

# TWAM

Tools with a Mission

# Our News

April 2023

**There's always hope when there are tools.**



Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives

# Welcome to TWAM News

Thank you for supporting TWAM and for reading our newsletter. I hope as you read the articles contained that you will be inspired and encouraged in your support of TWAM.



We are going through very difficult times with costs increasing and income understandably much lower than we need. I hope this newsletter will show you the value of what we do and our determination to keep doing it, whatever the challenges. I hope, as you read this newsletter, you will see why we are so determined that the cost of living crisis and all the other challenges we all face will not detract us from the amazing work God has called us to do. So thank you for your support and I hope you enjoy reading TWAM News.

**Mike Griffin**  
Chief Executive

## Containers sent January-March 2023

We sent one 40ft container to Zambia and two 20ft containers to Uganda. Between them, they contained approximately:

- 800 Sewing machines
- 50 Knitting machines
- 120 Carpentry kits
- 50 Carpentry workshop kits
- 120 Builders' kits
- 50 Plumbers' kits
- 60 Electrician's kits
- 25 Groundworkers kits
- 60 Agricultural kits
- 50 Boxes of power tools
- 100 Computers

In total, around 2800 tool kits and machines.

*"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."*  
Proverbs 16:3

## About us

We are a Christian charity that collects donated usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

We support local people, meeting local needs with life transforming skills training projects. We supply the tools to equip the training centres and to give to trainees when they graduate. With this support we see long term sustainable livelihoods created. Thanks to over 500 volunteers in the UK and your support, we will continue to transform lives and communities.

### Tools to donate?

To find your nearest collection centre, or to contact a local collector, have a look at our website or call our Ipswich office.

### Time to donate?

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in our centres and to collect tools where they live. Please visit our volunteering website [timefortwam.uk](http://timefortwam.uk) or ring 01473 210220 for more information.

### Financial support

We keep our costs very low, but we still need a lot of support. We value all gifts, whether one-off or regular. You can donate online, send donations to our Ipswich postal address, or request a Standing Order and Gift Aid form.

### Prayer support

TWAM depends on prayer. If you don't currently receive our quarterly prayer diary and would like to, please contact our Ipswich office.



Pastor Matthews and the trainees at Doors of Hope

**When you see widows struggling to survive, you must do something to help.**

**These were the words of Pastor Matthew as he stood in the shade of a tree under which around twenty women were studiously working on their sewing machines.** This was the Doors of Hope Tailoring Centre in the grounds of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Kitwe, Zambia.

Doors of Hope has been going for many years and has offered training to hundreds of women and young people. The group is made up of women from across the whole community, and they train for five days a week on a one-year course. Widows are especially vulnerable, and many of the group are young women who have lost their husbands to illness and accidents. With no social services and family support, it is not an exaggeration to say that widows struggle to survive.

Loina is an example of the hardship and struggle that can follow the death of a husband. She tells us:

*"I wanted to learn tailoring because I was just idle at home doing nothing and suffering, and I thought my life should not be like this. I wanted to do something to change it. Then I heard about this course and appealed to join."*

Loina shares with us the sense of hopelessness that so many people feel when they desperately want to change their lives but can see no way to do it. It is the constant cry of people who don't want something done for them but just want to be given the tools that mean they can do it for themselves. This is why tools matter so much, for they do not just provide a means to change your life but the dignity, self-respect and self-worth that it brings.

This is what happened to Loina when she realised she was being given the empowerment to change her life.

## Tools with a Mission



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

01473 210220

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

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

She found that she loved learning tailoring and also loved the business skills that would enable her to make the most of this opportunity. So while training, she started to sell things she had made and found excitement and expectation she never thought she would ever feel. She learned the best locations to go to and the things most easy to sell for a good price. So when she completed her course in 2022, she had become a confident, skilled young woman who was ready to transform her life. She tells us how her life of doing nothing and suffering has changed:

***“I have completed my training, and my life has now completely changed. The course has been so helpful to me; I am no longer idle, my children are in school, and we are doing very fine. I was given a sewing machine by the church when I graduated, and now I work from home. I mostly make dresses and shirts for children. I display and sell my clothes in the market, but my neighbours also buy from me. I have four children, and all are at school, and I make their uniforms.”***

This is a remarkable turnaround for Loina and also for her children. Four children without an education who had no hope of a future are now in school. Furthermore, they will all have the opportunity to join the family business. Loina now has a financial security she never thought possible because of the gift of training and a sewing machine. No wonder she concludes with a huge smile of joy and gratitude:

