



2022 IMPACT REPORT

1 million USD raised through sales, donations & grants

37 full-time staff
15 vulnerable

289 indirect and induced jobs

30 tonnes of PET plastic waste prevented from polluting the environment



10 university students trained

>1 million people reached

500 primary school students taught

~70 tonnes of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere

About us



Takataka Plastics is a Ugandan social enterprise launched in 2020 to locally recycle plastic waste, build a circular economy, and create jobs and a healing workplace community for vulnerable youth. We design and build machines and develop processes to locally transform plastic waste into construction materials and other saleable, useful products.

We also conduct extensive outreach and education activities to teach the community about the dangers to their health and the environment from burning and littering plastics and show them the value and beauty in recycling. We hold monthly community cleanups, conduct trainings in schools, produce radio and video programs, and work closely with the local government. Takataka Plastics collects plastic waste, processes it into new products, and sells the recycled products locally to keep the economic benefits within the community, rather than exporting the majority of the value.

Impact Since 2020



46.5 tonnes of plastic collected and prevented from entering the environment
(107 tonnes CO2 prevented)



30 student interns



~1000 primary school students trained



ONLY recycler of PET plastic waste in Uganda



~1.1 million people reached



54 staff,
26 of whom are vulnerable youth
(On avg support 5 dependents)



~1.4 million USD raised through competitions, grants sales, and donations

People & the Planet



BINGO!



TakaTiles

After 2 ½ years of R&D, we successfully made recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate) tiles at full-scale production! The tiles are beautiful and so strong. People are loving them and can't believe they're made from recycled plastic water and soda bottles. Our tiles are much more durable than the ceramic tiles--ours don't break when dropped. We've completed initial tests and will start selling our tiles in January 2023--we already have pre-orders lined up!

These tiles are a huge breakthrough because PET water and soda bottles are the most common type of plastic waste in Uganda, but they could not be recycled. The chemical properties of PET make it difficult to process, so currently the bottles are either burned, littered, or exported to foreign recyclers. Our technology makes Takataka Plastics the only large-scale, local recycler of PET plastic waste in Uganda. It's a relief and so exciting that what we've been working towards for so long is truly possible and that it's finally happening. We can't wait to launch full-production



Internships

We trained a total of 10 University students on different topics ranging from plastic recycling to trauma counseling and savings groups to running a social enterprise in a developing world context. These students came from Pepperdine University (USA), Aalborg University (Denmark) and Gulu University (Uganda). The students worked at Takataka Plastics ranging from 2 weeks to 2 months.

PlastiSkul & "I'm a Green Leader" Project

We officially launched **PlastiSkul (PSK)**, an international consortium of social innovators spread across 3 continents and 6 countries working to create value from plastic waste. Our vision is to develop decentralised, custom-made microfactories to deliver localised solutions for plastic waste management and educate youth about recycling. We trained **30** primary school students on the basics of plastic recycling and made new products.

In the **"I'm a Green Leader"** Project, we train youth in collecting, sorting, and processing plastic waste and our partner organization, The Recreation Project, teaches the youth life skills such as conflict resolution, teamwork, and self awareness of one's strengths and weaknesses.



Over the course of the project, three cohorts totaling **110 vulnerable youth** will be trained. Now Takataka is buying plastic waste from the youth which they collect from their communities. We get more plastic and the youth are earning income.

Permanent Home



We received a major **grant** that would fully fund the construction of our **permanent recycling facility!**

This grant will cover the cost of the **land, building construction, and some additional machinery.** Takataka is now well on its way to becoming the largest recycler of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastics, not only in Uganda, but in all of East Africa.

The space will be comprised of a large production facility, fabrication workshop, **offices & showroom,** space for storing collected plastic waste, **Knowledge Hub,** community building & team eating space, and guest cottages for interns and visitors.

The **Knowledge Hub** will be designed to equip students and interested parties with knowledge in circular economy practices, design thinking, innovations and entrepreneurship.

Our Permanent Home will be **more than a manufacturing and training facility....**it will be an **Inspiration,** a fulcrum of **Hope,** and a source of **Opportunities** for the Gulu community as well as a **Model** for other East African social enterprises.

