



FOCUS KENYA



TRANSFORMING LIVES

Leadership, discipleship and Mentorship

ASSOCIATES BRIEFS

September 2024

www.focuskenya.org



DEVELOPING LEADERS

32 years ago, the Short Term Experience in Ministry program was launched. The idea was birthed during Commission 1991 Conference to offer fresh graduates ministry opportunities. The one-year program has over the years expanded to serve the institutions of higher learning, the Church, and least-reached communities.

While on STEM, the participants are exposed to deep life mentorship and skill training on scripture engagement, character development and discipleship, training and public speaking, resource mobilization, research and reporting among other leadership and stewardship skills. Both the core and soft skills gained during STEM mature the young graduates into authentic and excellent leaders with sound faith, diligence service and social transformation.

STEM Convocation is a celebration of God's work in an outgoing Cohort as a new Cohort is ushered in. This July, 49 STEM staff successfully transitted in a colorful and cheerful ceremony. Their families, friends, students and associates they served with graced the occasion to celebrate them. We were excited to hear testimonies from the parents, students, and partners who were impacted by the team.



Various highlights during the 32nd STEM convocation including students pausing with their outgone STEM staff, cake cutting and certificate issuance.



DEVELOPING LEADERS

We were also refreshed by the stories of impact from other short-term exposures by participants who served in Community Development at Dadaab, the exchange program in Norway and Missionaries in Samburu. We celebrate God’s provision for the many lives transformed through FOCUS Staff . You can catch the moments and testimonies on our [social media pages](#).

Pray that this Cohort will stay faithful to the convictions they have gained over their time in STEM. Pray also that God will provide opportunities for meaningful engagements in their professions, churches and the society. Praise God with us for the community of STEM alumni and their resourcefulness to the ministry and the transiting cohorts. May the Lord keep STEM vibrantly developing leaders and transforming lives.



Testimonies and unique ministry stories being shared by NKSS participants from Norway (left) and STEM Missionary in Wamba, Samburu (Right)



Presentation by the STEM cohort

Presentation by a STEM Partner

TRANSFORMING LIVES

“My most exciting highlight in STEM has been being involved in the daily lives of the students I worked with. Attending leaders’ meetings, both Executive and Subcommittee, participating in their ministries like practicing alongside instrumentalists and vocalists, conducting Bible studies, one-on-one mentorships over coffee, and having bonding sessions with students all these activities allowed me to connect with my students more deeply. The friendships we formed made it easier for me to support them effectively and influence their lives in numerous ways.

STEM has significantly impacted my life beyond what words can describe. The most significant impact has been my exposure to many of my weak areas, which I have had to work on and continue to improve thoroughly. Additionally, I was exposed to the critical need for the Gospel and servant leadership in the country. This has propelled me to aspire more to be an in-depth and Bible-based gospel preacher and to be a servant leader to bring the change I want to see in the world today.

As I leave STEM, I take with me the values, godly practices, and disciplines I have acquired. I am determined to be more intentional in how I live my life as a believer and a leader. I aim to be more deliberate in mentoring younger people and aspire to be a great father and husband in the future (if I become one).

In a word, my STEM journey has been transmutational.” - Austine Ochieng, Former STEM Staff in Embu & Kirinyaga CUs, Mt. Kenya Region



Ministry highlights shared by Austine in Embu and Kirinyaga CUs.

Praise the Lord for the convictions and achievements gained through STEM. We trust that God will enable him to stay faithful and fruitful in his next assignments.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

“STEM has been a journey of real growth. I remember one day during our orientation, my Team Leader asked me to print some documents from the desktop I was assigned. I agreed to go, only to realize that I didn’t know how to turn on the desktop. I had not used one before; and it’s different from laptops that I was more familiar with. So I asked a colleague to help me turn it on.

Fast forward to a few months later, I was able to prepare and organize an induction of a whole new cohort of STEM seamlessly, manage many administrative functions and documents and more that I don’t take for granted.

I have significantly grown in my technical skills as well as in my soft skills, decision-making, communication, critical thinking, and attention to detail. I have had wonderful engagements with students at Kenya Utalii College and Kiriri Women’s University.

Values that I carry along with me from FOCUS are simplicity, ethical living, servanthood, faithfulness, and generosity. I’m also leaving STEM knowing that I am still a work in progress. I am not yet there, and the reality is that I need God. This awareness alone, to me, is great growth.

STEM in one phrase: life-changing experience. I am not the same, trust me. I have become a better person, believer, friend, daughter, and sister, and I credit all this to God, who used the STEM program to change me.” -Sylvia Nyamweya, former STEM Admin and Kiriri, Utalii CUs, Northern Nairobi Region.