***“Without my skill and sewing machine, my life would be very difficult and my children would be suffering. This is the way God has chosen to bless me.”***

Loina proudly displaying her wares



Dailes

Loina is a wonderful example of a confident empowered woman, but everybody is different, some find their confidence through skills, but others through the love and support they receive in the group. Dailes has also trained at Doors of Hope and been given a sewing machine, but she did not want to leave. She has been in the group since it started many years ago and for her, it is about finding a family for for herself and her children. She explains to us:

***“My husband passed away years ago, so I have to look after my three children and seven grandchildren because my daughter also passed away.”***

Dailes has her own sewing machine and holds her own lessons in the community teaching other women tailoring. She also sells clothes in the market and is looking for her own stall, but even though she is financially independent she will never leave the

safety and comfort of her family in Doors of Hope. She is a fine example of the holistic care provided by so many of the groups TWAM supports.

Pastor Matthew ensures that the women receive very good training, but also the emotional and spiritual support they need. He understands that skills learning combined with the knowledge you are loved and cared for changes lives. Both Loina and Dailes remind us that we can never underestimate the gift of feeling that you belong and are welcome.

We believe this highlights very powerfully the mission of TWAM to partner with hundreds of small community based and often church based projects that understand some people need more than physical tools if they are to truly succeed and overcome the damage caused by ultra-poverty.

**Thank you for standing with us in this life changing ministry.**



## When TWAM gets involved, helping a few means helping thousands

It might be considered enough of a challenge for a child to cope with the loss of their parents. The devastating pain of bereavement is often the most any of us can bear, but to become an orphan in Africa adds so much more hurt and despair. One of the biggest challenges is that even if your extended family offers you a home, without parents, there is little chance that anybody will pay your school fees.

So orphaned children are left knowing they will never have a secure job and will probably spend their lives scrabbling around for the hardest, dirtiest and most poorly paid labouring jobs. To lose your parents is to lose your hope, ambition and dreams.

But TWAM supports many charities, churches and community groups who

want to change this. One is 'Hope for Kids', based in Zimbabwe. They are trying really hard to help orphaned children overcome this, and we'll let Mishek, their Director, explain what they are doing. He tells us:

***"We have a challenge where our children, through lack of money, cannot go to college. So, they need to be taught basic life skills that can be useful for them in their lives."***

Mishek tells us that if school, especially secondary and college, is not an option, then something else has to be given in its place. Therefore, Hope for Kids offers exactly what their name suggests; the hope of stable, good employment through skills training and tools.

So they applied to TWAM for Sewing and Knitting Machines, Agricultural, Builder's, Carpentry, Electrician's, Mechanics and Plumbers Kits along with a Computer to equip training centres for orphaned children.

They first started five tailoring groups for young women and gave each group one sewing machine. This in itself was enough, as it transformed the lives of so many vulnerable orphans, but in Africa, they always think bigger, always think of the next challenge they could meet. So they asked the tailoring groups to meet another huge need of orphaned girls.

They asked them to make reusable sanitary pads. Tragically, many girls cannot afford sanitary pads and either remain housebound during periods or use old rags or newspapers. Hope for Kids had direct contact with over 2000 orphaned girls, and through these

tailoring groups, all of them have received reusable sanitary pads.

This is an inspiring example of using TWAM sewing machines to help orphaned girls receive skills and a livelihood while at the same time meeting a desperate need of girls across Zimbabwe.

It is another example of just how easy it is to transform thousands of lives through the gift of just a few donated, unwanted sewing machines. And this is just the beginning, as in later editions of TWAM News, we will tell you about the work they are doing with the other tools they have received.

**So helping TWAM really does mean helping a few to help thousands. Thank you for helping us to make this possible.**



# The team behind the tools

We want to take you behind the scenes in our Ipswich Refurbishment Centre and introduce you to our sewing machine team.

We get all kinds of sewing machines donated to us. Some of them are quite basic manual machines, and others are more complicated electric machines or very heavy treadle machines!