The space will enable us to achieve bold goals and create sustainable impacts for **People, Profits, and the Planet.**

2023 Bold Goals

We're looking forward to making BIG impacts in 2023. Our goals for the next year are:



Employ **50 full-time** staff and over **100 part-time** employees



Recycle **10+ tonnes** of plastic waste/month into saleable products



Reach **2 million** people



Construct our **permanent facility**



Prevent **265 tonnes** of CO2 from entering the atmosphere



Secure more than **\$500,000** in additional funding



Train more than **100** students in plastic recycling, circular economy, and social entrepreneurship



Offer **trauma counseling** to families of our staff to help create supportive environments at home as well as at the workplace

You can help us reach these goals and impact people in Gulu, Uganda. Check out <https://www.takatakaplastics.com/donate>

STAFF TESTIMONIALS



My name is **Atim Agnes Oliver** currently working at Takataka plastics as an **Administrator and Finance Officer**. I joined the company on the 4th of January, 2021 when I had just completed my undergraduate degree in Business Administration.

At Takataka plastics I have learnt to work and relate with different kinds of people, both educated and uneducated, and the once called street kids. I also learnt how to use Quickbooks, which is an online accounting software, planning and budgeting, and other administrative duties.

I am also able to support my family financially. I am also currently being sponsored by the company for a post graduate diploma in Financial Management in addition to other **training opportunities** offered by the partners of Takataka Plastics. This has not only enhanced my knowledge but also inspired me to be innovative, transparent, serve humanity and be professional.

I look forward to **developing my career** and work experience.



I am **Masembe Patrick**. I work as a **chemical engineer** at Takataka Plastics. In January 2020, I was a fresh engineering graduate with little professional experience when I joined Takataka Plastics. I have a zest for challenges, so I was excited when I was offered this job because plastic waste recycling is generally a new concept in Uganda. Throughout my career, I have acquired a diverse range of experience, ranging from plastic waste recycling and circular economies to machine design & operation, experimentation & analysis, to personnel and environmental safety. I have worked on external projects, such as setting up plastic waste recycling in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, in addition to many internal projects.

Among others, I have received **training** on startups, safety, and natural resources risk management. My goal is to gain more and even a better understanding of plastic waste recycling, and due to the guidance support from Takataka Plastics, I have been admitted to pursue a **Masters in Plastics Engineering** at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the U.S.

Most importantly, I have been able to provide for myself and my loved ones. Working at Takataka Plastics has enabled me to purchase one acre of land, which I plan to develop in the near future. Being a part of Takataka Plastics has been, and still is, a life-changing experience.



My name is **Ocaka Jovan Lakwonyero** & I am 17 years old. I love playing football & studying. My father and mother separated when I was two years old, and since then I lived with my step mother and father.

It was difficult to live with my step mother. I had to run away from our home in Kalongo to Kitgum town as a street kid. As a street kid I tried to make ends meet by selling boiled eggs on the streets. I made some money that I used to transport myself to Gulu City. In Gulu, I collected plastics from different dumping sites to sell and fend for myself. I always prayed for God's protection before closing my eyes every night because the street corridors were horrible.

I was later offered work and accommodation at Takataka Plastics in 2021. I was then offered a study sponsorship by the company. I just finished my Primary Leaving Exams early this month and am back at work as I wait for my results and prepare to join secondary school.

My future dream is to become a **journalist**.



My name is **Bojjo Emmanuel**, I am an **Assistant Engineer** at Takataka Plastics and am stationed within the **PlastiSkul Project**, a microfactory that equips students and members of the community with plastic recycling knowledge.

I joined Takataka Plastics in June, 2021 and since then I have grown to appreciate the uniqueness of the work environment and community.

I am very fortunate as a junior engineer to work at this facility as I have access to most of the tools to execute my tasks for **product design** using CAD, a CNC router, and a 3D printer as well as having access to the international community through work **collaborations**.

I am confident that as Takataka Plastics continues to grow, my career growth and development opportunities will also continue. I intend to become a master in **manufacturing and industrial production engineering**, and so far, this workplace is a good start.



Transforming Waste, Empowering Communities

For Donations:
<https://www.takatakaplastics.com/donate>



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