*Ministry highlights shared by Sylvia in Kiriri and Utalii CUs.
We celebrate her achievements and pray for God’s provision and guidance in her next assignment.*

FRESH MINISTRY WORKERS

The largest group of STEM staff have joined the 33rd STEM cohort this year! The cohort features 63 members, with 9 new STEM stations, 2 in Community Development at Dadaab, 3 in Missions in Samburu and 2 in Norway. All together, the staff team in FOCUS has 109 members so far. We praise the Lord for the additional ministry workers and pray for great fruitfulness in the vineyard.

The Staff Orientation and Training (SOT) commenced immediately after the convocation. We had a 9 days of physical and 4 days of virtual fellowship and learning. The key reflections from the life of Jeremiah themed *Raising Resilient and Faithful Ministry Workers*. The capacity building sessions focused on theological formation, sharpening ministry skills, care for the ministry workers and other practical skills.

SOT was unique this year with more new dynamics. We expanded the hall to accommodate the growing staff team. We also enjoyed the generosity of Associates around Kasarani who hosted staff for the nights during the physical sessions. Additionally, staff gleaned from very seasoned speakers. God be praised for the success of SOT. Pray for the staff to stay faithful and fruitful in their service.



Ministry highlights shared by Sylvia in Kiriri and Utalii CUs.





WILL YOU CONSIDER SUPPORTING STEM?

STEM is a self-sustaining program that runs on the faith that God's work done God's way doesn't lack God's provision. You can be a part of the story by considering either of the following options:

1. ADOPT A STEM STATION

Choose from your former or an institution near you and financially support the STEM staff there.

2. DONATE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Help us furnish a new STEM house with household items; furniture, bedding, kitchenware, etc.

3. DONATE OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Give a laptop/desktop, office stationery, or printing services for STEM staff near you.

4. MENTORSHIP AND PRAYER

Become a personal friend to a STEM staff to mentor them or keep them in prayer

For more details contact the STEM Desk on:

stemdesk@focuskenya.org | 0724 997 053



FIRST YEARS ARE HERE!

First years are one of the most critical groups to reach on campus. We are excited that this year the continuing students were diligent in planning and keen to be trained and to pray for the freshmen ahead of their arrival. This August, we have had a creative combination of orientation, evangelism and discipleship targeting 1st years in the Universities and Colleges.

So far, 26,847 1st years have been registered in 50 CUs, with the highest records from KU Main Campus (3041 students), Muranga (1393 students) and Laikipia University (1199 students). As a result of the prior training and preparation, most CUs have recorded the highest number of registered 1st years.

The next step for the CUs is to present the gospel continuously to the new students in and out of CU reach. The target of the evangelism campaign is to have *Every Fresher for Jesus*. Pray for the success of the evangelism and discipleship efforts. Pray also that God will preserve these young students and grow them in the faith.

Making disciples among of new students is both rigorous and fulfilling. It takes support from associates to ground them in the faith. You also can participate in either of the following ways:

- Volunteer to evangelize to or walk with first years in a CU near you by contacting the FOCUS staff in the CUs.
- Give towards reaching the students. It takes 200Ksh to reach one student in a month. You can send your contributions to Mpesa Pay Bill 412412 and Account: Ministry Fund.
- Pray feverently for the 1st years and the success of the ministry towards them.

FIRST YEARS ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS



Orientation done to new students at Africa International University



First-Years Registration desk by Chiromo Campus CU



First-Years Registration desk by Cooperative University CU



First-Years Registration desk in Embu University CU



Evening session in the orientation week at JOUST CU



First-Years Retreat at UON Kenya Science Campus CU

FIRST YEARS ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS



*Orientation Week session at Kenyatta University
CU*



*Orientation Week session at Kibabii University
CU*



*First-Years Registration desk by UON Kikuyu
Campus CU*



*First-Years Orientation team at KMTC Eldoret
CU after their training*



*Anza Fyt session at Koitaleel Samoei University
College CU*



*Anza Fyt session at Kenyatta University Kitui
Campus CU*

FIRST YEARS ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS



First-Years Registration desk at Laikipia University



1st Years Retreat in Maseno University CU



First-Years in Moi University after being assigned small groups for accountability



First-Years in Upper Kabete CU having a breakfast with associates in the cafeteria.



First-Years Registration desk at Pwani University CU



Anza Fyt session at Taita Taveta University CU



CONNECT SUMMIT 2024

Connect Summit 2024 was one of the most exciting opportunities to impact fresh graduates and young professionals. The inaugural Summit had 328 participants gathering at University of Nairobi on 13th July. It was created to provide finalists with opportunities to network among themselves, develop their skills and professional minds, to empower them for marketplace impact and inspire them with stories of young and leading individuals.

Among the many highlights of Connect Summit, was the rich content by the speakers. You can catch them again on this link. We celebrate the great support by organizations that partnered with us in the Summit. From the connections made, some partners offered placement opportunities for some of the delegates.

For continuity of the fellowship among the delegates, we have a networking group for them. We hope to do follow-up and refresher sessions to support this group stand out in the marketplace and impact their spaces with the gospel. Pray for the fruit of this team to be realized and that God will help them persevere in faith as they pursue their professions.

