil, and supported local farming. It also introduced sustainable charcoal production, reducing environmental damage and promoting eco-friendly jobs. Additionally, it helped 400 Village Tree Enterprise members increase their incomes and build stable businesses for the community.

19

**HECTARES OF LAND
RESTORED**

Allowing farmers more land to grow healthy nutritious trees.

2

**NEW FOREST
MANAGEMENT
COOPERATIVES**

Groups where farmers share tools and techniques on how to protect and manage forests.

8

**ENTERPRISES
ESTABLISHED AND
SUPPORTED**



ROUND UP AT COP29! HERE'S WHAT WE DID...

Rabeca



Rabeca Lauriciano, our Advocacy Adviser, led a panel on community-led climate adaptation at COP29 which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Rabeca mentions that she is proud of the efforts the Tree Aid delegation carried out at the summit, bringing international visibility to our mission on alleviating poverty and tackling the climate crisis through restoring nature. Having a community member as the face of our delegation reminded people why we do the work that we do and how

decisions made at the international level directly impact those at the front lines of the climate crisis.

She is hopeful that looking ahead to the new year, COP30 in Brazil presents more opportunities to further protect nature and community livelihoods. Rabeca said, *"The Tree Aid delegation made a huge impact at COP29, spotlighting the urgent challenges faced by the drylands of Africa and presenting our solutions through land restoration. Our community member, Awa, stood out as a true climate champion, inspiring action with her dedication and voice!"*

We were beyond proud to be back at COP where at the conference, we were awarded a Global Centre on Adaptation Local Adaptation Champion Award! We received recognition for our efforts in food security in Burkina Faso. Awa Convolbo, a community leader supported by one of our projects, was there to receive the award.



Awa Convolbo



"I have received this prize thanks to a project initiated by Tree Aid. I am very happy and would like to thank the NGO for everything it does for us women. I hope that Tree Aid will extend this project to other parts of the country so that more people can experience the same happiness that I'm experiencing today."

MAKING A LASTING IMPACT: LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Leaving a gift in your will is a powerful way to create lasting change. Your support enables Tree Aid to empower communities to grow food, build incomes, and protect the environment for future generations.

For 22 years, Dina has supported Tree Aid and has also chosen to leave a gift in her will. Inspired by our work and the Great Green Wall initiative, Dina shares:

"I choose to support Tree Aid and have left a gift in my will as I find the scale of their work and the Great Green Wall impressive. I also like that the people who live there can see the difference and the trees growing."

Dina's legacy will transform lives across Africa's drylands, tackling the climate crisis and creating brighter futures for generations to come.

You can leave a legacy too. A gift in your will ensures Tree Aid's vital work continues to grow and flourish far into the future.

We have partnered with will-writing experts Octopus Legacy to offer our supporters the opportunity to make their will for free. Go to will.octopuslegacy.com/treeaid, enter the coupon code **TREEAID-FREE** online or quote 'Tree Aid' over the phone to claim your free will.

Alimata Tiemore,
Burkina Faso



Could you start your journey to making a lasting impact like Dina, with a gift in your will?

For more information:



Email us at
giftsinwills@treeaid.org



Call us on
0117 909 6363



Visit our website at
treeaid.org/my-legacy

or scan here!

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

A Fond Farewell: Brian's Retirement Gift to Tree Aid!

As one of Tree Aid's long-time supporters, Brian Greenwood recently entered retirement. To celebrate his years of service, his colleagues decided to honour him by raising donations for Tree Aid, knowing how much he cares about the cause. **Thanks to their generosity, Brian raised an impressive £2,496 in his honour. Here's what Brian had to say:**

"Trees can help in holding back desertification and can provide a cash income to support key family activities such as health and education. Thus, when I learnt of the important work being done by Tree Aid in areas similar to those which I know well, I chose Tree Aid as one of my favourite charities. On my retirement, my colleagues kindly set up a fund to mark the occasion and asked me which charity I would like to donate to. I immediately chose Tree Aid as I was confident that these funds would be used well to support communities like those in Africa where I had the privilege of working for much of my career."

Thank you, Brian, for your unwavering support, and we wish you a fantastic retirement!

Jamie's Double Marathon for a Greener Future!

Jamie Brawn's passion for the environment led him to discover Tree Aid, and he was inspired to make a difference. Not just content with one marathon, Jamie challenged himself to run two marathons while raising vital funds for Tree Aid.

So far, Jamie has raised an incredible £500, a testament to his dedication and determination.

