

Call for bids

Methodology to map existing packaging waste value chains, and associated stakeholders, ahead of establishing an EPR scheme

1. Background

Mismanaged waste is destroying our natural environment and harming the poorest people on the planet.¹ Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies carry substantial responsibility, driving the production and use of single-use packaging.

In many contexts, governments are responding to the waste crisis by enacting mandatory 'Extended Producer Responsibility' (EPR). EPR is a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility – financial and/or physical – for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. In addition to government-led EPR, public awareness and pressure has also resulted in large numbers of companies exploring or establishing *voluntary* EPR schemes.

In low- and middle-income countries, EPR schemes - both mandatory and voluntary - will impact the rights and livelihoods of existing informal waste sector workers. When waste pickers are involved as key partners in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of EPR schemes, these schemes can lead to an improvement of waste picker livelihoods and respect for their human rights. However, where waste pickers are excluded from the design and planning processes, EPR schemes that disregard their role can be extremely detrimental to their livelihoods and rights.

2. The project

In order to ensure that EPR schemes (both mandatory and voluntary) benefit, rather than harm, existing waste pickers, research and mapping needs to take place ahead of the planning process in order to ensure:

- 1) that all those responsible for the development of the EPR scheme understand the current waste 'landscape': ie the value chains and stakeholders; and
- 2) that the waste pickers within the existing system are meaningfully included as equal and active participants in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of EPR schemes.

Tearfund is seeking to develop a "tool" (methodology) to enable thorough research and mapping of the waste 'landscape' to take place ahead of an EPR scheme being established.

¹ See Tearfund (2019) *No time to waste* which describes the damage being caused to the environment and to the health and livelihoods of people living in poverty, www.tearfund/notimetowaste

Audience: The tool should be designed for use by governments or industry (such as FMCG companies and plastic producers setting up voluntary EPR schemes), or a research organisation contracted on their behalf. The mapping tool(s)/guidance should be as clear and practical as possible. They should outline the correct questions to be asking in such a mapping exercise, and give guidance on appropriate data sources and data collection methods to be used in answering the questions. They should also advise on analysis and presentation of data findings.

Scope: The tool will need to be applicable at a scale that informs national-level EPR. However, it would also be useful for it to be adaptable to smaller geographical contexts to also inform state-level EPR, EPR pilots or FMCG 'partnership programmes' (corporate responsibility programmes).

All packaging materials should be included: plastics, metal, paper, glass.

Content: The tool will need to provide a methodology which enables the following overarching questions to be addressed (we envisage these questions would be broken down into numerous sub-questions):

- What currently happens to packaging waste in the context? How much is mismanaged? Where does it end up? How much is currently collected and recovered?
- For that which is collected, what stages and processes make up the whole value chain? Who are the actors? What are their roles?
- Specifically, what role do informal waste pickers play in this context? The methodology should include a methodology to include a reasoned estimates of the numbers of informal waste workers, and factors such as their sex, age and ethnicity. It should enable better understanding of the nature of waste pickers' work in that particular context. This will include income, working conditions, access to infrastructure and land, and the nature and extent of child labour, as well as their relationship both with the public and with the authorities. It will also enable understanding of how waste pickers are organised, their participation in policy processes and forums, and how best to approach collaboration with waste pickers (those who are organised and those who are not) in a specific context.

Output: A draft "tool" describing an approach to addressing the above. Tearfund hopes to field-test the tool during 2022 in partnership with other stakeholders.

3. Call for bids

We invite quotes from a consultant, team of consultants or organisation with:

- Excellent understanding of waste value chains in low- and middle-income contexts and in particular the role of informal waste sector
- Experience in developing research 'tools' - guidance/resources

The budget for this project is £8000. The work would need to be completed by the end of March 2021.

Submission details

Please submit a bid explaining:

1. Your relevant experience and expertise. If more than one person will work on this project, please also name the individuals that will conduct the research and their related experience/expertise. Please also include CVs.
2. The approach that you will take to the project.
3. A breakdown of your costs including the number of days and the day rates for each individual as well as other relevant costs.

Please send these to mari.williams@tearfund.org by 17.00 GMT on Friday 14th January 2022. If you have any questions, please email mari.williams@tearfund.org and rich.gower@tearfund.org