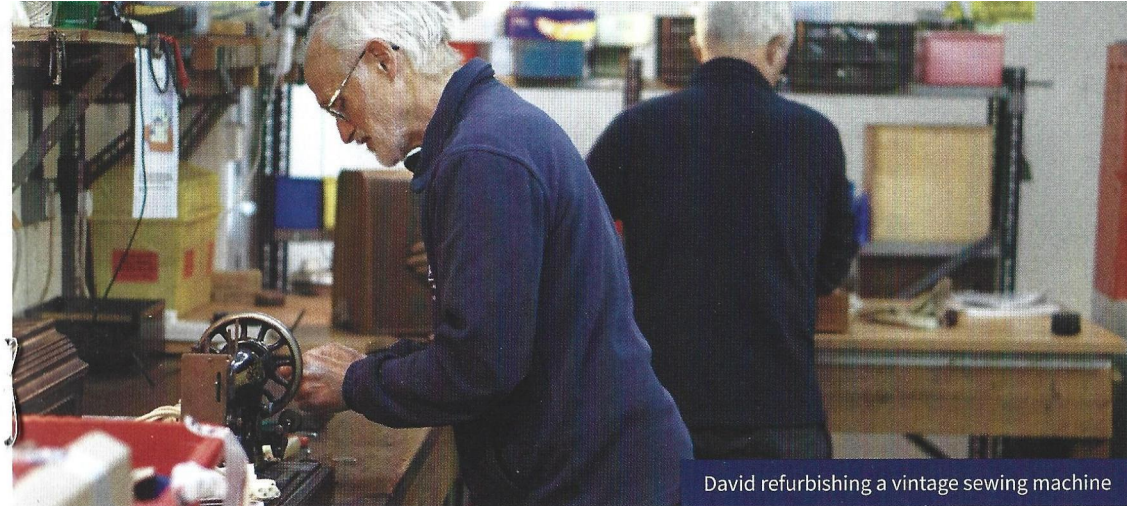
Sewing machines are by far our most popular tool - last year, we sent 2,791 of them to Africa. This is because tailoring is such a valuable skill in the countries that we send tools to.

Local tailors don't just make clothes; they also do repairs. This is particularly useful in countries where people can't afford to own many clothes.

Tailors can set up outside their houses and catch the attention of people walking by.

Stephen (below), who has been helping out in the sewing machine department since last year, says:

***"I enjoy using my mechanical skills to make a difference. I'm used to restoring broken-down old cars, so I got the hang of manual and treadle sewing machines quite quickly. The electric ones were a bit more difficult though!"***



David refurbishing a vintage sewing machine

It can get quite busy in this department, with up to nine people working together on some days. This is very helpful because it means that each person can focus on a certain type of machine.

Thankfully, there is plenty of bench space allowing our team to all work at the same time. Working closely together helps them to build the friendships and camaraderie that are such an important part of the volunteering experience.

The sewing machine team can refurbish up to 20 machines in a day, which we think is very impressive.

It's also important that this many are refurbished because we send hundreds of sewing machines in each container.

Tony is in charge of this department, and he makes sure that everyone is well trained and has all the help that they need. He joined TWAM in 2007 after a career in engineering, and after being asked to start working on

sewing machines by then-manager Graham, he taught himself to refurbish them.

It's very inspiring to see the team hard at work, busy refurbishing the machines that meant so much to people in the UK and that will be given a second life in Africa instead of being thrown away.

