

VISION: Refugees Are A Flourishing New Society

SEE VOLUME 1 FOR THE BACKGROUND TO NAKIVALE REFUGEE CAMPS AND UMOJA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. OR GO TO <https://daseintropic.au/ucf-newsletters.html>

Note from the Chair

Programs and projects continue to develop, some, such as the work with manufacturing biochar and building a water filtration plant, more substantially than others, such as agricultural skills.

However it has been great to have had a number of professionals, mainly from Australia, coming on board to assist in the development of work associated with their field of expertise. We have also had two new board advisors.

It is a key focus for myself to establish for the Umoja Community Foundation, a full range of policies and procedures for the organisation and its programs, by the year's end. This is so important so we can attract the funds equal to making an big impact in the fields of development we are working.

Thank you all for your assistance.

You and your friends can find our fundraiser at [GoFundMe](#)

I wish you well in all that you do.

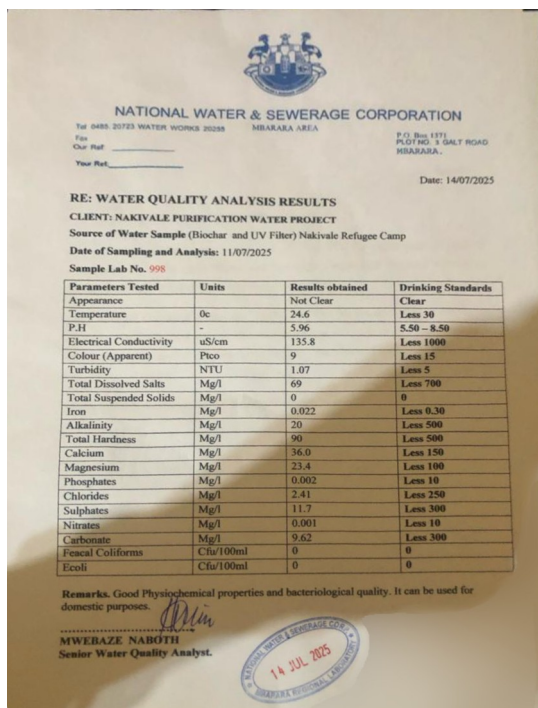
Owen Allen

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS - UPDATES

Biochar manufacturing saw the manufacturing team achieve certification as trainers in biochar manufacturing. This not only ensures their skill for manufacturing quality biochar but enables them to train others through online platforms, anywhere in the world.

Biochar carbon sales have slowed down by delays with the international assessors, accrediting the packages of biochar. Hopefully the next newsletter will report increased efficiency and an income flow being established so that the manufacture can continue.

Biochar is being used in the development of a low cost water purification plant. On its own the filter achieved 40% removal of pathogens. With the addition of a solar driven UV light, the Mbarara laboratory reported zero pathogens in the filtered water.



Parameters Tested	Units	Results obtained	Drinking Standards
Appearance		Not Clear	Clear
Temperature	°C	24.6	Less 30
pH	-	5.96	5.50 – 8.50
Electrical Conductivity	uS/cm	135.8	Less 1000
Colour (Apparent)	Ptco	9	Less 15
Turbidity	NTU	1.07	Less 5
Total Dissolved Solids	Mg/l	69	Less 700
Total Suspended Solids	Mg/l	0	0
Iron	Mg/l	0.022	Less 0.30
Alkalinity	Mg/l	20	Less 500
Total Hardness	Mg/l	90	Less 500
Calcium	Mg/l	36.0	Less 150
Magnesium	Mg/l	23.4	Less 100
Phosphates	Mg/l	0.002	Less 10
Chlorides	Mg/l	2.41	Less 250
Sulphates	Mg/l	11.7	Less 300
Nitrates	Mg/l	0.001	Less 10
Carbonate	Mg/l	9.62	Less 300
Faecal Coliforms	CFU/100ml	0	0
E.coli	CFU/100ml	0	0

Remarks: Good Physicochemical properties and bacteriological quality. It can be used for domestic purposes.

MWERAZE NABOTH
Senior Water Quality Analyst.

14 JUL 2025

This excellent result means that we can now look at a design that can produce a higher volume of water per day. The filters can use water pumped from Lake Nakivale or a well. Once the design is complete and the plant can be securely built, a business plan can be developed to provide low cost potable water, plus a transferable design for communities across Nakivale to replicate.

Thanks to the persistence of the: biochar development team of Chris, Lionel and Mary Clarke (Wales), and Chris Neidl (USA); and the health team of Dr Desire Uzele (Nakivale) and Lauren Brooker (Australia)

The **Emerging Entrepreneur Leaders program** was given a boost at the end of 2024 with a donation of \$2500 by a Rotary Club in Australia (Mareeba) as seed money for the business plans of 5 projects that were designed. The entrepreneurs provided a 3-4 monthly review of the successful outcomes of the plans. Katrina Mellick and Owen Allen presented the report on the projects to Rotary Mareeba on the 20th August 2025.

The receipt of these reports allows us to move to phase two of the training of the entrepreneurs in the expansion of their projects, and especially the training and empowerment of other young people with the occupational and business skills to develop small enterprises of their own.

The projects were:

1. A dressmaking training project. Funds bought 6 singer (manual) sewing machines
2. Two projects for children training in pastry baking, drawing and dance.
3. Guinea Pig breeding for meat production
4. Finance literacy for clients of the microfinance savings project



You can watch the report of the projects, on [youtube](#).

UCF will be looking for partners who can provide a capital fund to commence a micro-loan program. A micro-loan program provides small capital loans for expanding productivity and sales for a fast repayment turn around.

Mental Health. Fayeze Nour, a trauma counsellor from Australia, had his first meeting with a representative groups from the community to talk about trauma, trauma-acquired disabilities, and mental health. Fayeze will have a series of such meetings to build up a picture of refugee trauma and offer strategic insights how we can work on improving resilience and participation among refugees.

A big welcome to Mel Malik, an architect from Melbourne, Australia, who is joining Mauricio Umann in progressing the design team for a skills and training centre.

