

# TakaNiAjira

## FOUNDATION

*"Light to waste, Voice for waste pickers"*



## QUARTER ONE NEWSLETTER JANUARY-MARCH 2024

[takaniajira.org](http://takaniajira.org)

## Word from the Chairpeson



Dear Stakeholders,

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all who have supported us on this journey. In our quest to foster a supportive environment for waste pickers and waste workers across Africa and globally, we must address key issues such as recognition, safety, health, financial inclusivity, empowerment, curbing child labor, and the provision of decent jobs. These priorities should be at the forefront of our agenda moving forward.

To achieve meaningful progress, it is imperative that we adopt a collaborative approach that transcends organizational silos. The commendable efforts of the International Waste Pickers Alliance in amplifying the voices of waste pickers on the international stage serve as a testament to the power of collective action.

Despite facing prevailing stereotypes, waste pickers play an indispensable role in combating climate change and advancing circularity. As we strive to recognize, build, and value waste pickers, we must stand in solidarity to uplift these frontline individuals in our collective fight against climate change and other environmental injustices. Our efforts align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscoring the interconnectedness of our actions with broader global objectives.

Sincerely,  
Eng. Allen Kimambo  
Chairperson

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# ABOUT TAKANIAJIRA FOUNDATION

TakaNiAjira Foundation is built around Sustainable Global Goals aimed at solving both waste and employment challenges.

## Vision

To achieve Zero Waste through the creation of sustainable decent jobs.

## Mission

To design social innovative programs and projects to contribute to proper waste management practices and create sustainable decent jobs for waste pickers and informal waste workers.



# Milestones Achieved

1. TakaNiAjira Foundation has effectively supported the collection of 5791 Kgs of waste via its Reward4Recycling program, diverting this waste from landfills and incinerators.

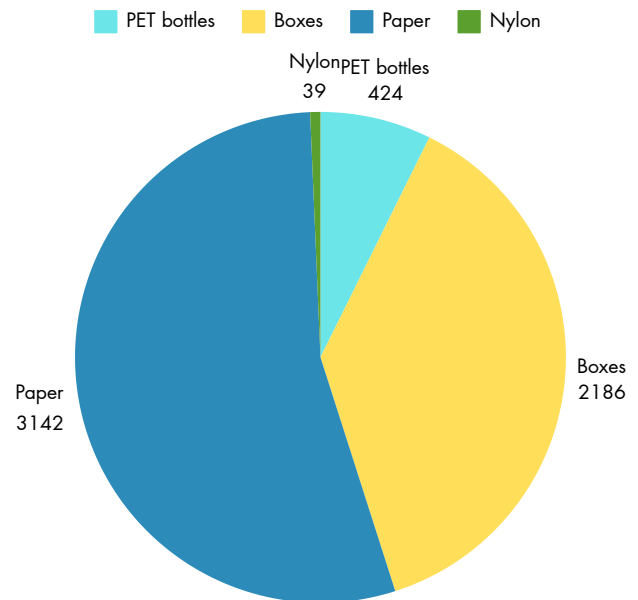


Figure: Waste collected (in Kgs) via Reward4Recycling initiative

2. TakaNiAjira Foundation has effectively supported the formation of 8 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs): 5 in the Dar es Salaam region, 2 in the Tanga region, 1 in Mwanza, and one in the Zanzibar islands.



## Milestones Achieved

3. TakaNiAjira Foundation has been successfully registering waste pickers through ZaidiApp. This registration process plays a crucial role in the foundation's commitment to empowering waste pickers and driving substantial transformation in the waste management sector.



*Photo: Ongoing registration of waste pickers.*

# Incentivizing Zero Waste: Reward4Recycling program

At the TakaNiAjira Foundation, we firmly believe in the transformative power of eliminating waste from the source. For this reason, we have relaunched the Reward4Recycling initiative in the first quarter of this year. This innovative program aims to revolutionize waste management by incentivizing positive environmental actions.

The Reward4Recycling initiative provides a comprehensive door-to-door solid waste collection service and engaging awareness sessions to educate and empower participants. Our program goes beyond traditional recycling efforts by not only supporting collection of common solid wastes like paper, plastic bottles (PET), and cardboard boxes but also providing support to collection services for a wide range of items including glass, electronic waste, car batteries, scrap metals, and even empty HP Toners.