**We're so grateful for everything that our volunteers do, they really make our work possible.**

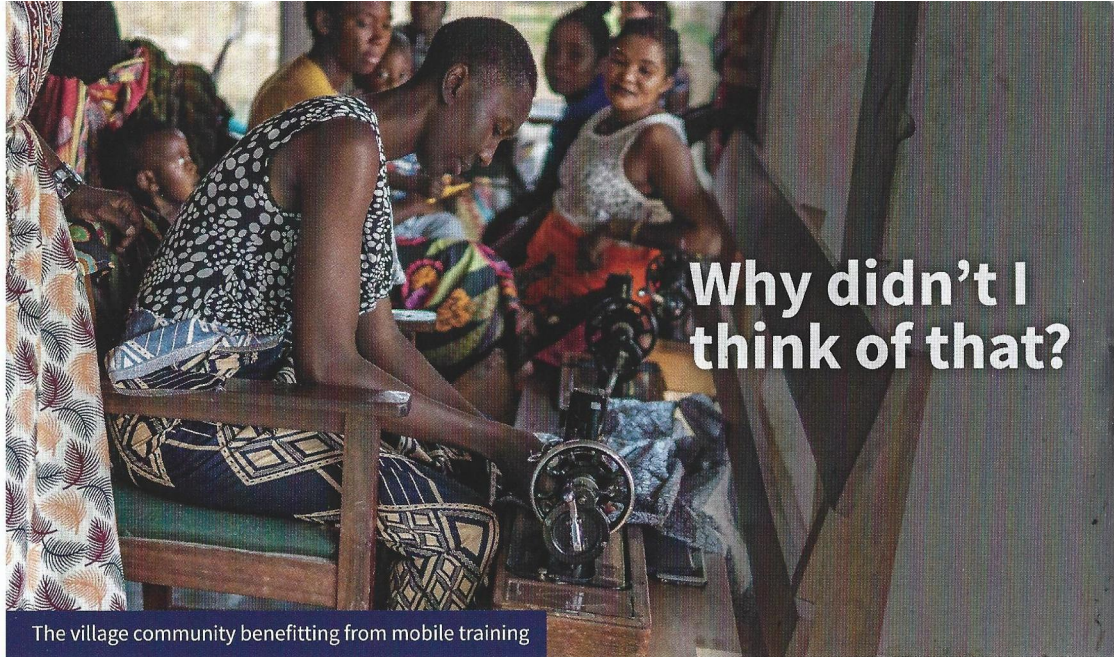
## Give the gift of a livelihood

£25 would cover the costs of collecting, refurbishing, and packing a sewing machine, but you would be giving so much more than just a machine. Your donation could give a trainee tailor a livelihood and help them to put food on the table every single day.

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

Tony (left) and Stephen (right) working on a Singer sewing machine





## Why didn't I think of that?

The village community benefitting from mobile training

**Zambia is a very big country! It is three times larger than the UK but has just 56,000 miles of surfaced roads, compared to 250,000 miles in the UK. This makes travelling very challenging and time-consuming.** So what do you do when a group of 30 ultra-poor women and young people who live 5-6 hours from the nearest town with a TWAM training centre asks for skills training?

Can you ask them all to travel that far every day for a training course lasting many weeks? No, you can't. So, does that mean, despite their desperate need, there is no help for them? Well, the local TWAM District Development Team (DDT) in Samfya came up with a brilliant idea that meant it did not.

The DDTs are made up of local volunteers passionate about TWAM who work in their local community to promote TWAM, support groups applying for tools and come up with answers to problems like these. The answer they came up with fits into the category of *'why didn't I think of that?'*

The idea they came up with was 'Mobile Training'. Emmanuel, the Chairperson of the Samfya DDT, explains:

***"If groups are a very long way away, we offer to go and do 2-3 weeks of intensive training followed by an exam. We then offer to follow up and encourage them to group together to continue to support each other and learn together. We offer trainers who are willing to go and stay in the community in tailoring, computing, knitting and bricklaying. If other skills are requested, we will look for people with those skills. After they get skills, they are encouraged to apply for tools."***

The local community is asked to find a suitable venue and accommodate the trainer. The trainer gives their time for free, but in return, has access to the TWAM tools used for the training so they can produce and sell things for themselves.

The transformation it brings to a community is amazing, as people feel valued and empowered, and many, for the first time, believe that their lives can improve. Agnes, the DDT secretary, tells us:

***"We have chosen to do this to help people lift themselves from poverty. Once, people helped lift us, and we must now help to lift others up. We are able to empower youth, and our training keeps them away from drug abuse, and we feel good to be able to impact their lives."***

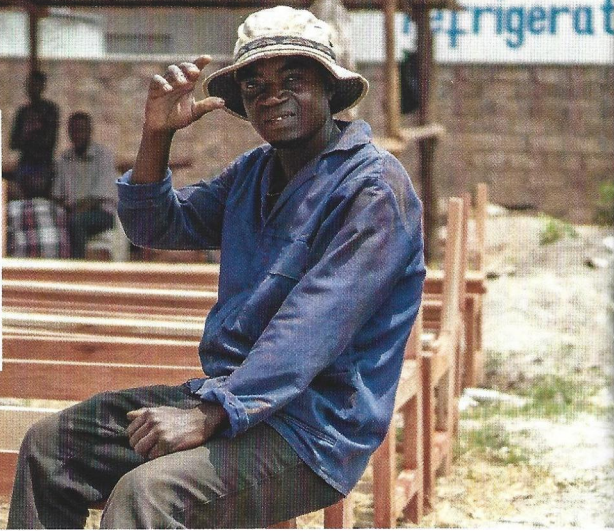
The photos are of a rural group training in the abandoned home of an ex-missionary in a small village, miles from the nearest road. They have done so well and gained so much confidence that they are now planning on renovating the house to become a permanent training centre. Men and women have learned tailoring, knitting and carpentry, and the DDT has given them their own tools.

