







USAID TEKI Activity

Fighting Plastic Bags With Sign Language

TEKI [†ħ] is an Amharic word from the verb "Metekat," which means replacing. TEKI Fighting Plastic Bags with Sign Language is a three-year activity funded by USAID-Ethiopia and implemented by Teki Paper Bags PLC. The goal of the TEKI activity is to empower youths with disabilities to turn the fight against plastic bag pollution into a national employment-intensive inclusion solution.



Strengthen
Disability Inclusion



Empower Ethiopian Youths



Protect the Environment



Promote
Women Leadership







About TEKI Paper Bags



Founded in 2016 in Ethiopia, Teki Paper Bags PLC is the world's first deaf-run paper bags company. We empower deaf women to build a plastic-free Ethiopia. We produce, sell, distribute, and raise awareness, all in Ethiopian sign language.

With our hands and signs, we can now overcome our disability and convince people to stop using plastic bags better than others. With the support of USAID-Ethiopia, we are now able to scale up and create more jobs for youths living with disabilities to produce more paper bags and turn our dream into a reality.



Since 2016





2,045,500 Plastic Bags Replaced with TEKI bags





38 Jobs
Created for young









TEKI Objectives



Job Creation for Youths with Disability

Create 200 jobs for Deaf youths by opening TEKI branches across the city and transferring our technology to special needs schools to empower their young graduates who can't find employment.



Fighting Plastic **Bags Pollution**

Replace 10 million single-use plastic bags with our TEKI paper bags produced by youths with disability and sold using Ethiopian Sign Language.



Education and school activities

Provide soft skills and technical training for our Deaf employees as well as internship positions and school visits to inspire the young generation.



raising

Leverage social media and Ethiopian Sign Language to raise awareness about plastic pollution and disability rights from an innovative angle.











Made in Ethiopia









TEKI Activity Planed



Job Creation for Youths with Disability



Fighting Plastic Bags Pollution



Education and School Activities



Awareness Raising





Opening Branches
Across the City



Increase TEKI
Monthly Production





Soft Skills Program





Use of Social Media





Empowering
Special Needs Schools





Collaborate with the Private Sector



Provide Internship



Organise Monthly School Visits



TV and Press Coverage



Teaching Sign Language







A National Inclusion Solution

STAGE I

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

MISSION GOAL











30,000



Create employment for youths with disabilities to produce eco-friendly paper bags

Reserve by law the production of paper bags to empower persons with disabilities.

Ban the use of plastic bags across the country to build a plastic-free Ethiopia 30,000 Rewarding jobs dedicated to Ethiopian living with a disability in a nation freed from plastic bags

The TEKI Concept

Here in Ethiopia, no one likes plastic bags. Yet, we are using it daily because there is no alternative! So why don't we empower youths with disabilities to produce paper bags and turn our country's plastic bags free?

Yes, Many people in Ethiopia, including the government, want to help youths with disabilities but don't know how! By making paper bags, we can lead by example and makes it easier for others to support and include us.

People always look at me when I use sign language and want to learn. Why don't we use Sign Language to convince others to stop using plastic bags and create our own jobs?







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