What sets our program apart is our innovative rewards system. Participants are rewarded proportionately based on the amount and type of waste they contribute. Our rewards range from groceries to stainless steel water bottles, recycled diaries, airtime vouchers, and coupons for sustainable events or training. This not only encourages recycling efforts but also fosters a culture of sustainability within communities.

During this first quarter of 2024, the motto behind our Reward4Recycling initiative is #LetaTakaUlambeSukari, a Swahili phrase which translates to #BringWasteGetSugar. In line with this mantra, we are working with esteemed companies such as TATA, AGS Movers & Achelis, Jubilee Insurance and ABSA providing rewards to participants in recognition of their contribution to recycling efforts.



*Photo: TakaNiAjira team awarding employees at Achelis gifts obtained from the waste collected in the Reward 4 Recycling Program*





*Photo: TakaNiAjira team awarding TATA gifts obtained from the waste collected in the Reward 4 Recycling Program*



*Photo: TakaNiAjira team awarding AGS Movers gifts obtained from the waste collected in the Reward 4 Recycling Program*

To streamline our operations and enhance transparency, we utilize the ZaidiApp, a digital platform designed to track the environmental impact achieved by organizations. Through the app, digital reward bins are created to track all waste generated and sorted by participating organizations. This allows us to provide real-time feedback to clients, empowering them to monitor their environmental footprint and track progress



*Photo: Track Your Environmental Footprint with ZaidiApp*

Our program follows a structured workflow to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. From engaging reward partners and creating digital reward bins to waste collection, sorting, and reward distribution, every step is meticulously planned and executed. Weekly waste collections are conducted based on participants' needs, with monthly data sharing and long-term sustainability planning integral to our approach.

The Reward4Recycling Program epitomizes our proactive approach to environmental sustainability. By providing tangible rewards for recycling efforts, we not only incentivize positive behaviour but also empower individuals and communities to take ownership of their environmental impact. Through collaboration with local authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders, we aim to maximize our impact and pave the way for a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future.

[Join us by requesting a waste bin from ZaidiApp and be an integral part of this journey.](#)



# Unifying Waste Pickers Through Community Based Organizations



For too long, waste pickers have faced challenges such as dispersion and lack of representation in matters affecting them. In response, we've initiated efforts to facilitate the formation of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), recognizing the pivotal role they can play in uniting waste pickers and advocating for their rights.

## Fostering Unity and Representation

CBOs serve as essential platforms for waste pickers to come together, form cohesive groups, and collectively address their concerns. With formal leadership structures and recognition from local government authorities, CBOs provide waste pickers with a unified voice, empowering them to advocate for better working conditions, fair treatment, and dignified livelihoods. By fostering unity and representation, CBOs have the potential to be transformative agents in the fight for the rights and dignity of waste pickers.

## Expansion Efforts

In the first quarter of this year, our efforts to establish Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have yielded significant progress across various regions. We are proud to report that our diligent efforts have resulted in the successful formation of several CBOs in different parts of the country, with a collective membership of over a hundred individuals.



In Dar es Salaam, one of the largest cities in Tanzania, we've successfully facilitated the formation of five CBOs, which include Interchange Waste Pickers in Ubungo District, Usafi Waste Pickers in Temeke Municipal, Kidongo Waste Pickers in Kinondoni Municipal, Ferry Waste Pickers in Kigamboni District, and Jangwani Waste Pickers in Ilala Municipal. These CBOs are made up of passionate individuals who are committed to making a positive impact on their communities and the environment. Together, they have a membership of 152 individuals, all working towards a common goal of promoting waste management practices that are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Similarly, in Zanzibar, we have made significant progress in the formation of the Waokota Taka Rejeshi Tunguu Cooperative, which has brought together 29 waste pickers. This CBO is a testament to the power of collective action, as these waste pickers work together to improve the health and hygiene of their local communities, while also earning a livelihood.

Additionally, in Tanga, we have established two CBOs, Taka Group and Waokota Taka Tanga, which comprise a total of 32 waste pickers. These CBOs are instrumental in promoting sustainable waste management practices and are making a positive impact on the environment in their local communities.

We are proud of the progress we have made so far in the establishment of these CBOs, and we are committed to continuing our efforts to create more CBOs across the country. We believe that by working together, we can make a significant impact on the environment and improve the lives of waste pickers and their communities.