Are you a fresh graduate? You can link up with us for personalized mentorship and tailored support by clicking this [link](#).



Ministry highlights shared by Sylvia in Kiriri and Utalii CUs.

CONNECT TESTIMONIES

“I was honoured to attend CONNECT SUMMIT 2024 which was organized by FOCUS Kenya. The theme of the summit was Young professional impacting market place. It has been very educative and inspiration to all those who attend. Special thanks to Mrs. Rose Wanjohi, HR Director Royal Media Services, Prof Kivutha Kibwana former governor makueni, Dr.Wachiuri CEO Optiven Limited, Rawder Kidula Kedaha media expert, Karanja Jn CEO of the Kenya institute of certified secretaries, Mr. Rogers odima chairman of the Kenya CEOs association, Mr Joseph Nguthiru- Obama leader and 40 under 40 African and many others wore equipped us with varsity of knowledge from their experience at workplace.” -Emmanuel Marindi



I learnt the critical importance of integrity, especially when facing financial temptations in the professional world. I recognize that while money holds significant influence, pursuing it should never compromise my ethical values. As a Christian in business, one often faces tough decisions where monetary gain can clash with faith. I was encouraged to consistently uphold my moral principles and reflect on doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. -Caroline Njoroge.





CONFERENCE IN NORTH AMERICA!

For the first time, the FOCUS Associates in the North America held a Conference in Kansas' City Missouri. The conference brought together 54 delegates; 41 adults and 13 children. The Bible Expositor, Rev Peter Oyugi shared on the *Spurring one another to love and good works*. They also held bible study sessions, panel discussions on parenting and marriage, plenaries, Sunday school and an AGM.

The North America Diaspora Associates Chapter begun in 2018 with a few Associates. God has blessed them with great growth over time and they have convened more christian graduates from Kenya. They exist to offer mutual encouragement and to support FOCUS together. Praise the lord for a wonderful conference and pray that the Associates will enjoy more vibrant fellowships together.

Are you in the Diaspora, in Europe or the US? Sign up to be connected to an Associates chapter near you by [clicking this link](#).



Highlights from the Inaugural Conference in North America Chapter



ACT NOW. SHAPE THE FUTURE

SHAPE THE FUTURE

As generations of future decision-makers and leaders experience their greatest formation in institutions of higher learning. The more exposure they get to character formation and value-based training and mentorship, the more likely the future is secure. To reach more and increase access to this for students and graduates, Hatua is a very crucial and very strategic. The exponential growth of the stakeholders in FOCUS is a constant affirmation that realizing Hatua is a timely contribution to societal impact.

HATUA UPDATES:

NAIROBI REGIONS:

We are on the last slab of construction for the accommodation block. We are trusting God to raise 198M to finish the project. Join us for the Hatua fundraising dinner on 1st November (Venue details to follow). We are eager to have you there. For support and inquiries, contact Pauline Kachinja on 0724997060.

PWANI REGION

We have purchased 31 acres for the National Student Centre in Samburu area and fenced it. The dedication of the land is scheduled for 14th November. Please RSVP through Joy Ndungu on 0723997056

CENTRAL RIFT REGION

We have 6.5 acres of land in Njoro, Kikapu. You are invited to a fundraiser on 3rd November to raise funds for fencing the land. You can contact Kennedy Kamau for more on 0724997057.

NORTH RIFT REGION

The region is at an advanced level of scouting for land, they are looking to acquire 5-7 acres of land. We are excited that the first fundraiser in the region was successful. For support and details, contact Everton Kataka on 0724997058



Hatua Breakfast in August (Nairobi)



Fencing of the Land in Pwani



Regional Land in Central Rift



Mission mobilization | Mission Training | Mission awareness and involvement

Conference thrust:



THE MESSAGE:

In-depth understanding of the gospel, the mission of God, and response to theological questions.



THE MODEL:

Being equipped with skills to present the gospel in diverse ways to a diverse audience.



THE MOTIVATION

Empowerment to share the gospel convincingly, contextually, and continuously.



27th December 2024-
1st January 2025



Kabarak
University



Ksh 10.600
(Associates)

REGISTER TODAY AT [CONFERENCES.FOCUSKENYA.ORG](https://conferences.focuskenya.org)



SUPPORT AND CONTACTS



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For online transaction visit payments.focuskenya.org

Nairobi (HQ)

0719 761 271 | 0719 761 371

STEM: 0724 997 053

Associates Department 0724 997 051

Resource Department

0724 997 060 | 0780 412 412 | 0746 131 132

Tatua: 0722 564 851

Mt. Kenya: 0728 067 067

Pwani: 0724 997 056

Central Rift: 0724 997 057

North Rift: 0724 997 058

Western: 0724 997 059

focus@focuskenya.org

www.focuskenya.org