**DDTs are now setting up mobile training teams across much of Zambia while sharing many more inspirational *'why didn't I think of that?'* ideas.**

The Samfya DDT mobile training unit meets in an ex-missionary's home



# Skills that endure for generations



**Day labouring is a brutal way to earn money in Zambia, and many are worked into an early grave. Sylvester was exhausted and penniless, and just when he thought he was destined for the same fate as so many of the men and women around him, the perfect opportunity presented itself.**

Sylvester and his wife had always worked hard to look after their three children, but despite their best efforts, they were only able to afford to send one of them to school. It was heart wrenching for Sylvester to see the looks on his children's faces as they watched their older sister leave for school in the morning, wondering why they couldn't have the same opportunity.

Sylvester had resigned himself to his fate until one day, he heard of a local carpentry workshop looking for a trainee. In his life of day labouring, he had done some basic carpentry jobs,

so he jumped at the opportunity to put his daily struggles and suffering behind him. Determined to give his family a better life, he started training as a carpenter, putting in long hours, and he improved very quickly.

***"My life has changed so much since I became a carpenter."***

*"I'm getting old now. I'm 39 this year!"*, Sylvester chuckled. *"I'm a family man. That pushed me to come here so that I could find a way to feed my family"*. Day labour had taken its toll on Sylvester's body, but his new career as a carpenter will keep him fit and healthy and ensure that he can keep providing for his family for many years to come.

Sylvester has been a carpenter for three years now, and the impact that it has had on his life, and his family's lives, is deeply inspiring.

***"My life has changed so much since I became a carpenter. I could only send one of my children to school before, but now, they all go to school. Thanks to carpentry, I have been able to buy a plot of land where I will build my own house for my family. That is just one of the many things that have changed."***

*I was asking my daughter what she wants to do when she's older. She told me she wants to be a nurse. I also want her to learn a skill so that she can be independent.*

*I also bring my son with me to the workshop. He's only five years old, but he's interested in watching me work. I want him to grow up watching me so that he will be interested in this skill too, and I will be able to pass it down to him. I want my family to be self-sustaining and rely on their own hands for work"*.

School fees are not a problem for Sylvester anymore, so he wants to make sure that his children have more opportunities than he did growing up.

***"Thanks to carpentry, I have been able to buy a plot of land where I will build my own house for my family. That is just one of the many things that have changed."***

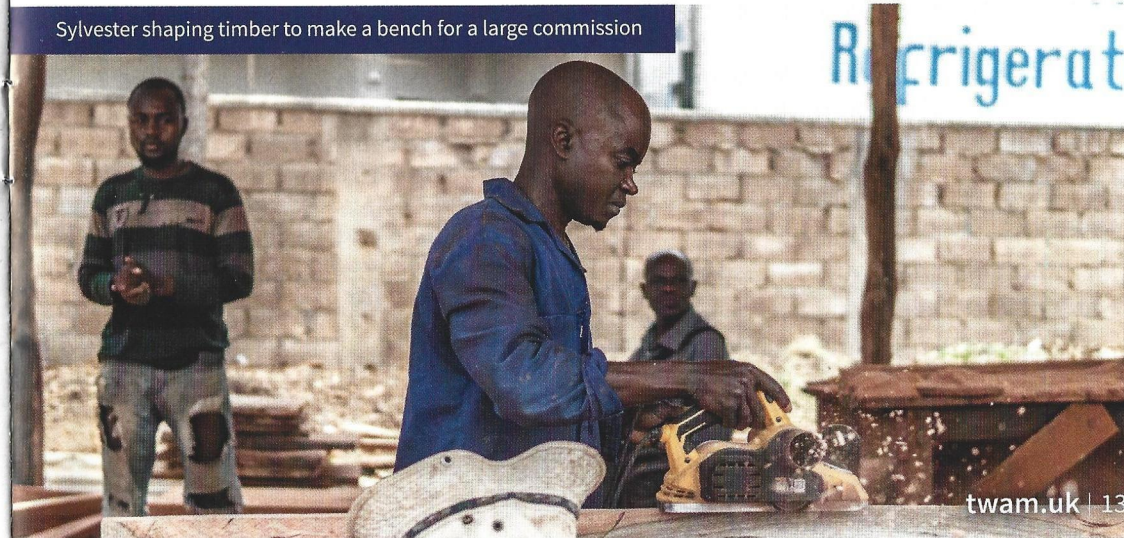
Skills training is a powerful solution to poverty, whether the trainees are orphans, vulnerable women, or men who have lived a hard life of day labouring like Sylvester.