## **Open Membership**

Membership to these CBOs is inclusive and accessible to waste pickers who meet the established criteria. By providing a structured framework for collaboration and advocacy, CBOs offer waste pickers a sense of belonging, empowerment, and solidarity.

## **Continued Commitment**

Our commitment to supporting waste pickers goes beyond our initial efforts. We are dedicated to expanding our outreach and facilitating the formation of more Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) across the country. Through ongoing collaboration and engagement, our goal is to create a nationwide network of empowered waste pickers who can drive positive change and foster sustainable communities.

Let's work together to continue advocating for the rights and dignity of waste pickers, and build a future where every individual has a voice and the opportunity for

# Empowering Waste Pickers: The Global Waste Pickers Summit



It is important to recognize and appreciate the significant contribution of waste pickers in safeguarding our environment and encouraging sustainable waste management practices. We are honored to have partnered with NipeFagio for the second consecutive year to organize the Global Waste Pickers Day Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This event served as a platform for waste pickers from diverse backgrounds across Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar to come together, engage in productive discussions, and share their valuable insights and experiences. The summit was a great success, as it provided a unique opportunity for waste pickers to learn from one another, exchange ideas, and collectively work towards achieving a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.

## **Theme: Recognize, Build, and Value**

The summit pivots around a very important and impactful theme, "Recognize, Build, and Value." As we all know, waste pickers have been playing a crucial role in our society for a very long time. They work tirelessly to ensure that waste is properly disposed of and that it neither ends up in landfills nor stays there, thereby preventing it from contributing to methane emissions that impact our climate. However, for all their hard work and dedication, they often receive little recognition and appreciation.





*Photo: A Waste Picker sharing insights at the Global Waste Pickers Day Summit*

With this theme, our aim was to shed light on the invaluable contribution of waste pickers to the waste management ecosystem. We wanted to highlight their efforts, acknowledge their hard work, and show our appreciation for their contributions. It was an opportunity for us to recognize the important role that they play in our communities.



*Photo: A Waste Picker sharing insights at the Global Waste Pickers Day Summit*





*Photo: A Waste Picker sharing insights at the Global Waste Pickers Day Summit*

Moreover, we sought to emphasize the importance of building and valuing waste pickers as integral members of our communities. We believe that waste pickers should be appreciated, respected, and valued for the work they do. They are not just waste collectors, but they are also environmentalists who are playing a significant role in protecting our planet.

## Highlights of the Summit

At the Global Waste Pickers Day Summit, several important initiatives were launched, including:

1. Recognition and Certification of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs): We unveiled the CBOs that we helped form and issued official certificates for their registration. These CBOs are a crucial step in formalizing the waste pickers' collective efforts and providing them with a structured platform for advocacy and collaboration



*Photo: A member of a registered Community-Based Organization receiving their certificate.*

2. Issuance of Identification Cards: Waste pickers received official identification cards, providing them with formal recognition in society for the essential work they do. These cards not only serve as a symbol of acknowledgment but also give waste pickers a sense of dignity and belonging.



Photo: A waste picker representative receiving identification cards from Mrs Hellen TAWAPA Preside

3. Formation of Tanzania Waste Pickers Association (TAWAPA): The summit facilitated the election of leaders for the newly established Tanzania Waste Pickers Association (TAWAPA), which is a significant milestone. TAWAPA serves as a unifying body for waste pickers across the country, enabling them to amplify their voices and advocate for their rights collectively.



Photo: A group photo of the newly elected TAWAPA leaders



# Tanzania Waste Pickers Association (TAWAPA) Leaders.



**President**  
**Heleni Kurwa**  
From Taka Rejeshi group  
Mwanza



**Secretary**  
**Almasi Maisha Vicent**  
From Kidongo Waste Pickers  
Dar es Salaam (Kinondoni)



**Vice President**  
**Seif Waziri Selemeni**  
From Taka Group Tanga



**Assistant Treasurer**  
**Malaki Kasuku**  
Interchange Waste Pickers  
Dar es Salaam (Ubungo)



**Treasurer**  
**Mwanahamis Kasimu**  
Tunguu Cooperative From  
Zanzibar



**Assistant Secretary**  
**Omary Baraka**  
FFerry Waste Pickers Dar es  
Salaam ( Kigamboni)



## Empowering Waste Pickers for a Sustainable Future

The Global Waste Pickers Day Summit is a remarkable display of our dedication to empowering waste pickers and promoting their status within society. This summit is a platform that recognizes the invaluable contribution of waste pickers in environmental conservation and community development. It is a celebration of their hard work, while also serving as a reminder that their work is essential for a sustainable future.