What an amazing achievement, Jamie—thank you so much for your efforts!

Here's what Jamie had to say:

"Since April, I have been slowly building my fitness. However, I really wanted to apply my efforts towards something far more important than myself."



As such, I chose to fundraise for Tree Aid as your vital work transforming the lives of women and communities is addressing both poverty and climate change.

Given our current climate, where economic growth and climate action are often framed as incompatible goals, I found your cause especially inspiring."

Swimming for Change: Howard's Epic 10km at Beachy Head!

Last year, Howard Cunnell took on an extraordinary challenge, swimming 10km to raise funds for Tree Aid!

This epic swim unfolded at the Beachy Head Lighthouse in the English Channel, under the iconic Seven Sisters Chalk Cliffs.

Cheered on by friends and trainers, Howard completed this inspiring feat and raised an amazing £982!

These funds will make a real difference in empowering communities and restoring forests across dryland Africa. Thank you, Howard!

Get involved!

If you'd like to take part in an event or fundraising activity in your community, please get in touch. Any funds you raise will help to tackle poverty and food insecurity today while restoring land and protecting the environment for tomorrow.

If you have an idea for fundraising, or you would like some resources, please contact our Supporters Team at info@treeaid.org or by calling **0117 909 6363**.

Thank you Howard!



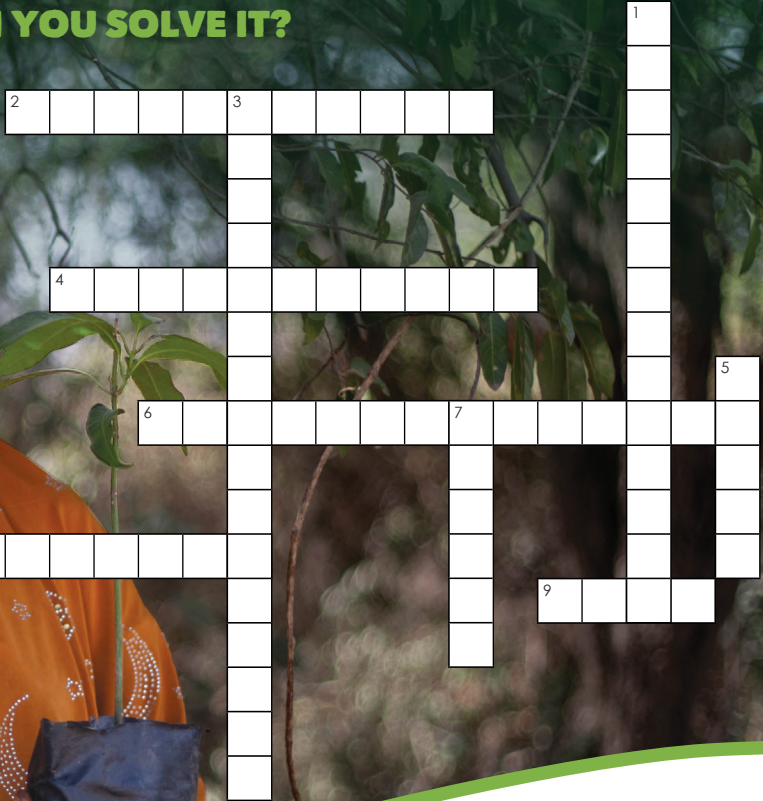
Fundraising ideas...

- Walk, run or cycle 80, 800 or even 8,000km in the Great Green Walk
- Get together with friends for tea and cake at your Tea for Trees fundraiser
- We're now a charity partner with Elite Adventures who offer a range of amazing outdoor challenges!

Scan me!



INTRODUCING YOUR VERY OWN TREE AID CROSSWORD... CAN YOU SOLVE IT?



Down

1. 8,000 km band of trees.
3. These gardens are dedicated green spaces where trees and plants are grown and tended by members of the group.
5. This event was held in Azerbaijan.
7. Known as the 'Tree of Life'.

Across

2. She was there to receive the Global Centre on Adaptation Local Adaptation Champion Award.
4. Known for its balafon - a wooden percussion.
6. He spoke at a panel at Conscious Planet's pavilion.
8. My leaves contain seven times more vitamin C than oranges.
9. Landlocked West African country.

Answers: Down: 1. Great Green Wall, 3. Nutrition Gardens, 5. COP29, 7. Baobab
Across: 2. Awa Convolv, 4. Burkina Faso, 6. Georges Bazongo, 8. Moringa, 9. Mali