

# Clothes Swap

DIY Guide



## Welcome to your Clothes Swap Guide

Thank you for your interest in hosting a Tearfund clothes swap. By taking part you are helping to slow down fast fashion and tackle the climate crisis whilst raising vital funds for climate-vulnerable communities around the world.



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# Fashion and the climate crisis

Fashion is one of the most tangible ways in which we are reminded of how interconnected our world is and how the choices we make can impact others across the globe. The clothes we wear are always produced by someone, somewhere.

We are connected to farmers, weavers, dyers, spinners and makers through just one garment. In the same way, we are connected to our global neighbours living

in poverty through the carbon emissions generated by our human activity, which do not respect national borders and are disproportionately impacting those who are already socially and economically marginalised.

The climate crisis is hitting people living in poverty the hardest. For millions of people across the world, extreme weather events mean losing their homes, food and livelihoods. This is not God's plan.



## Life or death

For many people in the north-east of Ethiopia, the impact of climate change is devastating. They used to expect rain for up to four months a year, but now it only falls in August. People do not have enough water to survive – it is an issue of life or death.

For families like Orbisa's, everyday life is a real struggle. Orbisa lives with her husband and nine children in Afar, north-east Ethiopia – one of the hottest inhabited places in the world.

'Life is very challenging here, we have no food and are dependent on our livestock for our livelihood,' says

Orbisa. 'Whenever there is no rainfall, our animals die as there is no grass or water. This affects our lives significantly. We will not get money or have milk to drink. We have no other option.'

During the rainy season, Orbisa could collect water from a river just five minutes' walk from her village. But as the dry season has extended due to the changing climate, this river has now dried up and no longer provides for Orbisa and her family.

📷 Orbisa Hando (35), wearing blue, yellow and purple headscarf and 5 of her children.  
Photo: Chris Hoskins/Tearfund

# But why is fashion to blame?



Photo: Margaret Chandler/Tearfund

Fast fashion is harming God's creation and pushing people like Orbisa further into poverty.

Our society's addiction to fast fashion is having a devastating effect on the climate, the toll it is taking is undeniable. According to Fashion on Climate, **the fashion industry contributes approximately 2.1 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in a single year, equivalent to 4% of all global emissions.** This is contributing greatly to the climate crisis, which we know is hitting the world's poorest the hardest.

Overconsumption is at the heart of the problem. Big brands are producing incessant numbers of garments at rapid pace and it is the poor who are paying the price; garment workers in Bangladesh, climate vulnerable communities around the world, and people in places like Ghana and Chile, who are contending with mountains of fashion waste from around the world.

We don't have to continue to participate within these systems, we can say no to fast

fashion by making changes to how we live, and using our voices to speak out for change. People are saying 'No to fast fashion' in so many ways. There are options for you to slow down consumption and help tackle the climate crisis, whatever your style or budget.

- **Consider shopping preloved**
- **Repair what you already own**
- **Swap with friends and family**

By committing to live more sustainably together, we can help bring an end to the fast fashion industry that is doing so much harm to creation.

*'Our throwaway attitude to clothes means we have helped make the fashion industry's carbon footprint higher than that of shipping and aviation combined. This is contributing to the climate crisis, but we can all reduce our carbon footprints by making more considered purchases and loving what we've already got for longer.'*

Dr Ruth Valerio, Tearfund's director of Global Advocacy and Influencing.



**100 billion items**

**of clothing are manufactured every year**



**30%**

**of textiles in the UK end up in landfill**



**1%**

**of garment workers in Vietnam and Bangladesh earn a wage that they can live off**

# Hosting a Clothes Swap

## Step 1: Preparation

Choose a date, time and location. You'll need a venue which has enough space to display clothes, allow people to browse and to display some info on a stall/table.

Once you have nailed down the details, tell the world!