*Photo: Waste pickers group representatives pictured with summit organizing committee.*

The formal recognition, organizational structures, and unity that this summit fosters are fundamental in empowering waste pickers and elevating their status within society. By providing them with the acknowledgement they deserve, we align ourselves with the values of inclusivity and sustainability. We believe that waste pickers are essential contributors to our environment and community, and we are committed to recognizing, building, and valuing them as such.

As we reflect on the success of this year's summit, we are reminded of the importance of our efforts in creating a more inclusive and sustainable future for all. We understand that the journey towards a more sustainable future requires us to work together, and we are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with waste pickers and other stakeholders in the waste management sector.

#GlobalWastePickersDay #Empowerment #CommunityBuilding #Sustainability #TAWAPA

# Driving Change: ZaidiApp's Innovative Solution To Enhance Waste Picker Registration



In a world grappling with the dual challenges of waste management and unemployment, innovative solutions are not just desirable, but imperative. In a groundbreaking move to address systemic issues within waste management and empower those working at the grassroots level, TakaNiAjira has embraced the use of innovative digital technology. By leveraging the ZaidiApp, a digital application designed to drive change, TakaNiAjira is set to transform the waste management sector and empower waste pickers, the unsung heroes who play a pivotal role in the industry.

## **ZaidiApp: A Catalyst for Change**

ZaidiApp is at the heart of TakaNiAjira's strategy for change. The app serves as a comprehensive tool that allows us to register waste pickers, record their activities, and track their income from the waste they collect. This modern approach offers several advantages:

**Registration:** Waste pickers can quickly and easily be register using the app. The process is simple and user-friendly, requiring the waste picker to take a photo and provide basic details such as age, gender, and location.





*Photo: Ongoing registration of waste pickers using ZaidiApp*

- **Data Collection:** For the first time, TakaNiAjira can gather valuable data on waste pickers and their activities, including the quantity of waste collected and their income. This data is crucial for informed decision-making and ensuring that waste pickers receive appropriate support and benefits.
- **Empowerment:** By providing waste pickers with a platform to track their work and earnings, ZaidiApp empowers them to take control of their livelihood. This transparency helps ensure that they are fairly compensated and recognized for their contributions to the industry.

### **A Transformative Vision**

For too long, waste pickers have operated in the shadows, with little data available about their crucial role in waste management. TakaNiAjira's decision to lead the change by registering waste pickers and collecting data on their activities marks a significant turning point in the sector.

By understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by waste pickers, TakaNiAjira can design targeted initiatives that truly empower them. The data-driven approach ensures that support and resources are allocated where they are needed most, paving the way for a more equitable and efficient waste management system.





*Photo: A waste picker having her picture taken for registration in ZaidiApp.*

TakaNiAjira's embrace of technology represents a new era in waste management, one where data-driven insights and empowerment go hand in hand. As we continue to refine and expand our use of ZaidiApp, we are poised to create a lasting impact on the lives of waste pickers and the waste sector as a whole.

Through this innovative approach, TakaNiAjira is not only transforming the way waste is managed but also championing the dignity and rights of waste pickers. This is a crucial step towards a more sustainable future, where the value of every individual's work is recognized and celebrated.



# Acknowledgment

At TakaNiAjira Foundation, we value and acknowledge the crucial support and cooperation from our respected partners and stakeholders. Their pivotal roles have greatly contributed to advancing our mission of achieving zero waste and creating sustainable employment opportunities.

We express special appreciation to Nipe Fagio for their collaboration and extend our gratitude to Nabaki Africa, Mufindi Paper, Tanpak, SB Plastics, SGA Security and Zaidi Recyclers for their support.

Our sincere thanks go out to every organization, institution, government entity, and individual whose unwavering dedication has fueled the success of our innovative social programs. These initiatives aim to promote proper waste management practices.

Collectively, we have empowered waste pickers and informal waste workers, promoted environmental sustainability, and built stronger communities. Your partnership and collaborative endeavors have been instrumental in driving positive transformations and positively impacting many lives.

As we move forward, we reiterate our commitment to nurturing robust collaborations and partnerships to amplify our influence and work towards a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future for all.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support and shared vision.



# Our Partners





# Our Supporters



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# THANK YOU.