



FOCUS BRIEFS

July 2018

HATUA: Act Now; Shape the Future



Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) equips students in the institutions of higher learning with values and skills that enable them to grow into responsible citizens. Through FOCUS, people of reputable character have been developed and now are influencing the Church and the Society.

HATUA is an initiative by FOCUS Kenya to construct 6 Students Training and Development Centres in the next 5-10 years so as to increase the number of students trained annually from approximately 4000 to at least 10, 000. The first Phase of this project will involve reconstruction of the current Student Centre in Kasarani and acquisition of land in 5 Regions in the following towns; Nyeri, Nakuru, Mombasa, Kisumu and Eldoret. The total cost for this first phase is 150M.

“Infrastructural development is a national need and a critical tool for effective ministry.” This was the punch line of the Hatua breakfast meeting attended by various FOCUS stakeholders held on 24th May 2018 at All Saints’ Cathedral, Nairobi.



Students from Nairobi during Hatua launch at FOCUS Centre Kasarani

Besides, the mobilization meetings by FOCUS Stakeholders, both Students and Associates across the regions are laying strategies towards raising funds for the project.

HATUA appreciates the need to empower young people as a step to changing nations. We aim to develop both physical and digital infrastructure; creating more space and harnessing the digital space in raising responsible citizens with transformative and servant leadership skills.

Northern and Southern Nairobi Christian Union leaders attended the HATUA Inauguration on 2nd June, 2018 at the FOCUS Center. The zeal the students had in making this initiative a success was encouraging. The students agreed that it is their responsibility to see to it that the future Christian Union members across the country enjoy better training facilities.

Students across the country are laying strategies and organizing different activities towards Hatua initiative. In the North Rift Region, a *Hatua Moja Pamoja* Breakfast was organized by the Eldoret FOCUS Associate Branch on 9th June 2018 at Sirikwa Pentecostal Fellowship in Eldoret with 30 Associates in attendance.

Commitments of Ksh.270, 000 to be honoured by end of June to support the HATUA Course were made. "I have not known so much about FOCUS-Kenya, but this initiative means good to our Nation and i will therefore fully support it." Said Simon Muigai after Mrs Wepukhulu's talk about the Hatua initiative.

Visit www.focuskenya.org/Hatua for the available sponsorship slots for Churches and Organization.

We are inviting every FOCUS Associate and concerned citizen to contribute towards Hatua. You could take one Hatua with the cost of one square foot estimated at Ksh. 4000. You could also take multiple Hatuas. Pray for the initiative that God shall provide the resources required. Invite your friends and family members to take part in shaping the future of this nation.

CONTACT US ON

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for pledges, visit www.focuskenya.org/hatua

TO SEND YOUR SUPPORT

USE MPESA PAYBILL NUMBER 412 412

ACCOUNT NAME: HATUA

FOCUS Associates Hatua Launch in All Saints' Cathedral



FOCUS DEVELOPING MISSIONARIES

MISSIONS IN NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

Carol and Issa had a ten months experience in Norway, through the exchange program that we have in partnership with NKSS. At the Hald International Centre, they met and networked with fellow students from other countries. Through Bible study and prayer sessions, they shared the gospel with people of diverse faiths. NKSS organizes a festival for the final year high school Christian Students, Russetreffet (also Russ) annually. Carol and Issa participated in this year's festival and interacted with the young adults, again reaching them with the gospel. These activities gave the two a broader perspective of the world, which is in line with the FOCUS Kenya initiative to go North for missions. Pray that these mission initiatives shall bear much fruit.

Carol wrote a paper on *evangelizing in a secularizing world*, while Issa's paper focused on *how to mobilize students for NKSS activities*. They have brought with them many lessons; both for personal and societal growth.

MISSIONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS

By Atieno Oketch

"One morning in January 2018, I left Nairobi for Daadab. This physical journey marked the beginning of a journey of faith, that has been coupled with fear and uncertainty at times

but I have learnt to fully trust and depend on God. The Daadab refugee camp is divided into four sub-camps (Dagahaley, Hagadera, Ifo and Ifo2) which are not geographically close to each other. I was posted at the Ifo camp which is the oldest of the four. Being an English language instructor in Ifo and Nasib Secondary Schools I help prepare scholarship students for TOEFL exams and guide them through research. However, one of the schools was closed due to the repatriation of refugees, which was a big blow on the English program and ministry as well. This school had the largest number of Christian students and a Christian Union too. Though for a short time, I had the chance to fellowship with the students during their weekly meetings. I hope to join the teachers at the Ifo Secondary School and help strengthen the Christian Union. I started a Bible drive for the students and so far, I have distributed some Bibles to the students.