- **Create an event on Eventbrite or Facebook** include the necessary information, like the event details, suggested donation, what to expect and the reason you're doing it - you could share some facts and figures, or our case study.
- **Share the word far and wide** invite friends, family, your church or organisation and share on social media.

eventbrite



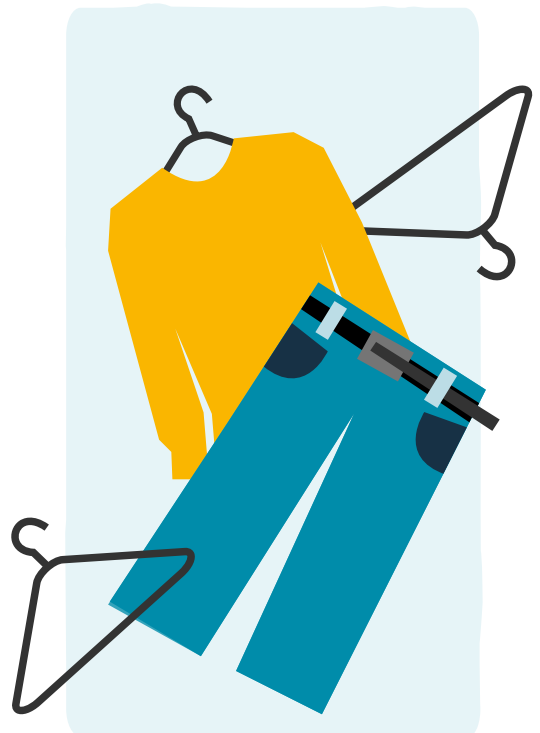
## Step 2: Arranging the clothing

Decide on the best way to gather and organise all of the clothing in advance, ensure you **include this info on the event invite**.

**Choose a time/(s) for clothing drop off in advance** of the event. You'll want a good selection of items beforehand, that can be sorted into sizes/colours. You can also allow people to bring a certain number of items on the day.

**Think about the practical items** you might need such as clothes rails to display the items, hangers, baskets for smaller items like accessories or shoes and a clothes steamer.

**Have a system** for people who bring clothes on the day - create a drop off point and assign someone to sort and display the items.



# Hosting a Clothes Swap cont.

## Step 3: The event itself

**Get in touch** with us before the event to let us know you're holding a clothes swap, so that we can supply any other resources you might need.

**Northern Ireland:** [ni@tearfund.org](mailto:ni@tearfund.org)

**England/Wales:** [teamtearfund@tearfund.org](mailto:teamtearfund@tearfund.org)

**Scotland:** [scotland@tearfund.org](mailto:scotland@tearfund.org)



**Organise any resources** you might be using and have a table ready to display these.

Gather final things like a **token to exchange for clothes**, a **basket for entrance fee**, a **cash float**, and **any refreshments** you may be providing.

**Have fun**<sup>1</sup>, grab some new pre-loved items, and help slow down fast fashion all whilst tackling the climate crisis!

## Step 4: After the event

### Paying in your funds:

When you have collected funds from your event you can [pay in online](#), [click here to donate](#).<sup>2</sup> (Remember to tell us about your event.)

Alternatively, [click here to view other methods to pay in](#).<sup>3</sup>

We would love to see and hear about how your event goes so please let us know about it and send us some pictures:

**Northern Ireland:** [ni@tearfund.org](mailto:ni@tearfund.org)

**England/Wales:** [teamtearfund@tearfund.org](mailto:teamtearfund@tearfund.org)

**Scotland:** [scotland@tearfund.org](mailto:scotland@tearfund.org)



<sup>1</sup> It's really important to make sure that your fundraising is safe, legal and fun - read our legal disclaimer [here](#). ([https://www.tearfund.org/~media/files/main\\_site/fundraise/resources/keeping\\_your\\_fundraising\\_safe\\_legal\\_and\\_fun.pdf](https://www.tearfund.org/~media/files/main_site/fundraise/resources/keeping_your_fundraising_safe_legal_and_fun.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tearfund.org/get-involved/donate/donation-forms/donation-form?Appeal=09A576ACAA3C4A13B81763E1988CED0A&GiftSource=5457CE67509144578FF6CE211C719646>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tearfund.org/get-involved/donate/giving-faqs#fundraisefaq>



# About Tearfund

Tearfund is a Christian charity which partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. We tackle poverty and injustice through sustainable development, by responding to disasters and challenging injustice. We believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Thousands of people needlessly suffer and die every day because of poverty. But that's not God's plan for the world. And God is calling you – all of us – to reach out to people in greatest need. We partner with local churches and organisations who have a crucial role to play in the places worst affected by poverty.

For more information and resources about Tearfund's work in tackling the climate crisis go to [tearfund.org/climate](https://tearfund.org/climate)

Photo: Chris Hoskins/Tearfund



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