TWAM tools were the catalyst for the change that Sylvester has seen, and his mindset will be passed down to his children, who may start businesses of their own thanks to the tools that their father received.

**Join The Toolbox, our community of monthly givers, to cover the costs of a certain number of tool kits over the course of the year. See page 15 for more information.**

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

Sylvester shaping timber to make a bench for a large commission





**Without this place,  
my life would not be so good.**

**Jeoffroy is a truly inspirational man who has never allowed the challenges of his disability to hold him back. Using a wheelchair can have challenges in any society but in the developing world with uneven surfaces and a myriad of obstacles it can be a nightmare.**

Jeoffroy's story could so easily be of a housebound young man lacking any opportunities. But he was never going to let that be his story. So, when Disabled Care Organisation opened in his community in Solwezi, Zambia, he was one of the first to join. The centre trains people with disabilities and also the families of children with disabilities. They teach tailoring, carpentry, knitting, metal fabrication, computing and electrical skills.

Jeoffroy joined the tailoring group fifteen years ago and since then has become a voluntary instructor. He keeps his own TWAM sewing machine in the centre and runs his own small business there. He tells us:

***"I help the trainees to get skills and at the same time provide income generation for myself. I want to make sure that my life will make a difference and that I can do more and more."***

Jeoffrey proves that with determination, somebody seeing your potential and the gift of tools to make a difference, anything is possible. You can hear the passion in his heart as he shares with us:

***"I like to work for an organisation that helps people and I can work from here and I do not have to pay rent. I am married to Giveness and we both work at the centre. I have five children and all are going to school. I hope one day I will be able to open my own training centre. Without this place my life would not be so good and not easy for me."***

Thank you for helping us support Jeoffroy and his family to live a life worthy of his boundless enthusiasm and skill.



## The Toolbox

**You could make a long-term difference by joining The Toolbox.**

Donate a certain amount each month, and over the course of a year, you cover the costs of collecting, refurbishing, and packing all the tools for a certain number of tool kits. You will receive a letter at the end of the year stating what kits you have supported, as well as a calendar. To join The Toolbox and make a long-term difference, go to our website:

[twam.uk/toolbox](http://twam.uk/toolbox)



## My lasting legacy, my gift of hope

**Writing a will can seem a daunting prospect, but it can be a very precious time when we remember the things we care most about.** There will always be more countries and more people that need our help, and your legacy would help to ensure that the most vulnerable people continue to be supported.

We still haven't won the fight against poverty. Below, you can see Blessings and her son, Tasheni - a once struggling family whose lives have been transformed by tools. They have left poverty in the past, but there are still so many more families who need our help.

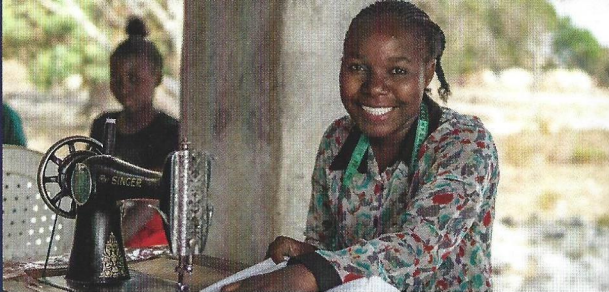
For more information about leaving a legacy to support livelihood creation and having a impact that lasts for generations, have a look at our website:

[twam.uk/legacy](http://twam.uk/legacy)





We need your support to continue sending livelihood-creating tools to groups who have seen the struggles of their communities and have made the decision to help the people who are suffering the most. We can work together to give the most vulnerable people in Africa the tools that they need to transform their lives.



Please accept my gift of:

£15    £25    £50    £100    £150    £250    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### Online

You can donate online at [twam.uk/donate](https://twam.uk/donate) or using the account details below including your surname and postcode as a reference.

**Barclays Bank Account No:** 33190994 | **Sort Code:** 20-44-51

### Card

You can donate by credit or debit card by ringing our head office on **01473 210220**. We're open Monday to Friday between 9 am - 4 pm.

Would you like to receive our monthly **Supporter E-News**? It's packed with up to date news and inspiring stories. If so, you can either write your email address below, or go to [twam.uk/stayintouch](https://twam.uk/stayintouch) to sign up online.

My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

## Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Tools with a Mission. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

## 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)