Despite there being no church for the staff at the Ifo camp, I fellowship with other believers in the refugees' residential areas, in the staff quarters and other sub-camps. Though the residential fellowship in the staff quarters had been inactive for some time, it is now revived and we praise God. We meet every Tuesday evening for Bible Study and on Thursday evening for prayers. Most of the members of the fellowship are nominal Christians, but we pray that God will bring conviction in their hearts.

There are a myriad of challenges in the camp but God has given me peace.

I am grateful to my friends and family for always praying with me which has been of great support. I pray that at the end of my stay in Daadab, I will have honored God.



Issa and Carol in Hald, Norway

LEARNING FROM THE MISSION GROUND

By Nora Eide Bakke from Norway.

I was in Kenya for 6 months courtesy of an exchange program between NKSS and FOCUS Kenya. I knew very little about Kenya before I came, but I have learnt a lot through my internship. The first part of the internship involved us working with children; first with a children's home "Happy Life Children's Home" and later with a group of children from Mathare. I won the children's trust, and we had fun together as I taught them. It's incredible how happy they were even with so little, teaching one to appreciate the small things more.

With time I got over the culture shock, and could easily interact with others. In January, we were all sent to the different FOCUS Regions to work alongside the STEM staff. I was sent to Kabianga University in Kericho County to join Mercy Thiru. Though I was anxious at first, I got used to the new place after the first week and got down to ministry.

Coming from a different cultural background, I learnt a lot by living with Mercy and others. I got to share about my culture especially how we practice Christianity in Norway. Swahili and Sheng' were the commonly used languages and sometimes there was communication breakdown between others and me.

The turning point for me though, was when I joined one of the Christian Unions for a mission. I had never participated in anything like that in Norway, and it was an interesting experience. The students and I had some good conversations. It was almost as if I broke through a wall. When it comes to inter-cultural encounters, we often have to take some time before getting accustomed.

Preaching during one of the CU services was

my greatest personal achievement. I didn't have that much experience beforehand as the Christian Unions in Norway are not as big. During the program I learnt a lot of things, about God, and I now understand my faith and personality better and my faith in God is stronger and so is my prayer life.



*Nora Eide Bakke, Anne Eski, and Janssen Ingelin
Johansen in different Ministry engagements
at FOCUS Kenya.*

COMMISSION MASHINANI

Commission Conferences have never left the delegates the same. Commission Mashinani is one of the follow up initiatives for all the FOCUS Regions after the Commission 2017 Conference. Over 300 students came together from 25th to 27th May at Kisii University, for the Western Region mini-Commission Conference. The theme of the Conference emphasized on igniting passion for evangelism and integral mission.



Bible Study Session during the Mini Commission hosted by KMTC Nakuru, Central Rift Region



Delegates in Mini Commission hosted at Kisii University in Western Region

MISSIONS



Students are encouraged to take part in social responsibility activities. Students of KMTC Meru took part in a clean-up activity of the Gakoromone market in Meru County.



Karatina University Main Campus hold mission in Makueni County. 76 students (Majority of whom attended Commission 17) participated in the mission. By God's grace 104 people committed their lives to Christ.

THE EXPANSION AND IMPACT OF FOCUS ASSOCIATES



The North Rift Region Associates based in Eldoret came together for an Associates Branch Leaders' meeting on 19th May 2018 at CITAM Church – Eldoret. The clarion call was to mobilize more graduates for involvement in ministry, especially on mentoring students and young graduates.



On 24th March 2018, Narok Associates Branch was launched in a meeting held at the Chambai Hotel.

Also, on 22nd of April 2018, the Kericho FOCUS Associates' branch was launched with 21 Associates present. We trust God for growth and sustainability of the Branches.



Representatives from Seven Christian Unions of the Central Region FOCUS Day hosted by the Maasai Mara University Christian Union on 25th March 2018



Patrons, Advisory Committee, and Chaplaincy Consultative Forum at the Jumu'ia Guest House Nakuru on 19th May 2018.

FOCUS PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR STRONGER STUDENT GOVERNANCE



Earlier in May 2018 FOCUS trained Students Union leaders of Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) exploring the principles of transformational leadership.

On 12th May 2018, FOCUS North Rift Staff trained 22 Christian Union leaders and the Students Governing Council of the Kapsowar School of Nursing in Elgeyo-Marakwet County.

CALL FOR MENTORS

Life presents so many choices to students as they walk on the self-discovery identity-seeking path. The anxiety of whether one is selecting the right thing and whether it is a worthwhile decision is inevitable, thus the desire to have wise and trustworthy counsel around oneself. One would definitely be more drawn to a mentor that is approachable, genuinely concerned and gracious in their words. These are expectations of the Campus Student. Most of the students prefer walking with someone with experience in the mentee's line of calling. Unfortunately, the students are increasingly competing for the few mentors who seem readily available. A majority wish they could get an opportunity to be mentored but the wish seems a dream far from reaching.

