

TechnoServe and The Coca-Cola Foundation Host Inaugural Plastic Recycling Impact and Sustainability Awards (PRISA)

Event Celebrates Champion Transforming Plastic Waste into Economic Opportunity and Environmental Impact

Lagos, Nigeria – September 26, 2025: TechnoServe Nigeria, with the support of The Coca-Cola Foundation, today hosted the inaugural Plastic Recycling Impact and Sustainability Awards (**PRISA**) at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ikeja. The event, themed *“From Collection to Impact: Recognizing Champions in Plastic Recycling,”* celebrated outstanding individuals and organizations driving innovation, environmental stewardship, and economic empowerment in Nigeria's recycling sector.

The Awards highlight the achievements of the Plastic Recycling Program in Southern Nigeria (**PRiEP**), a seven-month initiative funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation and implemented by TechnoServe Nigeria. PRiEP builds on the successes of the Nigeria Plastic Solutions Activity (NPSA) to formalize and expand the recycling value chain, empowering women and youth while reducing the burden of plastic waste on the environment.

To date, PRiEP has:

- Diverted over 36,000 metric tons of plastic waste from the environment, contributing to a collective 59,000 MT across PRiEP and NPSA.
- Supported a network of 51 aggregators and more than 10,000 collectors in Lagos and Anambra States.
- Provided working capital, equipment, and training to strengthen recycling businesses and enhance livelihoods.

In her welcome remarks, Adesuwa Akinboro, Country Director, TechnoServe Nigeria, reflected on the program's impact: *“Nigeria's plastic waste challenge is immense, but within it lies opportunity. Through PRiEP, we have seen how plastic can be transformed into livelihoods, stronger businesses, and cleaner communities. Today we celebrate the champions, collectors, aggregators, and partners who are showing that it is possible to build scalable enterprises while protecting our environment.”*

Representing the donor, Eniola Alli Faweya, Director of Public Affairs, Communications, and Sustainability, The Coca-Cola Foundation, emphasized the Foundation's pride in the program's achievements:

“Today is not just about celebrating milestones, but about honoring the people and ideas that have transformed plastic waste into opportunity. Beyond the impressive statistics, over 59,000 MT of plastic diverted and 51 aggregators empowered, what truly matters are the livelihoods and communities that have been strengthened. We at The Coca-Cola Foundation are proud to partner with TechnoServe and all those advancing Nigeria's circular economy. To the nominees and awardees, congratulations for your dedication to shaping a future where waste is not a problem, but a resource.”

Representing the Lagos State Commissioner of Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, Director, Sanitation Services, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Dr. Hassan Sanuth underscored the state's commitment:

“We are delighted to see TechnoServe and The Coca-Cola Foundation supporting government efforts to address the plastic waste challenge. Programs like PRiEP are laudable examples of collaboration in plastic waste management, and they align closely with our ministry's mandate to build a cleaner, healthier, and flood-free Lagos. This initiative demonstrates the power of collective action, and Lagos State is proud to support efforts that protect our environment and communities for generations to come.”

From Anambra State, Engr. Dr. Felix Odimegwu, Honorable Commissioner for Environment, highlighted the program's measurable results:

“The PRiEP project has made our work easier by removing more than 59,000 metric tons of plastic across Lagos and Anambra States, an achievement worth celebrating. Anambra State is proud to have provided the policy support and enabling environment that allowed this program to thrive. We applaud these achievements, but also recognize that more must be done, and we look forward to the next phase of collaboration toward a cleaner, healthier Anambra.”

The event also featured a keynote address on *‘Positive Circular Economies: Emerging Business Models and Ecosystem*

Value,’ delivered by Mr. Nwabuisiaku, Assistant Director, Plastic & Wood Waste Pollution Control at NESREA. His presentation explored opportunities within Nigeria's circular economy and highlighted the role of innovative business models in advancing sustainability. This was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where he responded to audience questions on what is required to set up and run a recycling business in Nigeria, as well as the regulatory operations of the agency.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to 15 outstanding champions of recycling. Honors included the overall best-performing aggregator, best aggregators at the state level, the best collector, and environmental champions recognized for their commitment to sustainability. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as awardees received public recognition for their hard work and impact, with many expressing pride and gratitude for the support that has enabled them to grow their businesses, improve their livelihoods, and contribute to a cleaner environment.

As Nigeria continues its journey toward sustainability, PRISA serve as a platform to spotlight the people and partnerships making a tangible difference in tackling plastic pollution while empowering communities.

About TechnoServe

TechnoServe is a global nonprofit organization that develops business solutions to poverty by linking people to information, capital, and markets. With over 50 years of proven results, TechnoServe is a leader in harnessing the power of the private sector to help people lift themselves out of poverty.

About The Coca-Cola Foundation

Established in 1984, The Coca-Cola Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants to support sustainable community initiatives around the world, focusing on water stewardship, community recycling, women's empowerment, and youth development.

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