Many Christian students are willing to arise and take up the challenge to actively participate in social transformation. However fear and the lack of knowledge prevent them. Mentorship, among other things will empower them to embark on this journey confidently. Through the specialized mentorship program, FOCUS aims at training and guiding Christian student leaders interested in four key areas: Academia, Business, Career in Ministry work, and Politics & Governance. The mentors are FOCUS Associates in leadership positions in the four strategic areas while the mentees are active members in FOCUS affiliated Christian Unions.

A specialized mentorship forum was held between 13th and 14th April, 2018 at the FOCUS Students Centre. 29 students participated in the induction forum in preparation for the one-year journey of mentorship. We are targeting to mentor at least 40 students in the pilot program in the next one year, with at least 10 students in

each key area. Once the mentors are recruited, they will be connected with the mentees for the program commencing in September.

To develop capacity of mentors and mentees both locally and in the Region, FOCUS will be hosting a Mentorship Consultation, from 11th – 15th October 2018 in Nairobi Kenya, bringing together participants from 5 Eastern Africa countries for training and sharing experiences on mentorship. The theme of the forum is, “Enhancing Godly Impact Through Effective Mentorship”.

Our society today needs responsible citizens for positive transformation to happen. We trust that this program among others will produce such citizens. We thus call upon every Associate in any of the four strategic areas to consider joining the program and together bring forth a better society. We are keen to partner with Christian Professional Groups to achieve this for the expansion of the program to accommodate other professions.



Mentees during the specialised mentorship induction in April 2018

NAKURU FOCUS ASSOCIATES RESPOND TO SOLAI DAM TRAGEDY

Nakuru County woke up to a sad day on 10th May 2018, after the Solai dam broke its banks. Many people died, properties damaged, and families left without homes. FOCUS Associates in Nakuru led by Mr Kamonjo Kiburi, and FOCUS staff visited the place and donated blankets, clothing, and foodstuff worth over Kshs. 50,000. They are in the process of identifying a family or a church that they can support and help rebuild their lives.

PARTNERING WITH CHRISTIAN PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

FOCUS seeks to develop and maintain healthy partnerships with like-minded Organizations for it to achieve its mission and have a greater impact in institutions of higher learning and the wider society. On 30th June 2018, FOCUS held a consultative meeting with various Christian Professional Groups (CPGs) at the Hesabika Offices in Nairobi. Among the professional groups in attendance were; Christian Medics Fellowship (CMF-K), Kenya Christian Lawyers Fellowship (KCLF), Kenya Christian Professionals Forum (KCPF), Christian Business Professionals Fellowship (CBPF), International Institute of Legislative Affairs (IILA), and Hesabika Trust.

The meeting was geared towards exploring the best models for the FOCUS-CPGs partnership for greater impact. The various areas of convergence between FOCUS and CPGs motivated the desire for the partnership. FOCUS and the CPGs have the ability to reach and equip more students in institutions of higher learning more effectively. Among the areas identified for synergy are mentoring students and professionals and enhancing Christian impact in the market place. There

was consensus on the need for CPGs to keep connected and united and we trust God to guide us as we nurture and develop this strategic network.



CPGs Meeting at Hesabika Trust



FOCUS Staff facilitating small groups discussion in KUPAA a graduates mentorship Forum in partnership with the Nairobi Baptist Church



Mr. George Ogalo, the National Director of FOCUS Kenya, speaking at the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) Nairobi Region Conference that was held earlier in June.

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE STEM PROGRAM

“I arrived in Nakuru, elated, oblivious of what the year had in store for me. I didn’t know that my convictions would be questioned, values straightened, character challenged and my relationship with God strengthened. Neither did I have a gut feeling that I was in for the time of my life.’ Says Priscilla Etale, one of the 37 STEM Staff completing their term at the end of July 2018. She narrates of how the Holy Spirit has taught her about life and faith and illuminating areas that had been obscure to her. The STEM experience is a self-discovery journey, on the spiritual, social, economic, and intellectual fronts. This is an experience shared by many STEM Staff.

Join the STEM Staff, FOCUS Associates and Partners, Family members and FOCUS Staff as we celebrate God’s faithfulness for the 2017-18 STEM Cohort on Saturday 28th July 2018 at FOCUS Centre starting at noon for the Convocation. Look out for the STEM Magazine to be published in August 2018.



FOCUS Centre, Kasarani

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HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

1. Praying for FOCUS ministry.
2. Donating gifts in kind.
3. Offering professional services.
4. Giving financial Support.

SENDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

MPesa Paybill:
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Account Name: GF

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Pwani (Mombasa): +254 724 997 056
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Avenue Branch,
Account No. 0102073083700

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